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April 2022

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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 and membership

MAS subscriptions were due on 1st January. Thank you to all those who have got their subs in on time. If you pay via standing order please make sure it is set-up to go out in January each year. Details for payment are below, and if anyone knows of anyone who would like to join the society, please contact our membership secretary or join via our website. Non-members are welcome to attend our evening lectures for a small fee of £2.

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

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Brief update

It has been a productive few months for the society which has seen the return of our indoor meetings and lectures, and the MAS AIM conference at the museum of Liverpool on 2nd April which saw excellent attendance of over 100 people.

The new MAS journal volume 16 is now available which contains interesting reports from Mark Adams on the multi-period site of Mark Rake in Bromborough, the excavations at Hilary Breck, and the Bronze Age settlement at St Chad's Vicarage at Kirkby, as well as updates from Heather Beeton from the PAS and Ben Croxford from MEAS. The journal is being distributed free to members and can be purchased by non-members. If members can collect in-person it will helpfully save on postage charges. Plans are already in place for the next journal volume 17.

The AGM will be taking place on 21st April. There are places available on council for anyone who wishes to help run the society.

From the chair and AGM details

It has been great to see people in person again at our indoor meetings and those who have helped out with our outside society activities. The first in-person meeting where Caroline Pudney spoke on the excavations at Rosset was a great success. We had in excess of 20 people attending, including new members who are always welcome. Lorrae Campbell's lecture on Hilltop Enclosures was also well attended despite the attraction / distraction of it being St Patrick's day. We will still have the occasional zoom meeting, but circumstances permitting we will be a face to face society again where at all possible.

The society has recently been promoting itself at other events. Vanessa Oakden staffed our society table promoting MAS at the recent CITIZAN archaeology conference at the Museum of Liverpool. The Society also booked a table at the Wirral History Fair where we managed to sell some publications and sign up new members. Thanks to all who helped staff the MAS stall.

Sue Stallibrass and Liz Stewart have worked hard arranging the AIM conference where in excess of 100 people attended. Thank you to all who helped run the conference, contributed to the lectures and those who attended.

The next meeting will be our AGM. It is only a few months since the last one as we were knocked out of our traditional April meeting slot due to covid. AGM papers are being prepared for issuing and will be available at the meeting. Although I have chaired two AGM's I have not fulfilled the traditional two-year period, so my arm has been twisted to carry on as chair until April 2023. Maurice Handley is retiring from the council and a place is available for anyone wishing to come and help run the Society. Ann and Heather who recently joined Council have been a great asset, contributing fresh ideas and helping out at events. Please do not hesitate to ask to come on to council. We meet four times a year via zoom to attend to running of the society.

After the business part of the AGM we hope to have bookseller Bob Dobson bringing some archaeological and historical books for sale at half price. I will give an introduction on some of the summer visits we have planned and also review the proposals for John Lennon Airport.

Hope to see you all through the summer season or during the autumn indoor session.

Roy Forshaw, Chair

Meet the member

We have introduced a new section for the newsletter called 'meet the member'. This is a chance to get to know new and long-standing members of the Society.

First up we have Sam Rowe, our new Newsletter Editor. Sam has been on the MAS council since 2011 and managed the Rainford's Roots Community Archaeology Project in 2013-2014.



What do you enjoy most about MAS?

Getting to hear all the news and events happening in the region and getting to talk to people from all walks of life. I particularly like big events like the conferences where we get to hear from regional archaeologists and handle material from the excavations.

What is your favourite archaeological memory?

That's a tricky one but I loved going up in a small plane to take aerial photographs around Caernarfon where we flew right over the castle! But of course I have to mention uncovering the first batch of ceramics which kick-started the Rainford's Roots project.

If you could travel back in time where would you go and why?

Hmm, that's a toss up between sometime in the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition when people started settling down to farm in small communities, or around 1AD to really see what happened around the time of Christ and the Roman occupation of Britain. But then I'd also like to be a fly on the wall of a medieval pottery workshop! Too many to choose from!

Christmas Quiz amendment 2021

In last December's quiz, the answer to the question about the origin of the place name 'Pex Hill' was incorrect. Ben Croxford pointed out that the medieval Chartulary of Whalley Abbey refers to '*Peghtshull*' (i.e. Peghts hill) at Cronton. So the suggestion that the name originated with Yates' Map is misleading. A longer explanation is given in the January 2022 Newsletter which can be viewed on the MAS website.

