

## Recent Publications

by

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### MOLA Publications

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) Northampton have added to the backlog publications appearing through *Archaeopress Archaeology* with a further two volumes covering archaeological work carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, and also a volume covering more recent excavations carried out by MOLA near Daventry.

#### **Late Iron Age and Roman settlement at Bozeat Quarry, Northamptonshire: Excavations 1995–2016**

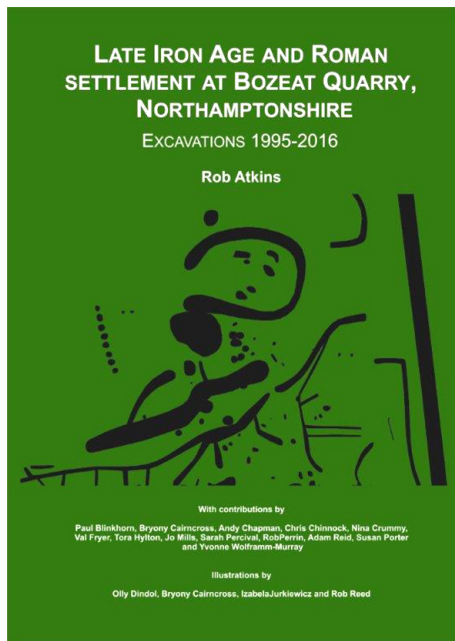
Rob Atkins

Archaeopress Archaeology 2018

186 pages, including 55 colour plates

Printed, ISBN 9781784918958: £45.00 (No VAT)

Epublication, 9781784918965: £16.00 (Exc. UK VAT)



Northamptonshire Archaeology had undertaken intermittent archaeological work within Bozeat Quarry over a period of twenty years from 1995–2016 covering an area of 59ha.

It was always something of a mystery why this site became a watching brief with excavation only as features were identified during soil stripping prior to quarrying, rather than a series of pre-emptive excavations. The trial trench evaluation had clearly identified the potential of the area. As a result, the work was done in small underfunded and hurried packages year by year as new areas were exposed for quarrying. Just about every site supervisor employed by Northamptonshire Archaeology ended up doing at least one session on the site, resulting in a huge archive of records created by numerous individuals largely without reference to or knowledge of previous work in adjacent areas. It is to the credit of Rob Atkins that he has managed to paper over the inevitable gaps to bring these records together as a single coherent account of the archaeology.

The earliest archaeological features lay in the extreme northern area where a cremation burial was possibly contemporary with an adjacent late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pit alignment. In the middle to late Iron Age a well organised farmstead was established. In the early 1st century AD, two separate settlements lay c.0.5km apart. The northern settlement was occupied for about 150 years, and included a group of 12 pottery kilns dated to the middle to late 1st century AD. The southern settlement was larger and continued to the end of the Roman period. A notable scatter of 12 Iron Age and Roman coins of the 1st centuries BC and AD, as well as 24 contemporary brooches, suggest the nearby presence of a shrine or temple. Directly to the west of the excavation, a Roman circular stone building, excavated in 1964, was perhaps an associated shrine. In the late 2nd to 4th centuries AD there were two stone buildings and a stone-built malt oven at the extreme western extent of the site, within 50m of the shrine recorded in 1964.

There was minor evidence of early to middle Saxon occupation. A small cemetery of five individuals, respecting the former Roman field system, probably dated to the late 6th to 7th centuries. The burials included a decapitation and a burial with a knife and a buckle.

## The Pioneer Burial: A high status warrior burial from Wollaston, Northamptonshire

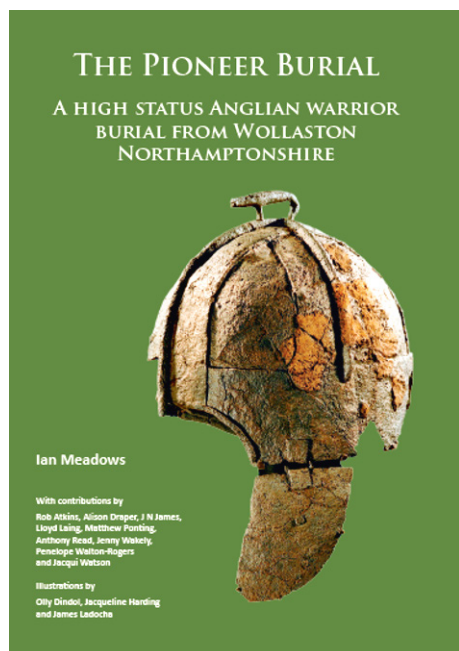
Ian Meadows

Archaeopress Archaeology 2019

70 pages; 56 illustrations (27 plates in colour)

