

HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



HAN 28 April 1974

WOOLHOPE CLUB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SECTION

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**HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS SHEET
WOOLHOPE CLUB
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No. 28 April 1974

EDITORIAL

The first part of the 1974 Programme varied between wading in the Lugg while measuring details of the Lugg Navigation at Mordiford Bridge and threshing through thick undergrowth and nettles while investigating the Waterworks supplying Hampton Court. I hope Leaders will write up their notes for inclusion in the next News.

Membership stands at approximately fifty and new members are welcomed. I would appreciate any articles, views, comments or letters from members for the next edition, short or long, and thank those members who have sent in material.

C E Attfield, Editor

OFFICERS OF THE GROUP

Chairman: Miss R Hickling,
Secretary: Mr S B Webb,

Treasurer: Mr P Cooper,
Committee Mr L Skelton,
 Mr J G Calderbank,

News Editor: Mr C E Attfield,
Field Secretary: Miss M Thomas,

PROGRAMME 1974

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Sunday, 7 th April | Hampton Court | Remains of Lugg Navigation The Mill R Pye/J G Calderbank 11 am, Englands Gate, Bodenham NGR 543 513 |
| Sunday, 5 th May | Short Talk followed by Visit to Much Marcle Area | J Bond 11 am, The Museum, Churchill Gdns 2 pm, Royal Oak, Much Marcle NGR 655 333 |
| Sunday, 2 nd June | Lugg Navigation | Survey of Features J Calderbank 11 am, Mordiford Bridge NGR 569 375 2 pm, The Moon, Mordiford NGR 572 374 |

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Sunday, 7 th July | Hampton Court | The Waterworks 11 am, Englands Gate NGR 543 513 2 pm Englands Gate NGR 543 513 |
| Sunday, 1 st September | Brampton Hill and the Grey Valley | M Thomas 11 am, The Bull Ring Inn, Kingstone NGR 420 360 2 pm, The Bull Ring Inn, Kingstone NGR 420 360 |
| Sunday, 6 th October | Gorsley Common and surrounding area | R Hickling 11 am, The New Inn, Gorsley NGR 668 262 2 pm, The New Inn, Gorsley NGR 668 262 |
| Sunday, 3 rd November | Offa's Dyke | Lyonshall to Garnons F Noble 11 am, Unicorn, Weobley NGR 402 517 2 pm, Unicorn, Weobley NGR 402 517 |
| Wednesday, 4 th December | AGM | 7.30 pm, Kemble Room, Green Dragon Hotel |

- Note:
1. If any further information is required about this programme, or if in doubt in the case of bad weather, please ring Mary Thomas at Pontrilas 205 or Stuart Webb at Bodenham 302.
 2. Guests are welcome at all field meetings.
 3. Please bring a picnic lunch.

A NOTE ON THE ROMAN (?) ROAD AT PENNOXSTONE (Trans. Woolhope NFC, Vol. XL 1970, Part I)

The article on page 49 of the above Transactions records the discovery of what is thought to be a Roman road extending down from Kings Caple Street to the Red Rail Ford across the River Wye. A remarkable similarity is observed between the design of this road and that of the Roman road discovered under Abbeydore railway station by Mr Jack and reported in the Woolhope Transactions in 1901 and 1909.

In both samples the crown of the road is offset within one half of the road width, leaving the other half of the road flat. This feature is believed to be unique and was thought to denote either a widening of the road or that, whereas the crown was for heavier traffic - as testified by the cart ruts - the flat half was for pedestrian traffic.

In other respects there are as many differences as there are similarities. The differences may be accounted for by those in function, the Abbeydore road being a part of the strategic arterial, Fine Street and hence subject to heavy traffic while the Pennoxstone was a tactical spur which, because of its river crossing, probably carried little heavier than pack-horse freight.

It is also observed that the iron nails found by the river bank on the surface of the Pennoxstone road are almost identical with that found on the Abbeydore road - large mushroom heads c. 35 mm; stem cross-section rectangular 13 x 7 mm; length c.10 cms.

The similarity in crown features of such uniqueness strongly testifies that both roads were probably laid by the same legionary formation.

