



# NEWSLETTER

## SPRING 2014

### ICKNIELD WAY ASSOCIATION

#### SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!

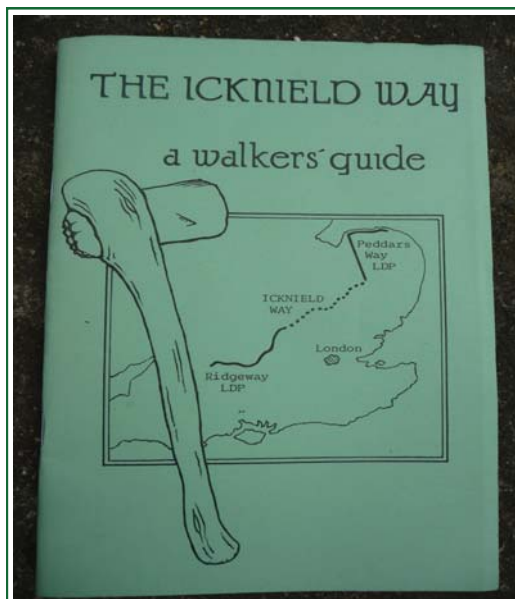
In 2014, the IWA celebrates a great achievement. The first edition of the Walkers' Guide Book was published thirty years ago in 1984! You can read more about how our guide books have improved 'inside'.

Also worthy of celebration is our very enjoyable and successful Annual Meeting held last September to celebrate the centenary of the publication of Edward Thomas' account of walking the Icknield Way in 1913. This was a joint occasion held with the Edward Thomas Fellowship. Reports and photos can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

A third reason to celebrate is that not only have two sections of the Icknield Way between Ickleford and the Hexton Road been finally protected from potential damage by motorised vehicles but a new section of path has been created at Letchworth.

So, all in all, some good news all round!

*Editor*



Do you remember this one?

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

AGM Photo Gallery	2
AGM Keynote Address	3
Wilbury Hill - New Link	3
Suffolk Archaeology Weekend	3
Edward Thomas & the Icknield Way	4
AGM Reports	5
Welcome to New Members	5
Congratulations!	5
Thank you!	5
Walkers' Guide Books—30 Years	6
A Henge at Norton	7
Fancy a Walk?	8
Knettishall Heath Update	8
Route Warden Information	9
Committee Contacts	9

#### GOOD NEWS FOR THE WAY AT PIRTON

After months of waiting for a positive outcome, it is very good indeed to be able to report that the Planning Inspector who held the second public inquiry in November 2013 into his interim decision to make the Icknield Way between Ickleford and Pirton (Barton Rd) a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) rather than a Bridleway, announced his final decision, to confirm the route as a BRIDLEWAY in January 2014. There have been no objections to this decision within the three months allowed for them to be submitted, so this decision is finally confirmed.

The deciding factor of the judgement was that the opponents could not provide compelling evidence to prove that the Icknield Way had been a vehicular carriageway *before* it had been set out as a bridleway by the Enclosure Commissioners. This was supported by academic and archaeological input from GLEAM and North Herts Archaeological Society.

Although these tracks are not promoted as part of the Icknield Way walkers' route, the IWA extends its congratulations to the Icknield Way Action Group led by Harry Spenser-Smith for working so hard to ensure this excellent outcome. Thanks also to Kathy and Alex Goldie, local IWA members, who attended the inquiry on our behalf.

**DIARY DATE!**

**AGM**

**SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER**

**BALSHAM**

## AGM—SATURDAY MORNING WALK 28TH SEPTEMBER 2013

Saturday 28th September was a beautiful autumn day, perfect for a walk along the Icknield Way in the chalk hill country on the Herts/Beds borders.

Starting from **Pirton**, a historic village nestling below the chalk scarp, a combined group of thirty or so members of the Icknield Way Association and the Edward Thomas Fellowship made the gradual ascent along **Wood Lane** (right), one of the many sections of unsurfaced 'green roads' with which the Icknield Way is blessed.



