



From the Chair



Happy New Year everyone. St Catherine's, Lydiate 1980

This is being written on New Years day before any 2022 restrictions are announced and with the hope of meeting together in person again in February. January may be our last zoom lecture for a while with meetings resuming in February provided it is safe to do so.

The joint MAS / National Museums Liverpool Conference on April 2nd is close to finalisation with a couple of speakers needing to be firmed up. Further information below.

When we meet we should have the new Journal available free to members and for sale to visitors. Also, our recently published Calderstones book update will hopefully be available although copies can be bought at Museum of Liverpool and Calderstones Park bookshops too.

We are looking for volunteers to staff our Society book stall at the Wirral History and Heritage Fair on 12th March at Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight. Ideally, it would be good to have sufficient volunteers to staff the stall for an hour or so shift to sell our books and publicise the Society. Anyone willing to help please contact me by e-mail or speak to me during a meeting.

Roy Forshaw`

Merseyside Archaeological Society

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Merseyside Archaeological Society publishes three newsletters each year. Contributions are invited on all aspects of archaeology in Merseyside. If you wish to contribute information please contact the Newsletter Editor. Please note that contributions may have to be edited.

Disclaimer: Any views or opinions expressed by contributors to this Newsletter are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Merseyside Archaeological Society.

2022 Subscriptions

MAS Subscriptions fell due on 1st January. Renewal rates for 2022 are:

Ordinary £15, Concession £10 (retired, unwaged, student over 18), Junior £2, Family £18, Institutional £25. Please remember to add £3 if you want to receive the Newsletter by post. If possible please pay direct to the bank. The Society bank account details are:

Account: Merseyside Archaeological Society
Bank: HSBC, 99-101 Lord Street, Liverpool L2 6PG
Sort Code: 40-29-08
Account No: 11098705
Reference: MAS Subs

Please send any forms and cheques to: Vanessa Oakden, Museum of Liverpool, Pier Head, Liverpool Waterfront, Liverpool, L3 1DG. E-mail: as aside

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Winter Meetings 2022

Programme:

Thursday 20th January 2022: online talk via **Zoom**. Connections **open at 7.15pm** for socialising, with main **meeting starting at 7.30pm**.

Speaker: **Peter Davey**

Title (confirmed): **The Manx rosy basin: a quest for ceramic identity?**

Abstract (confirmed): Much-loved rosy basins still adorn kitchen shelves and mantelpieces throughout the island. Broken fragments are common finds in field-walking, and they are recovered from most archaeological excavations. But what are they really? Where and when were they made? What designs or decorative features makes a rosy basin? This lecture will consider these questions from a ceramic social and art history standpoint and will consider how far the identity issue is one more for the Manx than for the pottery.

Thursday 17th February: In-person meeting at Quaker Meeting House, **doors open 7.00pm meeting starts at 7.30pm**.

NB if covid restrictions affect this, we shall meet online via Zoom.

Speaker: **Caroline Pudney**, University of Chester

Topic: Her recent excavations and fieldwork in association with Wrexham Museum at **Rossett Roman villa**. There's an informative blog and video about the dig at <https://howardwilliamsblog.wordpress.com/2021/09/25/roman-rossett-digging-a-roman-villa/>

Thursday 17th March: In-person meeting at Quaker Meeting House, **doors open 7.00pm meeting starts at 7.30pm**.

NB if covid restrictions affect this, we shall meet online via Zoom.

Speaker: **Lorrae Campbell**, University of Liverpool

Title: **The Origins of Late Bronze Age Hilltop Enclosure sites in Western Atlantic Britain.**

Abstract: The Late Bronze Age in Britain was a period of transition; with agricultural to depositional practices changing during a time of deteriorating climatic conditions. This talk focusses in on the reasons why hilltops started to be enclosed, looking at the social drivers behind the creation of these monumental sites by communities attempting to create stability in a changing world.

Saturday 02nd April will be the **Archaeology in Merseyside AIM 2022 conference**, to be held in-person in the Museum of Liverpool (see separate advert)

Thursday 21st April will be our **2022 AGM** in-person at the Quaker Meeting House, followed by a talk by our Chair, Roy Forshaw

The venue for MAS evening talks is the Quaker Meeting House (QMH), 22 School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BT. It is close to Lime Street and Liverpool Central train stations, and Queen Street and Liverpool One bus stations. Details of the venue are here: <https://www.liverpoolquakers.org.uk/contact>

Zoom meeting: hints and tips

There are some technical points to put across to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible.

1. Zoom sessions will last 40 mins; please make sure you log on promptly. You will be able to log on from 7.15.
2. Please set your microphone to mute whilst the speaker is talking. This is to ensure that we get the best audio quality so that everyone can hear.
3. Just as we would in a physical meeting, please save any questions until the end of the session.
4. It's possible to post text comments during Zoom meetings, but we found this quite distracting, so please keep this to a minimum.
5. If you'd rather not appear by video that can be turned off and replaced with a photo.
6. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out by email to members in the week prior to the meeting, so please make sure that our membership sec, Vanessa Oakden, has your current email address.
7. There's a handy introduction to how to use Zoom in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOUwumKCW7M> .

