

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 4 August 1967

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION**

CONTENTS

FUTURE PROGRAMME..... 2

SECRETARY’S REPORT 2

TREASURER’S REPORT 3

HEREFORD EXCAVATIONS..... 3

VISITS TO MONUMENTS 3

ADDITION TO SCHEDULED LIST..... 4

NEXT ISSUE 4

WINTER COURSES 4

WOOLHOPE CLUB FIELD MEETING 4

PROMONTORY FORT – DORSTONE HILL..... 5

**WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION
NEWS SHEET**

No. 4 August 1967

Edited by: Ron Shoesmith

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Saturday 23rd September 1967 at 2.00 pm

Roman Roads: Meet at the old Abbey Dore station yard. Survey of possible roads in the area. If weather is bad, please ring Mary Thomas at Pontrilas 205, in case of postponement.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I must apologise for the long delay in the appearance of Number 4 of this News Sheet. I hope that Number 5 will be sent out before the end of September, so please send notes for inclusion before 23rd September.

There have been three meetings since the last News Sheet, including the AGM:-

15th April: Bredwardine

This meeting had good weather and a reasonable attendance. Two days were taken over planning the site, and a reasonable plan has resulted. It is hoped to have a short article in the next issue of the Woolhope Club Transactions on this interesting site, so as to correct the details given in the Royal Commission volume.

21st May: Bullingham

Although rain spoilt any possibility of photography, the church here was measured and various relics kept in the new church were examined.

20th June: AGM

This meeting, in the Woolhope Room with Frank Noble as guest speaker, was very well attended. The following officers were elected for the 1967/8 year:

<u>Chairman:</u>	J G Calderbank
<u>Secretary:</u>	R Shoesmith
<u>Meetings Secretary:</u>	Miss M Thomas
<u>Treasurer:</u>	L Skelton
<u>Committee Members:</u>	Miss R E Hickling, F Noble

It was decided that the Group approved the idea of having junior members, subject to the Woolhope Club's agreement.

It was also agreed that a Meetings Secretary should be appointed, and that a Committee consisting of the officers and two other members should be elected to arrange a programme and correlate reports from members. It was suggested that a monthly programme be arranged if possible.

After the business meeting, an instructive talk was given by Frank Noble on the latest series of excavations in Hereford, illustrated by slides.

A Woolhope Committee Meeting was held on 3rd July, and a committee was formed to discuss and report on the problem of Junior Membership. This sub-committee has since

met and will shortly present its report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr L Skelton presented his report to the AGM, which was accepted.

Balance as at 7.6.66	£6.03.03
Income from subscriptions	£12.10.00
*Grant from Woolhope Club	<u>£10.00.00</u>
Total	£28.13.03
Expenditure 1966/7	<u>£11.18.08</u>
Cash in hand 20.6.67	<u>£16.14.07</u>

* The Woolhope Grant is for buying maps, plans, etc., only.

HEREFORD EXCAVATIONS

The first series of excavations on the site of Holloway and Webb's yard in Victoria Street had to be brought to a rapid conclusion when the buildings on the site were demolished. A new headquarters building has been found in Edgar Street and further excavations are planned. Pottery which was found in Trench Two, behind the wall and apparently in the tail of the Rampart, is proving to be very interesting. Similarities are difficult to find, and various experts have given the pottery widely differing dates.

As a result it is proposed to open a further area to the East of the wall line, and including more of the tail of the rampart in the hopes that further examples of this pottery can be found and that datable evidence may help to give a more accurate archaeological dating to the rampart.

It is hoped that some of this can be achieved by using paid labour, but a weekend series of excavations will be also necessary. Before the roadworks take place in the spring, the site of Bastion 3 should be examined, if only to see if any parts of it can be preserved in the proposed grass verge to the new road. Demolition will shortly occur on the corner of Bath Street and St Owen's Square where Hardings foundry now stands. This will need, at the least, a watching brief.

To solve these various problems, a series of weekends have been arranged and all volunteers will be welcome. The dates are as follows:-

Saturday 21st October to Tuesday 24th October inclusive.

Saturday and Sunday 4th and 5th November.

Saturday and Sunday 25th and 26th November.

Further details will be given in the next News Letter, but please put the dates in your diary.