There were plenty of opportunities to appreciate the good dry conditions that chalk offers in late summer and autumn and to record the occasion for posterity including here (left) where the group was eventually persuaded to organise itself for a photo shoot when everyone had caught up!

There was the happy sound of lively conversation as people shared their enthusiasms either for the writings of Edward Thomas or for the excellent qualities of a splendid low-level long-distance route across lowland England . . . . until the pace slowed and the group lengthened into a crocodile as it began the more pronounced ascent to the high point of the walk (right).



It is not usually hills that come to mind when anybody mentions the topography of Hertfordshire or Bedfordshire but, from the top of **Deacon Hill** (172m), the views into three counties (including Cambridgeshire on a good day) are every bit as good as in other more acceptably hilly counties!

It is this that helps to make the Icknield Way such a memorably attractive cross-country route.

## AGM—KEYNOTE ADDRESS

At the start of his talk, well-known writer and traveller, Hugh Thomson spoke of his need to discover the importance of 'home' as a way of creating the other end of a balance point from being away on journeys to distant places. He has returned to south Oxfordshire where he was brought up and now lives in Watlington close to the Icknield Way.

He talked about the fascination of the uncertainty of the history of the Icknield Way but also of the more readily accepted concept of early trade between people from the Mediterranean and the land called Britain. Goods arriving at the south coast of Devon and Dorset were distributed along the spine of chalk country offering safe passage along generally dry ground with high visibility. In exploring the Icknield Way for his book, Hugh Thomson explained that he grew into this way of travelling from the ancient western parts of Britain towards the waves of invasion from northern Europe. He believes that the route of the Icknield Way is so liberally sprinkled with historic sites it is impossible not to feel the presence of ancient people when travelling along it.

There was strong criticism of English Heritage for their management of Stonehenge, especially when compared to, for example, Machu Picchu where it is possible to feel very close to the spirit of the place, having walked to it. Hugh suggested that this should be the way that visitors approach Stonehenge now and has given his support to the Friends of the Ridgeway for their Great Stones Way project which will go a long way towards helping to achieve closer links to the past.

Bringing the IWA closer to home, there was 'outrage' that the second-most important hill fort along the Way (after Maiden Castle in Dorset) at Ravensburgh Castle should be hidden from view under 'dismal and neglected soft-wood plantations used for pheasant rearing!' There was a thinly disguised suggestion that IWA should light the flame of a campaign to bring about the restoration of Ravensburgh!

Mr Thomson's talk was illustrated with images of many of his favourite places along the Icknield Way but his own jour-

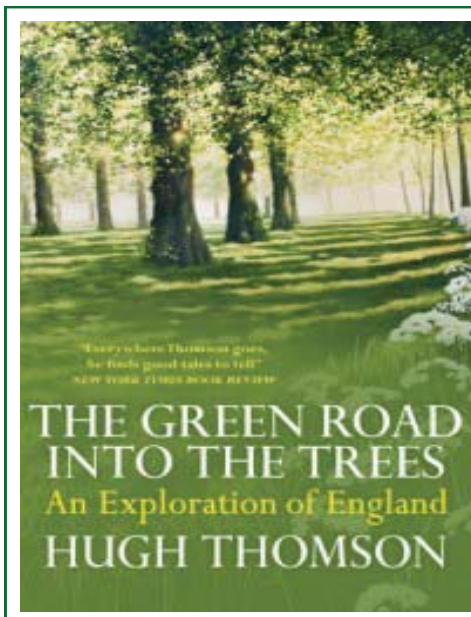
ney took him along a significant diversion away from 'our' Icknield Way path northwards to Peterborough. Here he included a visit to early archaeological explorations at Flag Fen before returning to the more traditionally accepted 'end' at Holme where the recent discovery of a wood-henge revealed during storms has led to a flurry of conjecture as to its purpose and role—especially of the upturned and buried trunk of an oak tree at its centre leaving the root bole exposed in a way highly suggestive of a place for sky burials.

