

autumn 2005

President's letter



Dear Members, welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter. We live in interesting times for the study and care of the historic environment. On a national stage, English Heritage are well into their work advising on the most wide-reaching changes to heritage law for a generation. Papers explaining these changes and opportunities to comment will be available for public consultation in the New Year. In the region, the North East Regional Research Framework nears completion and the Rock Art Recording Project enters its second year. Members can still take part in this exciting work and, indeed, a range of other fieldwork provided by the Society. Undertaking fieldwork is often the reason many of us first became involved with archaeology. Nothing comes close to the excitement and good company of working in the field, and I would like to encourage members to take advantage of the Society's fieldwork programme. Indeed, if you have a young son, daughter, nephew, niece or grandchild, why not encourage them to get involved and help the Society encourage a new generation of membership. Elsewhere in this newsletter, we have the first 'day in a life' article on members, focusing on Peter Cardwell, a professional archaeologist and partner of Northern Archaeological Associates, based in Barnard Castle.

If you yourself have undertaken research, made a find, or have interesting information to report, why not offer a short presentation at our members' Christmas meeting. If you would like to provide a short talk, or need help with any slides, please contact either myself or the Society Secretary.

Best wishes to you all, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our lectures and events.

Niall Hammond President

Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland



Hardwick Park, May 2005

Northumberland and Durham Rock Art Project

The Northumberland and Durham Rock Art Project has just completed a very successful first year. Funded by English Heritage and administered by Northumberland and Durham County Councils, it has been developing new techniques for recording prehistoric rock art and piloting a community-led scheme, in which local volunteers use the techniques to document all prehistoric carvings in the region. During the first year of the project, over fifty local people learnt new skills and worked together as small teams to record prehistoric rock art across Northumberland and County Durham. It has been a learning process on both sides, with the volunteers contributing enormously, both in terms of the work they are doing and their knowledge of the local area, and English Heritage and the county councils testing out new ideas and approaches on the volunteers.

Since starting fieldwork in March this year, the volunteers have recorded over 400 of the total 1500 carved panels known in Northumberland and County Durham. The 'toolkit' used for the recording, which includes a state-of-the-art method for capturing three-dimensional



Recording at Goldsborough Rigg

information about the rock art, is now fully tested. We are looking for volunteers to join the project for the final year to help complete the recording programme.

If you would like to be part of an exciting and varied project, and if you think you would be able to commit about two days a month to doing fieldwork, either at weekends or during the week, then please contact Tertia Barnett for further details. We are also looking for volunteers to help out with other areas of the project not involving fieldwork, so please get in touch if you think you might be interested in joining us in some capacity.

Dr Tertia Barnett Rock Art Project Officer

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Society field trips 2005

The Society enjoyed three field trips over the summer. In July we explored a series of bastles with Philip Abramson, Archaeological Advisor for Defence Estates, and Elanor Johnson, Officer for the Northumberland National Park's Upper Coquetdale Community Archaeology Project. Crowding into the impressive stone vaulted chamber of High Shaw bastle, we debated the strange position of an apparently original triangular opening within the rear wall of a presumably secondary fireplace. The group then headed to nearby Iron House bastle, a ruined structure with massive masonry which was originally timber-floored, and has the remains of an extensive range of subsidiary buildings and enclosure walls. We then visited the Raw, before proceeding to Woodhouses, a tall dramatic building set on a steep hillside.

The defensive nature of bastle architecture is beyond dispute and, even after the depredations of the border raiders had abated around the mid-seventeenth century, these bastles had a troubled history. The famous Northumbrian piper, Jamie Allan, was born at Woodhouses in 1734. A horse-trader and member of the Northumbrian Militia, he ended his days in Durham Jail in 1810, a death sentence for horse stealing being commuted to life imprisonment. Meanwhile, in 1791, the Raw was the scene of the infamous murder of Margaret Crozier by William Winter, whose body was displayed on a gibbet at nearby Whiskersields Common.