Another of the quiz questions mentioned a Ha-ha at Norton Priory. Once the vegetation had died down I was able to get a better photograph of the Ha-ha on the Bridgewater Canal close to the Priory site. The Ha-ha consists of a wall with its top at ground level and its base in a deep ditch. Water that collects in the ditch drains through a small tunnel under the canal and then on to the Priory site.

Maurice Handley



View of the Ha Ha at Norton Priory

Review of MAS 'Archaeology in Merseyside' Conference 2nd April 2022

There was a fantastic turnout at this year's Merseyside Archaeological Conference. We explored the long history of Merseyside archaeology right through from prehistoric to post-medieval and everything in between. There was lots of involvement, causing our Chair, Roy Forshaw, to get his exercise in running around with the microphone! There were also stalls by CITIZAN (Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network), PAS (Portable Antiquities Scheme) and MIHS (Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society).

Our first speaker was Dr Mark Adams discussing archaeological evidence from Neolithic, Bronze Age and Early Medieval Bromborough. The excavations focused on unearthing regional ancient settlement evidence but uncovered a multi-period site. Documentary sources and 19th Century maps show that the existing church had been predated by an earlier, pre-conquest example that was sadly demolished in the 1820s. Alongside this church once stood a beautifully carved Saxo-Norman cross which, when ground for sand in mid-19th century, was thought lost. However, during excavations, a section of carved sandstone was unearthed that matched perfectly with an early photograph of the stone in situ. This stone is now safely in storage at the Museum of Liverpool. A Neolithic 3400BC carinated bowl, the remains from an early Bronze age Collared Urn, and adult cremated remains were also found at the site. Osteoarchaeologists surmise that the bones were burnt with high quality oak charcoal and were carefully selected for the pyre suggesting a high level of care for the dead. The whiteness of the bones also suggests an efficient cremation.

Our second talk given by Dr Sam Rowe discussed the pottery assemblage from the site of the soon-to-be Shakespeare North Playhouse, Prescot. The excavation site produced almost 7,000 sherds of pottery and total excavated material weighing in at 744kg. The site acted as a 17th century centre for pottery production. Coarse earthenware was the most common but other styles were also unearthed including slipwares, yellow wares, tin-glazed wares and dark glazed finewares. There was also a large variation in the types of ceramic products including jars, pancheons and pipkins. Overall, this excavation was a great contribution to understanding the styles, forms and production of pottery in North West England.



The third talk presented by Dan Garner was a little closer to home as it discussed excavations at the post-Medieval site on Tithebarn Street, Liverpool. This site produced large amounts of tin-glazed earthenware pottery, the first successful imitation of Chinese porcelain for sale in the British market. These wares were produced at the Tithebarn street pot works (known as Patrick's hill pottery), to then be transported to Southwark for sale. Also excavated were a cellar, a culvert, an external latrine, a mill for grinding glaze minerals and the remains of the brick-built structure. Perhaps most alarmingly, when construction began, it was found that an area of subsiding paving stones frequently walked on by excavators was in fact precariously covering the remains of an 80 ft deep well!

There was plenty of time for a lunch break giving everyone a chance to grab some food, have a look around the Museum shop, participate in discussions and have an explore of our finds handling stalls. These were a great hit, with positive reviews from attendees and especial interest in the pottery and PAS finds tables.

After our lunch break and handling sessions, Dr Liz Stewart took the floor and talked us through the history of Liverpool's famous Calderstones. Dating from the Neolithic period, these six sandstone monoliths were once part of a chambered tomb used as a communal burial site for Liverpool's earliest inhabitants. Now standing in the reader café in Calderstones park, the original tomb would have stood somewhere outside the park boundary on the original Calderstones estate. Liz then explained the history of the stones and their various phases of degradation and movement dating back to the 16th century. We also heard of several iterations of rock art present on the stones dating from the Neolithic to 19th century.

Next up was Dr Alison Burns discussing The Formby footprints in their coastal context. Dr Burns spoke about the warm, semi-flooded environment of Formby during the Mesolithic and the large mudflats created by the massive tidal range of the region. This silty mud provided the perfect conditions for the preservation of footprints. We learned of the plethora of animals that left prints including red deer, aurochs, roe deer, oyster catchers, wolves and humans. Pictures of both prints of individuals and of larger family groups alongside small toddlers conjured a sense of striking familiarity and a poignant connection to our earliest ancestors.

