



STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Hon. President: Dr John Hunt B.A., Ph.D., F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S., P.G.C.E. tel: 01543 423549

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Members examining excavations at Fradley

SAHS members visited the HS2 excavations which took place at Fradley in July 2019. About a dozen trenches were opened in this very large wheatfield, their location based on a geophysical survey. Very little of significance was found but the Society is grateful to the HS2 management for allowing us access to their site.

Investigations at Streethay near Lichfield

HS2, as part of their exploration of the land which will be used for the new high speed railway through Staffordshire, as well as the excavations at Fradley, has undertaken two investigations near Lichfield on land close to Streethay Manor.

The first of these was an exploratory investigation carried out by Archaeology Milton Keynes who opened 40 trenches in the area. They uncovered the remains of a small Romano-British site, with boundary ditches and pottery. This was a long lived rural farm rather than a high status site.

The second is a desk based assessment of the possibility that military action took place here during the Civil War, undertaken by Jesse Johnson and Ian Atherton. This was prompted by rather vague suggestion that there were small finds of a military nature in the area but there is no documentary mention of any such battle or even skirmish here and the authors concluded that it was unlikely that anything of a significant nature had taken place.

New Book :

Brenda M. King, *The Wardle Family and its Circle: textile production in the Arts and Crafts Era*. The Boydell Press 2019. The principal activity for which Thomas Wardle of Leek made his name was dyeing silk filaments and block-printing on cloth, and the book also covers the work of the Leek Embroidery Society in producing Church of England furnishings.

Local History in Staffordshire – the Earl Lecture at Keele

The Earl Lecture will be given this year on 18 November by Dr Philip Morgan. His title is announced as 'Digging where you stand: Keele and Local History' Free entry! More details later at meetings.

The Charles Close Society for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps

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The Society holds informal meetings for its Midland Group at the Village Hall in Wall, the Roman town of *Letocetum*, near Lichfield (WS14 0AW).

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 11 September at 7.30pm, featuring John Davies, who will be giving an illustrated talk entitled “**Secret Soviet Mapping of the Midlands**”. How the Soviet Union secretly mapped the West.

The following meeting on 8 January 2020 at 7.30pm will be a **Thematic** evening.

Parishioners and visitors interested in Ordnance Survey maps are also welcome. Please arrive promptly.

Admission is free to guests and refreshments will be available.

Annual Membership Subscriptions - Due on 1st September 2019

Annual Membership Subscriptions to SA&HS became due on 1st September. The rates remain unchanged, categories as follows:

Individual Membership	£20.00
Joint Membership	£30.00
Student/Unwaged	£15.00

Those of you who renew by bank standing order, your subscription is of course taken care of. Otherwise Members may wish to renew by sending a cheque for the relative amount please to: **The SA&HS Hon. Treasurer, Keith Billington, 4 Gainsbrook Crescent, Norton Canes, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 9TN.** NB it should be noted that Susan Lupton who previously undertook the role of Membership Secretary is no longer in post, having decided in the summer to move on to pursue her other commitments and interests. We thank her for her valuable time with us and wish her well for the future. For the time being at least, any enquiries regarding Membership matters should be addressed to the Hon. Treasurer, as above. Email: kjboutthere@yahoo.co.uk Telephone: 01543 278989.

You may wish to send your cheque in the post. This will avoid the queue at the desk if otherwise intending to pay on the evening at the start of the new lecture season on 27th September. You will receive your Lecture Programme Card for 2019-2020 back in the post by way of acknowledgement.

There are other payment options. Many Members renew via the PayPal facility available at our website <https://www.sahs.uk.net> Using your bank card to pay, this payment method is secure, quick and easy. You will receive confirmations by email, both from PayPal and also from ourselves, i.e. from the Hon. Treasurer.

You can also arrange a bank transfer - some Members do this. Or, set up a bank standing order. In either of these cases, please contact the Hon. Treasurer who will provide the bank account details for Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society.

Some Memberships are paid up for 2019-2020 already. Thank you to those.

If you need to query your subscription status, whether currently paid up or not, please get in touch. If you need to change your subscription category, please tell us.

Many thanks. Your continuing support of the Society is very much appreciated.

Keith Billington

**FOR USE BY NEW MEMBERS WISHING TO JOIN
STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2019/2020

SOCIETY YEAR COMMENCING 1st SEPTEMBER 2019

Annual Subscription Rates: Individual £20 Joint £30 Student/Unemployed £15

Title(s)..... Full Name(s)

Postal Address.....

..... Postcode

Email Address.....

Telephone Number.....

I/We enclose £..... re applicable annual subscription for the year 2019/20 for Individual / Joint / Student / Unemployed Membership. Please make your cheque payable to SA&HS.

Signed

Date

Please send the completed form with your payment to Mr Keith Billington, SA&HS Honorary Treasurer, 4 Gainsbrook Crescent, Norton Canes, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 9TN.

NB Alternatively you can join SA&HS by using the online facility available at the Society's website:

<https://www.sahs.uk.net> You will be asked to select the PayPal option to make your payment

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**STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
LECTURE SEASON 2019-2020**

27th September 2019 John Shand

Faith and Fisticuffs: The precarious Beginnings of The Reformation In Sixteenth Century Staffordshire.

This talk is about how Protestantism was slow to take root in the County, culminating in the persecution of Catholics in the reign of Elizabeth.

John hoped to read History as an undergraduate, but was persuaded at the last minute to read Law. Thereafter he practiced at the Birmingham Bar, spent three years at his College as a Law Fellow, sat as a diocesan Chancellor in Lichfield and Southwell and eventually landed up as Resident Circuit Judge at Stafford. On retirement thirteen years ago John studied for an MA at the Centre for

Reformation and Early Modern Studies at Birmingham University under the supervision of Richard Cust.

11th October 2019 Vicki Score

Ancient Akrotiri Project, Cyprus

Since 2015, teams of School and ULAS staff and students have conducted several seasons of excavation and survey on Roman/early Byzantine remains at Dreamer's Bay, Akrotiri, Cyprus. Comprising warehouse complexes, harbour works, and shoreline stone quarries, these attest an ancient port site inside the modern Royal Air Force base on the Akrotiri peninsula, at the southernmost point of Cyprus.

Vicki is Deputy Director of ULAS, with considerable expertise in directing and managing major archaeological projects. She is experienced in all aspects of site fieldwork and archaeological research, managing multi-disciplinary research teams, compiling Heritage Asset Assessments and Environmental Statements as well as Visual Impact Assessments for wind turbines and solar farms. Vicki has worked in East Midlands archaeology since 1991 and joined ULAS in 1999.

