

# NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGY

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# **NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Volume 12  
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**Editor**

**Paul Frodsham**

**NORTHUMBERLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP**

# THE NORTHUMBERLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

**THE NORTHUMBERLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP (NAG)** exists primarily to further the knowledge of the archaeology of Northumberland and surrounding areas. NAG undertakes its own fieldwork projects and occasionally supports other projects undertaken by members. A lecture programme, social events and a series of excursions are organised each year, and all members receive *Northern Archaeology* which is published annually. *Northern Archaeology* is also available by subscription to non-members.

**MEMBERSHIP.** All enquiries about membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary at the address below. Single membership for 1994-95 costs £8.

**NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGY** is the annual NAG journal and includes papers on the archaeology of Northumberland and elsewhere. Occasional special issues are published to cover particular themes. All communications regarding contributions to the journal should be addressed to the Editor at the address below or c/o Northumberland National Park, Eastburn, South Park, Hexham, NE46 1BS. All potential contributors are encouraged to consult the Editor as early as possible when considering the preparation of a paper (please note that *Northern Archaeology* is prepared for publication on a home computer, and all papers should be submitted on disk in a suitable wordprocessor format). Enquiries about back numbers should be addressed to the Secretary at the address below.

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## Editorial

The production of this volume has taken rather longer than intended for a number of reasons. As many readers will already be aware, last year saw the unfortunate departure of Colin Burgess from the NAG committee and the consequent need to appoint a new editor. Having taken up this roll I must accept the blame for the delay in the publication of volume 12, but hope that all members will now find something of interest within it.

The fundamental aim of Northern Archaeology remains, as it always has been, to serve the interests of NAG members, and I hope that members will continue to submit papers for publication. However, the journal also attracts much interest from further afield, and it is my intention to include a number of papers from non-members in years to come. I also hope to increase circulation and to this end all university libraries and archaeology departments will be invited to subscribe in the near future. This is important as it will make all papers more widely available to archaeology students and may thus stimulate further research in our area. It should also help to raise awareness of NAG at both local and national levels.

While this volume has been in preparation work has also been underway on a special edition on the Neolithic in northern England which has attracted contributions from several experts around the country. This will be considerably longer than an average volume and will represent volumes 13 and 14, thus bringing us back up to date with publications. There has never been a book about the Neolithic of northern England, and this has the potential to be something of a prestige publication for NAG. If things go to plan it should be distributed well before Christmas. Some papers have already been accepted for volume 15, which should appear towards the middle of 1996.

Volume 12 includes a variety of contributions. Ian Hewitt has written a brief overview of the Fritz Berthele flints collection, which will hopefully lead to some more detailed work on this important collection. Stan Beckensall offers his latest paper cataloguing and illustrating recently discovered examples of prehistoric rock art, some of which are quite spectacular, and readers should especially note Stan's concern over the conservation of rock art sites: this is an important issue which requires urgent attention.

These days there is an increasing need to adopt a landscape approach to archaeological conservation, rather than the traditional approach of preserving 'sites' without considering their landscape context. However, there is still a need to undertake accurate surveys of our most important sites, many of which have never been surveyed

in any detail. The results of two such surveys are included in this volume: Ros Castle Iron Age hillfort by Keith Blood and the Mote Hills (Elsdon) medieval castle by Adam Welfare. Both surveys are useful in their own right as research projects, but both are also essential to enable future monitoring and management of the sites.

Clive Waddington presents us with the results of his small scale excavation at the Sills Burn South Roman camp on Dere Street, together with a detailed assessment of this monument. Volume 9 of Northern Archaeology included a detailed report by John Davies (with John Davidson) on his survey work in the Bolam and Shaftoe area. John has continued to work in this area, and includes a second report on his work here. Finally, I have taken the liberty of including a paper of my own which had been written for another publication which has been indefinitely delayed. This outlines a number of issues relevant to archaeology in the 1990s, and as it uses examples from Northumberland it may be of interest to NAG members. Any feedback from this would be received with interest.

In future volumes I hope to include a 'notes' section which will consist of short articles which are not of sufficient length to justify publication as full papers. This section could also include reviews of NAG field trips or fieldwork projects and perhaps book reviews. Any such articles will be gratefully received for inclusion in the next volume.

Regular readers will note the change in the design of our cover, which is due to a number of complaints received about the old black and brown colour scheme! The new design has been approved by the committee, and it is hoped that it will meet with general approval for at least the next few years.

Finally, I must record my gratitude to Margaret Maddison for her help with the re-typing and editing of some papers: without this help we would still have much time to wait for volume 12.

Should you have any comments about the content of this volume, or any suggestions as to possible future improvements, then please do contact me at one of the addresses shown at the front of this volume.

*Paul Frodsham  
June 1995*