Archaeology in Merseyside (AIM 2022)

Save the date! Saturday 02nd April 2022 from 10.00 – 16.30

The long-awaited (postponed from 2020 due to covid restrictions!) **Archaeology in Merseyside** (AIM 2022) conference will be held at the Museum of Liverpool, Pier Head, Liverpool L1 3DG <https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/museum-of-liverpool>. The conference will feature talks about new archaeological work in Merseyside in the morning and afternoon sessions, with a handling and display session and book sales after lunch. Topics range from prehistoric period rock art at Calderstones and footprints and environmental evidence on the beach at Formby, to post-medieval pottery production in and around Liverpool. The full details for the programme and how to book (via Eventbrite) will be available shortly.

Lancaster University 49th Annual Archaeology Forum

This year's Forum is taking place online only. All video presentations will be available to view in advance of the live element. This will be a live question and answer session, held online on **Saturday 5 March 2022, 2.00pm-3.30pm**, with a panel of speakers who have contributed to the filmed presentations. You are encouraged to watch the filmed presentations in advance, but they will also be available online for an extended period after the live event. Full details will be provided on booking. A list of presenters and booking details can be found at: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/regional-heritage-centre/events/>

Edge Lane Hall

Today Edge Lane is a busy dual carriage way, one of the main routes out of Liverpool, bounded by a mix of housing and retail parks. The road has always been one of the principal routes leading from Liverpool to the east, but until the 20th century it was a much smaller and less busy affair. Edge Lane Hall was situated to its south, about 2 miles from the city centre and was demolished in 1913; the site is presently vacant but was occupied by a printing works in the 1950s. A watching brief (Adams & Philpott 2005) on part of the site found little evidence for the hall other than a small stone lined pit and short sections of stone wall thought to relate to outbuildings, test-pitting elsewhere suggested that any remains of the hall had been removed during the 20th century.

Surprisingly little is known about its history, though it is possible to reconstruct some elements of its structure using the surviving images. Most of the building seems to have been of 15-17th century date, though its ownership prior to the early 19th century is unclear and it is not known who the original builder was (Hand 1913). It was presumably one of the main late medieval or early post-medieval landowners in West Derby. Hand provides a detailed account of the 18th and 19th century history of the estate attached to the Hall, which passed through several



Edge Lane Hall Estate 1768 (Hand)

owners and tenants including John Foster Senior, architect of Princes Dock and many of Liverpool's more notable 19th century buildings. In the mid-19th century it was owned by John Shaw Leigh (1791-1871), who in 1841 became the first Tory mayor of Liverpool, reputedly the 'Richest Commoner in England', and able 'not only to buy up a duke, but half-a-dozen dukes, if they were in the market.' (Aspinall 1885).

Unfortunately Hand seems to have been less interested in the building's structure and supplies little in the way of description, though there are illustrations which allow some details to be reconstructed. These show a three storey, stone built structure with mullioned windows and a pitched roof with two chimney stacks, one perhaps located above the east facing gable, the other towards the western end of the ridge line. Each stack has at least 2 or 3 chimney pots which shows the presence of a minimum of five fireplaces or hearths, which in turn suggests that there were at least five separate rooms. An entrance porch features a semi-circular arched doorway, smaller than that on Bank Hall which was discussed in an earlier newsletter, but similar in form to that on the gatehouse at the Old Hutt, Halewood (Wrathemell 1992) which was built in the early 15th century but extensively modified in the early 17th century. Grills to either side at ground level suggest the presence of cellars which are also mentioned by Houlst (1913).

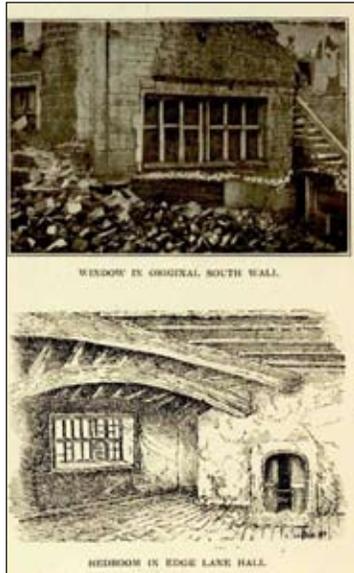


Edge Lane Hall (Hand)

One of Hand's illustrations shows an upper floor bedroom, complete with a fireplace and a view of one of the mullioned windows. The fireplace has a cast-iron grate of a type common

in the late 18th to early 19th century, so this was clearly a later modification of the original. One of timber beams in the roof is shown with a distinct curve, the cause of which is unclear, and both beams extend into the chimney stack, a clear fire hazard but common in early chimneys and a cause of many house fires.

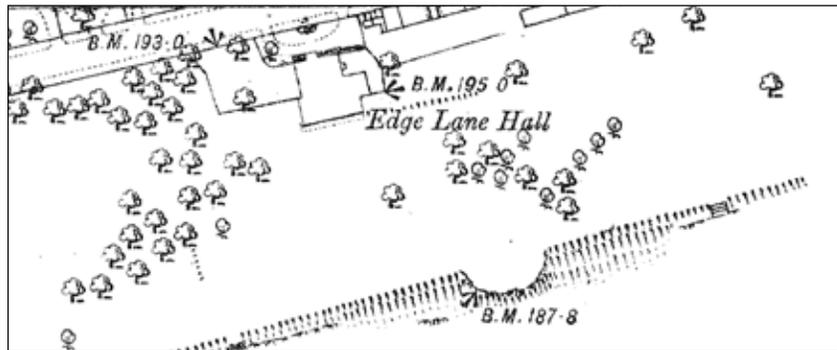
The photograph was taken during the demolition of the hall in 1913. It shows two of the mullioned windows, a least one of which has a hood molding. In the background a workman can be seen dismantling the wall above one of the windows and the stairs from the ground floor can be seen behind him. Hand's description is vague but implies that this is a view of the rear (south facing) elevation of the hall.



