



From the Editor

Welcome to the May News Bulletin although it may be early June before you receive it. This issue is a little different to past Newsletters. It concentrates very much on the kind of archaeological work that can be accomplished in these changing times. I shall say no more but let you decide when you read the excellent articles submitted by Roy and Maurice. There are also other snippets of news which may interest you.

On a more practical note the MAS Council meeting scheduled for 13th May went ahead using Zoom. The majority of Council members were present and although we were not able to make too many decisions regarding future events we are keeping in touch and moving the Society forward as best we can. The main item of discussion was the postponed AGM which we intend to hold at the earliest opportunity. All events including field trips, lectures and our October Conference are still on hold and we will be monitoring the situation closely over the coming weeks.

In the meantime, I hope you are all well, staying safe (and alert) and hopefully we shall be able to meet up face to face in the very near future. Until the next time...

Dave Roberts

Archaeology is Everywhere



Two Butt Bridge Rainhill

Even during COVID-19 restrictions we can see archaeology all around us. When I go out for a ‘permitted’ walk there’s much to see in the landscape. I know that buried in front of our house are the remains of a Victorian isolation hospital where patients with tuberculosis were nursed back to health. The foundations were revealed in a recent excavation for utility services for a new housing estate. The hospital’s former presence explains why there are so many mature trees in a modern housing estate. The road is called Sandstone Drive and

it branches from Delph Lane. ‘Delph’ is an old word for quarry and here there used to be two sandstone quarries providing building stone for the local area and expanding nineteenth century Liverpool. Those quarries have been filled in; houses now stand on one of them and the other is a car park for Whiston hospital.

A short walk takes me to Two Butt Lane leading down to a footpath crossing a small stream over a narrow sandstone bridge. The low parapet walls on the bridge suggest

Merseyside Archaeological Society

Hon Chair:
Maurice Handley

Hon Secretary:
Liz Stewart

Membership Secretary:
Chris Wood
e:mail: C.M.Wood@ljam.ac.uk

Hon Treasurer & Newsletter Editor:
Dave Roberts
e-mail: drandpr@blueyonder.co.uk

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.*

Contents

From the Editor.....	1
Archaeology is Everywhere.....	1
Victoria Street.....	2
Coastal Archaeology in Merseyside.....	5
Museum of Liverpool.....	6
Liverpool University.....	6
Link to On-Line Resources.....	6

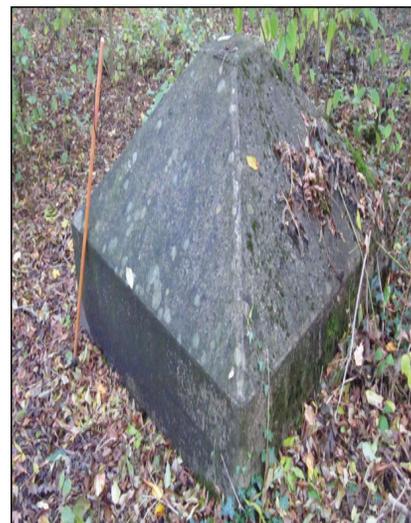
it could be a pack horse bridge, possibly medieval. 'Butt' in the name of the lane possibly referred to ridge and furrow cultivation although there's no sign of it now. Perhaps the Tithe Map might show the reversed 'S' shape of the field boundaries but I'll have to wait until the local archive opens again.

On another day I cycled down into St Helens in warm sunshine. My route takes me past the scant remains of a coal mine in Thatto Heath and through Ravenhead where the first plate glass works were established in the eighteenth century. A short section of the Sankey Canal is still in water alongside the World of Glass Museum and Pilkington's nineteenth century cone-house. The canal tow path is lined with stone sleeper blocks discarded from a local railway.

Returning home, I pass Factory Row, a terrace of workers' houses built in the early nineteenth century for the employees of the local glass works. A cul-de-sac called Royal Grove is named after a coal mine which stood nearby in the nineteenth century. I wonder if the name commemorates an event in a monarch's reign. Nearby, is a chapel built using blocks of copper slag - a waste product of the copper smelting industry which once flourished in St Helens.

Archaeology is everywhere. Perhaps when you go out for a walk or short bike ride you can look around you and spot archaeological evidence which you hadn't noticed before. It might not be an Iron Age Hill Fort or a Romano-British Villa but who knows.....

Maurice Handley



Capped Coal Mine Shaft - Alexandra Colliery

Excavations in Victoria Street

[Note from the Editor: The following article is an interim report. The final version is forthcoming].