25th October 2019 John Wilcock

The Cannock Chase Camp Railway

John Wilcock is Emeritus Honorary Fellow at Staffordshire University, previously Reader in Computing. During the 1960's and 1970's he was an early pioneer in applying computers to Archaeology. John has a very wide range of interests and the talk topic this evening is The Cannock Chase Camp Railway (the "Tackeroo" Railway) which was constructed during the First World War to supply the military camps which were on the Chase for four years. This was for supplies only, since the soldiers had to walk to the camps from Rugeley. The talk will describe the reasons for the choice of routes from Milford and Hednesford, and the logistics for water supply, electricity, roads, sewage works, and construction of the huts. There were also parade grounds, rifle ranges, practice trenches, a post office, a bank, and YMCA huts for relaxation, as well as the ordnance depots and canteens. In the later phases of WW2 part of the Brocton Camp was used as a prisoner of war camp. JRR Tolkien was at the camps for two periods. In 1918 a model of the 1917 Messines Ridge battle was constructed near Brocton Coppice as a demonstration and training aid.

8th November 2019 Robert Early

The HS2 Railway Project

Rob is currently the lead for the Historic Environment section North. He has over 30 years of experience in archaeology and heritage and has a number of publications of his work that range through the prehistoric periods through to Second World War. He leads the heritage team at the design engineering company WSP but formally worked for Oxford Archaeology.

The talk this evening should cover Staffordshire particularly the Streethay and Handsacre sections but the project being a moveable feast other parts of the Midlands route may be included.

22nd November 2019 Roger White

Investigating the Anglo-Saxon Halls at Atcham, Shropshire

Most people familiar with Roger's work will associate him with the late (and arguably post-Roman) site at Wroxeter. However, his PhD was in Anglo-Saxon archaeology and, with a foot in both Roman and Anglo-Saxon camps, this lecture explores the potentially complex relationship between the site at Wroxeter and the cropmark site of presumed Anglo-Saxon date at Froghall, Atcham. First seen, and scheduled, in 1975 the site had not been investigated before 2017 when a small-

scale excavation was carried out under the aegis of the University of Birmingham and the National Trust, owners of the site. The results will be presented here, giving some substance to the interpretation in the light of the radiocarbon dating.

Roger has worked at the University of Birmingham for 25 years, first with Birmingham Archaeology on the Wroxeter Hinterland Project, and then within the Ironbridge Institute before moving back to the Department of Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology. He recently contributed to and co-edited the Roman Research Frameworks for the West Midlands, Clash of Cultures.

6th December 2019 Annual General Meeting

AGM 7.30pm start - Lecture 8.00pm start. Charlotte Ball

Beasts from The (Battle) Field: Animal symbolism in the Staffordshire Hoard

Charlotte has a PhD in early Medieval art and iconography from the University of Leicester. She specialises in Anglo-Saxon animal imagery; in particular the motif of the serpent in both art and literature. Charlotte is from Staffordshire, and the discovery of the Staffordshire Hoard has greatly inspired her research. She runs her own private education company as well as working as a research assistant, writer and communications professional

Charlotte will take a close-up look at some of her favourite objects from the Staffordshire Hoard and will explore how animal imagery is important to the objects - both in terms of artistic technique and symbolism. Some of these depictions are obvious and others are not, and we will learn about the importance of hidden/double meanings in Anglo-Saxon symbolic culture.

Lectures are held in the Guildhall in the centre of Lichfield and start at 8.00 except where noted. Refreshments are available half an hour before the start of the meeting.

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STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD

Those of you with an interest in the technical aspects of the Staffordshire Hoard will enjoy reading Dr Eleanor Blakelock's article on 'Secrets of the Anglo-Saxon Goldsmith – the results from the analysis of the gold in the Staffordshire Hoard'

www.iom3.org/sites/default/files/news-documents/Staffordshire%20Hoard.pdf

Here she reports the results of chemical analysis of the gold, silver and copper content of items in the hoard and what can be deduced from this, as well as looking at other aspects such as the solder used and the deliberate surface treatment used by the goldsmiths to get different effects.

BAGOT'S BROMLEY – ANCIENT EARTHWORKS?

Roger Knowles, Sam Whitehouse and Robert Rae

ABSTRACT

The present paper sets out the history and topography of Bagot's Bromley in both a local and regional context, and includes a physical description of the site from maps and walking inspections. It describes the results of preliminary archaeological excavations, and some surface finds; a plan is provided showing the latter, together with the circular and rectangular features (grass markings) discovered by a drone survey. Some tentative speculations are given as to the earliest uses, particularly respecting the remarkable (probably man-made) escarpment. Conclusions are given, together with details of possible further investigations.

SOURCES

Sources are given in the text, rather than in a bibliography. The summary history for Bagot's Bromley is taken from Tim Cockin's Staffordshire Encyclopaedia.

INTRODUCTION

The potential of the site was brought to the attention of Roger Knowles, a committee member, by the owner Robert Rae, in mid 2018. Of particular interest is the large roughly square field bounded by the steep escarpment on the west and Bagot's Bromley itself on the east, as seen on the map below.

