



Merseyside Archaeological Society Newsletter 1/2022

Registered Charity No 510831

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](mailto:as@aside.org)

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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).

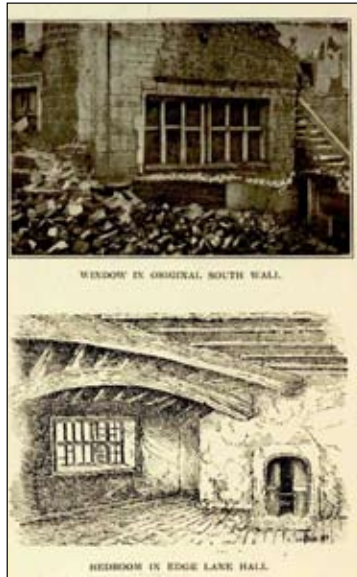


Edge Lane Hall (Hand)

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.

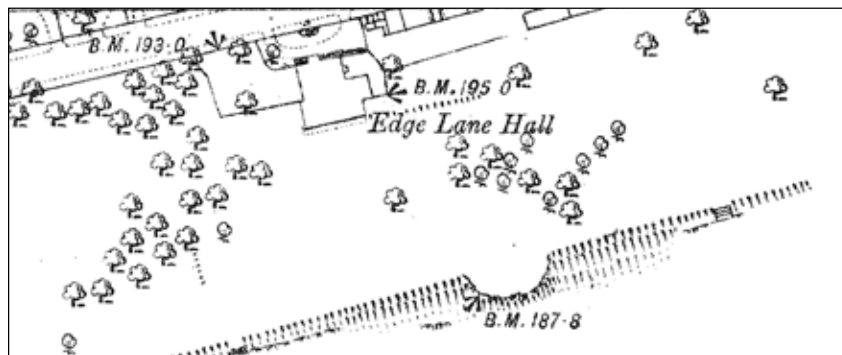
The photograph was taken during the demolition of the hall in 1913. It shows two of the mullioned windows, a least one of which has a hood molding. In the background a workman can be seen dismantling the wall above one of the windows and the stairs from the ground floor can be seen behind him. Hand's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



Edge Lane Hall Detail (Hand)



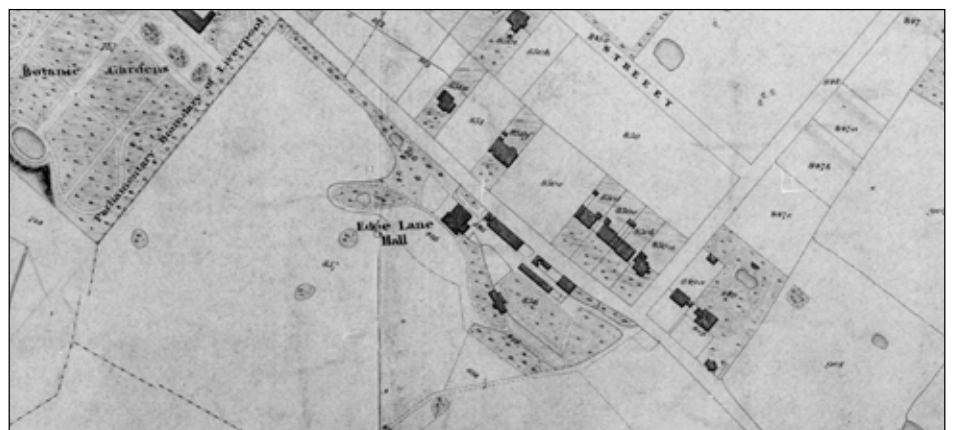
Edge Lane Hall in 1910 (Hand)