L P Moore Hereford, 28th January 1974

WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1974 – L P Moore

Two discoveries of break-through significance to the Welsh Marches were announced at the above conference, as follows:

Iron Age Hill Forts (OS, 1", Sheet 143, NGR 918 415)

An extensive farm system of Iron Age dating has been discovered in the loop of the river around Eckington, on the flat, at the foot of the three Iron Age hill forts on Bredon Hill, Gloucestershire. They comprise a large number of hutted dwellings and ditched farm enclosures, all of contemporary dating to the hill forts above and, so far as limited excavations have yet proved, showing some nine rebuildings in their continuity.

It was generally agreed that this community "belonged" to the hill forts, so that the finds bear upon questions raised at the Morgan Memorial lecture of 1973.

Obviously this discovery throws the method hitherto accepted for estimation of Iron Age population and would appear to favour my own, based upon estimation of the fighting male force required to man the forts in extreme crisis; in itself based upon the "Burghal Hidage".

There is evidently a good case for investigation (at least by air) of obvious farmland between the base of our hillforts and the streams or rivers that almost invariably circle parts of their perimeters.

Early Roman Frontiers

Dr Webster announced that a "massive Roman military complex" has been discovered around the foot of the Wrekin.

Its bearing upon the Roman invasion of the Welsh Marches is appreciated in pages 203 to 211 of the Woolhope Transactions for 1971 (Vol. XL, Part II). The sketch map at page 206 illustrates.

SOME NEW EARTHWORKS IN HEREFORDSHIRE AND RADNORSHIRE AND NOTES ON RECENT FINDS – W R Pye

Neolithic

Herefordshire, Welsh Newton Field No. 89. 1" OS sheet 142

Hereford NGR 4912 1861

A polished stone axe found by R Flynn, Pleck Cottage, Welsh Newton, recently has been examined by Professor Shotten of the Department of Geology, University of Birmingham and is described as a porphyroblastic hornblende schist and does not fit into any recognisable group. '... It could be Scottish or Cornish...'

Trade connections in the area would indicate Cornish origin. Of grey green colouration, has harder black flecks. Small, it has a maximum length of 86 mm, width of 58 mm, and thickness of 24 mm, with a weight of 0.185 kg.

Is poor quality material, and is much weathered. It has been assigned the Ref. No. He 56/C, and is in possession of R Flynn, Pleck Cottage, Welsh Newton.

Indeterminate - Prehistoric?

Cefnlllys Urban. 1" OS Llandrindod Wells and Montgomery 128.

NGR 06646310

A bank 12 yards wide and 3½ feet high, with an inner ditch 14 yards wide forms part of an earthwork cut by the Llandrindod Wells-Knighton railway line. This, on the eastern side of the line appears to be circular, the line forming a chord of a circle, this being the smaller section of the circle. This section of the circumference being 140 yards long, with the chord being 110 yards long (this would give a circle of 250 yards' diameter).

The inner ditch is damaged at its eastern end, perhaps during the railway's construction. In places a slight scooping has taken place outside the bank, but nowhere enough to form a ditch.

On the western side of the line the earthwork is not apparently continued, but slight depressions could indicate an overall oval shape.

Bronze Age

Herefordshire. Titley (Nr Kington)

OS 2½" sheet 32/35 NGR 3237 5868

A hitherto unpublished barrow, some 7 yards diameter is encircled by a ditch 2 yards wide. The barrow is 2 feet high, with a slight 'dishing' on its top. The ditch is slightly damaged on its southern side by an eighteenth century irrigation channel, otherwise in very good condition.

Roman

Herefordshire, Lugwardine

OS 1" sheet 142 Hfd NGR 5615 4002

A quantity of Roman coarse ware pottery has been found at the above, including flue tile fragments, possible tegulae fragments, mortarium rims, and a fragment of Buhr Stone used in mills/quern stones, from the Paris basin. The type of pottery, and the absence of Samian ware would appear to make it a civil settlement of the Second Century.

Medieval

Radnorshire, Old Radnor and Burlinjobb

OS 2½" sheet 32/35 NGR 2557 5820

A previously unrecorded small rectangular moated site some 12 yards by 10 yards and 3 feet high, surrounded by a ditch 3 yards wide. An interesting position on the flood plain of the Gilwern Brook.

Saxon

Herefordshire. Lugg Mills Bridge

OS 1" sheet 142 Hereford NGR 5461 4065

During bridge widening at Lugg Mills, a complete spear was found immediately downstream of the bridge, 5 feet below present river level. Approximately 13 inches long, the split socket has nine bindings, some which appear to have been gilded.

A full report is awaited.