For our final talk of the day, Dr Sue Stallibrass provided some information about general North West Archaeology. This talk covered the research frameworks for the historic environment set up by Historic England. Dr Stallibrass emphasised that Archaeology is for everyone, and it is not just fieldwork but also relies on much background research. This highlights the importance of sharing research and making it available online for others to use. The research framework will be a key resource for all academics, students, researchers, and the public if it can be built up as a database for research and archaeological knowledge.

To conclude our day, we had a summary and thanks given by Liz Stewart. We take this opportunity to thank all our speakers for some wonderful talks about archaeology in Merseyside. We also want to thank our independent organisations who were running the handling tables (CITIZAN, PAS and MIHS).

Things to take away from this conference:

- Merseyside has rich archaeology covering prehistoric settlement, pottery production, international trade, and culture to name a few
- CBA (Council for British Archaeology) Northwest will be launching their recent research book which is free for members (annual subscription £7 per year) and is a great resource for up-to-date regional archaeology: [Become a Member – Council for British Archaeology North West \(wordpress.com\)](#)
- The Merseyside Archaeological Society still have some of their books available for purchase
- Take a look at the research frameworks online at: <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>
- If you get a chance to visit Formy Beach, have a look at the mudflats to see if you can identify some of the prehistoric footprints. They are between Blundell path and Gypsy path, stand somewhere high, look for water channels, don't walk out at low tide as they are close inland
- 3D images of the Formby footprints can be found online on the website Sketchfab at: [Formby Footprints - A 3D model collection by Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at Liverpool \(@LivAncWorlds\) - Sketchfab](#)
- Visit MoL to see some of the finds from the regional excavations
- Visit the Calderstones in the reader café at Calderstones park

Review by Aedan Jones and Alexandra Bowers



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Upcoming events

Please note: the venue for in-person evening meetings 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>

Thursday 21st April will be our **2022 AGM** in-person at the Quaker Meeting House, followed by a **talk** by our Chair, **Roy Forshaw** about **some of the places to be visited during the MAS summer events** programme and the development proposals at John Lennon airport

Summer events programme

During the summer (May – September) we hold daytime outdoor field visits each month rather than evening talks.

Sat 14th May Hale village, Dungeon saltworks etc.

Leader: Roy Forshaw

Deadline for booking is 6th May. Email or text Roy

roy.forshaw@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk or 07775 408392. Also indicate whether you want to book a pub lunch.

Itinerary

Meet 10.30 Child of Hale Public House car park, L24 4AX

Full day starting in Hale Village in the morning and Dungeon Salt Works after lunch. Further details will be sent to those showing interest once the day has been finalized but in outline we will be doing the following

Itinerary: Morning= Look at the site of Hale Hall including its pleasure grounds. We will try and establish if anything survives in the landscape of the ornamental gardens and look at the exterior of the ice house. Lunchtime= break for a meal at the Child of Hale or you can bring your own meal and eat it in Hale Park. The Child of Hale restaurant gets very busy so I will need to know numbers for the meal beforehand so we can book tables. Afternoon= There are proposals to extend John Lennon Airport. We will relocate cars etc. to Baileys Lane and spend the afternoon looking at the landscape at the end of the present runway and consider the expansion impact. We will also look at Hale Cliff Wharf which was the site of the 1692 Dungeon saltworks. We are visiting in the afternoon when the tide will be out so we can look at the recent erosion that has exposed the foundations of the quayside and also saltworks remains. River erosion is gradually exposing interesting timber structures at high water mark so every visit usually has something new to look at.

How to go get there= The Child of Hale is located on the junction of High Street, Town Lane and Church End. If you are using satnav make sure you select the location close to Speke and not Altrincham. There is a bus stop close to the pub served by 82A Arriva.

Sat 11th June Newton le Willows motte, mills, battlefields, and a historic church

Leader: Mark Adams

This walk will be a figure of eight so people can come for the whole day, or just the morning or the afternoon. Approximate itinerary: **Start at Newton Station**, head to Castle Hill, then to the site of Newton Hall and Newton Mill via the train station again for people to leave/join the walk. Then through Mesne Park (interesting place name) to Red Bank for a view of what was another mill site and a discussion of the Civil War battle. Then head to St. Oswald's Well and the Battle of Maserfield and look at whether Newton or Oswestry have the best claim to that one (it's a Pre-Conquest battle with at least two places claiming to be the location) before heading on to St Oswald' Church, Winwick, which is a Grade I listed building with interesting architecture and monuments <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1278428>.