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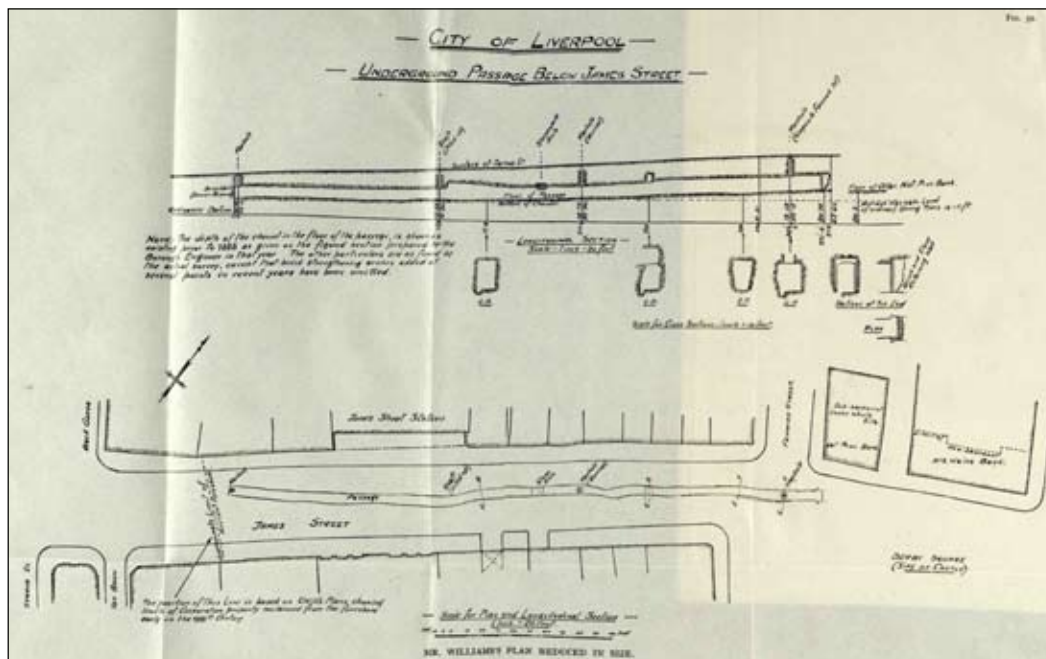
Hand C.R. 1913 Edge Lane Hall Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, 65

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

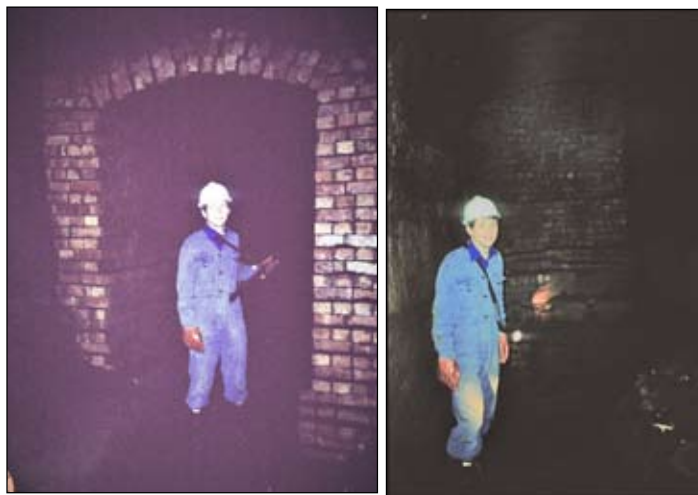
The excavation was made for a below ground public convenience and the opportunity was made to investigate any Liverpool Castle remains and identified the moat. The castle was built between 1232 and 1237 and through its lifetime was much altered. A 1659 Act of Parliament granted the demolition of the 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-dales-heritage-talks&SubsiteTitle=westmorland-dales-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

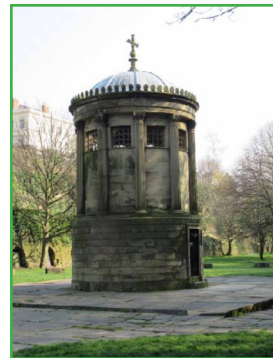


2. Where can you find this cast iron rainwater hopper?
 a) Speke Airport b) Vauxhall Car Factory, Hooton
 c) Woodvale Airfield d) Hornby Toy Factory, Binns Rd.



