

## Recent Publications

by

Andy Chapman

### Spanning the centuries: The historic bridges of Northamptonshire

Julian Bowsher

Northamptonshire County Council

NCC may have no money for services and has cut its Heritage provision to the bone (and as I write this in August 2017 has just proposed a scheme of charging for use of the Record Office), and excluding the development of Chester Farm of course, but cash is apparently available for a self-indulgent book to grace the coffee tables of the well-healed county set.

It is beautifully photographed by some of my colleagues from MOLA Northampton, and the research and the text was assembled by our more recent colleagues in MOLA London. Having skimmed rapidly through it, it is a pity the text didn't come to Northampton for a proof read as it wouldn't have taken long to correct the, admittedly few, errors.

These include placing Roman Duston on the eastern, rather than the western outskirts of Northampton, and a personal credit to me (although I am not sure what I did) as Andy Chapman of *Northampton Archaeological Society*. (As an aside: this has been a continuing annoyance, with staff in London quite frequently referring to us in Northampton (us being my day job rather than NAS) as formerly *Northampton Archaeology*. Perhaps when you work somewhere as big as London the distinction between town and county does seem trivial. Also, Alex Thorne's survey of the Rothersthorpe Lift Bridge, listed as an unpublished client report, was actually published in NA 36, 2010, 153-163.

Having had my say, here is the official NCC blurb:

This beautifully illustrated book provides a thorough assessment of the 104 bridges in Northamptonshire that are listed or scheduled by Historic England because of their architectural, historical or cultural significance. The book refers to Roman, medieval, post-medieval, ornamental, canal and railway bridges, and is full of interesting local stories. You will meet a variety of interesting people including kings and queens, lords and ladies, poets and famous architects as well as witches, robbers and vandals.

It is available for £20.00 directly from NCC, if you follow the link below, and may well be available in local libraries, if you can find one that is open:

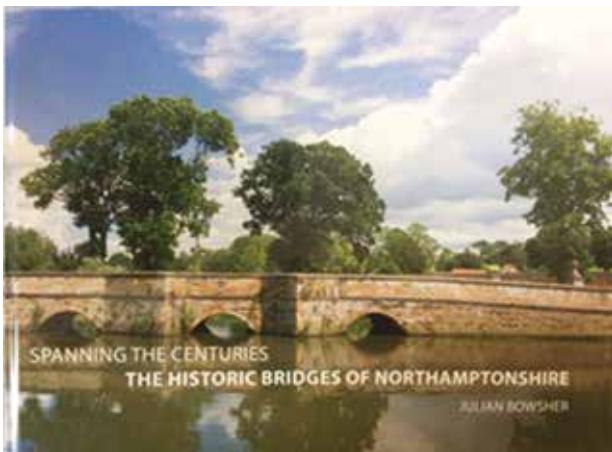
<http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/news/council-news/Pages/spanning-the-centuries-the-historic-bridges-of-northamptonshire.aspx>

### MOLA Northampton and Archaeopress Archaeology

As with most commercial archaeology, finding the time to bring substantial projects through analysis and on to publication within the constant flow of fieldwork has been a problem. In order to try to bring the work of Northamptonshire Archaeology to completion, in effect wiping the NA slate clean now that they are part of MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology), Archaeopress Archaeology was approached as a suitable partner to publish and distribute a series of monographs, a relationship that is proving fruitful as an economic, efficient and rapid means of achieving that aim.

The relationship started with my personal involvement in helping consultants RPS bring the DIRFT (Davenport International Rail Freight Terminal) sites to publication in two volumes in December 2015, containing contributions from the several commercial contractors involved in the fieldwork. These volumes are still available and are an essential reference for anyone working on the Iron Age in Northamptonshire and the surrounding counties, and I was very impressed with Archaeopress and the speed of their turnaround from proofs to publication.

MOLA Northampton now has five volumes published through Archaeopress Archaeology. Only one of these covers work in Northamptonshire, along the Empingham to Hannington water pipeline, but the others are all from neighbouring counties: dealing with the archaeology of Cathedral Square, Peterborough, including the remarkable survival of successive pavements one above the other;



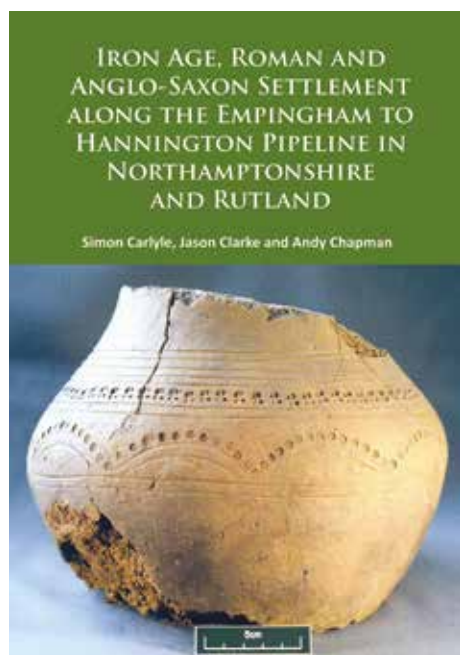
prehistoric, Roman and Saxon settlement on the outskirts of Bedford, part of an important prehistoric landscape that sweeps around the southern half of the town; looking at the town ditch and medieval houses in Coventry and, finally, at the Garden at Kenilworth Castle created by Robert Dudley for the visit of Queen Elizabeth I.