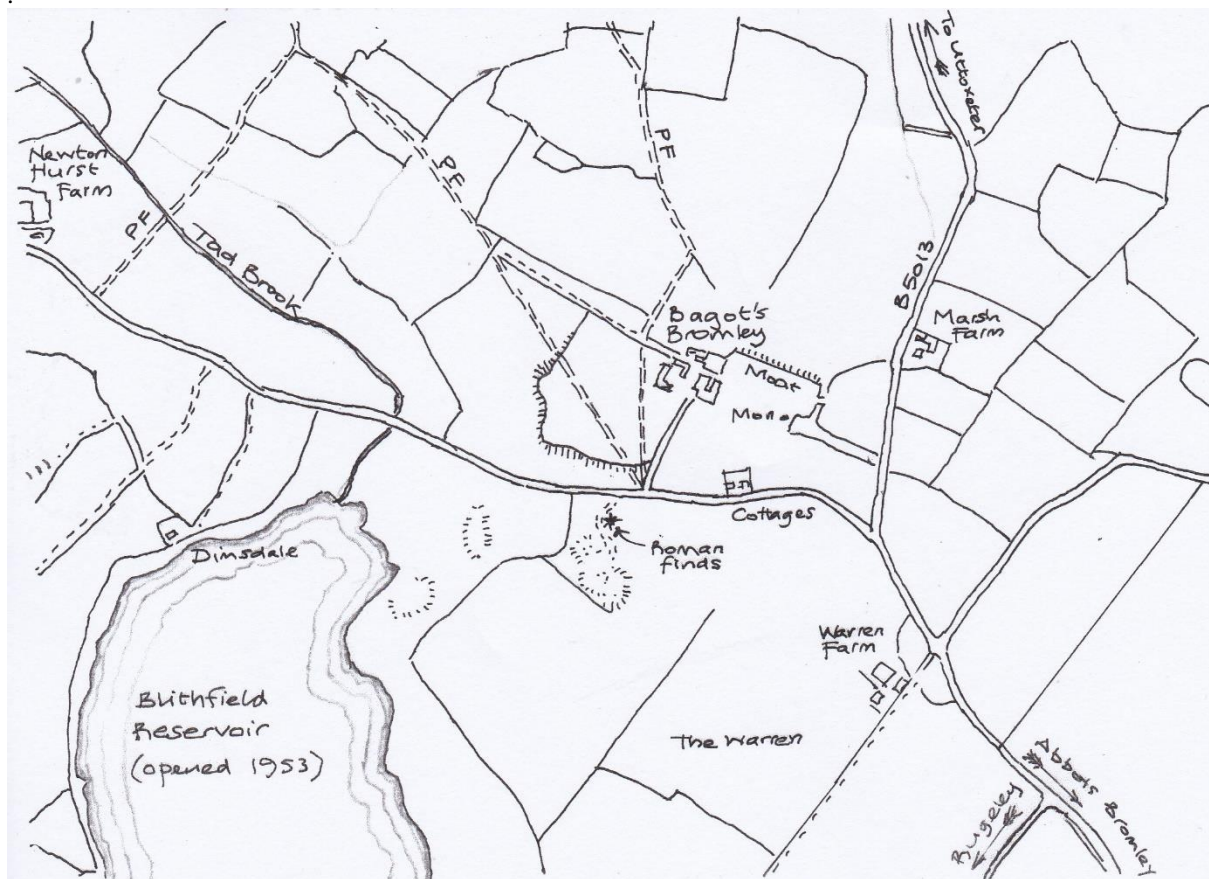


Figure 1

This escarpment overlooks the valley of the River Blithe and the Tad (OE Toad) Brook; this valley, to the south, of course now forming Blithfield Reservoir. On the east is the path to the site of the medieval moated manor house of the Bagot's. The field was originally crossed (NW to SE) by an ancient route leading from the farm estates in the vicinity, into the main street of Abbots Bromley and church.

There is a hear-say, uncorroborated report that prior to 2011 some Roman brooches were found by a metal detectorist – see Figure 1.

A drone had been flown over the site (which was under grass) in mid 2018 and the resulting aerial photographs showed numerous circles and rectangles which were visible as markings in the grass, as a result of the long hot

summer. These markings comprised fresher, brighter grass, resulting from probably being over former ditches. The site measures approximately 230m (NW-SE) by 210m (NE-SW) and has an area of about 4.8 Ha (10 acres). The field was in pasture until 2010, but it is not known if it was in pasture for 20 years or 200 years – it *might* have been cultivated.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SETTING AND HISTORY OF BAGOT'S BROMLEY.

The large field in question is shown below on the OS map for 1882; it was, and still is, bounded by a steep escarpment heavily wooded with mature oaks, shown highlighted in green. The field is immediately to the west of the site of the former moated manor house of the Bagot family - shown outlined in red- this site was excavated in 1980, when pottery dating from the 12C to 14C was found. The Bagot of the day married into the Blithfield family and moved to Blithfield, abandoning the manor house at Bagots Bromley everafterwards.

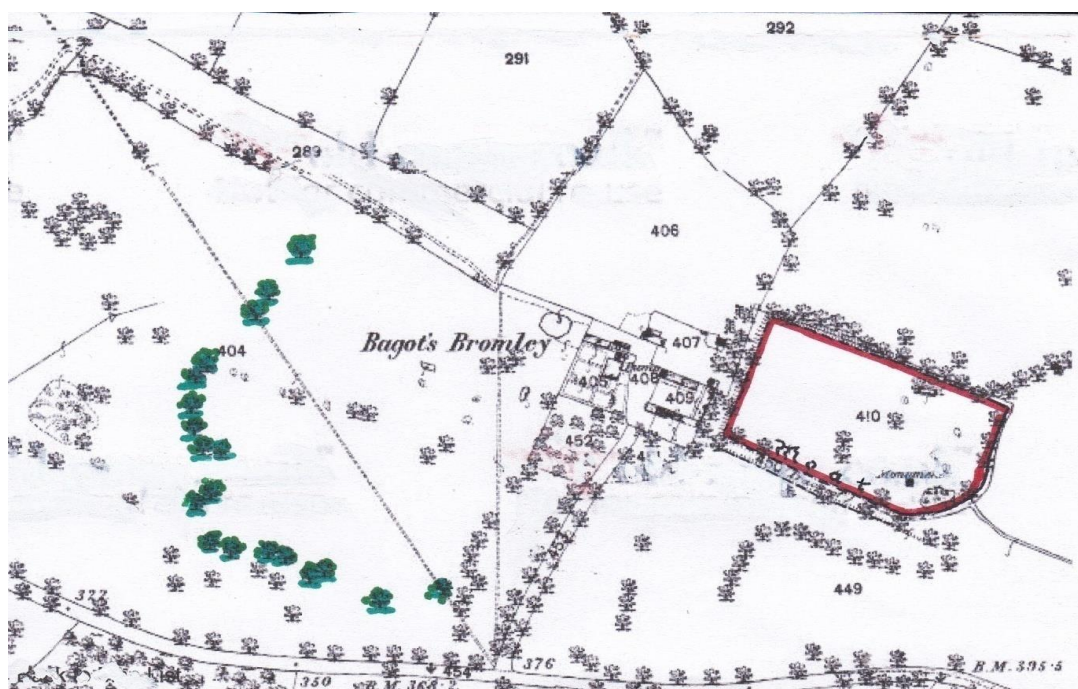


Figure 2

Whilst 'Bagot' is from the family name, 'Bromley' is an Old English place name (first recorded in AD862) meaning place or meadow where the broom grows.

Tim Cockin, in his 'Staffordshire Encyclopaedia' (published by Malthouse Press, 2006) gives the following; "[A] hamlet above the valley of Tad Brook (SSAHST 1981-82 P69) nearly 8m ENE of Stafford. Formerly [a] township in Abbots Bromley ancient parish (W p409). There appears to have been a manor of Bagot's Bromley by 1166, when it was held by William Bagot (SHC 1908) (DB. J Morris1976) (SSAHST 1988-89 p53). The Bagots derived their name from Bagod, said to be of Norman extraction and mean the same in Norman that 'scripio' did in old latin (viz: a 'walking staff'). They resided at Bagot's Hall (see) to c1360 and then at Blithfield Hall (see). The lordship of Bagot's Bromley remained with the Bagots for about a thousand years until sold in London on July 2 1997 (BBC Radio Stoke. Barbara Adams Show. May 27 1997). Some have sought to show that there was a manor of Bagot's Bromley in 1086; Erdeswick tried to identify Bagot's Bromley with DB Branselle (Bramshall) (SHC 1914 p170). Gen Wrottesley tried to identify it with Bradellie, an unidentified DB vill in Pirehill Hundred; Bramelie being incorrectly spelt Bradellie (SHC 1908 pp11-13. 1914 p170 note). A possible medieval village of Bagot's Bromley was probably deserted in the C18 (SSAHST 1970 p34). A hamlet of 11 houses at Bagot's Bromley (Bromley Bagot's, Plots map) was pulled down by Lord Bagot in c1809 (W p408). At Bagot's Mill was a great wych elm (AB p200)" [A list of source abbreviations is given at the end of this article].