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)

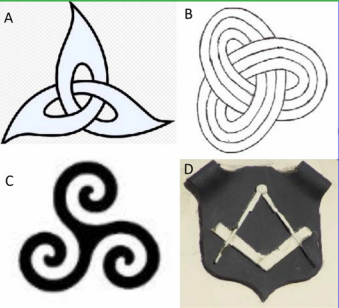


8. Which monarch is depicted on the horse?
 a) King William IV b) Queen Victoria
 c) King Edward VII d) King George V

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



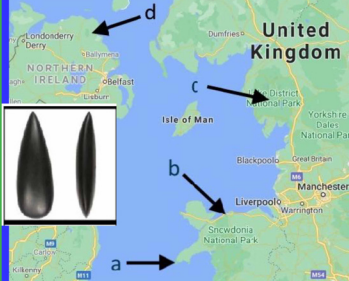
10. James Wright of **Triskele** Heritage gave a Zoom presentation to MAS in October. Which one of the above represents a **Triskele**?

• 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



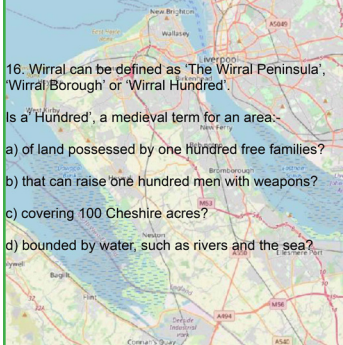
Pex Hill Quarry in Cronton (Knowsley Borough)

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

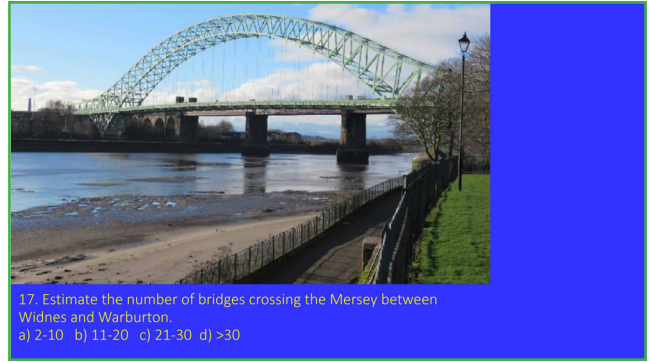


15. What was stored in which warehouse:-
 a) Tea b) Tobacco c) Seeds d) Sugar



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:-

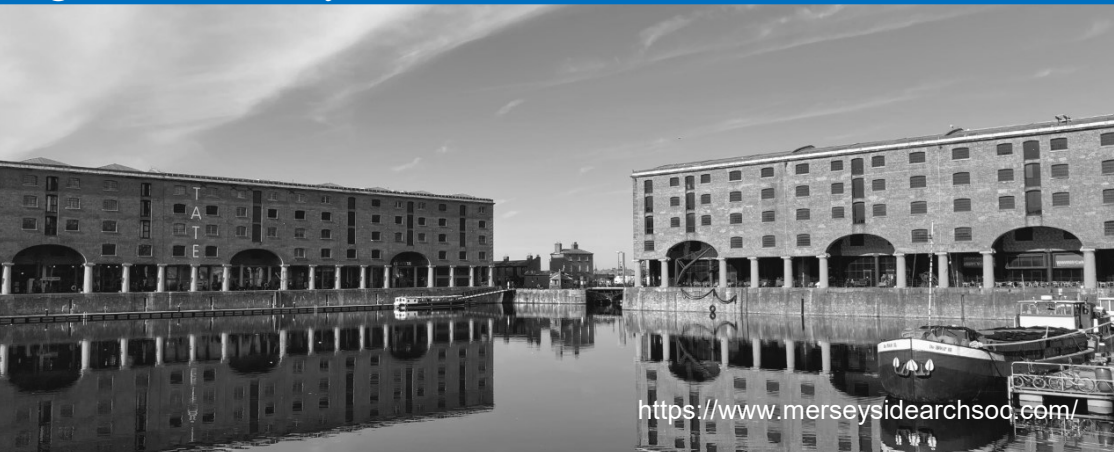
6. The Ha-ha feature provides an un-interrupted view from the hall. (see 'ha-ha' on the National trust website)

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.



