
NASNEWS

Newsletter of Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

Website: www.northants-archaeology.org.uk

March 2008

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

Saturday, 5th April at Cogenhoe village hall

Doors open 10.00am to 4pm, tea & coffee available

Admission is free to all, and the village hall has a large car park

Donations to help towards costs will be welcome

This event has the simple aim of raising the profile of archaeology and history in the county by promoting the local societies and groups that are actively involved in exploring the past of Northamptonshire. As NAS are hosting the event, we have attached the title archaeology to the day, as we expect this to be the dominant theme, but we would also like to see local history and family history represented to give visitors a broad flavour of the things that they could get involved with in the county.

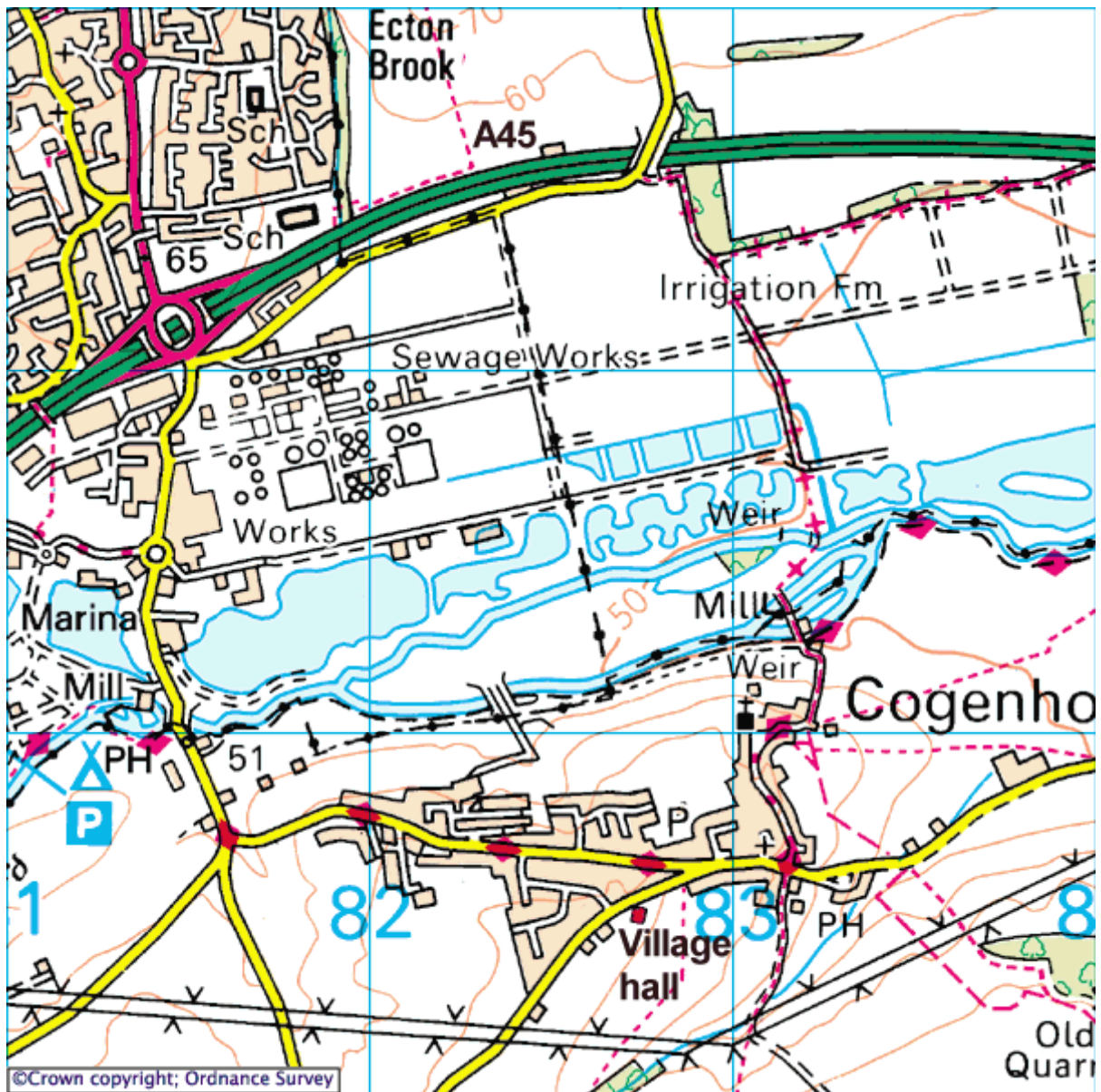
The Archaeology Day will therefore be a gathering of representatives from Northamptonshire archaeological and historical societies, and related groups, with each providing a display of its work, publications for sale, handouts, membership details and anything else of general interest to the public. The success of the day will depend on what the participating societies themselves make of this opportunity.