Edge Lane Hall Detail (Hand)



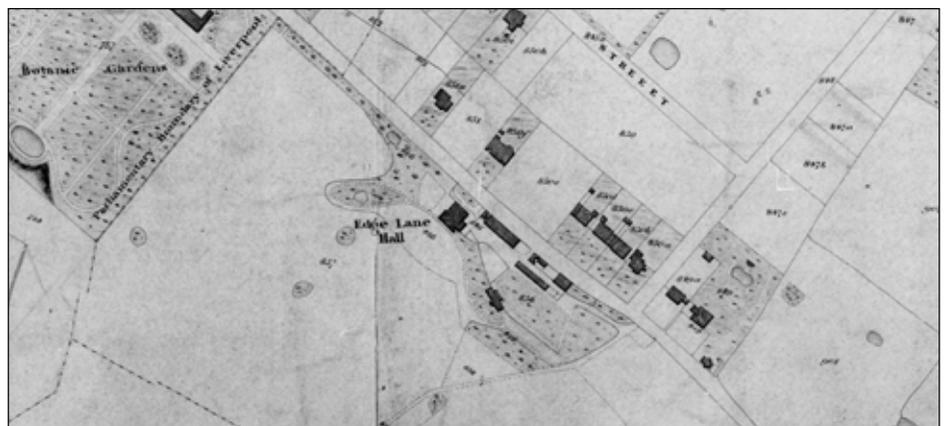
Edge Lane Hall in 1910 (Hand)



Edge Lane 1892-3

The West Derby Tithe Map (Surveyed 1833 and corrected 1838) shows the hall as a roughly rectangular structure occupied by Francis Heywood and it seems unchanged on the 1892 25 inch OS map, though the porch is shown on that map. The OS map also shows an earthwork to the south of the hall, a Ha-Ha intended to keep grazing animals from gaining access to the lawn and gardens adjoining the house, giving a continuous vista to create the illusion that the garden and landscape were one and undivided.

A brief description in the Liverpool Mercury of April 19th 1913 (<http://www.old-merseytimes.co.uk/edgelanehall.html>) provides a smattering of other details; the walls were 2 ft 6 in thick and in the yard was '....an old well, but its depth is so great that its use as a well is open to question. More remarkable still, it has been discovered part of the way down, 100ft below the surface, an opening which gives entrance to a subterranean passage, extending a considerable distance.' This seems a slightly fantastical account and other details, such as the suggestion that the hall's foundations were up to 200 feet deep, indicate that it is a garbled version of what was actually present. The article also mentions that the front door knocker, the smoke jack (a roasting spit powered by a fan rotated by the gases rising up the chimney) and kitchen spit were donated to the Corporation Museum.



Tithe Map showing Edge Lane Hall

References

Adams M. & Philpott R.A. 2005 An Archaeological Watching Brief at the Liverpool Digital Site, Edge Lane, Liverpool, Merseyside. Unpublished report for Scott Wilson.

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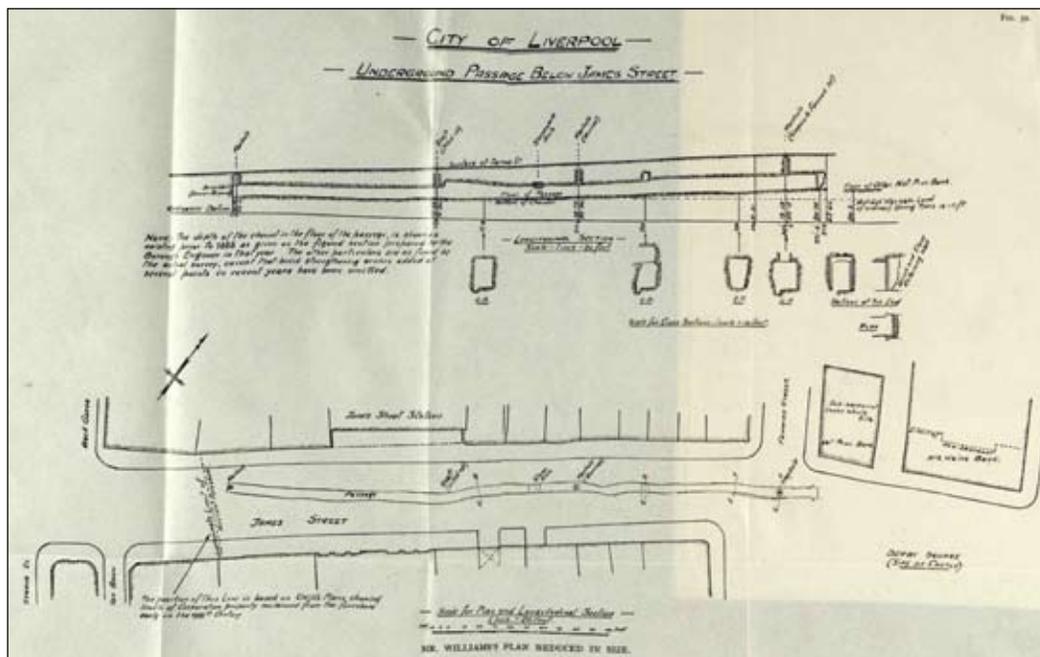
Hand C.R. 1913 Edge Lane Hall Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, 65

Hoult J. 1913 West Derby, Old Swan, and Wavertree.

