

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 3 April 1967

WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

CONTENTS

FUTURE PROGRAMME..... 2

SECRETARY’S REPORT 2

OTHER MEETINGS IN THE NEAR FUTURE 2

WEST MIDLANDS ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS SHEET NO. 9, 1966..... 3

MEMBERSHIP CARDS 3

VISITS TO MONUMENTS 3

ADDITIONS TO UNSCHEDULED LIST 4

WOOLHOPE CLUB SUMMER MEETINGS 4

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS..... 5

EXCHANGE NEWS LETTERS 5

POSSIBLE ROMAN ROADS – Cdr M B Hale 5

THE GREAT WEST RAMPART OF 1055 AD AT HEREFORD 5

NEXT NEWS-LETTER..... 6

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION
NEWS SHEET**

No. 3 April 1967

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Saturday 15th April 1967 at 10.30 am

Bredwardine Castle: Field survey of the site.

Park cars on approaches to the church. Picnic lunch should be brought. Heavy footwear advisable. All necessary equipment will be provided. If the weather is bad, please ring Moccas 216 before starting, as the meeting may then be postponed to the Sunday.

Sunday 21st May 1967 at 2.00 pm

Bullingham Old Church: Field and photographic survey.

Parking near site. All equipment provided although extra photographers would be useful. Phone again if bad weather.

Tuesday 20th June 1967 at 7.00 pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Woolhope Club Room

“HEREFORD EXCAVATIONS” Frank Noble

Please send items for Agenda to the Secretary before 15th June.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since the last News Sheet in January, the group has had two monthly meetings. Both suffered from rather a small attendance, but proved of interest to the members present.

February 9th: Decided that we support the scheduling of Hereford City Ramparts and also offer our services to the new HCC countryside sub-committee. A hearsay report that Abergavenny Roman Fort had been discovered. Report on Hereford Excavations.

March 12th: Field meeting at Bredwardine examined large Castle site and various other features. Short meeting after tea at School House, Staunton. Reports on various meetings (see on). Future programme discussed. Financial problems noted.

During this period I have also had a Woolhope Committee meeting, given an Annual Report on the progress of the Research Group to the Woolhope Club, and attended two on-site meetings at Hereford and at Wigmore. I was unfortunately unable to attend the last Woolhope Committee meeting. Reports which have reached me are dealt with in their appropriate sections.

OTHER MEETINGS IN THE NEAR FUTURE

Hereford Excavations

Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th April, 10.00 am, Holloway and Webbs Yard, Victoria Street, Hereford.

Saturday 27th to Monday 29th May inc. at 10.00 am, same place.

Hereford Archaeological Research Group

Sunday 9th April, 3.00 pm, Holloway and Webbs Office, Victoria Street.

Tuesday 2nd May, 7.30 pm, venue to be decided.

Bromfield Excavations

Weekends of 9th/10th April 22nd/23rd April
6th/7th May 20th/21st May
3rd/4th June 17th/18th June
1st/2nd July

All 10.00 am to 5.30 pm. Contact S C Stanford for details. Tel: Yarpole 363.

Offa's Dyke Walks

Sundays 23rd April 14th May
21st May 4th June

Contact F Noble for details. Tel: Knighton 328.

Saturday School

April 22nd 1967, Town Hall, Hereford

2.30-6.00 pm HEREFORDSHIRE AND THE NORMAN CONQUEST

Rev D G Walker, PhD, FSA

Contact J O'Donnell for details. Tel: Hereford 4904

WEST MIDLANDS ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS SHEET NO. 9, 1966

I have several copies of this excellent 22-page news sheet which is available free. If you want a copy, they will be available at the next meeting or please send me the postage (6d).

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

These have now been printed and, if you have not previously received a copy, it should be enclosed with this news sheet. Otherwise let me know.

VISITS TO MONUMENTS

Not many reports have come through to me in the last few months, but those that have have been rather interesting.

U87 Hereford City Rampart

After discussion at the February meeting, I wrote to the Ministry of Works suggesting that the stretch of rampart to the East of the City Wall line down Victoria Street should be scheduled. As a result, along with representatives of the Hereford Excavations Committee and Hereford Archaeological Research Group I met Mr Hurst who came down primarily to discuss excavation with Mr Noble. He agreed that this area deserves scheduling, and as I go to press I hear that Air Cdr Moore has written to the Ministry giving them exact details. Excavations recently, which have brought the whole complexity of the rampart to the fore, are dealt with elsewhere.

Sch 5 Wigmore Castle

One result of our last News Letter was to draw the attention of the County Planning Department to Wigmore Castle and also to the importance of the site of what is one of the most prominent Castles on the border. It is hoped that now, as a first stage, the access to the castle will be improved and adequately signposted.

Sch 130 Bullingham Old Church

After hearing a report of bulldozing operations on the site, accompanied once more by members of the Hereford Archaeological Research Group I examined it. The churchyard has been levelled and a bulldozer has been up the nave of the church. Clearing of undergrowth will now rapidly hasten the end of this building. A meeting of the group will be

held at the site, when a record will be made of the building and efforts made to determine its historic significance.

Lower Lyde Long Barrow

Reports of this as a long barrow tempted me to visit it on a recent trip. I make it about 15ft high and about 70ft long. I think it could be a long barrow, and would like to suggest that, if time permits, the group should visit it after dealing with Bullingham on Sunday 21st May.

Sch 68 Sutton Walls

It is proposed to make the temporary preservation order on this site into a permanent one. The owner, Mr Gwynne has said that he is prepared to go as far as a public enquiry in an attempt to stop the preservation order being made. The Woolhope Club has told the Ministry of Works that it is quite prepared to put up a case for preservation.