Further research by the present authors suggests that the 'hamlet' referred to indicates a possible medieval village and indeed there is a taxation record for Bromleye Bagot called the 'EXCHEQUER SUBSIDY ROLL' DATED 1327. [See Collections for a History of Staffordshire Vol VII 1886, p193]. The 'Subsidy' was a tax granted by the

First Parliament of King Edward III to meet the expenses of the Scotch War. This was a tax of a twentieth part of all movable goods for the defence of the Kingdom against the Scots.

Formal procedures were set down, and the Collectors and Taxers for Staffordshire were John de Acton and Richard de Hampton. They were directed to summon before them the most loyal and best men of each vill, from which they were to elect four or six, or more if they thought it desirable, by whom the assessment could be best accomplished. They were sworn to fully and loyally make enquiry into the goods possessed by every man on the vill on Michaelmas Day, in or out of the house and to tax them according to their true value. Excepted were armour, jewels and robes of knights and gentlemen and their wives, and plate of silver or pewter and those whose moveable property did not amount to 10 shillings.

There were 14 households comprising perhaps some 50 to 100 persons, thus the place would have been in agricultural use and fairly prosperous to support such a number at this date.

See Appendix B for the full list for 'Bromleye Bagot'. Also included in this Appendix is the Subsidy Roll for Neuton et Blythefield – this is actually the village of Newton, a village a few miles west of Bagot's Bromley and now on the opposite side of the reservoir; it had 18 households in 1327. There was a member of the Bagot family living at both places.

Tim Cockin [p 246] indicates that there may have been a medieval settlement at Heatley (c1330) to the north of Bagot's Bromley. Abbotts Bromley the local market town, was in existence by 942.

Taken together this is suggestive of hamlets, of varying sizes, in clearings in the forest; Sherry Belcher ['Cannock Chase Past'] suggests that "By the 12th century English forests, although still large, were merely relics of the primeval woods that once covered the land". These hamlets would have been connected by trackways and thus it is likely that the paths across the Bagot's Bromley site were in existence by the medieval period.

The Bromley Census for 1811 (Pirehill South) shows that Bagot's Bromley was not a township, as noted by Cockin, but was in fact a 'Liberty', an area outside a borough; Freeman had certain rights of pasture - the Sheriff's authority did not extend there. The Census itself indicates that there were 28 inhabited houses with 28 families; one house was uninhabited; 15 families were employed in agriculture with 1 in trade, manufacture or handicraft, whilst 12 families were in neither of these classes; there was a total of 97 males and 86 females.

THE SITE – A PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

As mentioned above, the site comprises a considerable area of nearly 5 Ha (10 acres); it was walked by the authors in autumn 2018. The escarpment is of particular interest – it has a height of some 20 feet at its western extremity, gradually reducing to a few feet high in the north and the south; falling sharply to the west it gives every indication of being an artificial enhancement of the general slope of the land. There are slight signs of depressions at the foot of this escarpment suggesting that a ditch may have been dug and the spoil piled against the existing natural slope to steepen it – the natural slope continues steeply right down to the flood plain of the Blithe/Tad watercourses (see also Figure 1). The semi circular plan form of this escarpment and its position at the head of a long steep slope is suggestive of an ancient earthworks, which would have presented a formidable bulwark to any incursions from the west.

To the north is a linear banked hedge bounded by a wide shallow ditch or former trackway; to the east is the modern access drive to the farm buildings, which, for part of its length is significantly lower than the field, taking the form of a linear holloway.

The authors have speculated that the western escarpment, together with the northern and eastern linear features, may have originally formed a protected enclosure, and this issue is further discussed towards the end of this article.

GRASS MARKINGS, SURFACE FINDS, ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

The crop-markings detected by the drone survey were plotted on a 'to-scale' aerial photograph and are more fully described in this section. Details of surface finds are given, together with the location of the trial hole excavations and the results there-from. (Figure 3)

- (A) This is a well defined arc, comprising a semi-circle, with a diameter of about 100m
- (B) A circle with a diameter of circa 22m
- (C) A rectangle, measuring approximately 36m by 20m
- (D) A plethora of lines which may be related to former boundaries
- (E) Shards of pottery found on the surface here –probably 17 to 18C
- (F) Fragments of slipware found on the surface, possibly 18C
- (G) Two trial holes (each 1m square to a depth of about 0.5m) were taken here on clearly defined linear markings in late August 2018. Items revealed included a modern land drain used to drain a small nearby pool - this is shown on early maps; small fragments of chalk and brick (possibly Elizabethan); fragments of flint;

pottery shards circa 17th – 19th C; an 1807 halfpenny and two honing stones. Some suggestions are made towards the end of this work as to the possible origins of the various markings.



Figure 3

ROMAN AND TRIBAL BRITAIN- BAGOTS BROMLEY IN A REGIONAL CONTEXT

The map included below (Figure 4) is taken from Sheppard Frere's book 'Britannia - A history of Roman Britain' published by Guild Publishing, 1987, and clearly shows Rocester and Wall, and thus Bagot's Bromley is about halfway between these two places, on the boundary of the Cornovii and the Coritani (Corieltavi) tribes. To the north is the massive territory occupied by the Brigantes; to the south the Dobunni *The Cornovii*

The Cornovii were 'the people of the horn; the spelling of the Celtic horned god is usually Cernunnos. Cernu probably means horn, depending on who you read – in Breton, Kern. Cornu almost certainly means horn in both Latin and Brythonic. It gives us 'cornet'. Corn/kern seems to be one of those shared Indo-European words going back thousands of years. The Cornovii left virtually no pottery, leading to speculation that they were migratory, perhaps cattle /sheep drovers who moved their flocks and herds around, grazing different places at different times of the year.

It is believed that they built fortified places like Castle Ring and other similar sites in Staffordshire – these were not necessarily lived in but were places of refuge. It is interesting to note that there is a direct line of sight from Bagot's Bromley to Castle Ring.

The quickest practical route between the two places however would be through the fords of the River Trent, at the Ridwares. Ridware is from the Celtic rhyd meaning ford, and the Anglo/Saxon waru meaning a tribal or familial grouping – thus the people who live by the ford. Alternatively, 'ware' may be from the old English wer, meaning weir.