Throughout the city centre there are road improvement works taking place. Victoria Street is having improvement works done in the form of roadway narrowing to provide wider pavements. This work requires excavation and I always try to use Victoria Street when walking between museum venues to see what is being exposed below the old surfaces.

Victoria Street differs from most streets in the city centre as it did does not reflect the early street pattern. Before the 1830s the commercial quarter around Castle Street and Water Street used the historic street layout with principal roads such as London Road and Scotland Road radiating from the town limits. With the coming of the railways, in particular Lime Street station, and the surrounding civic buildings such as St Georges Hall the most appropriate route was no longer the historic 'H' street pattern such as Dale Street and Lord Street.



Victoria Street, May 2020

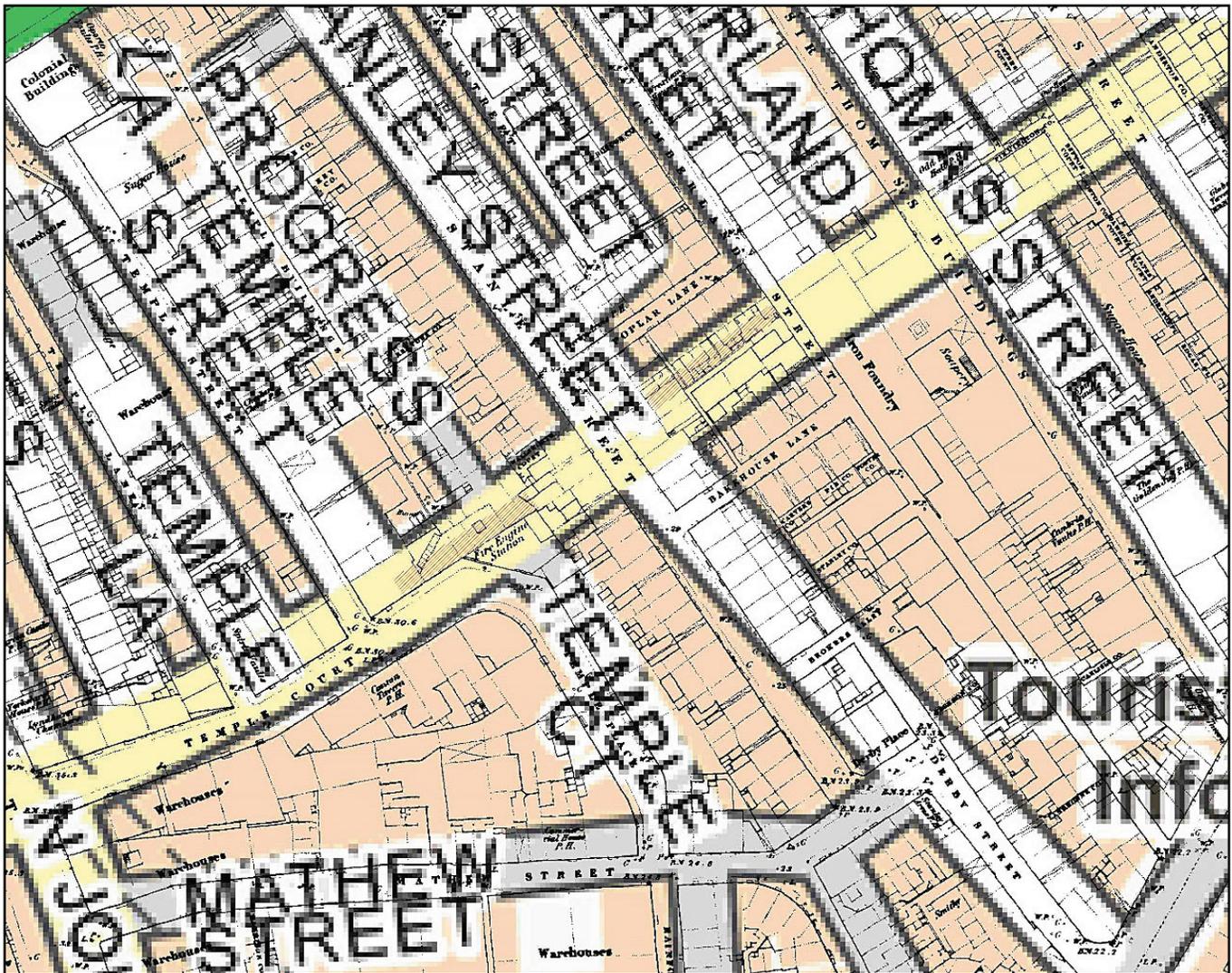
The most direct route between these two important areas was obstructed by early developments with a roughly North / South road pattern instead of the preferred East / West. The solution was to punch a new road through the middle of this 18th century area as a main form of communication and in 1868 Victoria Street opened. The western end concentrated on the fruit and provisions trade whilst the eastern end closest to St Georges Hall was predominantly offices and the Midland Railway Warehouse.