A reminder, contact details for the leader and confirmed details will be provided in a later Programme & Online Resources Bulletin.

Sat 9th July Hilbre Islands, sites of various periods

Leader: Roy Forshaw

Thursday 18th August EVENING WALK Formby WWII & Cold War military defences

Leader: Roy Forshaw

A reminder, contact details for the leader and confirmed details will be provided in a later Programme & Online Resources Bulletin.

Winter meetings will resume on Thursday 15th September at the Quaker meeting House (QMH).

The current proposal is to hold in-person meetings in September & October, then to hold meetings via Zoom during the colder, wetter, darker midwinter months of November, December and January, and then to hold in-person meetings again in February, March and April (April is also the AGM).

Twitter conference

MAS has been asked to take part in the 2022 Museum of Liverpool Twitter Conference as part of this year's Festival of Archaeology. The theme for the conference this year is women in archaeology. The online conference looks to celebrate women who've worked in archaeology, and stories of women in the past which are uniquely revealed by archaeology. As part of our Twitter paper we would like to share the experience of women in MAS and are looking for memories, photographs and quotes which we can use in our Tweets from the @MerseyArchSoc account.

A Twitter conference means that anyone anywhere can attend (even without a Twitter account) and you can even catch up after the event by following the hashtag #ArchMoL22. You can find out more about the Twitter conference here <https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/festival-of-archaeology>. If you have anything you would like to share please email Vanessa.Oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

YAC Crosby Beach trip

On 26th March 20 members of the Mersey and Dee Young Archaeologists' Club set out to explore the First and Second World War defences at Crosby, supported by Roy Forshaw and Sue Stallibrass of MAS. The first stop was First World War mine craters where the group identified and surveyed several of the craters. Using measuring tapes and recording forms the group enthusiastically set to work.

Next they headed towards the railway tracks before turning right to the First World War practice trenches. Here they talked about the shape of the trenches and had a break to enjoy some ration biscuits, which disappeared with surprising speed, before taking a closer look at a replica helmet.

The third stop involved looking at photographs of Fort Crosby and Roy talked to the group about what the site would have looked like and changes that have occurred in the landscape. Finally, the group headed through the dunes to look at the Second World War gun placements and back to the car park.

Thanks to Roy and Sue for supporting our Young Archaeologists both on the day and with preparations ahead of the session. We had a fantastic day!



Members of YAC learning about Fort Crosby



Members of YAC learning to survey craters

Vanessa Oakden

Update on archaeological projects in Merseyside (MEAS)

During 2021 Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) recorded a total of 23 archaeological fieldwork projects as having been undertaken to comply with consented planning applications with conditions attached for archaeological works. The MEAS Archaeologist consulted on over 400 planning applications across Merseyside. Of these 40% have archaeological or built heritage interest. Across Merseyside a consistent number of applications are being received to convert public houses, churches and chapels, agricultural buildings and some former public or large commercial / retail buildings. Most large-scale archaeological evaluations are advised for proposed development of green-field sites (agricultural or former parkland) with the minority being brownfield e.g., former coalfield / industrial landscapes and smaller evaluations for inner city or townscape developments.

A selection of summaries from fieldwork reports received in 2021 follows:

Fruit Exchange Building, Victoria Street, Liverpool

CFA Archaeology Ltd was commissioned to create an archaeological building record of a rare surviving example of a 20th century fruit exchange prior to its conversion into a hotel. The building is Grade II listed and was originally constructed as a goods depot for the London & North Western Railway in 1888, but was later adopted and converted into a fruit exchange in 1923 by J B Hitchens. The conversion of the building would have seen the installation of the two public sale rooms and its creation symbolises the growth and development of Liverpool during the late 19th and early 20th century as a regional centre for fruit and provision traders which would have been supplied from the nearby docks. James Bushell Hutchins was a local architect who also designed the Royal Court Theatre on Roe Street Liverpool in 1938 which is also a listed building. Despite later intervention within the building the features recorded during the survey revealed a clear division between public and private spaces and the movement of produce through into the sales rooms.