<https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/>

April 2022

In this issue:

- Brief update
- From the Chair and AGM
- Meet the member
- Christmas quiz amendment
- Review of the Conference
- Upcoming events
- Summer events programme
- Twitter conference
- YAC Crosby beach trip
- Update on archaeological projects in Merseyside
- Recent finds from PAS
- Dates for diaries and resources

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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

<https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/>

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



<https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/>

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



<https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/>

Aug/Sept 2022

In this issue:

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- Recent finds from PAS
- Other News and online resources

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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.

Brief Update

In this week's issue we look back over a very warm summer and look forward to our Autumn winter programme. We also have reviews of walks, dates for diaries including local Heritage Open Days, a review of the Piermaster excavations and recent finds from the Portable Antiquities Scheme.



<https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/>

From the chair

It's coming to the end of a very warm Summer and thoughts will be turning to the Autumn program. There is still time though to reflect on our summer activities. The prolonged good weather was a valuable contributor and all our walks enjoyed sunny weather.

Hale Walk

We started our weekend tours with a walk around Hale to look at the remains of Hale Hall and its grounds in the morning and a look at Dungeon Salt Works in the afternoon. We found traces of the ornate gardens associated with the hall. More erosion had taken place on Oglet shore exposing timber structures on the beach and the quayside wall that was Hale Cliff Wharf dating from before the 1690's. The Childe of Hale pub provided us with a well needed lunchtime break.

Newton Walk

Mark Adams provided a splendid walk around the Newton area including a visit inside St Oswald's Church, Winwick and a visit to the remains of Newton Mill. This was a mammoth days walking and thanks go to Mark for sorting out such an impressive ramble through the area.

Hilbre Walk

We returned to Hilbre to look at some features we had not examined the previous year. One mystery included a rock-cut feature with suggestions ranging from bathing or fish storage / trapping to washing of the buoys when they arrive for maintenance. All is still a mystery with more research needed. Any suggestions?



Society members debating a rock-cut feature on Hilbre Island

Formby Walk

An experiment was tried doing an evening walk across the Formby dunes. Travelling on public transport during rush hour produced a degree of chaos as trains were cancelled and the assembling party got fragmented in various directions. After a late start we managed to have a pleasant evenings walk looking at war time structures examining the Star Fish Decoy bunker followed by the base of WWII observation tower and the close-by Cold War monitoring station. After visiting the firing wall on the former rifle range we went to the see ill-fated Formby by the Sea resort. This consisted of a buried promenade wall, a few surviving former hotels and guest houses and a pathway intended to be a main access road into the development. The threatened unbearable heat turned out to be a pleasant evening cooled by the sea breeze. Thankyou for those who attended and put up with the confusion at the start.

Lecture Program

We now turn to our lecture program which has been finalised and will appear elsewhere in this newsletter. Sue Stallibrass has worked hard coordinating all the speakers and we will be having a mixture of in-person and zoom talks over the next 8 months.

Bank Account changes

We are finalising transferring our bank accounts from HSBC to Lloyds and will notify you of our new bank details once these accounts are set up.

Roy Forshaw, Chair

Meet the member

In this edition, we get to know a bit more about another member of the society; Vanessa Oakden, our Membership Secretary.

Vanessa is an active member of the society and is Curator of Regional and Community Archaeology at the Museum of Liverpool, and currently Lead curator of archaeology (interim).

What do you enjoy most about MAS?

I enjoy learning about local archaeology such as sites I've heard of but haven't had time to read up on. I also like the sense of community within the society.

What is your favourite archaeological memory?

My favourite archaeological memory is visiting Skellig Michael off the southwestern coast of Ireland with my husband. We hitched a lift on a helicopter doing repairs on the light-house so were the only two people on the island for 4 hours as the helicopter headed off to collect supplies! We were really privileged to be able to explore the monastic site away from tourists and soak up the history, plus I avoided being sea sick on the crossing!

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

I would travel back to the Iron Age to my first excavation, a bog crossing site in Edercloon, Ireland to see if our assumptions were right and who placed the wooden bowl I found in the bog!



Local project updates

Other Local Archaeology News

There have been other archaeological activities taking place over the summer. Bidston Community Archeology have been excavating at Tam o Shatner's and are hard at work on the site of a farm house. Big Heritage have also reopened a revamped Chester Roman Discovery Centre and you don't need the excuse of bringing a small child to appreciate the roman excavations that are displayed as part of the tour.