Private customers, printed: £24.00 (No VAT)

Epublication: £16.00 (Exc. UK VAT)



It has been a long wait, over 20 years as the burial was excavated in 1997, but finally there is a published report on the Pioneer helmet and the burial from which it came, with all its other grave goods. It could be asked whether this report really does do justice to a helmet that is, after all, one of a very small group of rare, high profile objects at a national level, competing as it does with the Benty Grange helmet, found in the 19th century, the Sutton Hoo helmet from the famous ship burial, the Coppergate helmet from a pit in York, and now the Staffordshire hoard helmet, recently reconstructed from fragments within the larger hoard. However, I think we must be grateful that a report has finally made it to print, and again Rob Atkins must take the credit for the final push to get it over the line, after it had stalled since a first draft was completed in 2004.

Northamptonshire Archaeology, now MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) Northampton, undertook evaluation and subsequent excavation at Wollaston Quarry, near Wellingborough through the 1990s. These excavations took place in advance of gravel extraction on land to the north and south of Hardwater Road, Wollaston. The archaeological work found Iron Age and Roman farms arranged along a single routeway and the remains of at least two Roman vineyards, none of which has yet reached publication.

A single isolated grave, the Pioneer burial, dated to the late 7th century AD, lay alongside a long-lived routeway, lying at the southern end of the quarry, close to the floodplain. Any burial mound would have overlooked the

River Nene, although if there was one it was evidently not constructed using earth from an encircling ditch. The burial site also lay adjacent to the south-western corner of the later Saxon Higham Hundred boundary, where it met the River Nene.

Within the grave there was an individual adult of slender build probably in their early to middle 20s equipped with a boar-crested iron helmet, a pattern-welded sword, a copper alloy hanging bowl with enamelled escutcheon, an iron knife, a copper alloy clothing hook and three iron buckles. The burial contained artefacts indicative of high status, with the early to middle Saxon helmet being at the time only the fourth to have been recovered from a burial in England. The final discussion sets the burial within its broader topographical and historical context.

## Early Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman settlement at Monksmoor Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire

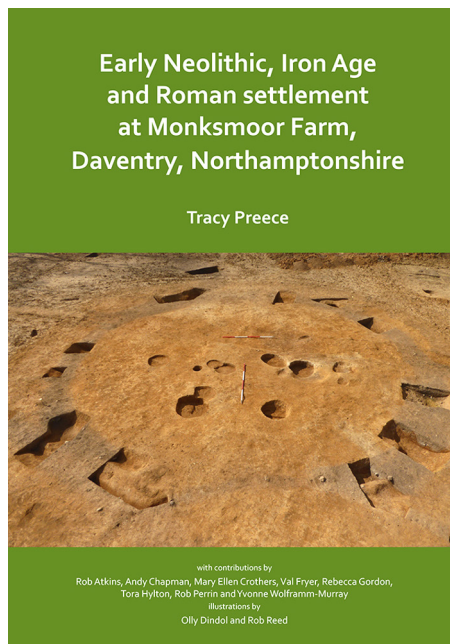
Tracy Preece

Archaeopress Archaeology 2019

82 pages; 53 figures (36 plates in full colour)

Private customers, printed: £30.00 (No VAT)

Epublication: £16.00 (Exc. UK VAT)



MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) has undertaken archaeological work at Monksmoor Farm on the north-eastern edge of Daventry. The earliest archaeological features were two pits, radiocarbon dated to the early Neolithic, which contained a moderate assemblage of worked flints along with sherds of early Neolithic pottery.

