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Editors

Peter Topping  
Dave McOmish

**NORTHUMBERLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP**

## THE NORTHUMBERLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

**THE NORTHUMBERLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP (NAG)** exists to provide opportunities for members of the public to take part in archaeological activities relating primarily to the study 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 members receive *Northern Archaeology* which is published annually. *Northern Archaeology* is also available by subscription to non-members.

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**NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGY** is the NAG journal and includes a variety of papers concentrating principally on the archaeology of Northumberland and adjacent areas. Occasional special editions 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 English Heritage, 24 Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge, CB2 2BU. All potential contributors are encouraged to consult the Editors 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 contributions should be submitted on disk in a suitable PC format). Enquiries about back numbers (many volumes are still available, though some are now in very short supply) should be addressed to the Secretary at the address below.

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## Editorial

This issue of Northern Archaeology continues the tradition of publishing detailed surveys which record, analyse and interpret a tract of landscape to develop a better understanding of man's interaction with his environment. This holistic approach has allowed the Davies project to track the ebb and flow of prehistoric land use, activity areas and colonisation across the modern fields and pastures of Bolam. The project data presented here begins to fill the voids in the archaeological record for this corner of Northumberland by the use of carefully focussed, systematic fieldwork.

The Editors hope that this fine example set by the work of John Davies will encourage others to undertake their own fieldwork projects and help to populate the empty landscapes with the peoples from the past and discover where the generations of our forefathers once lived and worked. To restate the obvious truism, archaeology is not about things, i.e. artefacts

and structures, etc, but about people. However, to get back to at least a partial understanding of how communities lived in the past it is necessary to acquire the basic building blocks to develop that understanding – precisely those records of artefacts and structures reported here as a landscape record. Hard data or empirical evidence is the foundation of sound theory and interpretation. The use of such survey results as these allows theories to be cross-checked, challenged or ratified by others following on, a situation which is much more difficult to undertake if the '*understanding*' is based upon untestable theoretical hypotheses which have no basis in archaeological fact.

David McOmish  
Pete Topping

Cambridge, June 04

**To my wife, Barbara, who has put up with the research for  
this paper for so long.**