Both Hamstall and Mavesyn have roots going back to the Neolithic period – see Cockin. Cannock Wood near to Castle Ring has Mesolithic and Neolithic flint working sites, and burial chambers exist at Tixall, and there are possibly other sites from this early period in the area

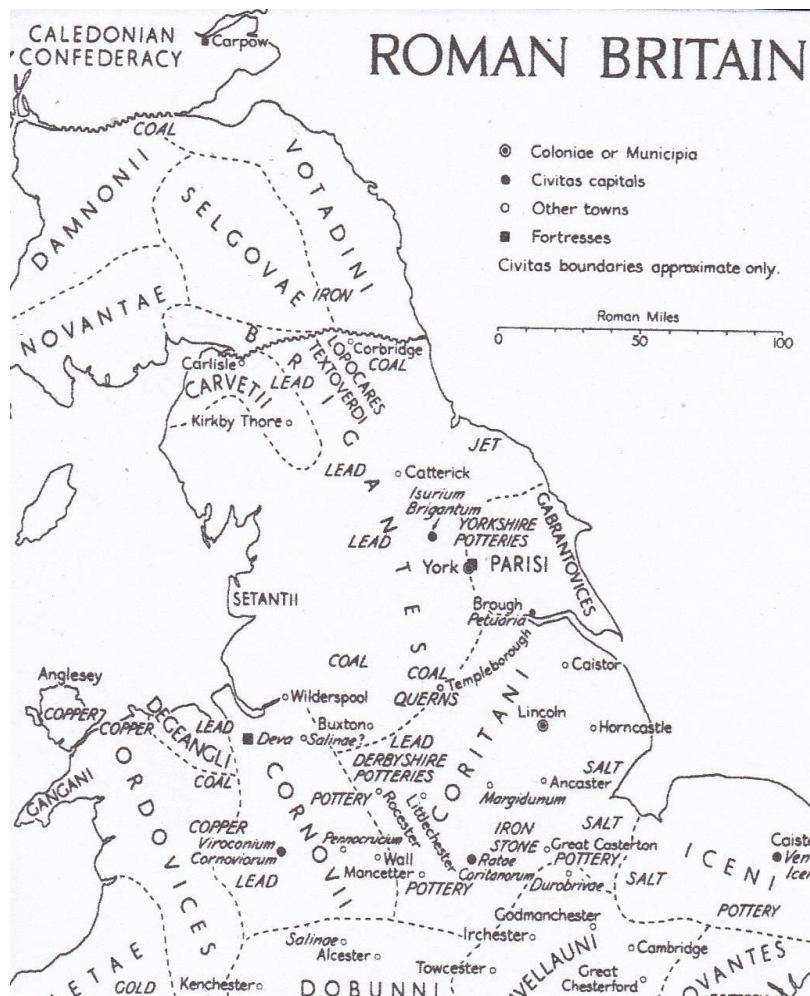


Figure 4

The Coritani (Corieltavi)

A largely agricultural people who had few strongly defended sites or signs of centralised government. They appear to have been a federation of smaller, self-governing tribal groups. From the beginning of the 1st century, they began to produce inscribed coins: almost all featured two names, and one series had three, suggesting they had multiple rulers. They seem to have offered little or no resistance to Roman rule.

The Brigantes

The name is derived from the Celtic goddess Brigantia - the largest of the tribes in terms of territory, it took decades of warfare by the Romans to defeat them. They had few hill forts and their settlements were mostly in the form of small hill crofts.

It was considered that it would also be useful to include a map showing the tribal boundaries superimposed on the midland counties as existing prior to the Local Government re-organisation of 1974. This was produced by one of the authors, plotting the tribal boundaries and working primarily from the location of Roman forts (see Ordnance survey – Historical map and Guide of Ancient Britain). The base of the map is circa 1955.

The map shows places mentioned in the text with Roman forts shown as red filled squares and others as red filled circles. (Figure 5)

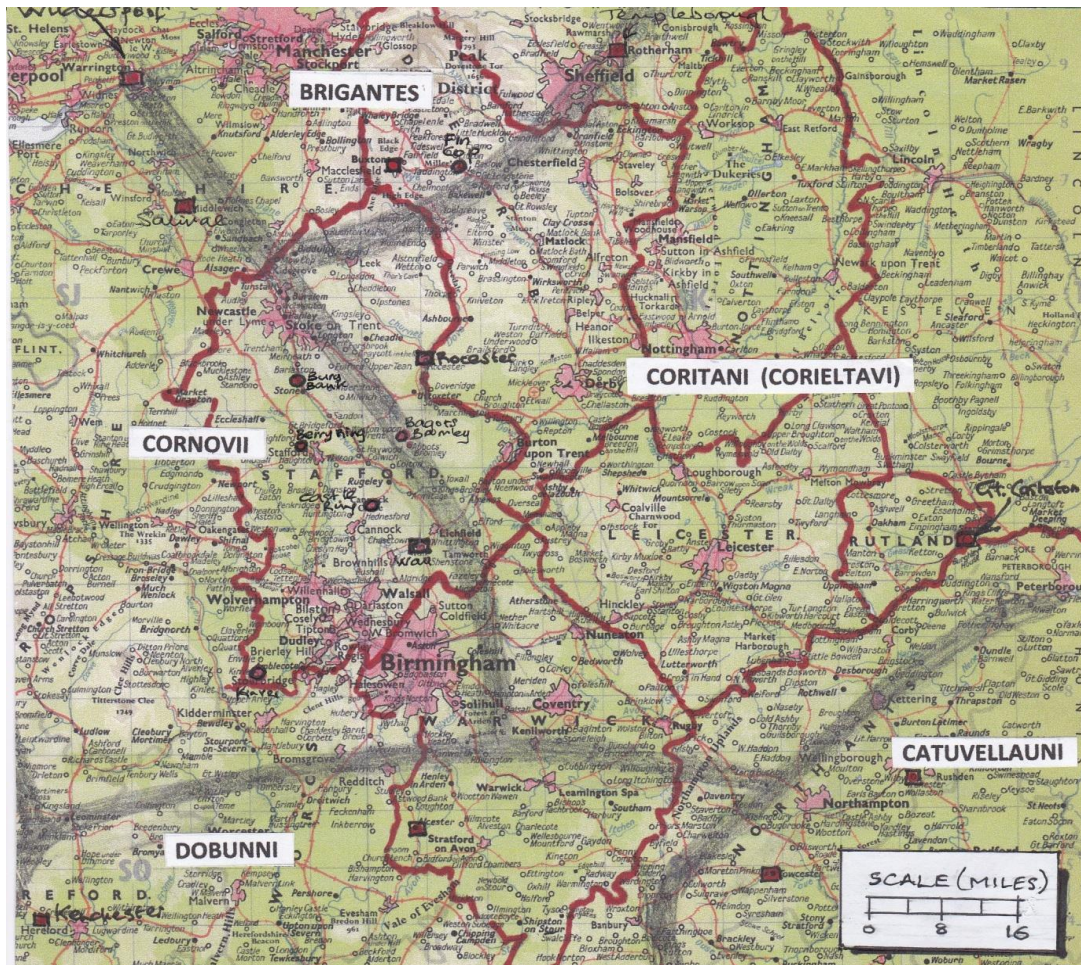


Figure 5

The thick grey line shows the approximate tribal boundaries based upon Sheppard Frere's book and this larger scale map confirms that the site of Bagot's Bromley is indeed on or near to the boundary between the Cornovii and the Coritani.

SOME PRELIMINARY SPECULATIONS

Possible use/purpose of grass marked features (see Figure 3)

Site A - We may assume that this was a full circle originally, with a diameter of about 100m, or 328ft. Perhaps an animal enclosure surrounded by a ditch and hedge or it could have been a single causewayed enclosure, particularly as there are two such nearby at Fradley and Mavesyn Ridware.