Wrathemell S. 1992 Excavation and Survey at the Old Hutt, Halewood, in 1960. JMAS, 8, 1-46

Mark Adams

James Street Tunnel - Fact or Fiction



The illustration above from Newlands' survey was reproduced in the *Historical Society of Lancashire and Cheshire Transactions Vol 79 (1927)* and shows the plan of the James Street tunnel

1850's but not located had been found again. Newlands wrote " . with the view to obtain drainage for a sump or well in the very deep cellars of the North & South Wales Bank ; the workman came to a point where he plainly heard the sound of water dropping, not into the sewer but into some excavation below it. On trying this excavation with his probing iron, he found it to be very deep & nearly filled with mud. The existence of some subterraneous work was known of before, but no one was aware of its position or its exact dimensions. On opening the ground and clearing away the mud, a tunnel cut in the solid rock was discovered. It is about seven feet high and nine feet wide for about eighty yards westwards from Derby Square and there its dimensions are 5 ft. by 6 ft. ; its sides are carefully dressed, but its roof is of ruder formation. It has a well-formed roadway at the bottom, with a channel sunk along its southern side to keep it dry. The road-way is 22 ft. below the surface of the street. At the junction of Back Goree with James Street the tunnel turns northwards. It is probable that this work connected the Old Castle ditch either with the Old Tower or with some defences on the shore, as at that point where it may be conjectured it joined the Castle ditch provision for a gate has been made. "

Regarding the river end of the tunnel Edward. W. Cox in the HSLC transactions in 1890 reported that "From the western side of the rock-cut ditch, which formed the castle's second line of defence, near the northern corner, an underground passage, ten feet high, was cut in the rock down to the shore of the Mersey, which still exists below the pavement of James Street, and was seen by the writer when it was opened some thirty years since. At the foot of this passage was a tower or bastion (shewn on Leland's map, circa 1540)

This small writeup has arisen after James Wright's recent lecture on medieval building myths. The question was raised in the Q&A as to whether there was ever a tunnel to Liverpool Castle along the line of James Street. James said that there was often an element of fact in a myth and this is the case with the moat tunnel story so did it ever exist? What information exists for this tunnel?

James Newlands (Borough Engineer 1856-62) reported to the Health Committee a discovery whilst resolving a drainage problem for a bank in Derby Square. This would have been the end of the tunnel closest to the Liverpool Castle site in the embankment of the moat. The tunnel which was known about before the

for the defence of the entrance of the passage, but whether it was coeval with the castle is uncertain. On the river side, exactly on the eastern line of the present Back Goree, was an ancient wharf, made of very large blocks of yellow stone clamped with iron, which when uncovered was seen by the writer when the store of Messrs. Ihlers and Bell, at the bottom of Moor Street, was rebuilt some years ago. By means of the passage and the wharf, stores and troops could be safely conveyed by sea into the castle, or embarked for Scotland, Wales, or Ireland.” This suggests that there was some form of fortified quayside at the river end accessing a passageway up to the castle moat. I have yet to find a reliable illustration to support how the end of the tunnel terminated but if it was used for the castle it probably would have terminated on the shore where boats would have laid up on the mud at low tide. Chadwick’s 1725 map shows James Street finishing on the shoreline adjoining a roadway called Sea Brow.

Liverpool Castle Excavation 1927 by F. Charles Larkin. HSLC Read 1927

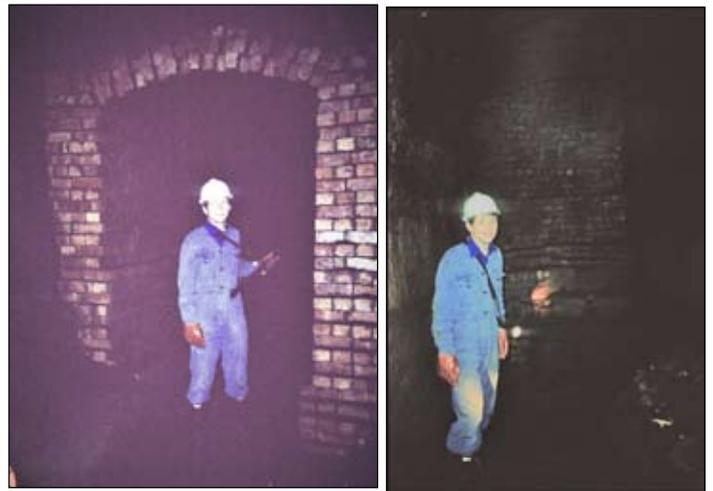
The excavation was made for a below ground public convenience and the opportunity was made to investigate any Liverpool Castle remains and identified the moat. The castle was built between 1232 and 1237 and through its lifetime was much altered. A 1659 Act of Parliament granted the demolition of the castle, the last remains cleared after a change of leasehold in 1726.