VISITS TO MONUMENTS

Reports have been very few, due to most people being on holiday, but it is important that a yearly visit is made to all monuments, and your early co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

U 87 Hereford City Rampart

I am assured by Mr Saunders, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for England, that the scheduling is in progress of those stretches of the rampart which are worthy of preservation.

We assume that these areas are those indicated by Air Cdre Moore in April this year.

U 65 St Weonard's Tump

Unfortunately, the road mentioned in our last News Letter was built rapidly, and all traces of the ditch which may have existed on the northwest side have been totally destroyed. A small portion of the mound has been cut away. Full details have been passed through Stan Stanford with a request that the Ministry would treat it as an urgent case.

ADDITION TO SCHEDULED LIST

Missing from the last News Letter were details of the latest Scheduled Monument. This was No. U 2 on our unscheduled list and is now:-

No. 188 Staunton-on-Arrow – Wapley Hill Camp SO 346623 (Area No. 3)

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of this News Letter will be sent out before the end of September (I am on holiday in October). Items are urgently needed. Please let me have them by 23rd September at the latest.

WINTER COURSES

Details are now published of the various Adult Classes in Herefordshire for the coming winter. A few are of some interest to our members, and full details can be obtained from all usual sources:-

Hereford City Research Group

Meetings will be held in the Woolhope Room on alternate Fridays at 7.15 pm, commencing 29th September 1967. The aim of the series of meetings is to provide a meeting place and some guidance for the various members of the Archives, Old Buildings and Archaeology groups from last year, and if possible to link up some lines of research and maintain the practical aspect from last year.

Beyond History – The Aims and Methods of Archaeology

Meetings will be at Waldrist, Venn's Lane (College of Education, Department of Geography) at 7.30 pm, commencing on 4th October 1967.

Lecturers will be S C Stanford and P A Barker.

Offa's Dyke Study Walks

The National Footpath Route will be further explored during the coming winter, led by Frank Noble. The area to be covered is that from Hay to Welshpool, including some of the most imposing stretches of the Dyke. The programme will start with an introductory lecture on the Central Border in the Woolhope Room on 17th September at 2.30 pm. The first day out will be October 8th, and some explanatory lectures will be given to discuss the historic features of the route.

Hereford History & Town Development (in association with the Townswomen's Guild)

