



NASNEWS

Newsletter of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

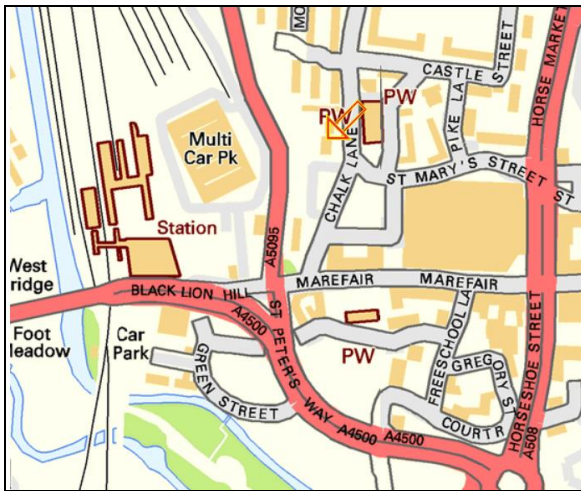
Website: www.northants-archaeology.org.uk



May 2017

The Origins of Northampton Thursday, 1 June

Meet at the car park in
Chalk Lane at 7pm



The walk will be led by Andy Chapman, of MOLA Northampton, who directed excavations on the footprint of the new railway station in 2013 and excavated a length of the town defences at Green Street in the 1990s.

We will meet at the Chalk Lane car park and then move to St Peter's church to talk about the middle Saxon timber hall, excavated in the 1980s, which lay between the twin churches of St Peter and St Gregory, together forming the ecclesiastical and political focus around which the town grew. We will then move to Green Street to talk about the town's Saxon and medieval defences.

Crossing the road to the new station, we finish with the Norman Conquest and the origins of the castle, and return to the Chalk Lane car park to view the surviving earthworks of the bailey bank.

Maximum of 20 people, NAS members have first preference, please contact Andy at NAS196674@gmail.com to book.

MOLA moving

MOLA Northampton (Museum of London Archaeology), has now moved to a new office at 30 Billing Road, Northampton, opposite the turn to the hospital A&E.

Northamptonshire Archaeology/MOLA Northampton had been based at Wootton Hall Park from the late 1980s. However, the link is still not fully broken as the building is still in use for storage and a small team are still based at Wootton Hall Park to carry out finds and soil sample processing, and this will continue through 2017.

Birmingham Museum and the Staffordshire hoard

A gallery uncovering the fascinating story of the Staffordshire Hoard is open at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.

In the new gallery, principally funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, visitors can learn more about this treasure, from its Anglo-Saxon warrior history, to the ongoing conservation techniques used to unlock its secrets today.

Hundreds of pieces from the hoard are on show, along with hands-on displays exploring how these intriguing items were used. Visitors can find out about the exquisite craftsmanship used to create the items in the hoard, and learn how the designs of the objects can be linked to many regions across Europe.

While in Birmingham, for those also interested in more recent times, visits to the Back to Backs, the last surviving court of back-to-back houses in Birmingham, and the Coffin Works, where coffin fittings and shrouds were manufactured, are also recommended.

Making Eleanor Cross

Some of you may have seen recent news coverage of the state of the Hardingstone Eleanor Cross, raised initially by Mike Ingram of the Northamptonshire Battlefield Society.

The curiosity was the attempt by the Borough Council to deny any responsibility for the monument even though, as several people pointed out, it is listed as a council asset on the Borough Council's own web site. The end result appears to be that the council have finally accepted that the state of the cross is their responsibility.

A spokesman for Northampton Borough Council said: "We have contacted Historic England today (April 26) to find out what is required, and we will try to clarify who owns the Eleanor Cross so that it is cherished in the future."

Read more at:

<http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/neglected-landmark-of-northampton-heritage-causes-confusion-between-councils-as-no-one-knows-who-owns-it-1-7934692>

Chester Farm Irchester Roman Town

There is a comprehensive website covering all aspects of the Chester Farm development: www.chesterfarm.co.uk.

There are free guided tours of the site with volunteer guides:

Saturday 27 May 10:00 - 11:30

Tuesday 13 June 10:00 - 11:30

Saturday 24 June 10:00 - 11:30

Check availability and book **2 weeks in advance** by emailing:

chesterfarm@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Or you can walk around on your own, as the site is open to the public every day 8.00am - 6.00pm, from 1st May - 31st October. The website has a pdf map of the footpaths and details of car parking.

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Volume 39, 2017

The next edition of the journal is being copyedited at the moment so that it can be ready for the AGM in October/November 2017. This will be a general volume with a range of articles spanning the Neolithic to post-medieval periods.

Volume 40, 2018

The Northampton special edition of the journal is also progressing, and we hope to have it ready for the AGM in 2018 or perhaps for a book launch and day school in Northampton to present the results.

NASNEWS

Between issues of NASNEWS, items of interest are emailed to those on the NAS email list, so I would encourage anyone with email to forward their details so they can be added to the list and be kept up to date with incoming news.

News items are also posted on the NAS Facebook page.

Spring Bargains from Oxbow Books

<http://www.oxbowbooks.com>

The Anglo-Saxon Church of All Saints, Brixworth, David Parsons and Diana Sutherland, Regular Price: ~~£90.00~~ **Special Price: £29.95**

Origins, Development and Abandonment of an Iron Age Village: DIRFT 2, Robert Masefield (Editor) Regular Price: ~~£48.00~~ **Special Price: £39.00**

West Cotton, Raunds ... a medieval hamlet in Northamptonshire, Andy Chapman Regular Price: ~~£48.00~~ **Special Price: £6.95**

Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval Settlement at Sol Central, Marefair, Northampton: Archaeological Excavations 1998-2002 Pat Miller; Tom Wilson; Chiz Harward. Regular Price: ~~£11.95~~ **Special Price: £4.95**

Andy Chapman

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