There are a few reminders of the earlier road pattern. Temple Court was a small 'L' shaped road off North John Street and was named after the temple that stood at the end of the road.

Horwood's map of 1803 shows the temple. The red marks are the excavations examined during the street works. The kink in the road can be clearly seen which is still present in the streetscape as seen in the previous photograph. By superimposing the 1849 town plan over modern Ordnance Survey open data it is possible to appreciate what a dramatic effect this Victorian town planning had on the earlier street pattern. Victoria Street is shown in yellow on the plan below and the buildings outlined in black are from the 1849 plan.



Horwood Map 1803



1849 town plan superimposed over the modern Ordnance Survey map

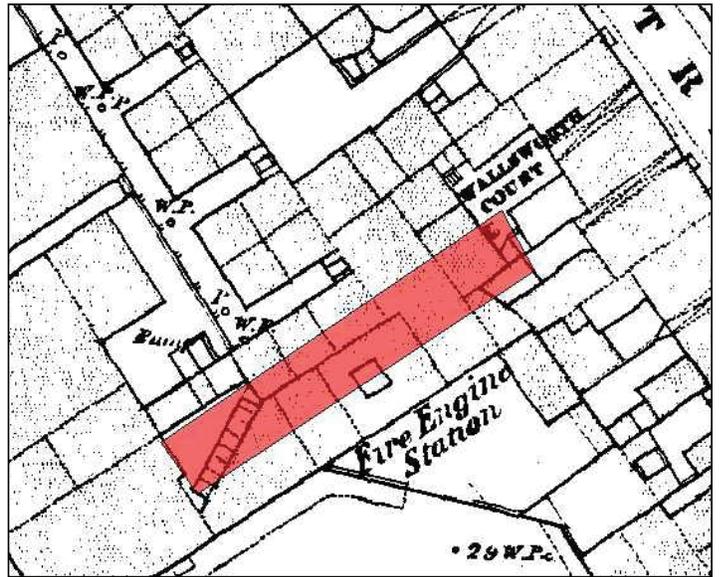
Trench 1

The two photographs below are in the first trench. A glazed floor tile and the 'T' junction of a brick wall can be seen.

Referring to the Town Plan the brickwork is probably a wall at the back of the fire station which was one of two large stations in Liverpool which was eventually replaced by Hatton Garden.

In 1826 a Fire Police was formed and two stations were built, one near the Exchange and one on the south. According to the fire brigade website each station would have 20 working men consisting of 16 fire men and four carters. There would also be a house for the foreman, a large 30,000 gallon cistern, stabling for eight horses and space for four engines plus a light carriage to carry buckets.

Kaye's Strangers guide to Liverpool states, '...the Fire Police station Temple Place, Temple Court had 15 powerful fire engines each of which had ample supply of hose, fire escapes, water carts, two large tanks which can be drawn by horses capable of being drawn to the neighbourhood of a fire each capable of containing seven tons of water. At the principal station horses are kept harnessed day and night in readiness for instant departure...'



The red rectangle shows the location of Trench 1



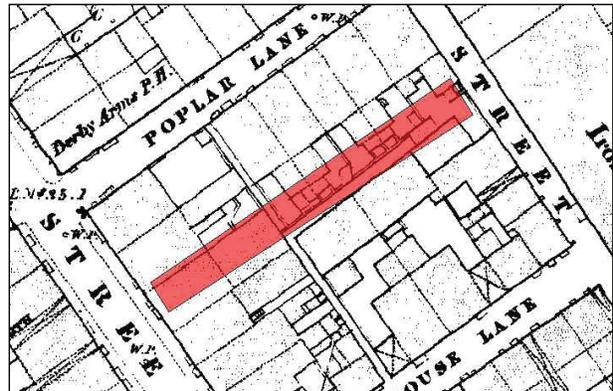
View of Trench 1. A glazed floor tile and the 'T' junction of a brick wall can be seen.



Trench 2



View of Trench 2 and its location.