And so in this way, Hugh Thomson ended his presentation, leaving us with a heightened sense of the ancient significance of 'our' route and the very real sense of a journey into history which lies on our doorstep, if only we take the trouble to find our way along it—a journey which, he suggested, will perhaps lead to a deep emotional connection to those ancient communities from whom we are perhaps descended.

*Chris James*

○ ○ ○

During tea, Hugh Thomson signed copies of his book "The Green Road into the Trees" - and hopefully sold a few more copies!



A review of his book appeared in Icknield Way News Spring 2013

## SNIPPETS

### WILBURY HILL—NEW LINK

Hertfordshire County Council has confirmed an order to create a new right of way at Wilbury Hill, Letchworth:

" A bridleway commencing from Stotfold Road at TL 2006 3249 heading in a generally north easterly then easterly direction along the northern boundary of the field for approximately 270m to the field corner and continuing north for approximately 5m through the hedge to meet Icknield Way (town road) at TL 20131 3254, with a width of 4 metres."

This Modification Order was confirmed on 14th May 2013 and gives legal status to a situation that had existed on the ground for years—one which former member and secretary Ken Payne had tried to formalise before he died a few years ago.

The IWA thanks Ken and all other members who had provided evidence of use to support this order.

*But a warning to all those crossing the road in either direction at Wilbury Hill to take care—despite the 40-mile speed restriction, cars are still approaching uphill very fast!*

### SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND—17-19 OCTOBER

A fascinating programme has been arranged by the Council of British Archaeology for 17-19 October. Based at Bury St Edmunds, visits will be made to Sutton Hoo, the Anglo Saxon village at West Stow and to Grime's Graves, the only Neolithic flint mine open to visitors in Britain (and obviously of significance to the Icknield Way!)

For further information and to register online go to [www.archaeologyUK.org/cba-events](http://www.archaeologyUK.org/cba-events)

## AGM—EDWARD THOMAS, WALKING AND THE ICKNIELD WAY A TALK GIVEN BY RICHARD EMENY, THE EDWARD THOMAS FELLOWSHIP

Edward Thomas was born in March 1878 in London of Welsh parentage, the eldest of six brothers. He attended local schools until gaining a scholarship to St Paul's, from where he went to Lincoln College Oxford where he read History. Before he took his Finals he had had a book published, married and had a son, an extraordinary position for that date (1899). Despite arguments with his family, he decided to become a professional writer. However, his position as breadwinner of a growing family meant that he was forced to undertake hack work purely for money. He wrote over thirty commissioned books including travel, biography and criticism. He also managed to write several small books of essays, which represented his only personal writing before 1914. They were not commercially popular. Most of his writing was reviewing, especially for *The Daily Chronicle*, of which he was resident reviewer. In general he despised his commissioned work. On the outbreak of war in 1914 most of this work dried up, and although this caused financial worries, it also enabled him to start writing the poetry for which he has become best known. The majority of modern poets writing in English acknowledge their debt to him. His great interest in the countryside dominates much of his writing, both prose and poetry.

*The Icknield Way* was written in 1911. First, in February and March he researched the historical records in the British Museum, then from April until July he walked the route, returning to check places and facts, sometimes by bicycle. He wrote the text chiefly in Laugharne finishing it on 19th September 1911. It was published in 1913.

In 1911 one of Thomas's main problems was to establish the route of the IW. In this respect he was something of a pioneer, and he was particularly exercised to find the correct crossing of the Thames, eventually selecting three possible routes. He was also interested to establish the end of the IW in the West, coming to the conclusion that it probably continued from the Wantage-Lockinge area to the south coast ports, Exeter or the Cornish tin mine area. The Way as he knew it in 1911 fizzled out and the book rather mirrors this. Not that he minded for he thought of the 'way' as being more important than the destination: *'There is nothing at the end of any road better than may be found beside it, though there would be no travel did man believe it.'* Some of the book is repetitive and a little weary, which echoes his own tiredness at having to write commissioned work: words meant money and he needed to write plenty of them.

