

### President's Letter



Pandemic life continues, and I hope everyone is keeping well. Anyone interested in the history of plague in our region might like to watch Keith Wrightson's lecture on YouTube, about the experiences of Ralph Tailor, in the 1636 plague in Newcastle upon Tyne. His public lecture at Newcastle University is available on YouTube [here](#).

Wrightson's book, *Ralph Tailor's Summer: A Scrivener, His City and the Plague* (2011), is a moving account of the worst plague to hit Newcastle in the seventeenth century. People in those times knew that the plague would pass. While the current pandemic continues, we will continue to rely on Zoom for lectures and events. Many thanks go to Veronica Freitas for efficiently organising the lectures this winter. We also have the traditional Christmas Members Meeting on Saturday, **5 December**, from 2.30pm, on Zoom. This will consist of short informal presentations on a variety of topics, by members of the Society. I'm delighted to report that we now have a Membership Secretary again – thanks to Jenny Parker for stepping forwards to administer membership matters and keep track of the payment of subs. This means we now have a full complement of committee roles filled, to keep the Society functioning. It looks as though it will be a long winter, though being aware of the past perhaps helps to reassure us all that crises eventually pass.

### Planning and Conservation

For some years, the Society has had a dedicated committee role for "Planning and Conservation". Anna Bloor did an excellent job, and put many hours into responding to the County Plan (Durham County Council), as well as monitoring routine planning proposals. Moving forwards, the committee has decided to adopt a new approach. All members of the Society are encouraged to report to the committee any concerns about planning proposals or conservation matters, as they affect archaeological and architectural heritage. The Society can have a voice in the planning process, and represent concerns about the protection of archaeology and architectural heritage. This might include concerns about the protection of Durham World Heritage Site, or any aspect of the North-East of England in whichever local authority. Anyone can go online and check the Durham County Council [planning application system](#). There will be equivalent online systems for other local authorities. In addition to being a voice on specific issues, the Society will respond to major developments in planning and conservation by working directly in response to formal consultation processes. The Committee will act on these, but all members of the Society are encouraged to contact the Committee if they feel the Society should be acting.

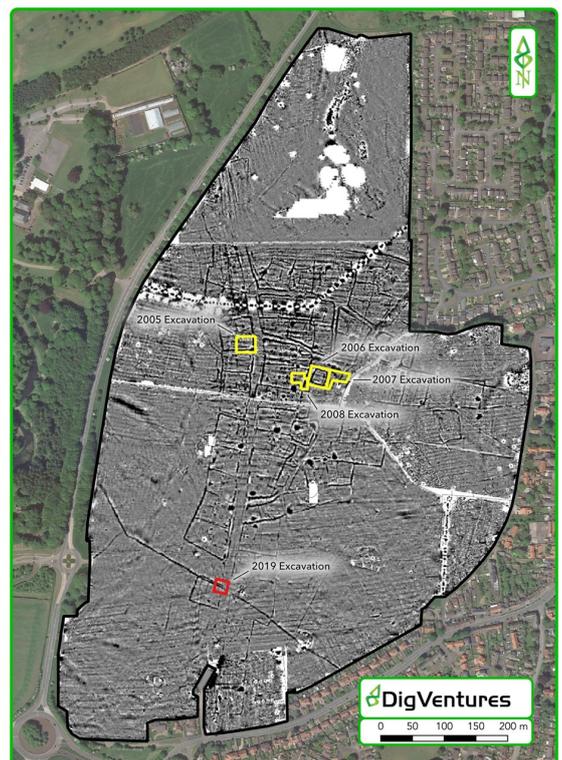
**Adrian Green**

President | Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland (AASDN)

### A return to the Romano-British settlement at East Park, Sedgefield

As some readers will be aware, a joint excavation by Durham University and Durham County Council took place at the Romano-British settlement at East Park, Sedgefield, every summer from 2005 until 2008. This project not only provided fieldwork training for Durham students but also afforded local people the opportunity to get directly involved in the investigation of their heritage. This settlement, located on the Roman road known in modern times as Cade's Road, is the first and so far, the only example in the North East of a large civilian settlement apparently unconnected with a military installation.

The layout of the settlement, as revealed by a combination of excavation and geophysical survey, consists of a single row of large enclosures west of the road with a far more extensive and complex pattern of blocks of enclosures separated by lanes to the east. Defined by ditches, these enclosures are quite large measuring upwards of 40 by 50 metres and subdivided by fences into smaller areas used variously for industrial activities such as pottery manufacture and metalworking, stock compounds and residential purposes. All the buildings uncovered so far have been of timber construction with no evidence of more substantial structures. By contrast, the inhabitants had access to the full range of pottery types available while a particularly impressive find was a late first century copper alloy ewer or jug.



Occupation of the settlement appears to be concentrated in the period from c. AD 120 AD to c. AD 300 with possible traces of earlier Iron Age occupation.

An opportunity to undertake further work at East Park has been afforded by the Brightwater Landscape Partnership scheme funded chiefly by the National Heritage Lottery Fund. The original bid was led by the Durham Wildlife Trust, supported by Darlington and County Durham Councils along with other partners, including this Society. Like many other Lottery-funded landscape partnership schemes over the past decade the Brightwater LP includes a suite of archaeological projects; indeed, more than in any other previous example in the area. Conceived and designed by the Archaeology Section of Durham County Council these fall into four general themes one of which – Ancient Environment and Early Settlement – includes a new project at East Park. The other themes are Medieval Ecclesiastical; Medieval Secular Settlement; and Agricultural Innovation. Briefs for these four ‘Lots’ were put out to tender through the procurement system and contracts awarded according to the best submissions, with DigVentures Ltd being appointed for the Ancient Environment and Early Settlement theme.