Holt Local History Society Excavations

Holt Local Historical Society taking in the village of Farndon straddles the English Welsh border. The Society is raising funds for an excavation on the site of a Roman Fortlet just outside Farnden on the bend in the River Dee. I visited the site last year with Sue Stallibrass and although there is nothing visible on the ground due to interference from later field cultivation a small fort is clearly shown on a LiDAR scan. This appears bottom left as the traditional playing card shape in the loop of the river.



LiDAR showing the outline of a Roman Fort within the bottom meander of the river

If you wish to sponsor the Holt excavation donations can be made to:

Sent by BACS to Holt Local History Society, 20-25-69, 33199592
Please use reference 'dig sponsor' and let me know you have done this and whether you prefer it to be an anonymous donation.

Alternatively send a cheque *made out to 'Holt Local History Society'* to Brian Payne, 3 Whitegate Fields, Holt, Wrexham, LL13 9JE

Piermaster Green II project update

After 9 weeks of excavation helped by 64 volunteers from the local community including MAS members, we have reached the end of a second season of Piermaster's Green Community Dig. The dig focused on the site of 3 houses built by the Mersey Docks and Harbour board for the pier masters, dock masters and their families to live in.

This year the dig revealed the foundations of part of the parlour of number 10 and part of the drawing room of number 8 Albert Pier Head along with one side of number 7. Finds have included sugar mould pottery excavated from the fill of the docks along with glass, pottery and metal work associated with the houses along with remains of the dock master's cat! Throughout we have engaged with members of the public, speaking to over 2000 people!



Volunteer excavating the remains of the Pier Master's Cat

I really enjoyed, getting stuck into manual labour again ☐ One of the other volunteers in our trench uncovered a cut- throat shaver circa 1930's style which was great! – dig volunteer

I've had a great time and have learned loads, both about Archaeology but also about myself and more importantly about others. The people I've met have all been engaging, good natured and generous with their time and wisdom. It's been rewarding and exciting in equal measure. – dig volunteer

In the following weeks, we will be cataloguing the finds and beginning the process of writing up both excavations.

If you would like to get involved in our future projects please help us plan by completing this survey <https://ecv.microsoft.com/WrmPnLuxM3>



One of the wall exposed during excavation



A button depicting arms found during the excavation

Vanessa Oakden

Accidental Archaeology, St John's Cemetery

The other year I wrote about some structures that had appeared whilst street works were taking place in Victoria Street. The project moved onto Lime Street and St John's Lane in 2021 and consisted of pedestrianizing some roads and narrowing others under a new traffic management scheme. It is always worth peering into the excavations whilst works are undertaken as occasionally there are glimpses of earlier Liverpool.

Walking up St John's Lane to catch the train from Lime Street I was able to see watch the road surface being scrapped back to its foundations and service trenches dug. There appeared a yellow sandstone linear structure with a brick backing of considerable thickness. It followed the direction of the road roughly parallel with the present boundary wall of St John's Gardens at the rear of St Georges Hall. Comparing modern plans with earlier maps such as Eyes 1785 and Gages 1835, it was possible to establish that the structure was the boundary to St John's Cemetery of 1767.

Richard Brooke wrote in 1853...

The cemetery had been consecrated in 1767. A small building where the funeral service used to be read, stood in it, at that time, near the gate opening towards Shaw-place. St. John's Church is of dark yellow stone and built in a style which is intended for Gothic, but of which it is, in fact, a complete caricature. It is difficult to point out in Liverpool any ecclesiastical edifice of the last century, built in worse taste, or evincing, on the part of the architects greater ignorance of the principles of the Gothic style, than that church.

Views on architecture have moved on since Richard Brooke but at least he may have applauded the later demolition of the church.

The photograph on St Johns Lane shows the sandstone base of the wall which survived the works and is now below the present road surface. It survives in its full length up to St Georges Hall including the recess where the steps led off St Johns Lane. All has now been concealed by a cycle way.