THE SAXON MANOR OF STAUNTON-ON-ARROW

and Notes on a Field Meeting - Peter Cooper

Boundaries of the Saxon Manor of Staunton-on-Arrow in a Charter of King Edgar 958 AD.
Grant of Manor of Staunton 6 hides to Ealkstan for 40 Mancuses of gold.

Charter states:

From Mill Ford along the Arrow to Washford, from Washford along the Arrow round the top of Holneig (Holaneige), from the top of Holneig to the top of oak edge, then to the front of Snaed Way, from Snaed Way round Heanege (Hanly)? to Aecna Bridge, up along the brook then to the Dyke to Tanesbaec, from Tanesbaec along boundary fence, then to the boundary of the Community of Lene, along the boundary of the Community of Lene, then to Aethelwolds hedge, from Aethelwolds hedge to Haenoldan to the boundary thorn along the

fence to the swing gate, from the swing gate along the paved road to Dyke gate, from the Dyke gate to the third gate, then along the paved road back to Mill Ford.

Suggested Anticlockwise route from Rennell - Woolhope Trans. Vol. 36, p. 279-91.

1. From Mill Ford - Staunton-on-Arrow Mill (no mention of mill in Domesday) (Laid Waste)?
 2. Along the Arrow (Does along mean down stream?).
 3. To Washford - Court of Noke bridge or just above Lene Farm.
 4. Round the top of Holaneige (i.e. hollow or sunken low lying ig = island). The cot a farm lying on the edge of fairly extensive pool.
 5. To the top of the oak edge - Along banks to south and west of Napshaw Coppice.
 6. Along top of oak edge - To 600 feet Knoll which today is crowned with oak.
 7. To the frail of Snaed Way - To Byton Hand cross road (Snaed = detached piece of land).
 - 8-9. From the Snaed Way around Haenlege - north and east of Hanley Banks (Hanley = Haenlege = High bank).
 - 10-11. To Aecna bridge up along the brook - Hindwell North of Wapley or Back brook of Hindwell (Aecna = oak, there is no place for a bridge on slopes of Wapley).
 12. Then to the Dyke - Top of Ashley Vallet between point 684 feet and edge of Rodd Hurst.
 13. Along the Dyke to Tanesbaec - Following water course called Tanesbaec.
 - 14-15. Along the boundary fence to the Community of Lene - From Rodd Hurst land to Green Lane farm (Titley Priory = Community of Lene)?
 16. Then to Aethelwolds hedge.
 17. From Aethelwolds hedge to Haenoldan.
 18. From Haenoldan to boundary thorn.
 19. Along fence to swing gate - Straight run of fence to B4355 mile stone Knighton 4 miles.
 20. Thence along paved road.
 21. To the Dyke gate - Track to Mowley and earthworks of old priory.
 22. From the Dyke gate to the third gate - Where track from Mowley and Titley join.
 23. Along paved road to Mill Ford.
- (a) Should boundary follow Parish boundary?
(b) Should route be clockwise?
(c) 1 mile sq = 640 acres.
1 hide could be as small as 140 acres.
6 hides could be as small as 840 acres of good plow land.

Field meeting to investigate certain features of King Edgar's Charter of 958 AD

The meeting was attended by a large number of members, starting at the Court of Noke bridge, the Row Dyke was investigated first towards Lene Farm and then towards the Cot, it was found that the Dyke ran up towards the Cot with its hollow area containing ponds.

In the afternoon the area near Stansbach was visited as the Tithe map for Staunton-on-Arrow 1839 had a field No. 59 named Hollow Brookes (Holaneige)? also a field called Henley Bank on the south flank of Wapley. It was also noted that the Tithe map field No. 412 was called Upper Wash Croft (Washford)?

The area of Hollow Brookes was investigated but the area has been much altered by the old railway line, but as far as could be seen was a hollow area on the spring line.

The charter next states:

"To the top of oak ridge"

Could this be along the old boundary bank on the south flank of Wapley? The road was followed till a deep hollow way was reached leading down to Henley Bank (Haenlege)?

The next part of the charter would require a brook for the oak bridge but it soon became obvious that no water course was to be found in the area of Stocklow Manor and Stocklow Cross.

At this point the meeting broke up as time was getting short and another day would be required.

The paper written by Frank Noble suggests an alternative course for the boundary following a clockwise route and roughly following the Parish boundary. The contents could well be worth another field day to try and confirm his findings.