Site B – A circle, about 20m diameter or 66ft. Possibly formerly a wooden building;

“Roundhouses were the standard form of houses built in Britain from the Bronze Age, throughout the Iron Age, and in some areas well into the Sub-Roman period. They used walls either of stone or of wooden posts joined by wattle and daub panels and a conical thatched roof and ranged in size from less than 5m in diameter to over 15m” [Wikipedia]

Site C – A rectangle, 36m by 20m (118ft by 66ft). Possibly the site of a former building.

Site G

The linear grass markings were rather incomplete, creating difficulties in arriving at any suggestions as to origin; however, the excavated material in the two trial pits taken here suggest some possibilities - brick fragments from the Elizabethan period (1558-1603); pottery shards from the 17th/19th centuries, together with coins dated 1807. Fragments of chalk and flint chert were found - it is therefore suggested that the chalk/flint fragments might be the residue of glacial action – such residue is fairly widespread in the area and is known to occur in the flood plain of the River Trent

Bagot's Bromley as an Iron Age fort?

Hypothesis – the site was enclosed by the Cornovii during the Iron Age (circa 800 BC onwards) by artificially steepening the existing ground profile thus forming an escarpment, constructing a fence/ditch/earthworks along the northern edge, and building a fortified entrance/ramp on the west side which would give access to the brook at the bottom of the hill. There may have been another entrance on the east bank where the currently existing driveway is. The enclosure was not a hill fort like Castle Ring or Kinver Edge. Rather, it was an enclosed area with rudimentary defences that would offer only minimal protection. This area was close to (or on) the border with the Corieltauvi to the east and not far distant from the Brigantes to the north. The area may have been sparsely populated by pastoral cattle herders, or it may have been more densely populated as a deterrent to incursions by neighbouring tribes. It should be noted that the area was heavily wooded, later being known as Bagot's Forest of which part still remains. The Cornovii seem to have been mostly pastoral and it is unlikely that the site was ever a permanent residential settlement. Instead, it could have been used for other purposes such as a semi-protected enclosure for livestock, an enclosure for the local chieftain, or a local gathering place for religious rituals. It could have been used for all three, by combining the status and symbolism of an enclosed site with the basic protection it would offer pastoral herders and their livestock.

CONCLUSIONS AND FURTHER ACTION

The earliest occupations could have been of the Bronze and Iron ages as there are evidences from this period within the area. The medieval period (circa 1066-1485) is reasonably well recorded as is the site history up to the 1800's

The authors suggest that:- (1) further aerial surveys be conducted at suitable times of the year; these would be followed by (2) resistivity surveys, and depending upon the results of these studies (3) further trial hole excavations should be undertaken.

If there are any members interested in participating in excavations can they please contact Roger Knowles (01543 279313) or Sam Whitehouse (01543 682090)

APPENDICES

(A) COCKIN – LIST OF SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

SSAHST: South Staffordshire Archaeology and History Society Transactions 1959-

SHC: Staffordshire Historical Collections

DB: Domesday Book-Staffordshire. John Morris 1976

AB: Abbots Bromley. Marcia Alice Rice 1939

(B) THE EXCHEQUER SUBSIDY ROLL OF 1327

Staffordshire – Hundred of Pyrhul; Bromleye Bagot

	s	d
De Johne Bagot	iiij	
Johne de Cundesleye	iiij	vj
Ricardo le Spenser	iiij	vj
Rogero Phelip	ij	iiij
Ricardo le Turnur	v	
Nicholao Aleyn	ij	vj
Willmo filio Rogeri		xij
Johne filio Ricardi	ij	iiij
Roberto de Tunstal	ij	
Willmo le Dekne		xij
Willmo Alkoc	ij	
Ranulpho le Turnur	iiij	
Ricardo de Hayteleye	ij	vj
Ricardo de Tunstal	ij	vj
Summa	xxxvijs	p'b'

Neuton et Blythefield

De Johne de Weston	-----
Radulpho de Hampton	-----
Ricardo de la Bolde	-----
Roberto de Berleye	ij
Jacobo de la Bolde	ij
Roberto le Warde	xviij
Thoma de Hampton	xij
Reginaldo filio Roberi	xv
Willmo de Hampton	xxj
Stephano le Hayward	xij
Willmo Bagot	ij
Willmo filio Roberti	ij
Thoma de Luttelye	ij
Ricardo de Blythefeld	v
Roberto de Hampton	ij
Johne de Styventon	vj
Ricardo de Neuron	xviij
Ricardo Gamel	xxij
Summa	xxxix.s. p'b'

Staffordshire Archives and Heritage, alongside partners the Wellcome Trust, are carrying out a project to shed light upon the history of Staffordshire's three County Asylums; Stafford (opened in 1818), Burntwood (1864) and Cheddleton (1899). Here is an extract from the project blog:

Mr. Keen and the Lichfield Election

Many entries in the Stafford asylum casebook from 1818 are attributed to unusual causes. The exact reasons for the development of mental illness were still obscure in the early 1800s, and potentially contributory causes to mental health problems were often mistaken as the root causes themselves. An intriguing early case is the one of Mr. Keen, who the Stafford medics believed had been driven mad by the general election campaign in the city of Lichfield. This election was a particularly bitter and hotly contested one, and the violence of its conduct was believed to have sent Mr. Keen into a state of mania. On admission to the asylum in Oct 1826, at the age of 62, it was recorded that "he has been attended on by Mr Bingham of Lichfield, but it has been impossible to prevail on him to make use of any of his prescriptions". The Parliamentary seat at Lichfield had traditionally been controlled by two of the dominant land owners in mid-Staffordshire – the Trentham interest of George Granville Leveson Gower, 2nd marquess of Stafford, and the Shugborough interest, since 1818 led by Thomas William, 2nd Viscount Anson. Their nominees George Granville Venables Vernon, nephew of Leveson Gower, and Sir George Anson, uncle of Thomas Anson, and like them Tory and Whig respectively, had sat unchallenged since 1806.

At the general election of 1820 the Anson-Leveson Gower coalition, who used pink as their campaign colour, faced increased opposition from the independent Blue interest, centred around the corporation. This new campaign asked Theophilus Levett of Wichnor Park to stand for it. He withdrew, but 1826 saw another election looming. Out of a population of about 6,000, 765 were eligible to vote.

Mr. Gresley was this time approached by the Blues, after he had abandoned a 'hopeless' contest at Evesham. Gresley launched a ferocious campaign against Vernon in particular, and was "not sparing of sarcastic comments on the various subterfuges practised by the honourable candidate to secure his seat". A "most severe" election campaign of 7 days began, and the outrage of the Blue party "was so furious towards Vernon (that) it was difficult to prevent acts of outrage".