For the first of three seasons of excavation – from mid-June to early July 2019 - an area at the southern end of East Park was selected as this area had not been sampled previously. A section of Cade’s Road was revealed along with a portion of one of the enclosures on its west side, which was largely devoid of features apart from a cremation burial. The road overlay part of an earlier ditch, which can be seen from geophysical survey to run across the area on a north-west/south-east alignment for at least 400 metres and may date to the Iron Age.

Because of delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic seasons 2 and 3 have been combined and will take place in the period October 19 – November 27, 2020.

**David Mason**  
Principal Archaeologist, Durham County Council

### **Auckland Castle’s West Tower**

This small building on Silver Street, at the north-east corner of Bishop Auckland’s Market Place, is generally called ‘the west mural tower’. It is part of the Castle’s boundary wall and stands beside a small gate into the Castle grounds. For many years, the gate has been blocked and the tower has been roofless, gutted, and dilapidated. The Auckland Project (TAP) has now recreated the old gate and restored the tower to create an education space for visitors. Archaeological work during dismantling and restoration work has given this modest building a new identity.

Peter Ryder and Sue Degnan examined the tower in 1999 when its condition was so poor that all recording work had to be done from ground level. Almost twenty years later, TAP commissioned Archaeological Services to do recording and monitoring work during restoration.

The two-storey stone tower was built onto the west wall; neither was ever intended as a serious defence. The building measures less than 7x5 metres in plan, with a small corner

block that projects into a south yard that once had gates onto Silver Street. There is a single room and a small south-west cupboard on each floor. An embattled parapet hides a low-pitched roof. When work began, the surviving roof timbers were badly decayed, the upper floor had collapsed, and the ground floor was covered with debris. The masonry was in poor condition and scaffolding had been installed to stabilise the upper walls.

Peter Ryder found evidence of a steep timber stair against the west wall. The small block at the south-west was part of the original design and probably provided one or more garderobes. The ground-floor room had a small-splayed windows and a shallow fireplace at the centre of the east wall.

The first-floor room was rather more grand, with an impressive oak roof and larger windows. The roof had large curved tie beams, shaped and chamfered purlins and close-set wide rafters, all clearly intended to be seen. There was a shallow fireplace at the east side and perhaps a partition separating the stair. Though small, an embattled tower with a lavish roof, fireplaces, and perhaps garderobes must have been a building of high status, almost certainly designed for one of the Bishop’s retinue.

The tower’s date always has been something of a mystery. It has been suggested that it was built by Lawrence Booth, Bishop between 1457 and 1476. Raine’s history of the Castle says that ‘it is recorded of Bishop Boothe that he built at his own expense the stone gateways of the College of Auckland’. The College is a short distance south-east of the west tower and, until very recently, had no obvious ‘stone gateways’. The original south gate beside the Castle’s entrance just has been restored by TAP.

Dendrochronology and radiocarbon analyses of roof timbers produced interesting results. They show that the tower was built in the 1420s or 30s, decades before Bishop Booth. The builder must have been Thomas Langley, Bishop from 1406 to 1437.

Documentary research also shed new light on the tower’s story. A 1646 Parliamentary Survey of the Manor of Auckland records that ‘the building called Colledge adjoining to the



The tower (top left) and west wall seen from the Welcome Tower. The six stone columns are what remains of a 17th-century hay barn inside the Castle wall.



The decayed roof showing the close-set big rafters; the craftsman who reconstructed the roof said ‘you could stand an elephant on that.’

Manor House or Castle of Auckland doth belong to the Prebends of St Andrew Auckland ... but the garden ... as also the tower called the Sherriffes Tower formerly used for a privie ... did belong to the Bishop of Durham'. Two slightly earlier documents recording the sale of a plot of land in the Market Place were equally helpful. In 1641, Robert Cornforth sold a 'burgage adjoining the Sheriff's Tower on the west side' to Stephen Wright of Bishop Auckland. In 1654, Wright sold the same plot, described in the same words, to William Slater for £33. Since there is no other tower adjoining the Market Place, these references confirm that the 'Sheriff's Tower' is the west mural tower.



The east wall with the restored roof in place. The chimney is a later addition that hides older fireplaces



The restored tower and gate seen from Silver Street.

That explained a curious pierced shelf we found on the first floor – it was the remains of the keeper's shotgun rack.

Our thanks go to Harry Beamish and Peter Ryder, and to Gary Simpson of Heritage Consolidation for their help with this project.

The fact that the building was called 'the Sheriff's Tower' in the 17th century strongly suggests that it was built as living quarters for a senior servants of the Diocese. The Sheriff of Durham in the 1420s was Robert Eure of Bradley Hall and Kimblesworth, son of Ralph Eure of Witton Castle. He would have expected to be provided with accommodation suitable to his status when he waited on the Bishop.

Alas, the later history of the tower was considerably less grand. The 1646 reference mentions that it had been used as a privy; later it was a chicken shed and the house of a castle gamekeeper.

**Richard Annis**

Senior Archaeologist | Archaeological Services Durham University



### Glanton's Heritage Signpost Restoration Project

Glanton, a small village of about 200 people set in the foothills of the Cheviots, has a thriving heritage action group with a quite remarkable track record of successes behind it. The Glanton Heritage Group was set up by a handful of committed residents in 2010, to identify and restore the features from the past that make Glanton special. To this end, it has already saved and restored the beautiful red telephone box in the village centre; it has published the story of a local doctor's family over a century, and is now concerned with restoring the signposts at the four road junctions in the parish.