General view of saleroom (© CFA Archaeology Ltd)

Gladstone House, 11-13 Union Court, Liverpool

Archaeological Research Services Ltd carried out an historic building investigation at Gladstone House. This dates to the later 19th century and originated as an office building with a bonded wine and spirit store in the basement. The exterior of the building was originally of yellow brick, with the architecture influenced by the classical style, with the symmetrical design of the southern elevation, dominated by rows of sash windows. The extensive range of windows throughout the building provided vital natural light for the office clerks to work. The basement of the building was a bonded wine and spirit store under a cast iron clad ceiling. Evidence for brick vaulted ceilings and cast-iron columns was also recorded. From the ground to second floor, the building provided office space. A notable feature within these floors are the large brick-built secure vaults, featuring heavy-duty cast iron doors and vaulted ceilings.



Gladstone House, taken facing north (© Archaeological Research Services Ltd 2021)

Seacombe Ferry Terminal, Victoria Place, Birkenhead

In January 2021, Salford Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an historic building investigation of the Seacombe Ferry Terminal at Birkenhead, Merseyside. The ferry terminal was constructed originally in the late 1870s in response to an increased demand for an improved passenger ferry service across the River Mersey. The ferry has remained in constant use since, and the buildings and infrastructure at the terminal were improved and remodelled in several episodes during the 20th century, with the most significant alterations being implemented in 1930-33 when the current terminal building and omnibus terminus were constructed.

The historic building investigation concluded that great use was made of technological advances of the second half of the 19th century in the construction of the terminal complex. The use of riveted wrought iron plates in the fabric of the bridges, for instance, may well reflect the relatively early adoption of the hot-riveting process of manufacturing iron structures. The use of concrete and asphalt further reflects the technical innovations in materials in the second half of the 19th century, and the inclusion of concrete in the columns of the terminal represents one of the earliest examples of its use in the region.

The survey has revealed that the entire substructure of the 1870s terminal pier was retained for use supporting the rebuilt 1930s terminal building. A large section of the sea wall also dates from this time, including a set of well-made steps between the terminal building and the foreshore. Other elements of anchorage, bearings, and possibly even the alarm bell on the present pontoon have been re-used or remodelled within later elements of the extant complex.



Sub-structure of goods bridge, with bearing mount on pontoon to rear (© Salford Archaeology: Seacombe Ferry Terminal, Birkenhead: Historic Building Investigation)

Mossley Hill Hospital

Turley Heritage carried out a Building Survey at Mossley Hill Hospital, Liverpool. In summary, the Mossley Hill Hospital site is of importance as the first American Red Cross military hospital for US Forces in Great Britain. Its significance is largely centred on the original buildings constructed during the First World War which have since been demolished by 1954. These were replaced with a new hospital complex, likely under the Emergency Medical Service scheme, and which was gradually built in three phases between 1938 and 1954.

The hospital buildings from each phase, accord with the standardised form of ward construction which had been established prior to the First World War and altered and improved over the years. The materials including brick and concrete framing are typical for the period and have been subject to alteration as part of its continued use as a hospital up into the early 21st century. Several buildings retain their concrete trusses and corrugated iron roofing which are unusual survivals.

The adjacent Mossley House is of significance as a late 19th century Victorian villa constructed by the noted architect Alfred Waterhouse. It is largely intact with high levels of architectural detailing, both externally and internally, despite its conversion into administrative use for the military hospital and later use by the NHS. The building also holds important historic associations with local figures including Dr Edmund Muspratt.



Glazed lantern above the central hall within Mossley House (©Turley Heritage)

Glass Futures, Saints Retail Park, St Helens, Merseyside

An archaeological desk-based assessment, which was carried out to support the planning application for the development, concluded that the site had potential to contain below-ground remains of archaeological interest; specifically, a high potential to contain below-ground remains associated with Sutton Colliery (later Peasley Cross Colliery), which was in operation between c.1820 and 1906. Salford Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an evaluation of the site in April 2021 through the excavation of 13 evaluation trenches. 5 of these trenches revealed several in-situ remains associated with power generation at the colliery and the presence of several ancillary buildings associated with the day-to-day operations.