The 1927 excavation found no remains of the castle structure. A rock cutting for the moat was found along with embankments. The depth of the moat was at least 22 feet below the then level of Derby Square. The excavation report mentioned the tunnel expressing regret that access was not available. The report did refer to Bernard De Gommies plan of 1644. He was the Royalist engineer who remodelled the castle. The plan is held in the Athenaeum Library and shows a tunnel slightly to the south of James Street connecting with the moat. This underground passageway whilst travelling parallel to James Street predated the street with James Street properties built over the top. It was only when James Street was widened that the tunnel become under the road surface. A reproduction of a 1670 map of Liverpool intriguingly has a roadway marked *Covered Way To The River* seemingly crossing the fields. Is this the passageway?

Site visit in the 1980s by Roy Forshaw

I can confirm that a tunnel under James Street still exists. There are two tunnels down James Street, one being the Merseyrail tunnel linking James Street station to Hamilton Square and the other being a rock cut tunnel with ornate sandstone arches. I have walked both tunnels but it is the latter that needs confirming.

Back in the 1980s my work required me to check a drainage problem for a large office in Cook Street. This gave me the chance to enter the sewer with the cooperation of Liverpool City Engineers. Whilst Liverpool City Council were doing their work in Cook Street I was asked if I wanted to see something interesting and was taken to James Street where a small manhole access led into the tunnel. I only had an instamatic camera with me due to the risks down the sewer so photographs were poor quality. Climbing down a deep manhole in James Street a short



Me standing at the farthest end of the passage which has been bricked up and a more recent supporting arch.



Change in tunnel dimensions from wide width to narrower passageway

conventional sewer led to a much wider rock cut tunnel leading up James Street towards the Victoria Monument in Derby Square, the location of Liverpool Castle.

The dimensions of the tunnel varied starting at a considerable width and reducing to approximately a 6 foot wide passage. The lasting memory was decorative arches and dressed stone walls. Part of the passageway was certainly wide enough for a cart and the narrow part could have taken a hand cart or pack horse. Was this for bringing goods to the castle or for escaping by boat?

The sewer team also stated that there was a tunnel circular in plan which had the Victoria Monument at its centre. This tunnel was lined with glazed brick so certainly was not contemporary with the passage explored but may have followed the path of a previous subterranean passageway. Incidentally there is also similarity in the tunnel passage explored with the blocked up passageway that is in the wall of the Old Dock quayside that can be viewed on the Old Dock tour. Have I just created a new myth? I would love to revisit knowing what I know now and have another look but meeting modern requirements for working from height, confined spaces, infectious diseases and rescue plans I cannot guarantee that I am able to be allowed in anymore.

Roy Forshaw



Decorative Archway

Top 5 finds recorded to the PAS from Cheshire 2021

In 2021, lots of finds were submitted for recording on the Portable Antiquities Scheme's database. These are all chance discoveries that have been made by members of the public. Most of these discoveries have been made through metal detecting, but other objects have been found through gardening or fieldwalking. Here are 5 of the most interesting finds to be reported from Cheshire (and Wirral) this year:

Neolithic axehead – Handbridge, Cheshire West and Chester



A complete, ground and polished Type 1, Cornish greenstone axehead dating to the Neolithic period (c. 4000-2400 BC).

Cornish greenstone axes, as with other axes of stone and flint, were exchanged across much of Britain during the Neolithic. A significant number of Neolithic axeheads have been reported to the PAS, c.950 at the end of 2021, and roughly 100 of these have been identified as possibly being made of Cornish greenstone. To date, only 38 Neolithic axeheads have been reported from the North-West of England, with only seven of those from Cheshire. The Handbridge axehead is the only one to be identified as possible Cornish greenstone.

PAS database number: LVPL-2C1556

Iron Age fob dangler - Marbury cum Quoisley, Cheshire East

An incomplete copper alloy 'fob' or 'dangler' dating from the late Iron Age to early Roman period (c. 200BC- AD100).

Fobs/danglers like this one are uncommon finds, with less than 80 identified on the PAS database. It seems there is an interesting cluster around the North Wales - Cheshire-Shropshire borders. This object type is still poorly understood, but it is believed they may have been hung from items of equipment, personal apparel, or harness decoration. An example that was excavated at Kingsholm, Gloucestershire was still attached to binding, which appeared to be from the corner of a casket.

PAS database number: LVPL-945FF9



Early medieval dirham – Clatterbridge, Wirral

A complete early medieval Islamic silver dirham. Issued by Abbasid caliph al-Mahdi dating to 159 AH (=AD 775-776), minted at Madīnat al-Salām (Baghdad).

Arabic coins are known to have circulated across Europe during the later early medieval period and have been found as part of Viking hoards discovered in England, including the Cuerdale Hoard from Lancashire. These coins are often found cut or fragmented, rarely do they survive complete.

PAS database number: LVPL-0CF3F0



Medieval gold finger ring – Whitegate and Marton, Cheshire West and Cheshire



A complete gold finger ring dating to the Medieval period (c.AD 1350-1500).

The ring is in the form of a posy ring and bears an external design and inscription inscribed in blackletter script. The inscription reads ‘en bon an’ which is French for ‘a good year’. The inscription is divided by sprigs of foliage headed by a four petalled flower. The edges of the ring have a beaded border. The band interior is plain. Gothic script or “black letter rings”, such as this example, are dated to the

13th to 14th Century and are associated with the culture of chivalry and courtly love prompting gifts or tokens as expressions of love. These rings are typically engraved with short inscriptions and floral designs around the exterior and filled with niello or enamel.