Glanton is not on a main road but that was not always the case. The stage and mail coaches of the 18<sup>th</sup> century used to thunder up the hill from Whittingham on the turnpike from Newcastle to Coldstream. The street through the village is unusually wide, sufficient to turn a coach and four. There were two pubs, 'The Nag's Head' and beside it 'The Old Post House', hinting at the village's role in the past. Austere, rather than pretty, has a distinct but charming character and has grown up as a small artisan community supporting the surrounding area. Beyond the radar of today's commuters, it has largely escaped modern development, and further is protected by its designation as a Conservation Area.

Signposts, once an essential aid to travel, were largely removed by local authorities when the country was under threat of invasion in the 1940s. Two decades later, the 1964 Worboys report gave rise to a further cull, as heritage posts were widely replaced by utility posts conforming with the new 'Traffic Signs Regulations'.

But, as with milestones and other traditional waymarkers, there is immense affection and an increasing appreciation of these now rare pre-war features. Their fascination is in part the way their design and local construction varied across the country. For example, the ones around Glanton, cast by Alnwick Foundry (the name is cast on the posts), have a white conical finial; whereas, those in nearby East Cumbria (Westmorland) are capped with a halo, bearing the name of the parish.

Once widespread in the district around Alnwick in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a few signposts have survived but most have



been replaced or are now in a parlous state of repair. However, with skill and local resource, they can be restored so they can guide visitors once more, and bring local distinctiveness to their communities.



Sue Rogers, Chair of Glanton Heritage Group, said the group already have received praise from neighbouring communities for the two signs whose restoration already has been completed, and they hope to encourage other communities by example. The funding that the group hopes to raise will go towards engaging professional help from a small company in rural Cumbria who engage with this type of work. The work is highly specialist, costly and needs to be agreed beforehand with all relevant landowners and authorities. But as before, this small band of inspiring and committed members will be doing as much of the work as they can with their own hands.

A recent Crowdfunder campaign raised £2,080 from 150 supporters in 42 days. However, it did not ultimately qualify for top up funding from the organisers Calor, leaving the group to try to explore other funding sources going forward.

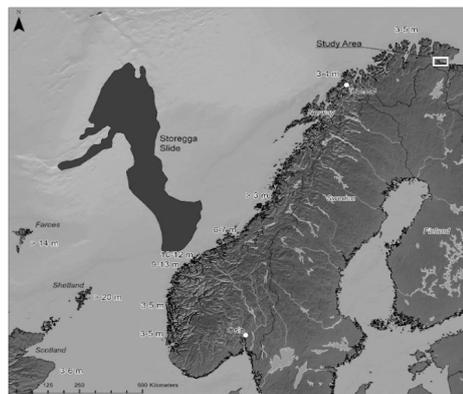
The Glanton signposts form part of a group of eight heritage signposts identified locally, which are all excellent candidates for restoration – a campaign supported by CPRE Northumberland. See [The Milestone Society](#) and [CPRE Northumberland](#) or email [Glanton Heritage Group](#).

Annie Lloyd

Branch Co-Ordinator for CPRE Northumberland

## Tsunami Survival in Mesolithic Northumberland

The research presented here is part of an undergraduate dissertation discussing the responses of Mesolithic hunter gatherers to disasters. This article will focus on the impacts of the Storegga Slide tsunami on the coast of Northumberland. This tsunami occurred around 8,150 BP off the coast of Møre and Romsdal county, northwestern Norway (Figure 1). The Mesolithic is the period of prehistory prior to the invention of farming when people were mobile hunter gatherers, meaning that they left few visible traces in the archaeological record. Utilising ethnography (the study of modern indigenous peoples still living in a traditional way) allows us to get an



Map showing the location of the Storegga Slide that resulted in the tsunami (dark grey), and the run up heights for the affected areas included (Blankholm 2018, 2).

idea of what their life may have been like. It will be used here in relation to tsunami responses.

The name 'Storegga' derives from the Old Norse word meaning 'great edge'. This refers to the cause of the tsunami: a large collapse of material (roughly equivalent to the volume of Lake Victoria) from the edge of the Norwegian continental shelf creating a huge shock wave. The impacts of this event can still be seen today in Norway, Scotland, northeastern England, the Faroe Islands, the Shetland Isles, and Greenland. Tsunami waves arrive in wave trains; several waves that can be many minutes apart, that grow in height as they reach the shoreline flooding many miles inland, sometimes for several days. Depending on the direction of the wave an area will either receive the positive wave (where flooding begins immediately) or the negative wave (where the sea level will massively decrease before the wave arrives) first. During the Storegga tsunami Norway received the negative wave first meaning Northumberland received the positive. The most obvious evidence for the tsunami is the deposit left behind; the majority of Storegga deposits are fine to medium grained sand that thins as it progresses inland, clasts of peat, mud or silt, with a distinct lower horizon across the whole area. From these deposits it is also possible to calculate how much of the area was flooded based on run up height (how far above sea level the wave travelled). In Northumberland this was between 3 and 6 metres, with the highest run up being over 20m in the Shetland Isles.

Such a large tsunami wave (not dissimilar to all but the worst hit areas of the 2004 Asia tsunami) would be expected to have a devastating impact on the affected areas. However, the exposed coastline of Northumberland would have been frequently exposed to storm surges creating some resilience to flooding from the sea. This is shown in many settlements across the globe, including Howick, where settlements are set back from the coast above the high tide line, often on cliff tops, making it unlikely that the impact of flooding was severe.

Tsunamis themselves had also been occurring repeatedly in the area since ca. 0.5 million years ago making it likely that, like indigenous communities today, there were oral histories telling of these events. The actions of the Moken people, among others, during the 2004 Asia tsunami testify to this.