Wall exposed during the excavation of a drainage trench

Trenches I could not see from behind the barriers were an excavation on the site of the Alms Houses that stood in the middle of Lime Street and some stonework that appeared in the excavation spoil roughly where Falls Well was. This well roughly on the corner of St Johns Precinct carpark exit was accessed from the bridge crossing the inlet into the Pool of Liverpool at the bottom of Byrom Street. On Lime Street in front of the Empire Theatre there were signs of back filling and rubble in the sections of a deep service trench roughly where the Hospital site was. Hopefully these excavations were officially recorded.

Roy Forshaw

Winter Events Programme

**Our monthly series of winter evening talks will resume on the third Thursday of each month from September 2022 – April 2023, starting on:
Thursday 15th Sept**

The venue 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>

Doors open at 7.00pm for coffee/tea/biscuits and the meeting starts at 7.30pm, closing at 9.00pm

NB: The midwinter months (November, the December Christmas Quiz night, and January) will see our meetings held on-line via Zoom, to avoid travel in inclement weather

Draft programme for autumn/winter MAS talks.

A few titles are to be confirmed (tbc), and the speaker/site for Sept is not quite confirmed

Date	Venue	Speaker	Topic
Sept 15th	In person	tbc	Recent fieldwork & excavations at a local site
Oct 20th	In person	Dean Paton Big Heritage	Recent work by Big Heritage on community engagement, outreach and education
Nov 17th	ZOOM	Ian Trumble Bolton Museum	From Small Seeds: The European legacy of a Bolton woman– Annie Barlow’s work in Egyptology and elsewhere and her legacy, including items in Bolton Museum’s collection
Dec 15th	ZOOM	Mark Adams RSK/MAS	MAS Christmas Quiz
Jan 19th	ZOOM	Jane Kenney Gwynedd Arch Trust (GAT)	The Landscape of Neolithic Axes Project: studying a major stone source for Neolithic axe heads in North Wales
Feb 16th	In person	Current research by University of Liverpool students	Two talks about their current research by PhD students in the Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology Department. Titles tbc
March 16th	In person	Dave Roberts MAS	The MAS/NML cemetery recording project at Childwall All Saints, Liverpool https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/archaeology/archaeology-national-museums-liverpool/community-archaeology/childwall-graves
April 20th	In person	All Members	AGM & Members’ evening Your chance to tell us about interesting things, places and ideas!

Sue Stallibrass

Heritage Opens Days

Heritage Open Days in England Friday 9th – Sunday 18th September

This annual festival of events happens in the second week of September, spanning two weekends. There are some specific events eg. guided walks or talks, which often need to be booked as places can be limited. Lots of historic buildings and places (including many churches) open their doors to the public for extended (or unique) time periods. Times of events and public access vary with every venue, so it's important to plan ahead, even if you don't need to book a place.

The webpage is searchable by map, county, district, venue and date.

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

I have included a few in Merseyside that caught my eye, but there are many more in Cheshire, Lancashire, Greater Manchester etc. The whole of England engages with the scheme. Some venues have 'one-off events' whilst others tend to engage every year.

Calderstones prehistoric megaliths with rock art:

This is a bit of a cheeky one, but if you would like to visit the Calderstones then why not do so on **Sunday 11th Sept** when the venue ie The Reader, Mansion House, Calderstones Park is having a swing dance day: live music, taster sessions and demonstrations from 1pm (plus a BBQ). And there are two tours of the house, at 1.40pm and 4.15pm

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/swing-dance-and-shared-reading-at-the-reader>

<https://www.thereader.org.uk/visit-calderstones/the-calderstones-story/>



View of the Calderstones

Williamson's Tunnels, Edge Hill, Liverpool: A Georgian job creation scheme...

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Guided tours of 10 people at a time will explore part of these labyrinthian underground tunnels on **Saturday 10th, Sunday 11th, Saturday 17th, Sunday 18th** starting at 11.00am, 12.30 & 2.00pm on each of these days

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/friends-of-williamsons-tunnels-williamsons-tunnels>

<https://williamsonstunnels.com/>

All Saints Church, Childwall:

MAS has been involved in a long-term study of the important cemetery and the project will be the subject of a MAS evening talk by Dave Roberts next March. This is a chance to see the cemetery for yourself, at a time when the church itself is also open to visitors. No guided tours, but an information video inside the church and stewards on hand to answer questions. The church is open on **Saturday 17th 10.00am – 4.00pm** and on **Sunday 18th 2.00 – 4.00pm**.