This ring was reported as potential Treasure because it is over 300 years old and contains at least 10% precious metal. It was declared Treasure by the coroner and a local museum hopes to acquire it.

PAS database number: LVPL-C6F8DC; Treasure number: 2021 T20

Post medieval pendant – Tabley, Cheshire East

An incomplete copper alloy Royalist pendant / medal dating to the post medieval period (c.AD 1640-1660).

The obverse depicts a high relief bust of Charles I facing right and crowned. The reverse depicts a high relief bust of Henrietta Maria facing left. Objects such as these are considered to date to the English Civil War period and are thought to be worn with the intention to declare one’s support for the monarch. These objects are likely to have been concealed on the person as a tacit memorial of the royal person or cause, for openly wearing such an attachment would have been troublesome or dangerous to the wearer!

PAS database number: LVPL-EC9D7E



Full details of these objects can be found on the PAS database at: <https://finds.org.uk/database>. Key in the database number to bring up the record. Any archaeological finds discovered by chance that are at least 300 years old can be reported to the PAS. For more details contact Heather Beeton: heather.beeton@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Heather Beeton – PAS Finds Liaison Officer for Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside

On-Line Resources

Forthcoming events:

Thursday 13th January 5.00pm (note tea-time start) Scott Lloyd of the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales will talk on **Mapping Historical Boundaries in the Digital Age**. Synopsis: Medieval Wales was divided into kingdoms, cantrefs and commotes, as well as parishes, townships, and manors. These boundaries have changed over time and this process can be understood through the skilful use of maps, charters, land grants, perambulations and landscape archaeology, exploiting the vast archives available for the study of Welsh history. Digital techniques can allow us to accurately map these boundaries and their changes in more detail than ever before. This talk will discuss how we go about this process and some of the many complexities involved! The talk will be delivered via Zoom and is FREE but register first to get sent the link <https://ti.to/digital-past/mapping-historical-boundaries-in-the-digital-age>

Wednesday 19th January 18:30 – 20:00 Mammoths Live! DigVentures is hosting a FREE live zoom presentation about their ‘behind-the-scenes’ work at the gravel quarry at Cerney Wick near Swindon containing the remains of several mammoths and some flint tools: this is the site that was featured in **Attenborough and the Mammoths** (see TV on catch-up, below). NB if you can’t make the date, you can also register for a link to the recording which will only be available for up to 7 days after the live event. Register for either the live event (which also includes access to the recording) or to the within-one-week recording (on its own) in advance at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mammoths-live-tickets-203299262567>

Date for your diary: Saturday 05th March 2022 (09.30 – 17.00) **CITiZAN one-day national conference: Connecting Coastal Heritage, Communities and Climate Change**. The three-year NLHF-funded Discovery programme of CITiZAN (Coastal & Inter-Tidal Zone Archaeology Network) is coming to an end and will be celebrated with a FREE national conference to be held at the Museum of Liverpool. Liverpool Bay is one of the six regional study areas of this programme. The conference will be held in a hybrid format and you can register for free as either an in-person attendee or an online attendee (or both, if you want to hedge your bets!). Further information and booking at: <https://citizan.org.uk/events/2022/Mar/05/citizan-conference-connecting-coastal-heritage-communities-and-climate-change/>

Date for your diary: Saturday 12th March from 10am-4pm **The Wirral History & Heritage Fair** will take place at **Hulme Hall**, Bolton Road, **Port Sunlight**. NB Please note a change from the usual venue at Birkenhead Town Hall.

Forthcoming online talks

The Westmorland Dales NHLFunded landscape partnership continues its monthly online talks. The next one is on **Wednesday 12th Jan at 3.00 pm** about the **Stainmore Railway and its Viaducts** which may interest enthusiasts of infrastructure and industrial heritage. As with all of their talks (NB recordings of all previous talks can be found at the same website) these talks are FREE but REGISTER in advance to receive the zoom link: <https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Default.aspx?CategoryTitle=westmorland-dailes-heritage-talks&SubsiteTitle=westmorland-dailes-hidden-landscapes-partnership>

SEE FORTHCOMING EVENTS above for details. Saturday **05th March 2022** (09.30 – 17.00) **CITiZAN one-day national conference: Connecting Coastal Heritage, Communities and Climate Change**. FREE but register to receive online link at: <https://citizan.org.uk/events/2022/Mar/05/citizan-conference-connecting-coastal-heritage-communities-and-climate-change/>

Online resources

DigVentures’ website hosts lots of information about their own **crowd-funded digs** (past and future), as well as a docuseries about ‘Why We Dig’, a virtual museum and some live special events see <https://digventures.com/>

The Roman Roads of Britain Visualized as a Subway Map <https://www.openculture.com/2017/08/the-roman-roads-of-britain-visualized-as-a-subway-map.html>

Important new **Roman mosaic and villa complex** found in Rutland farmer’s field <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-59391650>

The **Roman Baths Museum** hosts interesting online information about its **collections** and a little about the **history of the site** at <https://www.romanbaths.co.uk/collection>