They have a tale of a laboon ('seven rollers') preserved over many generations that warns them of a "man-eating wave" and the need to escape to high ground (Krajick 2005, 763). There are similar oral histories across many communities living in tsunami-affected areas such as the Solomon Islands, American Samoa and Vanuatu.

These traditions often are credited with saving lives. In societies where these traditions did not exist, they occasionally have been created in response to a devastating event: the Smong tradition was created after 70% of the Simeulue Island peoples died during a tsunami.

To collate the potential responses of hunter gatherers on the Northumberland coast to the Storegga Slide tsunami, a Stages of Response framework was created. This involves four stages; Predictive, Reactionary, Intermediate, and Long-term. The Predictive stage collates awareness of signals that may indicate a disaster is imminent: in this case the steady rising of the sea level in advance of the arrival of the wave. The Reactionary stage encompasses those actions taken as the disaster is occurring: if the settlement is above the water monitoring will occur, if not then running away is likely, attempting to avoid debris, and considering oral histories for survival advice.

During the Intermediate stage people will attempt to find loved ones, mourn the dead, rescue possessions, and start to organise the community. The Long-term stage includes responses that occur after the event in an attempt to ensure survival at that point, and if a similar future event occurs. This may include a substantial relocation of a settlement, adaptation to a changed environment as tsunamis disturb the local marine life, and the potential creation of a new oral tradition to increase safety in the future. These potential responses have been collated into a flow chart following the Stages of Response framework (Figure 2).

Eleanor Williams

Student | University of York

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Krajick, K (2005) Tracking Myth to Geological Reality. *Science*, 310 (5749): 762–764. doi:10.1126/science.310.5749.762

An unusual and late example of the practice has come to light at Hornby Castle with landscape clearance works around the site of the excavation. It is a silver six pence of Charles 1st from 1633, which has been drilled to be worn as a charm.

It often is said of Civil Wars that they lead to regimes in many ways more repressive than those that they replaced, none more so than that of Cromwell. Following his execution in 1649, the late King became lauded as a martyr and the Anglican Church's only saint. The Eikon Basilike or the meditations of the late martyred King was something of a subversive publishing sensation during the years of Cromwell's rule particularly as the repression of what was thought to be contrary religious practice and political dissent along with all forms of entertainment gathered pace. 36 editions were printed and circulated in the first year alone and in 1657 at the height of

the Cromwellian repression a musical version was released at a time when playing music itself was an act likely to arouse suspicion. Satires also were perpetrated against Cromwell with depictions of him as a brutish Hercules in a sculpture surviving in a house on the outskirts of Norwich, a City that had in the Civil War been loyal and persistent theories have been advanced in favour of the Cerne Abbas Giant in Dorset being a depiction of Cromwell.

In terms of the Hornby find, the owner of the site Sir Conyers-Darcy (the Younger) was an inveterate Royalist and author of the 1642 Newcastle Manifesto. He had been commander of the body-guard to Queen Henrietta Maria at Oxford and had commanded a regiment of foot responsible for prosecuting the war in the North West. Two attempts were made to arrest him in 1648, when he escaped and again in 1653 when he negotiated his freedom for a substantial fine. The estate survey he commissioned in order to divide his property amongst friends and avoid its seizure in 1650 is one of the best sources available for the Medieval designed landscape of the Castle.

The coin/charm clearly can then be seen as associating with one of his servants.

Erik Matthews

AASDN Fieldwork Officer

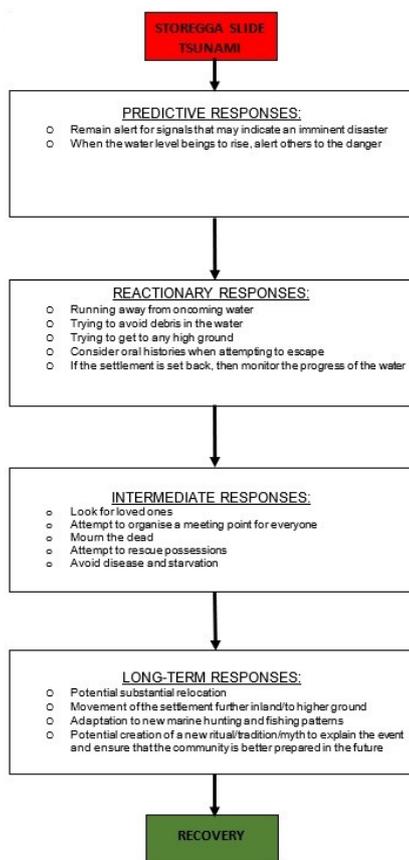


Figure 2: The collated potential responses to the Storegga Slide tsunami for Northumberland (created by author).

**A Charm of Charles King and Martyr**

The reuse of particularly silver coins as items of jewellery is quite commonly found in archaeological deposits dating to the Late Saxon through into the period shortly before the Black Death with Roman coins in particular being used for their supposed amuletic properties and the use of discontinued "long cross" issues demonstrating the piety of the wearer. The practise also commonly occurs across Eastern and Southern Europe through the Medieval period in areas under strong Byzantine influence where it was felt that the coin would act to protect the wearer against evil influences.



**Late-Medieval Pilgrim's Silver Cross**

A cast silver object in the form of a cross, with near equal length flared arms. The obverse side is decorated with a central quatrefoil with each arm featuring a trefoil and a grouping of three raised circles. The upper and lower arms have an additional row of three raised circles at their ends. The trefoil on the upper arm partially is obscured by a smooth portion of metal, above which, is a slight abnormality





in the form of a small ridge running almost the full width of the arm. There are four holes within the quatrefoil, which are regularly spaced. The rear face is flat with an undecorated surface, this has some small surface scratches and some slight corrosion on the right arm, the tip of the left arm and the tip of the upper arm. The object was most likely cast using a two-part stone mould and it is possible that the abnormality and smooth area of metal, are casting flaws.