Thomas believed that a book of travel should not be just about the route and the journey- in other words not just scientific facts. He used his journey to discuss the route's history, the things he saw (and often disliked- such as new towns) and especially the journey as a vehicle for self examination and analysis. Although he was not the only writer to extend travel writing from the merely factual, (Norman Douglas was another), he was probably the most influential and predicated the way such writing would progress through the twentieth century. He was attracted by the non-rational reaction to ancient places, roads in particular. He was very aware of the generations of men that had passed that way before him. *'Ubi sunt qui ante nos fuerunt.'* This can be seen in the first two chapters: the first titled 'On Roads and Footpaths', which is a fascinating discussion and

the second called 'History, Myth, Tradition, Conjecture and Invention'.

Roads in general fascinated him and he wrote much about them in other works; several of his poems are about roads or tracks and one is simply entitled 'Roads.' On a material level they offered an escape from the routine of hack writing, and quiet away from the family environment, and a way into the countryside that was a sort of food to him. He believed that they started as animal tracks, being subsequently colonised and extended by humans, and he was well aware of their changing use: trade, cattle and sheep droving, recreation in modern times and their increasing use by motor cars. More than the material however, he felt that ancient roads, and he knew the Avebury and Stonehenge areas well, were almost a sacramental aspect of the landscape. The IW especially affected him by its ancientness, and by the fact that it had not been Romanised. He found that rather overwhelming. Roads lead somewhere, and in Thomas's case he saw the way leading to his death in France on the first day of the Battle of Arras in April 1917. 'Now all roads lead to France', he says in his poem 'Roads', and indeed they did for him as well as for so many others.

o o o

*This summary of Richard Emeny's excellent and insightful 'discourse' is acknowledged with grateful thanks.*

## AGM—REPORTS

Our Centenary Weekend Saturday programme packed a lot in and consequently the AGM was squeezed into the end of the afternoon by which time many people had departed! However, the business part of the day was duly conducted and reports received from the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. Tom Chevalier told the meeting that he had now walked the route between Ivinghoe Beacon and Newmarket, noting especially how many stiles remained as impediments to less mobile users. He and Lesley Blundell had attended the launch of the new information board at Galley Hill (see IW News Spring 2013). Tom will be continuing to maintain dialogue with National Trails officers at either end of the Icknield Way to discuss implications of the National Trails Partnerships and possible co-operation.

John Boardman reported that this had been a good year in terms of income and expenditure and the Association was now £1000 better off than last year. He had received a donation of £50 in memory of Thurstan Shaw. The major item of expenditure had been the purchase of 500 copies of the Walkers' Guide, 475 of which (about 30 month's stock) were now in hand. This large number had been purchased because the printing firm used to produce the Guides was closing down. A large proportion of the Association's assets was now in stock, rather than cash, but this situation would right itself as the Guides were sold. The Association was thus in a good position financially with a total balance of £5,855.74 held at the bank.

In her absence, Lesley Blundell read out Sue Prigg's membership report. The IWA had gained 5 new members during the year, including one Life Member. This made a total of 81 members living at 77 different addresses. The Treasurer added that two more members had joined during the day, bringing the up-to-date total to 83 members.

Sadly, Gil Boardman had tendered her resignation from the committee and Tom Chevalier thanked her warmly for all that she had done to help during the previous year or so. All other committee members were willing to stand again for election and this was achieved with James Quantrill proposing they be re-elected *en bloc*. David Allard agreed to continue as Accounts Examiner for another year.

Liz Hunter thanked the committee for arranging such an enjoyable day.

