

Notes

REVIEW OF RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

The society journal is only one of many means by which the results of archaeological work carried out in Northamptonshire can be disseminated to the public. With the advent of developer funding in the 1990s there was a huge increase in the number of projects being carried out both by the county-based unit, Northamptonshire Archaeology, and by other units winning contracts through competitive tendering. Unfortunately, this increase in work was not accompanied by a similar increase in publication either within the county journal or in other traditional paper publications.

Instead, a new species of publication emerged, grey literature reports, which are produced in-house by the archaeological contractor, made possible by the desk-top computer, the ever improving quality of printers and scanners, and cheap binding machines. These reports were produced in small numbers, rarely more than ten, to demonstrate to the planning archaeologist that the planning conditions had been fulfilled and usually triggering the final payment from the developer, who would have funded the entire process of investigation and reporting. A copy would be lodged in the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) where they can be consulted, and the details would be added to the SMR.

Some of these reports were taken on to more formal publication, but through the later 1990s and the early 2000s there were few major publications of Northamptonshire sites beyond the journal contributions. In the past five years, partly through the influence of the Institute for Field Archaeologists (IFA), archaeological contractors across the country have been endeavouring to tackle these backlogs. As a result, we are now seeing a range of publications appearing or due to appear and below we list some of the principal recent publications in traditional paper publication and also look at how the internet is beginning to provide a major outlet for publication.

MONOGRAPH REPORTS

The monograph report is still a valuable means for publishing the results of major projects, where the reports are too lengthy for a county journal. However, the monograph itself is also a medium that is changing with the use of modern technology. The two mentioned below provide good examples of the traditional and modern forms; with contrasting prices and value for money.

Iron Age, Roman and Saxon Occupation at Grange Park: Excavations at Courteenhall, Northamptonshire, 1999 by Laurence Jones, Ann Woodward and Simon Buteux, 2006

Birmingham Archaeology Monograph Series, **1** (British Archaeological Reports, British Series, **425**)

Available from British Archaeological Reports (Hadrian Books) and Oxbow Books, Oxford: price £42.00 (check before ordering).

This report describes several open area excavations carried out on Iron Age and Roman settlement enclosures, as well as areas of Saxon settlement, to the immediate south of Northampton and adjacent to the M1. These sites were all excavated before the area was developed for housing and industrial use.

While this report does provide a substantial contribution to Iron Age studies in the county, at 267 pages it is a heavyweight production and is certainly not in the easy-reading category. The style is traditional, in that it contains very full details of all aspects of the archaeology from feature descriptions through to comprehensive specialist reports, accompanied by a total of 78 tables of data. However, the individual chapters have been strung together with little attempt at integration and the casual reader will find it difficult to recognise the sites as they are dealt with in chapters covering fieldwalking, geophysics, trial trench evaluation and excavation, and then on through the finds and environmental reports, which make up the bulk of the volume.

The synthesis and discussion does go some way towards telling the broader story, but the continued use of area and phase numbers fails to conjure an image of living settlements changing through time. It might also be noted that it should be Duston Roman town at the centre of the distribution plan for Roman sites in central Northamptonshire (fig 91, page 225) not Ashton Roman town.

Finally, we must mention the extortionate price of £42.00, which is well above production costs and there is no excuse for such prices in these days of rapid digital typesetting.

Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval Settlement at Sol Central, Marefair, Northampton: Archaeological Excavations 1998-2002 by Pat Miller, Tom Wilson and Chiz Harward, 2005

Museum of London Archaeology Service Monograph, 27

Available from the Museum of London Archaeology Service, the Museum of London bookshop and Oxbow Books, Oxford: price £11.95 (check before ordering).

Excavation work by MoLAS, following evaluation by Northamptonshire Archaeology, of limited parts of the Sol Central development site, which was formerly occupied by the Barclaycard building, produced a long sequence of occupation. This included a Middle Saxon sunken-floored building, Late Saxon and Norman period settlement, with metalworking and bone working taking place, while a cemetery associated with the chapel of St Martin was in use between the 10th and 13th centuries. The area continued to develop during the medieval period, with timber and stone buildings and intensifying industrial activity represented by pits, hearths and smithing debris. By the 14th century the route of Pike Lane was established, but the site declined during the 15th and 16th centuries.