Given the Christian imagery depicted, the object's small size, and find location close to Durham Cathedral, it is probable that this object is a pilgrim badge worn by or offered for sale to a pilgrim visiting the nearby shrine of St Cuthbert. The discovery of this object, along with three lead ampullae, pilgrim signs, medallions, and mounts symbolic of Christian pilgrimage and other secular badges during archaeological investigations of the same submerged riverbed just downstream from the 12<sup>th</sup> century Elvet Bridge in Durham City, which formed one of the main thoroughfares on to the peninsular and resting place of an early English saint, adds to the assertion of a tradition of discarding specific selected objects into the river as personal acts of belief in the medieval period.

Although the cross may be a rare representation of St Cuthbert's 7<sup>th</sup> century gold and garnet pectoral cross, it is just as likely that it is a more generic Christian cross bought to designate the wearer as a pilgrim.

Notes: This article was compiled by Gary Bankhead based on the research by Durham University Archaeology Student Lorna Flynn.

The object forms part of the [Durham River Wear Assemblage](#); a collection of over 13,500 small finds recovered from archaeological investigations of a submerged riverbed, positioned just downstream of the twelfth century Elvet Bridge in Durham City, County Durham. The object has been gifted to the Museum of Archaeology, Durham University.

Under the Treasure Act 1996, the object has been reported to the local Finds Liaison Officer as potential Treasure. Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) Unique ID: PUBLIC-C84AB9. This is the second late-medieval Cuthbert pectoral cross recovered from the site; see also (PAS) Unique ID: PUBLIC-9CD231.

**Gary Bankhead**

Department of Archaeology | Durham University

## 'Creating A Better Place' - The Environment Agency and Archaeology

After 19 years working for Newcastle City Council, I joined the Environment Agency last year as Senior Archaeologist covering Yorkshire and the North East. I thought members of AASDN might be interested in how the Environment Agency commits to protect and enhance archaeological sites.

The Environment Agency's ambition sets out its vision to 'create a better place for people and wildlife' and its purpose is to 'protect the environment and promote sustainable development'. It leads the response and recovery to floods, other natural hazards, and emergencies and it is securing stronger levels of protection from flooding by investing in green and physical infrastructure.

The Environment Agency (EA) employs a team of archaeologists who are based with the National Environmental Assessment and Sustainability (NEAS) section. NEAS helps the EA manage or reduce flood risk whilst protecting and improving the environment. Flood defence schemes not only reduce the impact of flooding on homes and businesses, but they can also deliver environmental benefits such as creating habitats for wildlife, improved landscapes, community greenspace and recreation space.

EA archaeologists screen projects, by checking whether there are historic or archaeological features within or in close proximity to the site boundary, to identify heritage risks and opportunities and advise the Environmental Project Managers accordingly on heritage issues. Floodwater can damage the historic environment, but so can the construction of flood defences or altering water levels.

The archaeologists help ensure that the EA complies with relevant legislation, relating to listed buildings, Scheduled Monuments and other designated heritage assets. Where planning permission is required for the proposed work, we help ensure that the heritage reports submitted with the application are fit for purpose and meet the requirements of the local planning authority. A programme of archaeological work is carried out when EA projects may affect heritage assets. Where planning permission is required, the completion of archaeological work is likely to be a condition of permission being granted.

Most importantly, EA archaeologists influence the design of the scheme at the outset of the project, by working closely with the project team. This ensures that the scheme avoids significant heritage assets wherever possible and where it can, delivers a programme of enhancement to the asset and its setting.

Where safe to do so, significant archaeological discoveries on EA sites are made publicly accessible, through community engagement, perhaps through the organisation of an open day, a community dig or by publishing the results.

A significant recent scheme in the North East was the Greatham Managed Realignment Scheme, which provides

greater flood protection to the local community and industry while enhancing habitat for the local wildlife. The work was completed in 2018 in partnership with Natural England, the RSPB, BMMJV Limited and local businesses Sabic and Inovyn.



Archaeological excavation of prehistoric barrowlets at Greatham © Northern Archaeological Associates.

The work involved raising and realigning existing flood banks, which would redirect floodwater and create salt flats, freshwater, and grassland habitats. A new embankment was built along the A178 and at the back of the realigned area. Two breaches were cut through the embankment along Greatham Creek to allow tidal flooding to create the inter-tidal habitat. The area is important for nature conservation. The wetland habitat attracts wading birds such as oystercatcher, redshank, curlew, avocet plus mallards, seals and otters. There are several native plant species native to salt marshes such as sea aster and glasswort.

Northern Archaeological Associates were commissioned to produce a desk-based assessment in 2010 to help the EA understand the potential impact of the scheme on heritage. NAA carried out an excavation in 2012 north of Greatham Creek, next to Marsh House Farm. A public open day was held in 2013 and the results of the excavation have since been published. In 2016, thirty-three ground investigation trial pits were archaeologically monitored on the south side of Greatham Creek.

Aerial photography interpretation, LiDAR survey interpretation and a walkover survey was conducted in 2016 by Bam Mott MacDonald Joint Venture.

In May and June 2017, evaluation trenching was undertaken by Archaeological Services Durham University in Reservoir Wetlands South. A geophysical survey and the final phase of archaeological evaluation were completed in March and April 2018 by Archaeological Services Durham University, marking the end of eight years of archaeological work.