Tuesdays 7.15 pm, Woolhope Room, starting 26th September. F Noble

Recording Old Houses

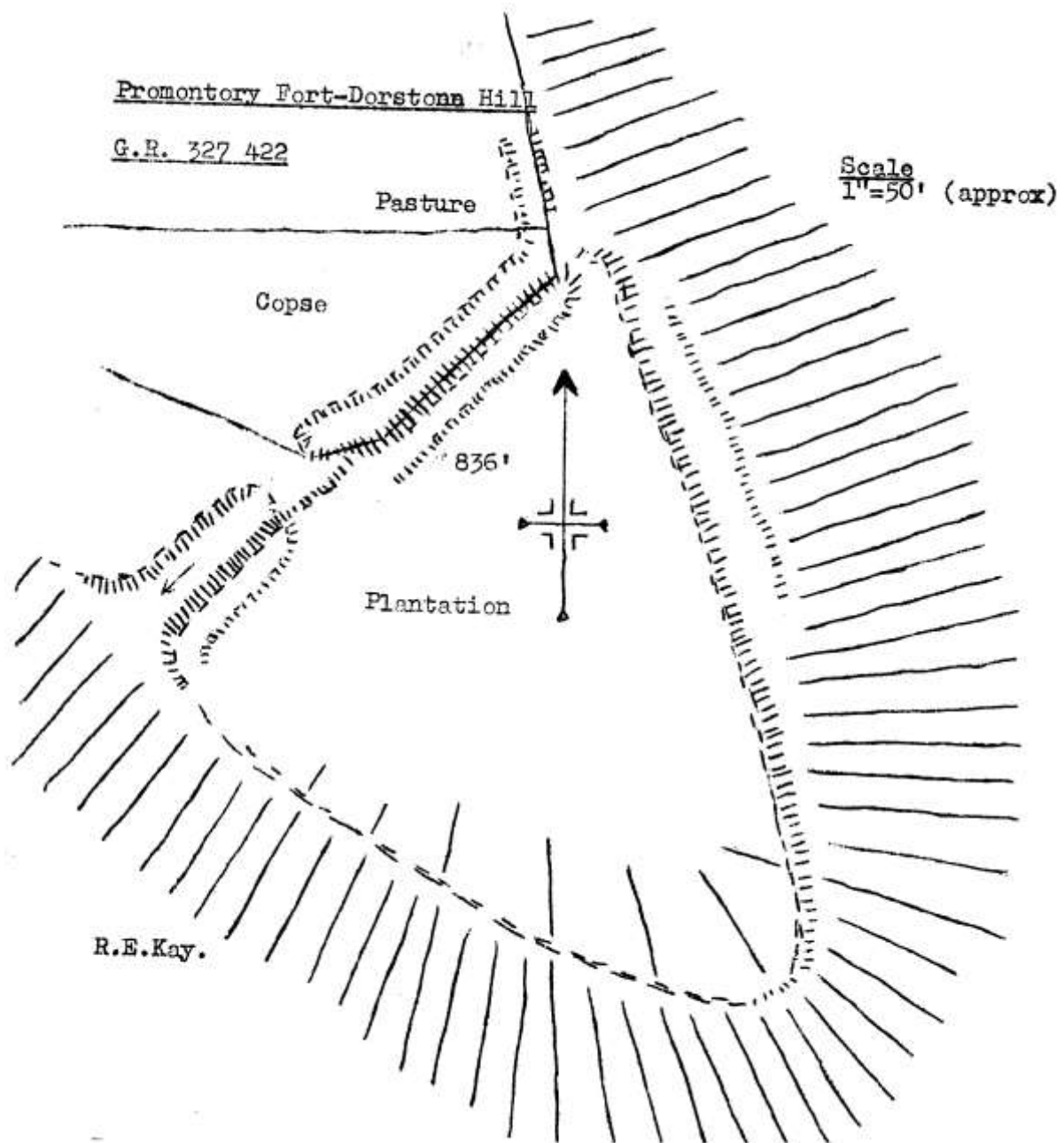
Saturday or Sunday. First meeting Sunday 8th October at St Nicholas Car Park, Hereford. J V Tonkin and many others.

WOOLHOPE CLUB FIELD MEETING

The last one of the season will be to the Llantwit Major area on Saturday 9th September, and will be a full day excursion.

PROMONTORY FORT – DORSTONE HILL

GR 327 422, Scale 1" = 50' (approx)



The summit of Dorstone Hill projects as a steep-sided spur into the head of the Golden Valley. The reasonably level plateau-like summit shews evidence of fairly intensive occupation in prehistoric times. A record exists of numerous finds of flint implements and pottery sherds, of dates down to Romano-British times, picked up on the surface.

In the field to the northwest of the site, tentative excavation made in 1965 brought to light a wealth of flint artifacts and pottery from Neolithic to Roman times. Further to the NW is the celebrated Arthur's Stone, and at the foot of the hill to the SE are the remains of a second long barrow.

The SE tip of the spur, forming the highest portion of Dorstone Hill, is divided from the remainder of the plateau by a rampart and fosse constructed in one almost straight

length, 180' long. The rampart has a width at its base of approximately 20' and rises to a maximum height of 7'6" above the present bottom of the fosse and 2' above the area within. The fosse averages 20' in width and has a present maximum depth of 4'6". There is no trace of any counterscarp bank. The area thus cut off by the defences is triangular in plan, 180' x 250', and is reasonably level, sloping gently down to its apex on the SE. On the south side of the enclosure the steep slope was deemed a sufficient defence but on the north there are traces of scarping with a faint berm below.

Beneath the lower apex of the encampment, the spine of the spur continues to fall steeply. The rampart on the south curves round to the east and quickly fades. Its fosse merges into a natural gully. On the north it comes to an abrupt termination 18' from the edge of the scarp, but whether this can be the original entrance is doubtful as at this point there is no interruption in the external fosse. Less than one third of the distance along the rampart from its southern end there is a scarcely distinguishable gap and the fosse is here interrupted by a causeway 18' wide. The whole area is planted with conifers and greatly obscured by undergrowth.

The earthwork is not shewn on any of the Ordnance Survey maps, and is not mentioned in Vol I, Herefordshire, of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments. It would therefore seem to be previously unrecorded.

R E Kay