## AGM 2014

**Returning to Balsham  
for the first time since  
1992!**

**10.15 FOR 10.30  
at the Church Institute  
Hall for a morning walk  
along the Icknield Way**

**And again at 2.30 for  
the afternoon meeting**



Launch of Icknield Way Path at Balsham 1992

## WELCOME!

Welcome to our new members joining during 2013-14:

Issa Cochran	Saffron Walden
Paul Evans	Little Shelford
Alex Goldie	Ickleford
Mr A Jones	Leighton Buzzard
David Keating	Bury St Edmunds
Karen Mills	Ashwell
Geoff Morse	Ickleford
Valda Mutch	Amersham
Mike Ricketts	Ealing
Jacqueline Smythe	Long Melford

*Thank you all for giving the  
IWA your support!*

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Long-term member and supporter Bert Richardson, from Royston, was presented with the Peterkin Award for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Living at the Campaign to Protect Rural England's Hertfordshire Awards evening held in October. Bert was a founder committee member of the Herts and Middlesex Rambler's Association in 1985 and then its Chairman for nine years. He made a much valued contribution to setting up linked and guided walks around Hertfordshire, out of which grew the Hertfordshire Way, a 194-mile circular trail around the county.

## THANK YOU!

Not only has Alex Goldie joined the IWA (see above) and kept us informed of events at the public enquiry (see front page) but he has also volunteered to be a route warden between Pirton and Wilbury Hill at Letchworth. This includes some very attractive "green lane" sections so we hope the job will not be too onerous!

# WALKERS' GUIDE BOOKS—THIRTY YEARS AND SIX EDITIONS

Once upon a time (!) during 1983, the Icknield Way Steering Committee knew that the most important matter to accomplish was the publication of a guide book for walkers. This would begin the process of publicising Professor Thurstan Shaw's vision of a linked and complete route along the chalk spine of lowland England, joining up the 'loose ends' of the Ridgeway and Peddars Way Trails.

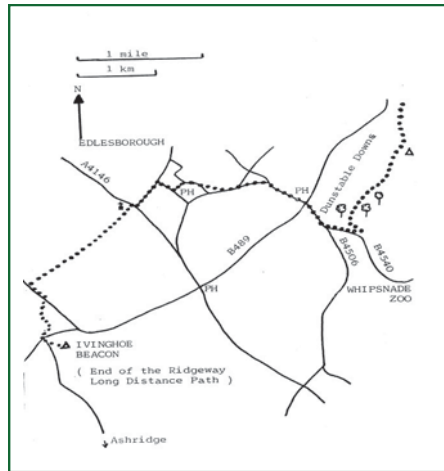
Our records of those early days show that several people were involved in the production of the first guide book. Dr Janet Moreton nobly took on the drawing of the maps (above right). The maps in this first edition indicated 'other useful paths' some of which clearly demonstrated the parallel tracks of the Way. Ken Payne completed the descriptions of the route and undertook the final editing. Bruce Galloway designed the cover. Herts County Council sponsored the printing of 1000 copies which were sold out by early 1985. A guidebook cost £1.00!

By the time of the second edition, published in 1989, the committee had attracted the drafting skills of Pat Rattenbury who built on Janet's clear and simple lines with his own special style which continued into the third edition.

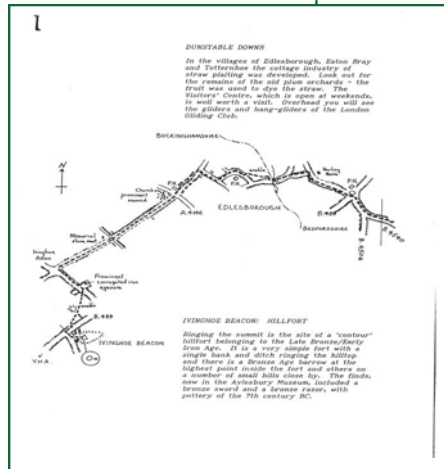
The second edition was the first to include the wonderfully informative sections about archaeology, geology and natural history which have stood the test of time with only very minor changes or additions. Short narrative 'snippets' were also included on the map pages which immediately created a guide book that was interesting to read as well as just a series of maps.