The archaeological work identified three main human stories at Greatham Creek, which are all linked to the site's waterside location - a marsh-side settlement of Bronze Age date, historic salt production, and twentieth century defence of the coast.

The monograph, 'Life of Brine? Bronze Age and Later Discoveries at Marsh House Farm, Hartlepool' is available for sale at £12 including postage and packing. Contact NAA for details at: 01833 690800 or [admin@naaheritage.com](mailto:admin@naaheritage.com).

Watson, Rebekah, Archaeological Services Durham University, 2019, Archaeological Works at Greatham South Flood Alleviation Scheme, 2017 in Teesside Archaeological Society Bulletin 2019, No. 23.

**Jennifer Morrison**  
Senior Archaeologist, Environment Agency

### Geoarchaeological Research on Holy Island

In September 2020, Raphael Kahlenberg, a PhD student at Durham University, carried out fieldwork for his project "Lindisfarne Landscapes", with the aim at reconstructing the interrelationships between humans and their environments on Holy Island over the last 1500 years and beyond.

This first campaign focused on the low-lying meadows near today's harbour and the flat central part of Holy Island. Modern digital elevation models (DEMs) and historic maps show that the harbour, also called the Ouse, between the medieval priory and Lindisfarne Castle once was significantly larger and formed a lagoon that was cut off from the sea in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. To reconstruct the evolution of the lagoon's extent and character, we retrieved soil and sediment cores using a petrol-driven percussion corer.



Data Acquisition during the ERT survey: A long cable with 64 electrodes was spread out several times to measure the apparent electrical conductivity of sediments along a transect of 145 m.

Subsamples from these cores, which are currently stored in transparent plastic tubes at a temperature of 4°C, will be analysed in the laboratories of the Archaeology and Geography Departments in Durham and the Wolfson Archaeology Lab at Newcastle University. In particular, we will look at microfossils of plants (phytoliths) and single-celled water organisms (foraminifera) which are sensitive to environmental changes



Core extraction: Two persons and long levers are needed to retrieve the cores from depths of up to 3.5 metres.

such as water salinity. Phytoliths are silica bodies formed in cells and intercellular spaces of many plants and can be analysed to identify single plants or plant communities in soils and sediments long after the organic matter has decayed. This re-

quires a modern reference collection, which we will build up by collecting samples from local plants and the soils below them.

The flat and partially wet pasture in the centre of the island today is drained by a system of ditches, but little is known about the history of the landscape so far. Was it all wetland that could not be farmed at all before its reclamation? When did the modification of the landscape by hydraulic engineering start on Holy Island, and how was the land used afterwards? To answer these questions, we started a coring program similar to our activities in the former lagoon, but also employing black opaque plastic tubes that will allow us to date the sediment layers using the optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) method. Before the coring, we conducted a non-invasive electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) survey, which produced a section mapping subsurface features based on their composition and water content. This allowed for a targeted sampling strategy. The tubes have not been studied in detail yet, but the first impression suggests that the area that is mostly uniform today once featured a complex topography, suggesting a variety of biotopes and land-use strategies.

The project complements DigVentures' and Durham University's excavations next to the priory and aims at providing a regional context for their recent Early Medieval discoveries. The "Lindisfarne Landscapes" project is primarily supervised by Dr Karen Milek and funded by the Natural Environment Research Council and the German Academic Scholarship Foundation. Note: both photographs by Deborah Priß.

**Raphael Kahlenberg**  
PhD student at Durham University

## In Praise of Doncaster

Not a phrase often used, but as I found in August it's an excellent base from which to explore several sites of architectural and archaeological interest (check out Rigsby's guest house, within walking distance of the town centre). The helpful tourist information office provided me with a pack of useful material to pick up on arrival, including amongst other things a historical walking tour of the town which kicked off my stay.

Though badly knocked around post-war, Doncaster still boasts elegant Georgian buildings including the Mansion House, one of only three in the country. Don't miss the market place with its Grade II listed Corn Exchange, stunning from inside. The nearby Wool Market is now a food hall featuring a recently discovered mediaeval well.

Cut off from the town by a ghastly road that wouldn't be built nowadays is the Minster, splendidly rebuilt by Gilbert Scott after a fire in 1853. Underneath this lie the remains of a Roman fort, possible Saxon ditches and Norman castle - though apart from one lot of footings the casual visitor would never guess.

On the edge of town, you'll find Cusworth Hall, an elegant Georgian pile with a great view and lakeside walks. Inside is the municipal museum and a good cafe.

Further afield to the west of Doncaster are three English Heritage properties - from north to south Brodsworth Hall,



North side exterior of Cusworth Hall, Doncaster, England. Photo Credit: Dr Blofeld, Foto43, CC BY 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons.

Conisbrough Castle, and Roche Abbey. Brodsworth has wonderful gardens and is probably the best preserved Victorian country house in the UK. At Conisbrough, I suddenly realised that years ago I'd glimpsed the unusual French-style keep from a passing train. The Cistercian Roche Abbey was landscaped by

a certain Capability Brown. Unfortunately, his activities included knocking some of it down in order to make the remainder more picturesque!

On the fourth and final day of my visit, it rained so I toured the flat fenlands to the east. My first serendipitous find was the Waterways Museum near Goole (now closed and for sale, but with several informative plaques and a nearby boatyard pub).

However, possibly the highlight of my trip was my discovery of Epworth Old Rectory. To mix metaphors, this is an absolute Mecca for Methodists as it belonged to Samuel Wesley, father of John and Charles. Samuel's former home on the same site burned down, possibly at the instigation of his parishioners who detested him - however unlike most sensible people he decided to stay put and rebuild. Charred traces of the original can be seen in the kitchen along with anti-witch charms discovered during later repairs.