On the third night Vernon's headquarters at the George public house were "violently assailed", and the high bailiff sent for the military garrisoned in Birmingham. The poll proceeded extremely slowly as "almost every voter (was) strictly interrogated by the contending parties as to the particulars of his claim to vote". The gap in votes between Gresley and Vernon was very small. Gresley, however, retired and complained about the creation of voters for the pink coalition who had no personal interest in the city. A later petition to the Commons in 1829 showed that "between the years 1799 and 1828 (some) 730 annuities or rent-charges" had been "granted by two peers of the realm to their friends, tenants and dependants, almost all of whom were strangers to the city".

Anson was supported by 62 per cent of the 765 who voted, Vernon by 54 per cent, and Gresley by 47 per cent. Anson and Vernon's election costs of £4,854 3s. 1d. were over three times higher than in 1820, with £1,932 1s. 10d. for entertainment in 22 public houses, down to £6 spent on "repairing the chairs". The Blues' total expenditure was £4,951 9s. 10½d.

"This devoted city is still under the arbitrary dominion of the houses of Shugborough and Trentham", Gresley announced, "but that dominion has been shaken to its very base (and) our defeat is the harbinger of future victory".

Walter Keen seems to have found his mental state deteriorating during the election, and his condition was attributed to the violence of the campaign. We know nothing of his state of health before Jun 1826, and so cannot be sure whether the election had any effect on his probably already fragile mental health, or whether the timing was coincidental. He was a pensioner who was seemingly making a living out of continuing his trade as a cordwainer, fashioning shoes from new leather. His illness had lasted about 4 months when admitted to

the asylum in Oct, and so coincided with the violent election. Walter was deemed not to be dangerous, but his delusions had been affecting him for quite a while: “he imagines that he is surrounded with witches who harass him; sometimes he fancies that they put poison in his food and is continually crossing himself and objects in his way, as a charm against the witches; he has even paid a visit to the Bishop of the diocese on the subject of the witches and was observed to pluck a leaf from one of the trees of his Lordship’s plantation which he eats in small portions with his meals under the supposition probably that it will counteract the malicious designs of the witches”.

He was “clearly delusional and has more faith in the spiritual power of a leaf from the bishop’s estate than in Mr Bingham’s treatments”. When received at Stafford, the violence of the election rather than partaking of any of the nearly £10,000 worth of election ‘entertainment’ in Lichfield’s public houses was noted down as the cause of his problems, “the bustle and turbulence of the late election in the City of Lichfield and not by any indulgence in over drinking at that time”.

We have managed to trace Walter’s story after 1826, and sadly he stayed in the asylum where he died towards the end of 1828. He was buried at St. Mary’s Stafford on 15 Dec 1828, and his cause of death was recorded in the casebook of his final home as ‘maniacal exhaustion’.

Joanne Peck & Steve Cunniffe

For more blog posts from this project see:

<https://staffordshireasylumrecords.wordpress.com/>

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Other news from the archives;

Opening hours of Staffordshire Record Office in Stafford have been revised and are now

Monday : Closed

Tuesday : 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Wednesday : 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Thursday : 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Friday : 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Saturday : 9.00 am - 1.00 pm (3rd Saturday of the month only)

Lichfield ‘Bawdy’ Courts Project Blog

Earlier this year Staffordshire Archives announced the start of the Lichfield Bawdy Courts Project, a 2 year project to catalogue a major series of highly engaging and information-rich church court case papers from 1534-1900. The completed catalogue will identify case-types, names, occupations, places and key features of the cases. They reveal the voices of ordinary people, telling their stories in their own words with details which may be informative, amusing or even scurrilous, about the dispute and disputants – hence the contemporary nickname ‘bawdy courts’.

The Archive Service have now announced the launch of the Lichfield Bawdy Courts blog which can be found at <https://lichfieldbawdycourts.wordpress.com/>. See the blog for volunteering opportunities.

Friends of Letocetum: Wall Roman site walk and talk, Saturday 12 October



This guided walk around Wall takes you beyond the well-known remains of the baths and mansio to the sites of the Roman forts and later civilian settlement, and the late Roman burgus. We will also talk about Wall and its surroundings before the Romans arrived, and the transition from Roman times to the medieval village of Wall and the development of Lichfield.

£5.00 including refreshments. Prior booking is essential:

<http://www.wallromansitefriendsofletocetum.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=655913> or phone 01543 418464.

Sutton Coldfield Civic Society: Finding more in Sutton Park

This talk by **Mike Hodder** will describe recent archaeological work in Sutton Park which has included geophysical and earthwork surveys and the discovery of prehistoric burnt mounds, a probable medieval hunting lodge and a military practice trench. 7:30, Thursday 14 November at the Trinity Centre, Mill Street Sutton Coldfield. Small admission charge for non-members.

Friends of Sutton Park Association: Sutton Park Archaeology Walk, Saturday 28 September 2019



Sutton Park , subdivision of medieval deer park

Start 10am, car park at Blackroot Bistro SP 109971 (enter Park at Hartopp Gate, via Blackroot Road, off Four Oaks Road, nearby postcode B74 2QP). Please note that there may be a parking charge. Finish by noon.

A walk of approx. 2 miles, led by **Mike Hodder**, around well-preserved archaeological remains of various dates including subdivisions of the medieval deer park, a mill pool and a former racecourse.

Free, no need to book in advance.

Please wear suitable outdoor clothing because there is no shelter on the walk route and some paths may be muddy.

Further information: <http://fospa.org.uk/>

Lecture

Language, Landscape and Place-Names in Medieval Staffordshire

Dr Jayne Carroll Associate Professor in the History of English and Director of the Institute for Name-Studies at the University of Nottingham

2.00 p.m. Saturday 7 December, 2019

Westminster Theatre

Keele University

Free public lecture, no need to book. But, for further details contact Dr Andrew Sargent

a.sargent1@keele.ac.uk (This is the Levitt lecture)

Open day ; All Saints Church Sandon Saturday 14 September.

To celebrate 25 years of Heritage Open Days you are offered a unique behind the scenes tour on Saturday 14 September between 10am and 4pm. The free of charge tour, (self-guided or supported by volunteer guides), will take you from the Church's pre-1130 Norman origins through centuries of additions, changes, and reconfigurations.

The church will be decorated with floral displays and includes ancient tombs and wall paintings, an unusual 1782 Gallery pew, a Royal Coat of Arms and range of Hatchments, beautiful stained glass windows, including one in the Pugin style, and a fine collection of church silver, not normally on display.

Visitors can climb the ancient bell tower and chime a bell, one dates back to 1609. There will be tours of our graveyard pointing out ancient memorials (please note that not all areas are accessible for people with limited mobility).

There will be children's activities including a small prize for every completed trail.

Drinks and cakes will be available for a small charge.

On Sunday 15 September there will be a warm welcome to visitors to attend the special heritage themed service at 11.15am.

You can find All Saints at Church Lane, Sandon ST18 0DB just off the A51 south of Stone. Visitors can also access public footpaths from the church, including one which leads to the Old Hall building and Grade 2 listed moat.

Staffordshire's long-lost pyramid opens to the public for two days only

As part of the Heritage Open Days programme, the Staffordshire Historic Buildings Trust will be opening Sandon Limekiln to the public on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September 2019, from 12.30 to 16.30 each day.