Following the completion of the evaluation, further work in the form of a strip, map and record excavation was recommended MEAS. This was completed in June 2021, identifying regionally significant remains of the 19th and early 20th century pit-head arrangement. During the excavation, four primary phases of construction were identified, allowing for an understanding of how the site evolved over its near-century long period of use. Upcast shaft and remains of an engine house associated with power generation for one or more of the colliery headgears were recognised as some of the earliest components within the excavation. Subsequent development saw the creation of a large boiler house, presumably replacing the earlier arrangement indicated on the historic mapping; this contained a bank of four boilers, and an associated chimney and flue network. During the late 19th century, a large brick-built fan housing for the purposes of mine ventilation was erected to the north of the exposed shaft, then functioning as the air shaft. Later development saw the phasing out of the earlier boiler house and its conversion for an alternative use. A new boiler house containing two small boilers was situated immediately south of the extant engine house. These elements of the pithead remained in use until the early 20th century.

Following completion of the fieldwork, an assessment has been made of the project archive. This assessment examined the results of the excavation and assessed the potential for further analysis of each category of data with regard to the project's research aims. The results obtained from the assessment have concluded that there is potential for further analysis of the structural and stratigraphic evidence, and scope for further historical and archival research.



Octagonal chimney base 054 and the associated later flues with the southern half of the boiler house in shot (2m scale) (© Salford Archaeology: Glass Futures, St Helens: Archaeological Excavation)

Bridge House Farm, 190 Deyes Lane, Maghull, Merseyside

A historic building record, and watching briefs were undertaken at Bridge House Farm, Maghull by Matrix Archaeology. Documentary evidence revealed that a settlement was located here from the 18th century onwards. The existing house appeared to have been initially constructed in local stone in the late 18th century, then probably rebuilt in the mid. 19th century in brick, using roof timbers imported from the Baltic states. A pair of reused hardwood timbers retrieved during demolition suggested the possibility of a pre-18th century farmhouse being located here. A small outbuilding was also recorded, which had served as a bothy for itinerant agricultural labourers. A watching brief during groundworks revealed a pair of infilled negative features, probably of 18th or 19th century origin.



Farmhouse, king post roof truss retrieved during demolition, Baltic timber marks visible on end of tie-beam (Matrix Archaeology Ltd)

Review provided by Alison Plummer, MEAS

Recent Finds Reported to the PAS from Merseyside

In recent months a number of interesting archaeological finds discovered in Merseyside have been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme for recording on to its national public database: <https://finds.org.uk/database>.

Styca of Eanred, Formby - LVPL-0957F4

A copper alloy early medieval Northumbrian styca of Eanred (810-840), dating to 810-840. Moneyer: Brother. Cf. North Vol I, p.71 no.186.
Obverse: Central pellet. Legend: +EANRED REX
Reverse: Central cross. Legend: +BRODER

Copper alloy stycas are uncommon finds for this region as they are largely concentrated east of the Pennines and towards East Anglia (Griffiths *et al.* 2007: 343). A single other styca from Formby has knowingly been recovered; an Aethelred II discovered in 1986 by a metal detector user in the Formby dunes. Four other Northumbrian copper alloy stycas have also been unearthed in Meols (*ibid* nos. 5128-5131). Their presence in Merseyside is outside their typical area of deposition which makes the addition of the Eanred styca interesting.



Viking lead weight, Formby - LVPL-0A0F5A

A complete, but worn, polyhedral lead alloy weight, probably dating to the early medieval period (c.AD 850-950).

The weight has 8 unequal sides with each face presenting incised lines of inconsistent directions. One face appears to have a square in the centre. The edges are rounded which may be due to abrasion from the sea (found on coastland). The object has a smooth dark grey patina.

This weight was found in relative proximity to the above styca of Eanred and can arguably be classed as a Viking weight. Similar polyhedral weights have been discovered at the Viking camp/settlement site at Torksey, Lincolnshire (Hadley and Richards 2016). The Torksey weights and others reported to the PAS typically present incised dots rather than lines and have more prominent edges. The lines on the Formby example are therefore uncommon, however its form and size are comparable to the other examples. The weight of the object does not precisely fit within any of suggested standard Viking weights, though this is unsurprising given its coastal context which has visibly worn and rounded the object's edges and therefore likely reduced its weight. There are variations of what qualifies as a Viking 'ounce' and ranges from c.24-26g per ounce (Haldenby and Kershaw 2014: 112). Despite the reduced weight of the object, it may be possible to roughly conform it within the system. Similar to the Eanred styca, this is the only example of this object type reported to the PAS from Merseyside. Other potential lead Viking weights have recently been discovered in Wirral, but these follow the conical, rather than polyhedral types. No lead weights are recorded from Meols, however a copper alloy zoomorphic balance scale attachment is noted (Griffiths *et al.* 2007: 70 no.392). Early medieval finds from the region are scarce which makes the discovery of these two finds locally important.