Of course, all this was subject to the dreaded COVID-19 rules. I had to plan and book in advance for the English Heritage properties and was unable to go inside the Mansion House, Cusworth, or Brodsworth. This means another trip...

**Linda Chadd**  
AASDN member

## WallCAP Update

WallCAP – the Hadrian's Wall Community Archaeology Project – hosted by Newcastle University and made possible by the generous support of Lotto players through the National Lottery Heritage Fund, is now well into its second year of activity – and what a strange year it's been!

Back in January, we held the *WallCAP Winter Get Together* for our volunteers, which (along with a rather foggy 'Barbarian View of the Wall' walk) was a chance to share results and look back at what we'd achieved in 2019, and look forward to what we had planned for 2020.

Of course, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rest of 2020 did not quite go to plan. With the suspension of face-to-face activity, we turned to online engagement and developed a home-based research project which involved 50 volunteers researching Wall features (Forts, Milecastles, and Turrets), to populate the Hadrian's Wall GIS we're developing as part of WallCAP. We also launched a social media campaign to bring

WallCAP Update ... continued

the 'Outdoors Indoors' during lockdown, where we introduced weekly Wall-related themes and encouraged our followers to share photos from their archives. This included a special theme for National Volunteers' Week of 'WallCraft' where we invited followers to get crafty and create something connected to Hadrian's Wall.



Volunteers on a socially distanced geo walk in the Haltwhistle Burn & the Whin Sill. Photo credit: WallCAP.

More recently, in September, we took our first tentative steps back towards resuming face-to-face activity with our volunteers, starting with a socially distanced geo walk to examine the rocks of the Carboniferous period in the Haltwhistle Burn and the Whin Sill. We had planned another geo walk between Tynemouth and Seaton Sluice and also were hoping to bring back some fieldwork with our volunteers but, unfortunately, we had to scale things back when further restrictions were introduced for the North East region. We currently have plans for some WallCAP staff to undertake fieldwork in the coming weeks, including a small excavation at Walltown Crags, though we are sad to say we are unable to involve our volunteers, for the time being.

WallCAP is by its very name a Community Archaeology Project and it is essential that we keep the momentum going

and ensure that our volunteers continue to be engaged with the project, especially when we are unable to involve them in fieldwork. In response to the challenges presented by current COVID-19 restrictions and these ever-changing circumstances, we are in the process of broadening our digital engagement with our volunteers, to provide continuity of activity as we go into the winter months. This includes developing a comprehensive online training schedule, as well as other home-based

research activities and, after an initial trial, rolling out the WallCAP Book Club, for which we have recently released a schedule of books and meetings to our volunteers which will take us through to January 2021.

If you'd like to find out more about the project and how you can get involved please visit the [WallCAP website](#).

Marianne Spence  
Volunteer Support Officer, WallCAP

“Archaeology can be overlooked as a discipline, I think, but it's incredibly important to have this other way of approaching the past - not just through historical documents, but through actual physical remains - objects, buildings and the layout of our towns.

Alice Roberts

Word Search

Words are forward and backward; diagonal; and up and down.

R	A	D	I	L	S	W	E	X	H	I	B	I	T	S	V	G	T	L	K	ARCHAEOLOGY
F	Z	Q	I	B	A	C	Z	Z	G	S	Y	V	G	W	Z	P	C	F	W	ARCHITECTURE
Y	J	H	S	C	J	Y	U	M	N	Y	R	E	N	A	U	S	W	Q	G	ARCHWAY
V	J	P	T	J	L	R	E	A	I	T	E	R	I	R	L	M	U	R	C	ARTEFACT
D	N	R	R	F	A	A	C	R	N	X	V	U	T	T	D	A	T	A	A	CALCEOLOGY
A	N	E	A	H	I	R	O	C	N	B	O	T	O	E	V	H	A	V	L	CLASSICAL
Y	L	H	T	K	R	C	F	H	A	Y	C	C	O	F	U	R	P	D	C	DURHAM
T	A	I	I	X	T	H	A	W	L	R	S	E	L	A	G	U	H	T	E	ECOFAC
Y	N	S	G	Z	S	A	C	A	P	O	I	T	E	C	N	D	O	E	O	EXCAVATION
F	D	T	R	S	U	E	T	Y	S	T	D	I	Z	T	I	F	N	D	L	EXHIBITS
W	S	O	A	M	D	O	X	T	Y	S	Q	H	F	M	Y	G	O	A	O	FACADE
A	C	R	P	N	N	L	E	C	Y	I	I	C	Y	U	E	B	M	C	G	HISTORY
D	A	Y	H	C	I	O	Q	K	A	H	M	R	Y	S	V	O	Y	A	Y	INDUSTRIAL
L	P	E	Y	I	L	G	X	J	C	V	A	A	P	E	R	S	K	F	M	LANDSCAPE
L	E	R	I	O	L	Y	R	B	J	H	A	L	E	U	U	A	Z	F	A	LIDAR
B	E	Q	G	Z	N	E	E	H	W	A	K	T	G	M	S	O	I	M	O	LOOTING
M	B	Y	J	K	G	D	W	I	T	F	Q	R	I	S	L	T	G	B	S	MOTIF
D	N	A	L	R	E	B	M	U	H	T	R	O	N	O	O	T	Y	Q	K	MUSEUMS
V	E	R	N	A	C	U	L	A	R	N	M	S	A	M	N	O	N	F	Y	NORTHUMBERLAND
F	P	C	C	R	J	C	L	A	S	S	I	C	A	L	M	Q	P	W	R	OSTEOLOGY