In the middle Iron Age a settlement was established comprising a roundhouse and several enclosures, with further settlement enclosures originating in the late Iron Age (1st century BC). The settlement included a cluster of eight roundhouses showing a sequence of replace-

ment, and a large ditched enclosure, defined as a Wootton Hill type, contained a single roundhouse. The settlement continued in use through the later 1st to 2nd century AD, with rectilinear ditched enclosures and paddocks established on either side of a routeway, indicating that movement of livestock was important.

### West Cotton, Raunds revisited

West Cotton continues to contribute to medieval studies some 30 years after the end of the excavations, showing the enduring value of archaeological archives.

### Reconciling organic residue analysis, faunal, archaeobotanical and historical records: diet and the medieval peasant at West Cotton, Raunds, Northamptonshire

Julie Dunne, Andy Chapman, Paul Blinkhorn and Richard Evershed  
*Journal of Archaeological Science*, 2019, 107, 58–70

In the 1990s Dr Richard Evershed and his students were doing pioneering work on the analysis of food residues within pottery, and sherds from numerous medieval pots from West Cotton were provided to this project. Although they published several papers in the *Journal of Archaeological Science* on individual analyses, no single overview was available for inclusion in the published report on West Cotton (Chapman, A, 2010 *West Cotton, Raunds. A study of medieval settlement dynamics AD 450–1450. Excavation of a deserted medieval hamlet in Northamptonshire 1985–89*, Oxford: Oxbow Books).

Julie Dunne has recently returned to the original data as part of her work at the University of Bristol and has produced a couple of papers on the implications of the results for the study of medieval diet, and the first of these has now been published.

Chemical and isotopic techniques were used to identify lipids, the fats, oils and natural waxes of the natural world, which had survived within the ceramics. The findings demonstrate that stews (or pottages) of meat (beef and mutton) and vegetables such as cabbage and leek, were the mainstay of the medieval peasant diet. The research also showed that dairy products, likely the ‘green cheeses’ known to be eaten by the peasantry, also played an important role in their diet.

The original report can be bought as a pdf download for \$35.95 (£28.36, May 2019), unless you belong to a university or other institution that has an access agreement, from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-archaeological-science/vol/107/suppl/C>

This extortionate cost for work carried out at a university, and on my part for nothing, could lead to a debate on the contentious subject of over-priced academic journals controlling, limiting and profiting from access to knowledge often derived from public funding, but that is another story: if interested, do have a look at discussions of this issue online.

For a simple broad overview you can have a look at either the publication press release from the University of Bristol or some of the associated press coverage by, among others, *New Scientist* and *The Metro*, through the links below:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/news/2019/may/medieval-peasant-diet.html>

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2203574-peasants-in-medieval-england-ate-a-diet-of-meat-stew-and-cheese/>

<https://metro.co.uk/2019/05/17/scientists-uncovers-diet-medieval-peasants-analysing-pots-9583533/>

There is also due to be a short new item in *Current Archaeology*, 353, August 2019.



(Above) Medieval cooking pots from Northampton Castle and not West Cotton, but similar shelly coarseware jars with heavily sooted bases from sitting in the hot ashes of a hearth

(Below) A typical hearth at West Cotton, with a stone base and a surround of pitched stone and pottery sherds, where a cooking pot could have stood surrounded by hot ashes (Scale 0.5m interval)

Concurrently, some of the charred seed assemblage from West Cotton is also under re-analysis as part of the project: *Feeding Anglo-Saxon England: The Bioarchaeology of an Agricultural Revolution*. This study is led by Helena Hamerow and is based at the Universities of Oxford and Leicester.



### **Durobrivae: A Review of Nene Valley Archaeology**

Between 1973 and 1984 the Nene Valley Research Committee published nine volumes of a booklet called "Durobrivae: A Review of Nene Valley Archaeology". The editor was John Peter Wild and each volume included short articles by archaeologists and historians who were busy investigating sites that would be impacted by the rapid growth of Peterborough new town.

These volumes are all available as free pdf downloads from the website of The Nene Valley Archaeological Trust, the successor to the Nene Valley Research Committee: <https://www.nenevalleyarchaeology.co.uk/durobrivae>. The website is also a valuable source of information about contemporary fieldwork, publications and society meetings across Peterborough and up the Nene valley as far as Oundle.