The **Nantwich medieval Salt Ship** at Lion Salt Works, Cheshire. Despite the name, this is a hollowed-out tree trunk that was used in the salt manufacturing process, not as a boat! The Nantwich Museum curator discusses the find <https://www.culture24.org.uk/curators-choice/art555617-Curators-Choice-The-Nantwich-Salt-Ship-at-Lion-Salt-Works-Cheshire> and there is more about the **Nantwich Museum** (free entry) which also has a better photo of the salt ship portion that is on display (the whole thing was so big that they couldn't get it into the museum) <https://nantwichmuseum.org.uk/>

and if you want to read the **original excavation report** of the site where the salt ship (and several other exceptional timber structures and artefacts) was discovered, it is:

Dodd, L. J. (2014). IV: **Second Wood Street, Nantwich, 2003/4: excavation of a medieval and early post-medieval salt works**. *Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society* 84. Vol 84, pp. 39-110. <https://doi.org/10.5284/1070393> which is available to download for free from the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) at <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/browse/details.xhtml?recordId=3205350>

The **Three Ancient Bridges, Wycoller, Lancashire** <https://bit.ly/3nMoBtb> see also: <https://www.flickr.com/search/?text=Pack-horse%20bridge%20at%20Wycoller%2C%20Lancashire>

Images from the heyday of Liverpool's docks <https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/gallery/stunning-images-heyday-liverpools-docks-21995492>

The **Wirral Conservation Areas and Heritage Trail** is a new series of seven routes that take in many of the area's historic sites and they can be downloaded in pdf form from this page: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/built-conservation/wirral-conservation-area-and-heritage-trail#wgSM-3>

The trail includes 40 heritage assets and they can be covered on foot, by bike and by car.

New television series being broadcast now & also available on catch-up

Digging for Britain (Series 9) Six one-hour episodes looking at regions of Britain, presented by Alice Roberts BBC2 January 2022 and on catch up at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b014hl0d> where a few previous episodes are also available Broadcast live on BBC2 at 8.00pm on **Tues/Weds/Thurs 4/5/6 and 11/12/13 Jan** with repeats at various times on the following Sat/Suns etc.

The Great British Dig (Series 2) Presented by Hugh Dennis on More4 Wednesdays 9.00 – 10.00pm. Started on Weds 29th Dec in Falkirk on the (Roman period) Antonine Wall. Next episodes **Weds 5th Jan** - prehistoric roundhouses in Stretton, Staffordshire; **Weds 11th Jan** – Glen Mill, Oldham (cotton mill converted into a WWII Prisoner of War camp) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-great-british-dig-history-in-your-garden> where the episodes from Series 1 are also available.

Television on catch-up:

Attenborough and the mammoth's graveyard. This one-hour programme was broadcast at Christmas & on New Year's Day & is **only available until late January**. It takes the recent discovery and investigation of bones of mammoths and other mammal species (plus a few flint artefacts) in a palaeochannel deposit in the bottom of a gravel quarry at Cerney Wick near Swindon as a basis to provide a very up to date and well-informed overview of the evidence for people (of various species) and mammoths (of various species!) in Britain about 200,000 years ago. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0012wjh>

Thanks to Brian Higgins and Roy Forshaw for information about Wirral events.

If you have found any archaeological online resources or events that you think members might be interested in, please pass them on to Sue.Stallibrass@liverpool.ac.uk for inclusion in a MAS Newsletter or Bulletin

Sue Stallibrass

Maurice's MAS Quiz December 2021



1. Where can you find the Calderstones?
 a) Sefton Park b) Caldy c) Allerton d) West Yorkshire

Calderstones, August 2021.

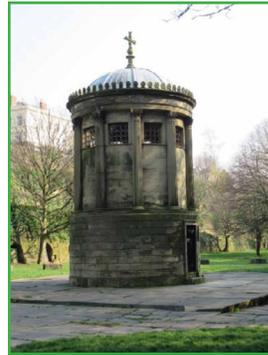


2. Where can you find this cast iron rainwater hopper?
 a) Speke Airport b) Vauxhall Car Factory, Hooton
 c) Woodvale Airfield d) Hornby Toy Factory, Binns Rd.



3. Where can you find 'Night' and 'Day'?
 a) Lady Lever Art Gallery b) Harold Cohen Library c) Walker Art Gallery
 d) Queensway Tunnel Ventilation Tower, Pier Head

Night and Day - two sculptures in black basalt by Edmund C. Thompson



4. This structure is in a quarry in Liverpool. Is it:-
 a) a tunnel vent?
 b) a magazine?
 c) a mausoleum?
 d) a chapel of rest?



5. Was the small structure on the top of the building:-
 a) a World War Two Firewatcher's Post? b) the housing for a lift mechanism?
 c) a metrological recording station? d) the housing for a seismometer?

Derby Building, University of Liverpool (former School of Archaeology)



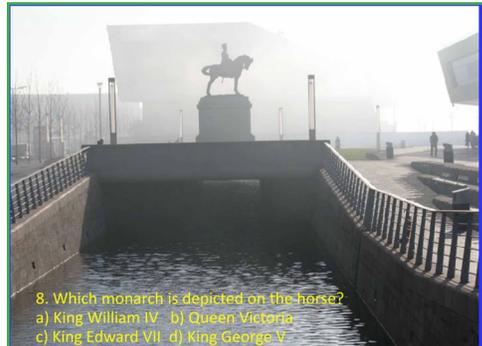

6. What is this feature called?
 a) Ha-ha b) Moat c) Park Pale d) *Saut de mouton*

Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire. Rob Philpott mentioned this type of feature in his talk on Norton Priory in September.