A little further east along Victoria Street just before Cumberland Street, a long line of stonework and brickwork was exposed. It has the appearance of a continuous wall possibly of a building rather than a boundary wall. It was very difficult to fight the urge to get through the fence and have a quick clean with a trowel.

Referring to the Town Plan again, the masonry appears to be the rear passageway serving buildings on Poplar Lane or the rear of the larger building at the back of Bakehouse Lane. Other remains associated with Victoria Street itself included a tram rail. This was a twin track and is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map.



Reclaimed tram rails and their position on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map.

Despite the odd strange glance from the road gang it is well worth taking a look at what lurks below the streets of Liverpool.

Roy Forshaw

Coastal archaeology in Merseyside

Andy Sherman and Chris Kolonko of CITiZAN have been doing quite a lot of preparation work for communities and members of the public to get involved with recording and appreciating coastal archaeology in the Liverpool Bay Discovery Programme. You can see several news items and learn how to become involved on the website:

<https://citizan.org.uk/discovery-programmes/liverpool-bay/>

Even in lockdown you can visit your local beach or coastline provided you follow the current COVID19 guidance. But if you don't fancy that, and prefer or need to be an armchair archaeologist, there are plenty of interesting blog items to look at. Andy & Chris have prepared two low-tide trails, which will be launched online soon which provide self-guided tours of particular stretches of coast and these will cover Liverpool and New Brighton. Look out for details in a forthcoming MAS newsletter. Andy will be speaking about our local coastal heritage at the MAS AIM2020 (Archaeology in Merseyside 2020) conference on 10th October (book the date!).

I hope that has whetted your appetite, the two excellent booklets created by Alison Burns for the Sefton Coastal Landscape Partnership HLF project are still accessible online via Alison's Academia page (NB if you haven't used Academia before, you simply have to register for free at Academia.edu). One booklet is about the Prehistoric Footprints at Formby

https://www.academia.edu/8297938/The_Prehistoric_Footprints_at_Formby

and you can also visit the National Trust's Formby website which leads to a link to a guide to identification of footprints (NB they never look that clear when I find any!).

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/formby/features/prehistoric-footprints-at-formby>



The other excellent booklet by Alison is *Forgotten Fort Crosby: Dune Heritage Revealed* which can be found at:

https://www.academia.edu/17314554/Forgotten_Fort_Crosby_Dune_Heritage_Revealed

Merseyside has a huge range of coastal and maritime archaeology, from mesolithic footprints to 20th century wartime defences. Even more information is available in the Rapid Coastal Survey Assessment of North West England which compiled data available from aerial photographs (and, of course, a lot of survey flights were made in the 1940s, revealing some wartime heritage that no longer exists). It is available to download from <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/nwrcza/> but be warned that it is 11MB in size.

Our local coastal area is covered in Chapter 5 A review of the archaeology from the Dee Estuary (Cheshire) to Seaforth (Merseyside) NB ignore the incorrect Chapter 5 heading in the contents page! and Chapter 6 A review of the archaeology from the Royal Seaforth Dock (Merseyside) to the River Wyre (Lancashire). The maps are very interesting and this survey did a lot to highlight the coastal potential for wartime heritage around the docks in Liverpool (and also in Barrow-in-Furness, which receive similar attention).

Sue Stallibrass

Museum of Liverpool

The Museum of Liverpool has a new archaeology resources page on their website for some Merseyside focused archaeology home learning. You can download a fact and activity sheet about Prehistoric Merseyside and Roman Merseyside and more resources will be added in the coming weeks.

Visit <https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/archaeology-learning-resources>.

Liverpool University

Dr Clare Downham, from the Institute of Irish Studies at the University of Liverpool has put together some fantastic information and colouring sheets all about the Vikings based on her research on the Vikings in Merseyside. A special thanks goes to Dr J Robert Travis for creating the artwork. You can download them using the link below or head to the MAS Facebook page and follow the link there.

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/humanities-and-social-sciences/research/projects/viking-colouring-sheets/>

On-Line Resources

Peterloo and the archaeology of protest in C19 Manchester – a Twitter conference paper

<https://archaeologytea.wordpress.com/2020/04/30/peterloo-and-the-archaeology-of-protest-in-c19-manchester-a-twitter-conference-paper/>

The Folly Flâneuse: rambles to, and ramblings about, follies, and landscape buildings (blog) (several in NW and northern England)

<https://thefollyflaneuse.com/>

The largest Pictish site ever discovered in Scotland

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/news/14019/>

Robert and James Adams' Grand Tour letters and writings, 1754-1763

<https://adamgrandtour.online/>