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/all-saints-church-childwall1>

<http://www.childwall.info/ALLSAINTSCHURCH>

<https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/>

Heritage Opens Days continued

Cannington Shaw No 7 Bottle Shop, St Helens:

This important industrial heritage building (late 19th century regenerative glass furnace) is the focus for a bid by a Community Interest Company (CIC) to save and preserve it after it fell into a poor condition after disuse. A pop-up shop will be on site **Friday 9th & Saturday 10th from 10.00 – 4.00pm** each day to explain its history and relevance to industrial innovations, together with the CIC's proposals for how it can be saved and put to use.

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/cannington-shaw-no.-7-bottle-shop>

<https://www.canningtonshaw.org.uk/>

Port Sunlight building stones and street materials:

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

A one-off (midweek) guided walk on **Wednesday 14th 1.30 – 4.00pm** organised by the Liverpool Geology Society, looking at the geological materials used in the construction of the model village

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/rock-around-port-sunlight>

<https://www.portsunlightvillage.com/>

Bidston, Wirral: several special events including:

an open day at the **Bidston Community Archaeology's** excavations of a post-medieval farm and adjacent buildings at Tam O'Shanter urban farm **Sunday 11th 10.00am – 4.00pm**

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/bidston-community-archaeology>

<https://www.sites.google.com/view/bidstoncommarchaeology>

Bidston Lighthouse & Telegraph Station (the most inland lighthouse in the world)

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

One-hour tours **Saturday 10th, Sunday 11th, Saturday 17th at 12 noon, 1.00pm & 2.00 pm each day.**

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/bidston-lighthouse1>

<http://www.bidstonlighthouse.org.uk/>

Bidston Observatory

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

This began as an astronomical research centre but continued with research into meteorology & oceanography (important for chronometry, longitude, tidal predictions etc). Tours on **Saturday 10th, Sunday 11th & Saturday 17th** start at **12 noon, 1.00 pm & 2.00pm each day.** Please note- both Saturday 2pm tours are aimed at families with children but all are welcome

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/bidston-observatory>

There are lots of other events on Wirral including a guided walk around Meols and the Wirral shore, Steve Harding leading a Thingwall Viking Trail, a brief open morning at West Kirby Museum (includes pre-conquest sculpted stones) and a West Kirby Old Village guided walk. Oxtan near Birkenhead has lots of events, as does Southport. Why not search the website and see what events & venue take your fancy in Merseyside or elsewhere?

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

Sue Stallibrass

<https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/>

Recent Finds Reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme

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

Roman satyr from Kingsley, Cheshire West and Chester - LVPL-C7C9F6

An incomplete copper alloy figurine of a youthful satyr dating to the Roman period (c.AD 43-410). The satyr is an example of the high-quality objects that were available in Roman Britain. The figure is naturalistically rendered with high attention to detail to muscle definition, and facial features and hair. The figure is standing and is missing an arm and a leg from opposite sides. The surviving arm is outstretched, and its hand is clenched which suggests it once held a separately attached item that is now missing.

The figure is identifiable as a satyr. In classical mythology, satyrs are woodland creatures and typically part man, part goat, and are followers / attendants to the god Bacchus. They are often depicted as youthful, but many examples also present them as old and pot-bellied for humorous effect. This example presents a youthful male dressed in sash across the body made of individually attached fawn pelts (*nebris*). Above its nude bottom is a small, looped tail. Around its head is a wreath of vine leaves, which is typical symbol for the followers of Bacchus. In line with this, it is possible the missing object in the outstretched hand is a thyrsus - a staff or spear tipped with an ornamental pinecone that is usually carried by Bacchus and his followers.

This is the first satyr figurine to be found in Cheshire. A number of other examples have been reported to the PAS, including an example from Norfolk, however, the present example is of a higher standard of preservation. Other similar youthful satyrs are noted by Durham (2012) which include two examples from London, and one from East Yorkshire and Leicestershire. The finder and landowner are kindly donating the find to a local museum.