Griffiths, D., Philpott, R. and Egan, G. 2007. *Meols: The Archaeology of the North Wirral Coast: Discoveries and Observations in the 19th and 20th Centuries, with a Catalogue of Collections*, Oxford University School of Archaeology, Oxford.

Hadley, D.M. and Richards, J.D. 2016. 'The winter camp of the Viking Great Army, AD 872-3, Torksey, Lincolnshire', *Antiquaries Journal* 96, 23-67.

Haldenby, D. and Kershaw, J. 2014. 'Viking-Age Lead Weights from Cottam', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 86, 106-123.

North, J.J. 1994. *English Hammered Coinage: Volume I. Early Anglo-Saxon to Henry III, c. 600-1272*, Spink and Son Ltd, London.

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Dates for diaries and resources

17th – 22nd June Chester Heritage Festival <https://www.chesterheritagefestival.co.uk/>

16th – 31st July Festival of Archaeology

The **Council for British Archaeology (CBA)**'s annual **Festival of Archaeology** will be held this year on the theme of **Journeys**. The Festival incorporates hundreds of in-person and virtual events delivered across the UK by community groups, heritage organisations, universities, commercial units and more.

Events are still being added (as of 30th March 2022) so keep checking the website

Recordings of past talks

The **Morecambe Bay Partnership's** Sunset Series of zoom talks on the **natural and cultural history of The Bay** covers a wide range of subjects including **archaeology**. Recordings of more than twenty past talks are available on their YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEmdS0witzJyEtibhAq20gxeMnXCBo0mj>.

Online resources

You can pay a virtual visit to the **Maeshowe Neolithic Chambered tomb in Orkney** by watching a film (40 mins) made by Historic Environment Scotland to mark the winter solstice <https://vimeo.com/656613451/1066eafe5f>

A short video about **Viking carvings in Skipwith Church** (near Selby, Yorks) by Roger Lang at Durham is available at: <https://vimeo.com/662603824>

The Medieval Settlement Research Group, has funded digitising four **Wharram Percy** volumes, now on the Archaeological Data Service website: https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/wharramp_eh_2011/downloads.cfm

Further digitised volumes may be available in future from the important long-term investigations (excavations, field survey, geophysical survey etc etc) of this deserted medieval village and its earlier and later incarnations in the Yorkshire Wolds.

The most recent (Nov 2021) issue of Historic England's magazine 'Research' focuses on **climate change & heritage** and contains several well-illustrated articles of relevance to NW England (including: river catchment **flood mapping**, **peatlands**, **coastal heritage**) free to download at <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-england-research-19/he-research-19/>

And **Blaenavon World Heritage Site** (WHS) in Wales has a variety of online resources including virtual tours, a movie, articles, quizzes etc, about its **industrial landscape and history**, which include **coal** mining and **iron** working from the 18th/19th/20th centuries, and the **town** itself

virtual tour at:

www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/VisitBlaenavon/Virtual-Blaenavon/Virtual-Blaenavon.aspx

And other resources from the homepage at <https://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/Homepage.aspx>

www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/VisitBlaenavon/Virtual-Blaenavon/Virtual-Blaenavon.aspx

A new FREE **surveying and mapping textbook** is now available on the OPEN Textbook network. It may be of interest to anyone interested in GPS, Lidar etc:

https://www.gpsworld.com/new-surveying-and-mapping-textbook-available-for-download/?utm_source=Navigate%21+Weekly+GNSS+News&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_campaign=NCMCD220202002&oly_enc_id=7233B7841912D0R

Written in English, the book provides an academic introduction to the field of surveying and mapping. It is based on handouts and readers written for the third-year course "Surveying and Mapping" in the civil engineering bachelor's program at Delft University of Technology in The Netherlands.

The textbook covers a wide range of measurement techniques, from land surveying using GPS/GNSS and remote sensing to the associated data processing, the underlying coordinate reference systems, and the analysis and visualization of the acquired geospatial information.

Sue Stallibrass