A major route revision was introduced with the second edition: a completely new route was devised between Baldock and Royston to avoid the then rather tedious 'slog' along Ashwell Street (and where, if you were unlucky, you had to run the gauntlet of the travellers' dogs only just attached to their chains!) This followed the high ground of the boulder clay plateau offering great views especially from Therfield Heath as well as opportunities for pub stops for the thirsty. (Sadly the pubs at Sandon have since closed!). Sponsorship for this edition was kindly given by Barclays Bank, Cambridgeshire County Council, the Countryside Commission, the Ramblers' Association and South Cambs District Council. The cover is the odd one out, being a photo reproduced in green tones with permission from Times Newspapers!

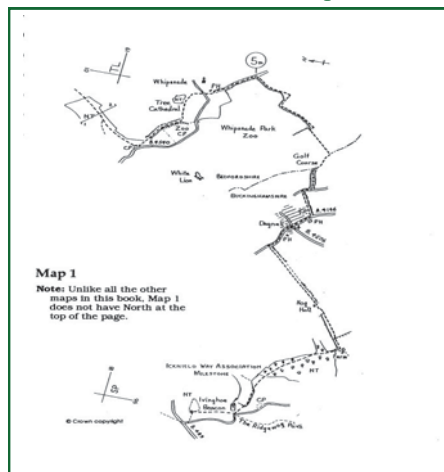
With the third edition in 1993 came spiral



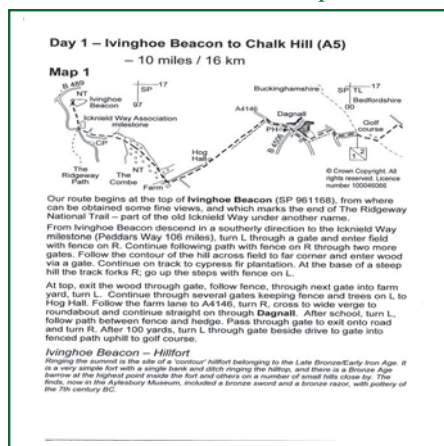
First Edition—Map 1



Second Edition—Map 1



Third Edition—Map 1



Fourth & subsequent Editions—Map 1

binding and a 'wipe-clean' cover, along with the inclusion of a suggested daily walk itinerary and a section on public transport. Further route review included moving the route from Ivinghoe Beacon to Hog Hall Lane and down to Dagnall rather than going via Edlesborough. The Northern Alternative route was suggested for the first time and provided in maps at the end of the book. Snippets were put back on to the text pages and maps could be found on both left and right hand pages.

The fourth edition (1998) received a 'makeover'! Former Chairman Alan Jenyon discovered a useful designer who set us on the road to professional typesetting and layout. Nigel Balchin stayed with us for two more editions, producing clear maps using computer generated symbols. A new cover design with a coloured plan of SE England (not forgetting the hand-axe) on a white background gave a new image. We now had an optional northern link to Thetford and use of a permitted path at Euston Hall, Suffolk.

With the fifth edition (2007), came the loss of the route through Luton and adoption of the Northern Alternative via Five Knolls, Sewell, Chalgrave, Sundon Hills, Sharpenhoe Clappers and Streatley as the preferred route. This added an extra day to the itinerary with a first day extending from Ivinghoe Beacon to Chalk Hill (left), thus offering an 8-day walk covering 110 miles. An extension into Toddington was included and, between Pirton and Ickleford, a couple of 'tweaks' took the route along the recently upgraded Hambridge Way then south to follow the attractive River Oughton and along a somewhat devious permissive route avoiding the main road through Ickleford. The selling price was £8.50.

The use of Spencer Gore's beautiful painting of the Icknield Way at Wilbury Hill for the cover of the sixth edition in 2012 was undoubtedly an inspiration! We also acquired the computer skills of Sue Prigg and her careful nurture of a local printer who converted us to digital production. No longer did IWA have to invest in bulk printing! A durable plastic cover also returned. The route at Ickleford changed again and now follows a brideway north of the village with safer crossing of the A600!