Iron House bastle



Woodhouses bastle



Tertia Barnett (centre) and Tim Laurie (with umbrella) with Society members on Barningham Moor

On leaving Woodhouses, a gentler past was explored at the Church of St Mary at Holystone and at the enigmatic and evocative Lady's Well nearby, presided over by an eighteenth-century statue of St Paulinus.

The following week, a small but intrepid team braved the rain-swept wilderness of Barningham Moor with Tim Laurie, who shared his enthusiasm and extensive knowledge of the ancient landscape. Rock art, hut circles, enclosures and burnt mounds were both explored and discussed, as were geology and the ancient tree cover that has been revealed by peat deposits. Unfortunately, the walk was abandoned without visiting the High Moor because of the weather, but Tim nobly offered to lead another walk when the bracken was not so high and the elements less hostile.

On a glorious summer's day in August, National Trust Archaeologist Harry Beamish led a tour around Gibside. After viewing the remains of the extensive walled garden, with the scar of an early nineteenth-century glasshouse and an alcove for straw bee skeps, we visited the recently restored eighteenth-century 'Orangery' or green house, designed to protect tender green plants. The party stopped outside the shell of the Hall, which is still in need of restoration, and then admired the statue of British Liberty, a testament to George Bowes' Whig affiliations. At the Octagonal Pool, overlooked by the Banqueting Hall, the competing claims of nature conservation and landscape restoration were debated, before exploring the impressive stable block, which is newly re-opened. The scale of recent restoration and consequent accessibility of the buildings, as well as the discussion of further restoration plans, made this trip seem particularly timely.

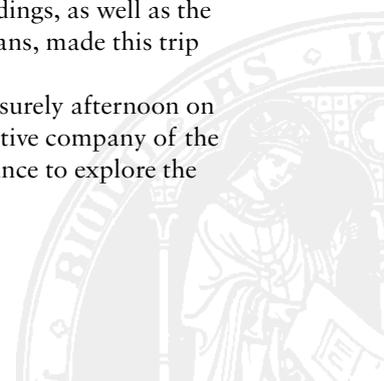
After lunch, members spent a leisurely afternoon on the Tanfield Railway in the informative company of the Station Master, and there was a chance to explore the footpaths around Causey Arch.



The Orangery, Gibside

Causey Arch

A trip on the Tanfield Railway



The archaeological consultant

At a point in the 1990s it appeared that all professions were suddenly inundated with consultants, and archaeology was no exception. This was largely a result of archaeology being brought firmly within the planning process, with the publication of the Government's Planning Policy Guidance note 16 on *Archaeology and Planning* (frequently referred to as PPG16) and the resultant incorporation of archaeology into local and regional plan policies.

Consequently, developers are required to address archaeology as part of their proposals, and this need for objective archaeological advice and expertise is largely responsible for the increased role of the archaeological consultant over the last fifteen years. Much of the consultant's work involves establishing the potential impact upon archaeological remains of a development proposal and, where necessary, suggesting an appropriate mitigation strategy, such as avoiding significant remains by amending the original design, or establishing the need for further evaluation such as trial trenching or recording by excavation or watching briefs. This involves close liaison with the relevant archaeologist in the local planning authority and also with English Heritage, where it is appropriate. In particular, the developer will wish to establish, by obtaining independent advice from a consultant, that any planning authority requirements or requests are reasonable.

Archaeological consultants may be part of larger specialist archaeological or environmental consultancies, often covering all aspects of archaeology, or may be individuals with a particular specialism such as buildings, industrial archaeology or heritage management. Most



Excavations on an Iron Age settlement at Pig Hill, on the Transco gas pipeline between Cowpen Bewley and Warden Law

operate on a county or regional basis, but some larger consultancies will provide services nationwide.