## Current AASDN Committee Members

**President:** **Adrian Green** (2018-2021)  
**Past President:** **Andrew Millard** (2018-2021)  
**Past President & Journal Editor:** **David Mason** (annual re-elected)  
**Vice President:** **Julie Biddlecombe-Brown** (2019-2022)  
**Vice President:** **Richard Annis** (2019-2022)  
**Honorary Secretary:** **Jennifer Morrison** (annual re-elected)  
**Assistant Secretary (correspondence):** **Jo Shoebridge** (annual re-elected)  
**Honorary Treasurer:** **Simon Alderson** (annual re-elected)  
**Fieldwork Officer:** **Erik Matthews** (annual re-elected)  
**Excursion Coordinators:** **Laura Anderson** (co-opted)  
**Lecture Series Coordinator:** **Veronica Freitas** (co-opted)  
**Membership Secretary:** **Jenny Parker** (2019-2022)  
**Minute Taker:** **Sheila Hingley** (co-opted)  
**Newsletter Editor:** **Myra Giesen** (co-opted) [myra.giesen@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:myra.giesen@newcastle.ac.uk)  
**Webmaster/Social Media/Sponsorship:** **Gary Bankhead** (annual re-elected)  
**At Large Committee Members:**  
**Sheila Brown** (2018-2021)  
**Derrick Gwynne** (2019-2022)

Committee members' biographies are available [here](#). You can reach committee members by emailing [archandarch.dandn@dur.ac.uk](mailto:archandarch.dandn@dur.ac.uk).

## Membership News

Annual membership subscriptions were due on January 1<sup>st</sup>. You can download the membership application [here](#), or contact our [Membership Secretary](#) with any questions.

### Membership levels:

- **Ordinary**, includes Journal — £20.00
- **Joint** (two people at same address), includes one Journal — £25.00
- **Associate** (senior citizens, students, unwaged), Journal not included — £10.00
- **Institutional**, includes Journal — £25.00
- **Overseas**, includes Journal — £30.00

**Remember** to checkout what is happening by visiting the Society's [homepage](#) and our [news](#) page.

## Announcements:

**Publications:** A range of local publications, including *Archaeology County Durham*, are available at the Durham County Record Office [Online Shop](#).

**Virtual Exhibit:** [Accessing Aidan and Bamburgh Bones: Rich heritage of first Northumbrian Christians brought to life in cutting-edge interpretation.](#)

**Virtual Tours:** Explore the rich heritage, art, and culture on offer in *NewcastleGateshead* with several virtual tours from the comfort of your homes during the lockdown [here](#). Also consider the [virtual Victoria Tunnel](#) experience.

**Conference:** [Edinburgh, Lothians & Borders Archaeological Conference](#), Saturday, 21 November 2020 - free to attend but must pre-book, just follow hyperlink.

**Lifelong Learning:** *Explore Lifelong Learning* provides a stimulating, entertaining and varied [programme](#) of expert led learning created to challenge your mind and deliver unique experiences.

## Online Exploration

It is a great time to explore the past via some online database as well as connect to some ongoing projects. Have a go at:

- Durham County Council: [Archaeology & Listed Buildings](#)
- [HeritageGateway](#)
- [Keys to the Past](#)
- Newcastle City Council: [Archaeology & Listed Buildings](#)
- North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Revision Project ([NERFF II](#))
- Northumberland County Council: [Archaeology & Listed Buildings](#)
- [Past Perfect](#)
- [Sitelines](#)

## Newsletter Contributions

We welcome pieces relating to archaeology and architecture in North-East England. Please target your submissions to be no more than 500 words in length, with only one or possibly two images, if appropriate. Fewer worded items are welcome too. We will include one or two longer articles though, so please contact the [Myra Giesen](#) if you are interested in submitting one of these.

**Consultancy Opportunity:** [Hadrian's Wall 1900<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival 2022](#); the Hadrian's Wall Partners plan to commemorate the 1900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of Hadrian's Wall, with a year long festival across the year 2022, starting on 24<sup>th</sup> January (Emperor Hadrian's birthday) and concluding at the end of the Roman festival of saturnalia on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Proposals must be received by noon on Thursday, **12 November 2020**. To see the full brief, click [here](#).

## Save these Dates

We have postponed all our face-to-face activities until COVID-19 concerns pass. Please monitor the AASDN members email list or check [online](#) for lecture and meeting updates.

We will deliver our lecture series and members meeting virtually via Zoom. We are opening the lectures up to non-members too. We will email the Zoom link for the lecture a few days before the event via the AASDN members email list or, for non-members, a personal email once they have registered an interest in attending a lecture with [Jo Shoebridge](#). All lectures occur on Saturdays.

**14 November 2020 14:30** **Christopher Doppelhofer** *Fire, War and Flood: Destruction and Reconstruction of World Heritage Sites* 

**5 December 2020 14:30** **Christmas Members Meeting**, consisting of short (10 minute) informal presentations on a variety of topics by Society members, plus a picture quiz. To make a presentation, please register your interest at: [archandarch.dandn@dur.ac.uk](mailto:archandarch.dandn@dur.ac.uk). The cut off date for registering interest and details on how to join via Zoom will be emailed out on the AASDN members email list.

If you want images to be included, then please 1) confirm permission has been given for reproduction, 2) include a caption, and 3) state to whom to give credit for the image. Please send images separately as high resolution files. Send contributions to the [Myra](#) whenever they are ready.

### Next deadlines:

#33: **15<sup>th</sup> April** for early May

#34: **15<sup>th</sup> October** for early November