Dimensions: Length 115mm; torso width 22.74mm; torso thickness 18.98mm; weight 154.11g

Durham, E. (2012) 'Depicting the gods: metal figurines in Roman Britain', *Internet Archaeology*: Issue 31. <https://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue31/2/toc.html> :Accessed 22/06/2022



Image: Roman satyr figurine © National Museums Liverpool

Late Bronze Age socketed axehead from Bradwall, Cheshire East - LVPL-30E264

An incomplete copper alloy socketed axehead dating to the late Bronze Age (c.1000-800 BC).

The object is sub-rectangular in plan and wedge-shaped. The cutting edge is curved and expands slightly outwards. The edge is worn and abraded and measures 39.28mm in width. At the base of the object is a broadly sub-rectangular shaped mouth with an expanded moulded collar, measuring 39.43mm in length, 33.45mm width and 5.94mm thick. Below the mouth is a moulded collar from which a single raised line of decoration travels down the centre of the surviving side until almost the halfway point. The other side is incomplete and is missing part of the body and mouth. A single loop is positioned to the side and presents a prominent casting seam along the length of the object. The object has a dark green patina and brown patina with patches of brighter green corrosion. Worn striations are present on the incomplete side.

The object can be dating to the Ewart Park phase of metal work which corresponds with metalworking phases X - XII, or Needham Periods 6-7, dating from about 1150-750 CAL BC. This axe is likely to date from about 1000-800 BC and part of a growing dataset of c.150 Bronze Age reported to the PAS since 1997.

Dimensions: Length 82.62mm; width 39.28mm; thickness (body) 23.7mm; weight 157.97g



Image: Late Bronze Age socketed axehead. © National Museums Liverpool

Other News and Updates

Update on Rossett Roman villa project by Caroline Pudney, University of Chester

Caroline gave us a fascinating talk in February about the lead pig inscribed to the Emperor Nero that was found near Wrexham by a metal detectorist, and about the 2021 excavations by the University of Chester & Wrexham Museum at the site of a newly-discovered nearby villa at Rossett. See, for instance, Howard Williams' blog: <https://howardwilliamsblog.wordpress.com/2021/09/25/roman-rossett-digging-a-roman-villa/>

This year, they are seeking funding for further work which they hope will lead to some geophysical survey this autumn and/or to some excavation in 2023. There will be no 2022 excavation.

Historic placenames in Wales

The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) has just completed a report on the five-year project aiming to record (nearly 700,000) historic placenames in Wales. A talk about the project by Dr James January-McCann is available on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ffbsi20cfa4>

and you can access the database of placenames which is searchable by name and on a map at <https://historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk/>

MLPRG Conference at the Grosvenor Museum in Chester

The Medieval and Later Pottery Research Group will be holding their annual conference at the Grosvenor Museum in Chester between the **7th and 9th October**. Keep a look out for attendance instructions nearer the time.

Online resources

Brochs, duns and wheelhouses

Northern and western Scotland, including the Northern Isles and the Hebrides, have some very distinctive Iron Age (later first millennium BCE) stone structures that are often still visible as ruins or heaps of stones in prominent topographical positions. They are extremely strongly built cylindrical towers that sometimes taper upwards. Some (like Mousa) remind me of cooling towers at power stations, with their elegant curves. Matt Ritchie, one of Forestry and Land Scotland's archaeologists, was recording the construction and engineering used at one site when some walkers came and wanted to have a look at it. He found himself giving a talk reminiscent of an estate agent trying to sell a property '...a generously proportioned detached circular drystone tower in the popular Atlantic Roundhouse tradition...'. (Ritchie, *British Archaeology* July/August 2022 p34). He and colleagues have now produced a very well-illustrated 57-page booklet that is targeted at schools and the general public.

<https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/biodiversity-and-conservation/historic-environment-conservation/learning/to-build-a-broch>

Scottish Heritage

And if you are hoping to visit Scotland and want some ideas about where to go or what to see, Forestry and Land Scotland also have some useful visitor information on their website: *Visit Heritage Sites*, *World War Two*, and *Historic Woodland Use* at

<https://forestryandland.gov.scot/learn/heritage>

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Newsletter contributions

For any contributions for future newsletters please contact the newsletter editor Sam Rowe at sam.rowe@historicengland.org.uk



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