This extraordinary late eighteenth-century building is a long-lost pyramid that was uncovered again just a few years ago. It stands on private land and is normally hidden from public view. Not only an impressive piece of architecture, it is also a major work of the industrial revolution. The kiln played an innovative role for local agriculture and for the pottery industry.

Visitors are able to explore the site with guides, and to learn more about its remarkable history.

The kiln is in a rural location, beside the Trent and Mersey canal, close to Sandon lock, and reached only from the canal towpath. Sandon lock is about 500 metres from the Dog and Doublet Inn (in the direction of Stafford).

The event is free of charge. Suitable for all ages.

Vacancies on Committee

It should be noted there are currently two vacancies to be filled on the Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society Committee. They are Honorary Membership Secretary and Honorary Publicity Officer. If you might be interested in either of these positions please get in touch. We would be pleased to hear from you.

NB Please see the separate article within this Newsletter with regard to payment of annual Membership subscriptions, due as at 1st September 2019. IE For details of where to send your subscription payments.

NB Regarding the tea and coffee role at lecture evenings, Society Member Philip Charles has kindly stepped forward and, with an assistant, will be serving refreshments to us with effect from the first talk of the new season on 27th September. We are most grateful to Philip.

Keith Billington

The Abbot of Septimo, a very fat and corpulent man, on his way to Florence one evening, enquired of a peasant he met, "Do you think I shall be able to enter the gate?" Of course, he thus meant to ask whether he was likely to reach the city before the closing of the gates. But the country-man, rallying his stoutness, replied, "To be sure, you will; a cartload of hay gets through, why should not you?"

One of the cleaner jokes of Poggio Bracciolini, 1380-1459

Visit to the JCB plant at Rocester



We have organised a visit to the JCB plant at Rocester for members on Monday 21 October at 13.00. The visit will include a viewing of a short video on the history of JCB, a walk around the factory floor and then to finish a cream tea. The factory is situated in a rural environment in extensively landscaped grounds, which are an attraction in their own right with a large lake, sculptures and waterfowl. The tour involves a lot of walking and is not suitable for those who have walking difficulties, and stout footwear is required as these are working industrial premises. This is a chance to see the inside of one of Staffordshire's most successful and prosperous companies and the tour is very much recommended. There are limited places so book early. Cost is £25 per person, full instructions about parking, access etc. will be given on booking. You can book by post or by handing in the booking slip and your cheque or cash at the first of this autumn's meetings in the Guildhall.

Please reserve me places on the SAHS visit to JCB at Rocester at 13.00 on 21 October 2019. I enclose cheque/cash for £..... Send to Richard Totty Rock Cottage Redhill Rugeley WS15 4LL or hand in at the meeting on September 27.

A forward look at the next set of lectures in 2020

31st January 2020 Jim Andrew
The Lunar Society Welcome to a Scottish Inventor - James Watt

21st February 2020 Tom Devlin
Staffordshire and West Midlands Accents and Dialects

3rd April 2020 Nick Daffern
The Ice Age and Palaeolithic. AKA West Midlands Safari Park.

17th April 2020 Catrine (Cat) Jarman
Lecture 7.30pm commencement to be confirmed
The Viking Mass Grave at Repton and Investigations at Foremark

22nd May 2020 This Lecture to be Confirmed

12th June 2020 Jonathan Goodwin
Recent Works in Stoke on Trent

More details in the December newsletter!

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Transforming the Trent Valley (TTTV)

We mentioned this project in a recent newsletter. The Heritage Lottery Fund have made a grant of just under £5 million to a consortium of organisations for an environmental project in the mid Trent Valley covering an area from Uttoxeter to Tamworth (basically the rivers and the lands immediately around the rivers). The lead organisation is the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, based at Wolseley Bridge near Rugeley. The project started in April 2019 and is expected to last 5 years. You can find more details at;

<https://www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk/about-us/current-partnerships/transforming-the-trent-valley-tttv>

<https://www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/TTTV>

Part of the project is to look at the Historic Environment of the area, and an audit report is to hand, this has maps of the area and a very basic summary of sites of historic interest.

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/Environment-and-countryside/HistoricEnvironment/Documents/TTTV-CHA-summary-web-version-Protected.pdf>

For updates see <https://twitter.com/thetrentvalley?lang=en>

The Society has been consulted about two projects which form part of the whole enterprise.

The Pill Box Project TL04

This project will focus on the surviving military heritage within the TTTV project area, mainly comprising pillboxes which formed part of the iconic Second World War 'Stop Line No 5'. These were built in 1940 as anti tank defence points to be used in the event of a German invasion and are often found near river banks near to road railway and canal bridges. (One can be seen at Wolseley Bridge between Rugeley and Colwich at a major road junction next to bridges over the river Trent and the Trent and Mersey canal.) Local volunteers will carry out recording and condition surveys of these structures which will be utilised to develop proposals for their long term monitoring and management. To compliment this work volunteers will carry out research, conduct oral history surveys, and help develop content for interpretation. A number of appropriate sites will be identified for reversible reuse such as wildlife refuges, bird hides, and interpretation spaces. A selection of these sites will be converted and design guidance will be produced to inform future conversions within the project area and elsewhere. The Stop! project will have shown that, when done sensitively and when properly considered, military heritage assets such as pillboxes can be provided with a new purpose such as bat roosts, bird hides etc. which can ensure their longevity and upkeep.

The 'Transforming the Trent Valley's Heritage' Project TL03

This project will involve work with local communities, volunteers, landowners to record and improve the condition of vulnerable heritage assets across the project area and achieve sustainable management for them. The aim of the project is to empower local communities and landowners to take responsibility for their heritage. Through training it will provide them with the skills to understand, record, monitor, manage and maintain heritage assets within the landscape partnership scheme area. It will provide a framework to facilitate the longer-term curation of the historic environment, including the establishment of ongoing monitoring regimes and access to training materials to give landowners and local communities the confidence to be involved in the management and improvement of their local historic environment.

Rod Whiteman <r.whiteman@staffs-wildlife.org.uk> is the Cultural Heritage Officer for Transforming the Trent Valley (TTTV) and is the leader for these two projects.

Rod would like to work with Society members on these projects and would like to hear from members interested in participating in the project as volunteers or from those of you just interested in the project as a whole.

STOP PRESS

30TH Earl Lecture Dr Philip Morgan

DIG WHERE YOU STAND: KEELE'S EXPERIMENT IN LOCAL HISTORY

MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2019 at 8 pm (preceded by a soft drinks reception at 7.30pm)

WESTMINSTER THEATRE CHANCELLOR'S BUILDING Keele University

**Promoted by Keele University in collaboration with the Jack Leighton Trust
(No ticket or entrance fee required; enquiries: a.sargent1@keele.ac.uk)**

This newsletter edited for the Society by Richard Totty , richard.totty4@gmail.com

Views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society.

For more information about the Society see our website at:

www.sahs.uk.net