In contrast to the Grange Park report, this monograph is both cheap and slim, at 81 pages, with an attractive layout including extensive use of colour. It is an example of a new style of report presentation: a hybrid paper and digital publication. The published text provides a narrative overview of the form and development of the site accompanied by brief highlights of the associated finds, making it much more reader friendly. The full finds reports only appear on the CD that is provided with the volume.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY MONOGRAPH SERIES

While Northamptonshire Archaeology has regularly published its smaller excavations in the journal, like other contractors, they had struggled to bring their larger projects to completion. With a number of those projects heading towards publication Northamptonshire Archaeology is now launching its own monograph series. The first in the series will be available by the time this journal appears, and will be available through Heritage Marketing and Publication, who have typeset the volume and will handle distribution on a print-on-demand basis. Further volumes should appear through this same source over the next few years.

Iron Age and Roman settlement on the Northamptonshire Uplands: Archaeological Work on the A43 Towcester to M40 Road Improvement Scheme in Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire by Andrew Mudd, 2007

Northamptonshire Archaeology Monograph, 1
Available from Heritage Marketing and Publications (www.heritagemp.com) of Great Dunham, near Swaffham, Norfolk: price to be determined

This volume describes the excavation of a number of pit alignments and Iron Age and Roman settlement sites excavated along the course of a new road scheme. Of particular importance was the discovery of Iron Age and early Roman iron smelting sites, indicating that both slag tapping and non-slag tapping technologies were used in the Iron Age. Later periods of activity are dealt with more briefly.

The style of presentation is traditional, similar to the Grange Park report, but is presented in a more integrated form, making it easier for the reader to navigate through the volume, although it is still dominated by the specialist reports. The discussion provides an interpretation of Iron Age land use in which neighbouring settlements specialised in either arable or pastoral agriculture, perhaps as elements of a single larger community.

While the price had not been determined at the time of writing, it will be rather more economically priced than the Grange Park volume, hopefully at around £20.

THE RAUNDS AREA PROJECT

Bringing the results of the Raunds Area Project to completion has been a major problem for both Northamptonshire Archaeology and English Heritage. Finally, over 20-years after the fieldwork came to an end the series of reports are beginning to appear.

The genesis of the project had lain in the discovery and excavation in the late 1970s of a late Saxon to medieval church and accompanying cemetery, containing over 350 individuals. The volume describing this initial excavation has been available for 10 years:

Raunds Furnells: The Anglo-Saxon church and churchyard, by Andy Boddington, 1996
English Heritage Archaeological Monograph
Available from Oxbow Books, Oxford: Price currently £35.00 (check before ordering)

The church buildings, established at Furnells manor in the 10th century and in use into the post-Conquest period, are described and interpreted, and the analysis of the churchyard is a study of the form and development of a late Saxon and medieval cemetery of national importance, in which burial practices and grave furniture are considered in detail.

Of the work carried out in the 1980s, the first published volume presents the results of the detailed field-walking survey, which reveals a dynamic picture of landscape development from the prehistoric through to the creation and early development of villages and open fields. The fieldwalking finds are described, and the results of trial trench excavations and other smaller pieces of archaeological work are presented, together with summaries of the main open area excavations that are to appear in detail in other monographs.

Raunds Area Survey: An archaeological study of the landscape of Raunds, Northamptonshire 1985-94 by Stephen Parry, 2006
Oxbow Books/English Heritage
Available from Oxbow Books, Oxford: price £30.00 (check before ordering)

The next volume to be available will be the account of the major prehistoric monument complex that lay along the valley bottom between the villages of Stanwick and Raunds, containing a mixture of standard monument forms, such as the Neolithic long barrow and the series of early Bronze Age round barrows, but interspersed with a series of non-standard and unusual forms that make the complex

of national importance in studying prehistoric ritual structures and practices.

Raunds Area Project: The Neolithic and Bronze Age landscapes of West Cotton, Stanwick and Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire by Jan Harding and Frances Healy
English Heritage Monograph

At the time of writing the publication details are uncertain but, rather than a conventional English Heritage monograph, this is likely to appear as a print-on-demand publication.

Northamptonshire Archaeology has two further volumes to bring to completion. The first describes the Saxon to medieval settlement of north Raunds, through the results of a series of open area excavations including the manorial ranges of Furnells manor and a reinterpretation of the overall dating of this site. The second will describe the extensively excavated deserted medieval hamlet of West Cotton, Raunds lying in the valley close to the river. Here the late Saxon timber residence of a minor thegn, with an adjacent watermill complex was fully excavated, while the medieval stone-built ranges showing a transition from manorial to peasant occupation were particularly well preserved. The first volume should appear later in 2007 and the second in 2008.