Success will also depend on making the public aware that it is happening, so we need to advertise as widely as possible. A poster is included with this newsletter, and we would ask all our members to display the poster somewhere prominent, perhaps in your local shop, post office or library. Our members are scattered across the county, so if everyone could put up a poster or two it will be a big help in getting to the widest possible audience. We will also be issuing a press release to the local media.

A pdf version of the poster for printing further copies is available on our web site or by email from Andy Chapman (achapman@northamptonshire.gov.uk).

If successful, we would like to make this an annual spring event to promote the archaeology of the county to the public of Northamptonshire. Perhaps one of the affiliated groups has a good local venue and would be willing to host the day in partnership with NAS?

On the day we will be hoping to see lots of familiar faces, both behind the tables and as visitors, but we also hope to see lots of unfamiliar faces finding out for the first time what everyone has to offer, and hopefully all the participating societies will benefit by both spreading the word and gaining a few new members. If anyone would like to make a last-minute booking of table space please contact Andy Chapman by phone or email.



To get to Cogenhoe village hall, follow the A45 east of Northampton to the roundabout for Billing Aquadrome, also signposted Cogenhoe and Brafield.

Cross over the bridge at Billing Mill and shortly after, turn left for Cogenhoe.

At the middle of the village turn sharp right and the village hall,
with a large car park, is on the left

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY, VOLUME 35

We are now collecting articles, notes and summaries for Volume 35 of the journal. This will be the first journal in A4 format, and the first to be digitally printed, allowing us to use colour illustrations and plates. The deadline for contributions will be the end of April.

We would welcome notes from all of our affiliated local groups, no matter how brief, to maintain the role of the journal in cataloguing archaeological fieldwork carried out in the county. Short notes and summaries are published without charge to the submitting organisation.

A revised set of *Notes for Contributors* is available on the society website or by email from Andy Chapman. Basically, we need to receive text as a Word document, and photographs as tiff files (at 300 dpi at reproduction size), although we can accept high quality prints or slides. Any line illustrations can be provided as camera (scanner)-ready artwork, but no larger than A3 format. Press quality pdf files are the preferred format for digital illustration files, but these must be the finished artwork.

Contributions to the editors: Andy Chapman (achapman@northamptonshire.gov.uk) or Martin Tingle (martin@mtingle.freeserve.co.uk).

The journal will again be accompanied by a CD. This year it will contain several past copies of the journal, to continue the process of making the journal available digitally. We also hope to publish a full index and a bibliography to all past journals, both as a paper copy and as a digital index on the CD, to make it easier to reference and find articles in both the paper and digital copies of the journal. This index will also be made available on the society website.

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME (PAS) IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Have you found something that you think may be of archaeological interest? If so, please do get in touch with Northamptonshire's Finds Liaison Officer, Steve Ashby. Steve's main role is to identify and record the many and varied archaeological objects found by members of the public and metal detectorists from across the county, and he can also provide advice on storage and conservation of such objects. He'll be holding 'surgeries' across the county, but can also be contacted direct at his office (details below). Steve also has a range of literature on artefacts, conservation, and legislation (such as the Treasure Act) that he will be happy to provide to interested parties, and he is available to give talks and appear at local events connected with heritage and archaeology.

Steve works for the nationally run Portable Antiquities Scheme, a voluntary project to record archaeological objects found by the public, and is based with the Northamptonshire County Council's Archives and Heritage Service in County Hall, Northampton. He records the finds he sees on the Portable Antiquities Scheme's online database (www.finds.org.uk), which allows academics to conduct research on the data, and helps local communities to find out about their heritage.

If you think you may have something to record, or you'd like to find out more about the PAS, please contact Steve at **Northamptonshire County Council's Archives and Heritage Service, PO Box 163, County Hall, Northampton NN1 1AX.**

He can also be emailed at sashby@northamptonshire.gov.uk or called on **01604 237249.**

Forthcoming PAS surgeries

Thursday, 17th April, 11am-1pm, Kettering, Manor House Museum

Monday, 5th May, 2.30-4.30pm, Corby, East Carlton Country Park

Tuesday, 6th May, 11am -1pm, Towcester, South Northants Council Offices

Tuesday, 6th May, 2.30 - 4.30pm, Daventry, Lodge Road Council Offices

Wednesday, 7th May, 11am-1pm, Wellingborough Museum

Wednesday, 7th May, 2.30-4.30pm, Oundle Museum

Thursday, 8th May, 2.30-4.30pm, Northampton Museum

Wednesday, 14th May, 2.30-3.30pm, Piddington Roman Villa Museum

Wednesday, 25th June, 2.30-3.30pm, Piddington Roman Villa Museum

Monday, 30th June, 2.30-4.30pm, Corby, East Carlton Country Park

Tuesday, 1st July, 11am -1pm, Towcester, South Northants Council Offices

Tuesday, 1st July, 2.30 - 4.30pm, Daventry, Lodge Road Council Offices

Wednesday, 2nd July, 11am-1pm, Wellingborough Museum

Wednesday, 2nd July, 2.30-4.30pm, Oundle Museum

Thursday, 3rd July, 11am-1pm, Kettering, Manor House Museum

Thursday, 3rd July, 2.30-4.30pm, Northampton Museum

**MINUTES OF THE AGM OF
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
26 NOVEMBER 2007**

- 1) Apologies for absence received from: Martin Tingle, Liz Friendship-Taylor, Rod Conlon, Christine Addison, Steve Ashby and David Blackburn