7. Is this:-
 a) a Prospect Mound? b) a Pillow Mound?
 c) a Windmill Mound? d) an Ice House Mound?

Norton Priory (20/09/2021)



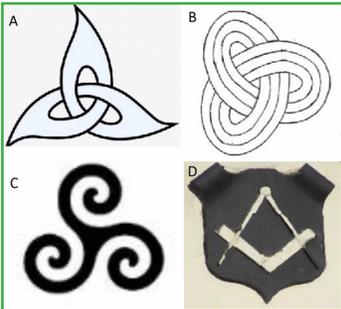
8. Which monarch is depicted on the horse?
 a) King William IV b) Queen Victoria
 c) King Edward VII d) King George V

Pier Head October 2009



9. In which town in the Liverpool City Region would you find this sculpture representing former local industries?

a) Birkenhead b) Prescot
c) Southport d) Widnes



10. James Wright of **Triskele** Heritage gave a Zoom presentation to MAS in October. Which one of the above represents a **Triskele**?

• Source - Wikimedia Commons
• Pronounced 'Triskeel' or 'Triskeel'



• Bowls of Clay tobacco pipes found in Rainford 2013

11. The pipe fragment on the right was probably made from clay from the coal measures in Rainford. Was the finer white clay on the left imported:-

a) China Clay from Cornwall? b) clay from N. Ireland?
c) Ball Clay from Devon? d) clay from Broseley (Shropshire)?



This polished axe head featured in the February newsletter. It is made from Porcellanite.

12. Where is the source of Porcellanite?

a) Mynydd Rhiw b) Penmaenmawr
c) Langdale Pikes d) Tievebulliah



• Ports in North Wales exporting to Merseyside in the 19th century

13. Which port exported:-

a) Copper Ore? b) Refractory Bricks? c) Roofing Slates? d) Stone Setts



Pex Hill Quarry in Cronton (Knowsley Borough)

14. Is the place name 'Pex Hill' derived from:-

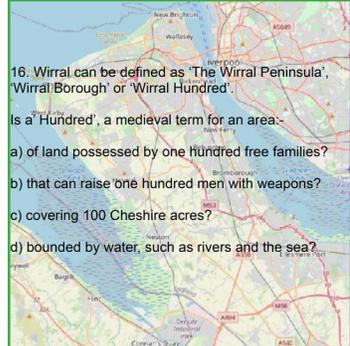
a) a place of 'pixies' b) the pick marks on the quarry walls
c) 'Pexelei' - land granted by Royal Charter of King Offa (c. 770AD)
d) a windmill that once stood here was owned by Mr Peck

• photographed in 1919



15. What was stored in which warehouse:-

a) Tea b) Tobacco c) Seeds d) Sugar



16. Wirral can be defined as 'The Wirral Peninsula', 'Wirral Borough' or 'Wirral Hundred'. Is a 'Hundred', a medieval term for an area:-

a) of land possessed by one hundred free families?
b) that can raise one hundred men with weapons?
c) covering 100 Cheshire acres?
d) bounded by water, such as rivers and the sea?

• OpenStreetMap Contributors



Question 17: Clue

Maurice Handley

Answers;-

1c, 2a, 3d, 4c, 5a, 6a, 7d, 8c, 9b, 10c, 11c, 12d, 13. a A, b PW, c YF, d NG, 14c*, 15 a3, b2, c1, d4, 16a, 17c

Notes:-

6. The Ha-ha feature provides an un-interrupted view from the hall. (see 'ha-ha' on the National trust website)

11. Ball clay is so-called because it was dug out of the quarry in the shape of a cube. By the time it had been shipped from South Devon to Runcorn and travelled down the Trent and Mersey Canal to Stoke on Trent, the corners had been knocked off and it was shaped like a ball.

*14. 'Pecks Mill' can be seen at Cronton on Yates Map of Lancashire 1786 and Greenwoods later map marks it as 'Pecks Hill'. I had assumed it was the homophone of 'Pecks' that led to its name. 'Pex'. However Ben Croxford, has pointed out that the Chartulary of Whalley Abbey refers to 'Peghtshull' at Cronton. The Merseyside Historic Environment Record (MME11683 *Location of Pex Hill or Cronton Medieval Windmill, Pex Hill, Cronton*) records that a site for a windmill was granted about 1250. The mill was probably a post mill and was owned by Whalley Abbey in 1520. A document of 1603 refers to '...the wind milne situate upon the said Pexhill or Cronton Hill....'. The mill appears on Yates Map (1786) as 'Pecks Mill and on Greenwoods later map the site is 'Pecks Hill'. So it seems likely that the hill was called in Old English as Peghtshull' (i.e. Peghts hill) and then was subsequently called Pexhill which produced the homophone 'Pecks Hill'.

I suggest option c) in the possible answers is modified to '*Peghtshull*' recorded in the the *Chartulary of Whalley Abbey*' and this is taken as the correct answer.

17. There are two toll bridges between Runcorn and Widnes. The toll bridge at Warburton charges 12p for a car.