Raunds: the origin and growth of a midland village, AD 450-1500 by Michel Audouy with Andy Chapman (ed)
Oxbow books/English Heritage

West Cotton, Raunds: a study of medieval settlement dynamics, AD 450-1450 by Andy Chapman
Oxbow Books/English Heritage

It is intended that both of these will appear as hybrid paper and digital publications, with the overviews of development and the structural evidence appearing in print, while the other specialist reports are on attached CDs. A limited number of bound printouts of the specialist reports will be available for those requiring this data in paper form.

NATIONAL JOURNALS

Next to the River Nene at Grendon there is another major Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex that has been subject to a number of episodes of investigations since the 1970s. These have been reported in previous issues of *Northamptonshire*

Archaeology: volume 20 for 1985, volume 26 for 1995, and volume 33 for 2005. The latest extensive excavations took place in 1998 and 2001, and these have been reported in the *Proceedings of the Pre-historic Society*, accompanied by an overview of the development of the entire complex. Iron Age settlement remains in the same area are also reported.

Life by the River: a Prehistoric Landscape at Grendon, Northamptonshire by Jonathan Last, 2005 *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, **71**, 333-360

INTERNET PUBLICATION

Having dealt with conventional publication, we can end with a note on the growing potential of the internet as a source for archaeological information.

It was noted in the editorial at the beginning of this journal that the society is making articles from past journals available on the internet through the new Council for British Archaeology online library. Northamptonshire Archaeology also intend to join the same scheme and to make available the series of monograph reports published by both the County Council and the former Northampton Development Corporation Archaeological Unit, although it may take a couple of years to complete this process.

In addition, the grey literature reports, mentioned at the beginning of this note as only appearing in small numbers and within the Site Monuments Records, are also becoming available online. This is through the Archaeology Data Service (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>),

who have established a library for Un-published Fieldwork Reports (Grey Literature). Northamptonshire Archaeology has already submitted many of its reports for 2005 to this scheme, and PDF copies of the reports can be viewed online and copied and printed as required. From 2006 onward virtually all reports prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology should appear in this library, although there will be a delay of up to 12 months before they come through. Across the whole country over 800 reports are now available, and this number should increase rapidly during the next 12 months.

Another online resource worth mentioning is the British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography (BIAB). This free service is the quickest way to locate details of just about any book, journal article or monograph. It is fully searchable by title or author, by date or by key words. When preparing and editing reports, it is invaluable in checking the details of incomplete references. It can also be used to find published references to a local area or town, or any particular aspect or period of the archaeology.

BIAB contains references to articles that have appeared in the journal from volume 8 to the present day, although two volumes are currently missing from the index. At the present time the BIAB service indexes only paper publications, but in the future the intention is to include details of material on the internet and also to index unpublished fieldwork reports.

ANDY CHAPMAN

PUTTING A FURTHER NAME TO A FACE

In last year's journal (volume 33, 2005, page 163), we published a copy of the cover photograph from the silver jubilee volume (volume 28, 1998-9). This photograph recorded the gathering of the majority of the leading members of the society at the silver jubilee day conference, and last year we endeavoured to identify everyone present.

Needless to say, shortly after the volume was issued a letter was received from Paul Everson pointing out that he had not been identified. Paul also believed that Tony Brown had been present, and was also not identified and was perhaps hidden in the background.

Paul Everson was the founding secretary of the society in the mid-1970s and Tony Brown was the prime mover in the Society's creation, and edited

both the Bulletin of the Federation and the society journal for many years. As Paul says in his letter, "it is perhaps slightly ironical, in view of the commemorative nature of the occasion, that we two who put so much practical effort into the early days are not identifiable. But then the 'guard' has changed several times since then".

So, Paul Everson is visible just right of centre and at the back, between Mike Rumbold and Dennis Jackson. Whether Tony Brown was present or not remains a mystery. Martin Tingle believes that while he was certainly invited he was not able to attend.

In his letter Paul also mentioned how encouraging it was that the society was in good heart with "the journal performing the function of publishing the results of fieldwork in the county that was desperately needed when the Society was founded".