Stretton Sugwas Gravel Quarry Extension

Negotiations with the Ministry of Works have resulted in Midland Gravel Co agreeing to allow the site to be visited in advance of quarrying on two days per annum. Stan Stanford is negotiating with the manager.

Sch 127 Llanwarne, Church of St John the Baptist

Very little different to when the Royal Commission took their photographs in the nineteen-thirties. The main problem appears to be the excessive water standing in the south entry and the base of the tower. If the bells are still in situ, possibly consideration should be given to their safe removal. This may also apply to certain monuments in the church.

U 65 St Weonards Tump

A report that a road is likely to remove a part of this earthwork brought it to the fore. However, this does not appear to be likely in the very near future. References indicate that burials were excavated in 1855 and the mount was assumed to be a tumulus. Shape and size makes one think in terms of a small motte, but building obscures any sign of a possible bailey. As a site of some interest, it obviously deserves to be scheduled.

Sch 16 Ewyas Harold Castle

An approach road to a new house now cuts across the main bailey. It seems that the house has been built on what was part of the fosse and counterscarp. Perhaps this site needs re-planning with a view to establishing and scheduling the whole of the site.

ADDITIONS TO UNSCHEDULED LIST

U 87 Hereford City Rampart
Area 15.

NGR 507 397 to 507 400

WOOLHOPE CLUB SUMMER MEETINGS

Saturday 6 th May	-	Severn Bridge & Bath
Saturday 20 th May	-	The Doward (½ day)
Thursday 15 th June	-	Gower Peninsular
Saturday 15 th July	-	Bewdley & Stourport
Thursday 24 th August	-	Midsummer Hill (½ day)
Saturday 9 th September	-	Llantwit Major

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS

In spite of several letters, the OS are unable to allow us free use of maps or even facilities to purchase at reduced rates, even though they will be one of the main beneficiaries of our labours in the field.

EXCHANGE NEWS LETTERS

We now exchange news letters with CBA Group 2, and also with our Shropshire equivalent.

POSSIBLE ROMAN ROADS – Cdr M B Hale

Blackwardine-Tedstone Wafer Road

This is the road visited on a field day last summer. More recent work has concentrated on the section further to the east – particularly in a field 675 595 about ½ a mile south of the Tedstone Wafer Fort. Soundings with an auger indicate a stone surface on an east-west alignment in two fields, lining up well with the previous alignment of the east-west road. One section of road has been uncovered. In addition a continuous (or nearly continuous) north-south road has been identified running from a field gate (where the surface is exposed) for about 400 yards in a northerly direction towards the Fort; where this road crosses the bed of a stream there is a paved ford.

(Cdr Hale also includes a sketch plan, which I cannot reproduce at the moment due to a temporary lack of suitable stencils.)

Marden-Ullingswick Road

This possible road was described at one of the earlier meetings when air photographs were shown. It probably ended at Kenchester on the west. I have previously not been able to trace it east of Ullingswick at a crossing at 613 497 where it disappeared into a field.

I now think I have picked up the alignment to the east, about one mile north of Bishops Frome at 655 497 and it seems to follow the present road towards Acton Beauchamp for about ½ m. In a field just south of Acton Beauchamp Church (678 503) there is quite a definite “agger” and an auger shows at one point a hard surface about 15ft across. I intend to try to get permission from the owner to do some uncovering of the surface during the summer.

Cdr Hale suggests in his letter that we could possibly hold another field day there during the coming summer.

THE GREAT WEST RAMPART OF 1055 AD AT HEREFORD

(Abstracts from a report by F Noble after the Easter excavations in Victoria Street)

It looks as though the excavations in Hereford have located what medieval archaeologists in Britain have searched for unsuccessfully for many years – a deposit, containing pottery fragments, which can be positively dated to the “Late Saxon” period. It seems, in fact, that this deposit can be dated within a matter of months, to November and December of 1055 and the early months of 1056 and it promises to be extensive enough to offer correlations between products of different local pottery industries over a considerable part of England.

A series of trenches were laid out in January in a tent contractor’s yard where the rampart and walls were known to have been levelled off in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

There were no records of any finds being made in these works and it was possible that nothing of interest remained, but the trenches and sections soon showed that a considerable thickness of the lower layers of the rampart had been preserved with very little disturbance. They also showed that the rampart must have been built in several stages.

Extensive attempts to discover positive evidence for the date of the earliest rampart on the site have been comparatively fruitless and there is still no material to support or to

contradict the suggestions of a Roman origin. The exciting results have come from an area towards the rear of the rampart which seems to have been about 20ft high and 60ft broad. This area revealed sharply dipping layers of gravel, mixed to a surprising extent with broken meat bones, clinker and very occasional fragments of pottery. Further down, the gravel was trampled into a layer of dark earth, although with even more bones and rather more sherds of pottery, heavily-sooted, hard-fired cooking-pot sherds and other earthenware. The whole area was scattered with charcoal fragments and there were random scatters of larger stones, some with mortar attached, which seem to have been brought from ruined buildings to fill puddles in the trampled earth behind the growing rampart.

The remains give a picture of the forces that Harold Godwin had mustered, camped behind the battered defences of the burnt-out town and taking their meal breaks in the lee of the rampart. The bones of their meals were thrown onto the base of the growing rampart without any ceremony, and when the cooking pots which held their stew and the vessels containing other drinks were broken, the pieces were thrown in with the bones, to be covered over with the next loads of earth or gravel.

Detachments of men from the various surrounding counties must have been required to bring provisions and utensils with them to the devastated city, so instead of local wares there are likely to be products from most of the main pottery-making areas active in 1055.

Contact F Noble for details

NEXT NEWS-LETTER

I hope to issue Number 4 at the AGM. Articles and details of sites should be sent to me by 14th June for inclusion.

Ron Shoesmith