I had very little involvement with the work at Kenilworth Castle, but the trial trenching had shown an unexplained anomaly with the remains of the centrepiece, the elaborate and expensively imported fountain, being offset from the centre of the garden, breaking the pattern of strict symmetry. I was on site with Joe Prentice to survey the trenches and, while pondering on this anomaly, we looked up to the castle and saw the gateway and the steps leading down from the castle to the garden. We rushed over, climbed the steps and turned to see, framed by the archway, the trench containing the remains of the fountain. At that moment it all became obvious, the fountain was offset so that it would be the first thing Elizabeth saw as she walked down the steps towards the garden, and we were standing just where she must have stood in July 1575. Standing in the footsteps of the ghosts of Elizabeth I and Robert Dudley was a rare and special moment when archaeology and history really did come together quite dramatically.

I am, of course, total biased in this presentation as I have had a hand in all of these volumes at some stage, and it is satisfying to see them finally coming to publication. Below there is a full list, and they can be purchased on the website of Archaeopress Archaeology (<http://www.archaeopress.com>) as either hard copy or as ebooks.

***Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlement along the Empingham to Hannington Pipeline in Northamptonshire and Rutland***

Simon Carlyle, Jason Clarke and Andy Chapman  
132 pages  
Printed ISBN 9781784915346  
Epublication ISBN 9781784915353



***The History and Archaeology of Cathedral Square Peterborough***

Stephen Morris  
84 pages  
ISBN 9781784916619

***Bronze Age Monuments and Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon Landscapes at Cambridge Road, Bedford***

Andy Chapman and Pat Chapman  
146 pages  
Printed ISBN 9781784916046  
Epublication ISBN 9781784916053

***Coventry's Medieval Suburbs: Excavations at Hill Street, Upper Well Street and Far Gosford Street 2003-2007***

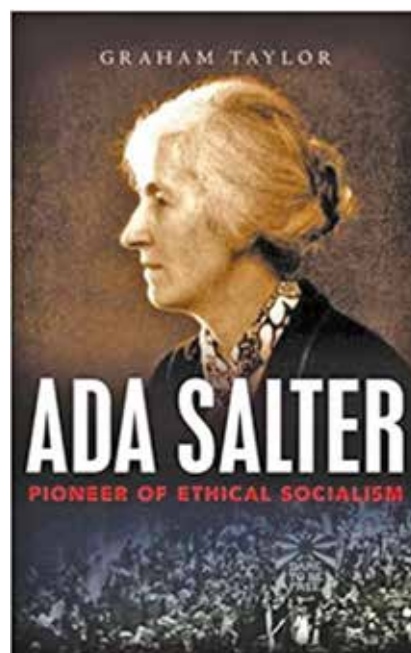
Paul Mason, Danny McAree and Iain Soden  
196 pages  
Printed ISBN 9781784915629  
Epublication ISBN 9781784915636

***The Archaeology of Kenilworth Castle's Elizabethan Garden: Excavation and Investigation 2004-2008***

Brian Dix, Stephen Parry and Claire Finn  
76 pages  
Printed ISBN 9781784915742  
Epublication ISBN 9781784915759

**Ada Salter, a woman of Raunds**

Review by Pat Chapman



***Ada Salter, Pioneer of Ethical Socialism***

Graham Taylor  
Lawrence and Wishart Ltd  
2016, 300 pages, £20.00

The bronze statue of Ada Salter, a woman from Raunds, one of only 15 women to have a statue in London, was

unveiled in London on Bermondsey Wall East, 30 November 2014. She was one of the first women councillors in London, the first woman mayor in London and the first Labour woman mayor in the British Isles.

Ada was born into the Brown family, well-to-do Methodist farmers of Raunds, in 1866. Their support for the temperance movement was the background that formed her radicalism. Ada joined her married sister in London in 1896, which enabled Ada to become actively committed to the people of the slums. She married Alfred Salter in 1900, a doctor who, under her influence, became a 'poor man's doctor' in Bermondsey. Their only daughter, Joyce, died aged 8 years old from scarlet fever in 1910.

Ada insisted on living in the slums among the people, and those experiences led her to the Independent Labour Party and the belief that democracy and social justice

required a grassroots alliance between the labour and women's movements. She took political power, implemented her 'utopian' ideas and won elections with huge majorities. Her ground breaking ideas on urban development spread all over London through her work as an LCC councillor and all over Britain through her role as Chair of the National Gardens Guild. Both in the Bermondsey revolution and nationally Ada was a pioneer of ethical socialism and she always insisted that enjoyment was an essential part of life.

In 1912 she wrote about housing, referring back to Raunds, 'I know that in the country to bring influence to bear upon committees, comprised of men only, and these men largely landlords and property owners, is an almost impossible task'. Almost full circle!

She died in 1942.