The work of a consultant is wide-ranging and varied. Initially, many projects stem from assessment studies, which for larger developments usually form part of Environmental Impact Assessments. Further work may then be required, such as liaising with the planning authority over mitigation proposals, preparing and agreeing briefs or tender documentation for fieldwork, overseeing projects undertaken by contractors, agreeing budget proposals, submitting Scheduled Monument Consent applications on behalf of the client, and acting as an expert witness at a Public Inquiry.

While the archaeological consultant probably did not even exist when most graduated from university, their role has rapidly established itself over the last few years and is now an integral part of the profession.

Peter Cardwell Partner, Northern Archaeological Associates and member of AASDN

Introduction to archaeology evening class

The AASDN, in conjunction with the Workers Education Association, have established an Archaeology evening class course at the Department of Archaeology, University of Durham. The course, which examines archaeological methods and theories, is divided into two modules; from September to late November, ten sessions will focus on dating techniques, site location methods, environmental archaeology and sites and monuments of the prehistoric period, with an emphasis on the North East region. The second module will include one indoor seminar and two field trips to sites of particular

importance. This module will start in April 2006, when light and weather are more conducive to outdoor activities. Course requirements include enthusiasm, an enquiring mind and a taste for group discussion and debate.

The course tutor is Phil Abramson, an archaeologist working for the Defence Estates Environmental Support Team, with support from colleagues who are specialists in particular fields. The course is not credited and, while students may wish to pursue personal study, compulsory assignments are not included in the syllabus.

For further details, please contact the Secretary.

Fieldwork programme No previous experience required Please contact Penny Middleton or Belinda Burke, if you wish to attend

2005

Saturday 29 October	Survey at Brancepeth Meet at the Brawn's Den pub at 10 am
Saturday 19 November	Fieldwalking at Brancepeth
December	No fieldwork

2006

Saturday 28 January	Washing and identifying skeletons from Spofforth This will complement Paul Johnson's lecture on 14 January. Details to be announced
Saturday 25 February	Photographing historic sites and buildings Details to be announced

Programme
November 2005
to June 2006

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 12 November **An Iron Age and Roman site at Faverdale, Darlington**
Robin Taylor-Wilson Pre-Construct Archaeology
- Saturday 10 December **Members Meeting** Followed by a reception at the Heritage Centre, St Mary-le-Bow. Please contact the Secretary to book a place at the reception
- Saturday 14 January **Grave news from Norton: death and burial in the mid Anglo-Saxon period**
Paul Johnson Northern Archaeological Associates
- Saturday 11 February **Fylingdales Moor, North Yorkshire Archaeology revealed by fire**
Blaise Vyner Blaise Vyner Consultancy
- Saturday 18 March **Aethelfrith of Northumbria and the battle of Chester**
David Mason County Archaeologist, Durham County Council
- Wednesday 5 April at 7.15 pm **Recreating Avalon The symbolic landscape of Dunstanburgh Castle**
Alistair Oswald English Heritage
- Saturday 13 May **AGM** Details to follow
- Saturday 10 June **From Hope-Taylor to the Heritage Lottery Fund Recent excavations at Bamburgh**
Sarah Groves Bamburgh Research Project

Other local events

- Saturday 19 November **Beyond the fort walls Vici and canabae in Roman Northern Britain** at the Customs House, Mill Dam, South Shields
Fourteenth Annual Conference of the Arbeia Society
For further information or booking, contact The Secretary, The Arbeia Society, Arbeia Roman Fort, Baring Street, South Shields, Tyne & Wear NE33 2BB; telephone (0191) 454 4093; fax (0191) 427 6862; e-mail lizelliott@twmuseums.org.uk
- Friday 10 to Saturday 11 February **Early medieval Northumbria Current work and future directions**
An interdisciplinary conference at the University of Newcastle
For further details, contact Dr David Petts, Department of Archaeology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE; e-mail d.a.petts@durham.ac.uk, or see the conference website at <http://historical-studies.ncl.ac.uk/research/emn>
- Saturday 11 March **County Archaeology Day**
Details to follow

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