Council members in attendance: Roy Friendship-Taylor, Steven Hollowell, Graham Cadman, Andy Chapman, Pat Chapman, Ian Barrie, David Waller and Martin Weaver

- 2) Minutes of the AGM for 2006 were accepted by the members as a true record.

3) **Secretary's and co-editor's report**

This year, both Burl Bellamy and Mike Rumbold have stepped down from the committee. Both are old friends of the society who have contributed much in the past, but are now making way so that new people can get involved.

We have proposed holding a county Archaeology Day in the spring, something many other counties provide. A firm date and venue have not yet been set, but after Easter at around mid-April is suggested. This needs to be more than just a day for those already converted, so we do need to advertise it to try to attract new interested people. The aim is both to tell people about activities in the county and perhaps to attract some new members for all the societies involved on the day. We need local groups willing to set up displays, and a number are already committed to taking part, and more are welcome. When we issue details with the next newsletter we will also provide a poster, and would ask everyone to do their bit to make sure it goes in your library and/or local shop so that we reach as many people as possible.

Membership is basically staying pretty much constant at around 130, and it would be nice if perhaps we could get that to around 150 this year.

For the fifth year in a row, we have managed to produce a journal annually and for, I think the third year in a row, it is ready in time to be distributed at the AGM, which saves a little in postage and packing and also in the time taken to package and post it.

The journal contains an editorial looking at the issue of publication in archaeology; what to publish and how to publish it. You will also notice our first adventure into digital publishing, with the inclusion of a CD providing copies of the original eight Bulletins of the Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies, the origin of the journal. Next year there will be a CD carrying copies of previous journals. I hope this will continue as an annual feature, in which the paper journal is supplemented by material in digital form.

This will be the last of the old-style, black and white, quarto journals. As indicated in the July newsletter, the intention is that next year it will go to A4 with digital printing, which will mean we can use colour throughout for plates and figures. This should be achieved at no extra cost. Currently the journal costs us around £4500 to produce 250 copies, about £18.00 per copy, but most of that cost is met by the contributors and the institutional members. We are hoping that going digital will give us a more attractive product, which might help us to maintain or perhaps even increase our membership.

We now have the entire journal series digitised, and the next stage is to contact the CBA Archaeological Library to organise making them available online.

4) **Treasurer's Report and adoption of accounts**

Copies of the accounts for the year ending 31/8/2007 were available at the meeting. Ian Barrie briefly explained that the society was still in a very healthy financial position, with a substantial reserve of funds and a grant still to come in for contributions to journal volume 34.

5) **Election of Officers and Members of Council**

The following stood for re-election:

Secretary, Andy Chapman; Treasurer, Ian Barrie; Editors, Martin Tingle and Andy Chapman; Membership Secretary, Pat Chapman

Ordinary members of the Council:

Roy Friendship-Taylor, Graham Cadman, Steven Hollowell, Steve Young, David Waller and Martin Weaver

All were re-elected unopposed.

Brian Giggins was elected as a member of council; proposed by Graham Cadman and seconded by Christine Addison.

Roy Friendship-Taylor is currently Chair and Steven Hollowell vice-Chair by election of the council.

Public Meeting

Following the conclusion of business there was a public lecture by Bill Boismier, *Fear and Loathing in the Middle Palaeolithic: Mammoths at Lynford Quarry, Norfolk. Neanderthal Hunting or Scavenging?*

This presentation was something completely different to what all of us are used to, as Palaeolithic archaeology is unique in almost every way. The content and the presentation were much enjoyed by all.

One aspect of interest is that the information recovered is the source of some disagreement between archaeologists as to whether it is indicative of pro-active Neanderthal hunting (let's go and get those mammoth for dinner), or a more circumspect and opportunistic approach (I know a really neat place where dead mammoths are just waiting to be eaten).

Chairman:	Roy Friendship-Taylor Toad Hall 86 Main Road Hackleton Northampton NN7 2AD roy@friendship-taylor.freemove.co.uk	Secretary:	Andy Chapman c/o Northamptonshire Archaeology 2 Bolton House Wootton Hall Park Northampton NN4 8BE achapman@northamptonshire.gov.uk
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