Sales are now almost entirely via Paypal. How times change!

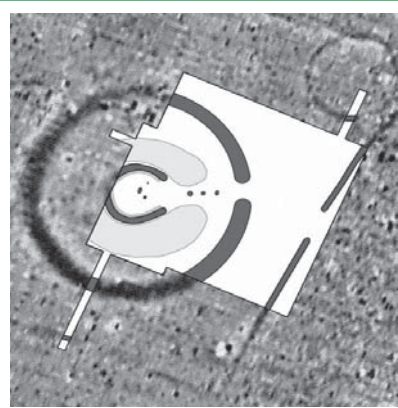
Chris James

# A HENGE AT NORTON, NEAR BALDOCK

KEITH FITZPATRICK-MATTHEWS, ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICER,  
NORTH HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Discovery

In 1936, Major Allen, a pioneer of aerial photography in Britain, flew over a field to the east of the young Letchworth Garden City and photographed a large ring in the crop. It was long assumed to be the traces of a ditch that formed a quarry to make a Bronze Age burial mound, similar to hundreds of others along the line of the Icknield Way, only a few hundred metres to the south. A geophysical survey of the site in 1994, when it was proposed to develop a cemetery in the field, revealed the site to have two ditches with a “kerb” in between. The description did not quite describe the monument. The inner of the two ditches was horseshoe shaped while the outer ditch was circular, which suggested that something other than a burial mound once stood here. I suspected that this was something rather less common, an Early Bronze Age henge.



Plan of 1994 geophysical survey

In 2010, Norton Community Archaeology Group excavated a trench across the centre of the “ring ditch”, revealing deposits that all appeared to be of Late Neolithic date. Round barrows of this time are uncommon and the archaeology indicated that the chalk “kerb” was earlier than the inner ditch, which made no sense at all for a burial mound. A second trench was excavated in 2011 and much larger trench, 40 m square, in 2012 and 2013. By the end of August 2013, the Community Group’s investigations had produced some remarkable and unexpected results.

## A Middle Neolithic henge

It became clear that the monument was a henge of unusually early date. Classic henges are oval and date from the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (c 2700-1800 BC). The Norton henge has a circular outer ditch and a bank inside it, associated entirely with Middle Neolithic culture (c 3400-2700 BC). This early form is generally known as a ‘formative’ henge. Most examples so far identified are found in Wales and the West Country, which makes the Norton henge the first of this type to be identified in eastern England. The outer ditch was around five metres wide, with nearly vertical sides and a flattish base, and around 55 m in diameter. The bank had been badly damaged by ploughing in recent centuries, surviving in places to a depth of no more than a centimetre or two. In the centre, much of the soil was worn away, leaving patches of exposed chalk bedrock. In the middle of the entrance, which faces due east towards the springs of the River Ivel, stood a line of three pits deliberately backfilled with a chalk rubble and clay to prevent them from filling with water after rain. White quartz pebbles seem to have been deliberately brought on to the site, perhaps for their sparking qualities in moonlight. Construction of the henge perhaps began before c 3000 BC.

A second phase of use began during the Middle to Late Neolithic, when the chalk bank opposite the entrance was cut back, creating an oval rather than circular interior. At the same time a horseshoe-shaped ditch was dug inside it and the interior of the henge and its entrance paved with dumped chalk. The fills of the inner ditch contained both Peterborough Ware and Grooved Ware, indicating that it began to silt up after around 2800 BC. Later still, a deposit formed on top of the ‘paving’, with areas of in situ burning and sherds of Beaker pottery and Collared Urn. A large cremation pit dug in the precise centre of the henge contained the cremated remains of a newborn baby, a child and at least one adult. A couple of sherds of Beaker pottery suggest a date after 2500 BC.

Nearby, a smaller cremation pit contained the remains of another child. Eventually, a low chalk bank, only about 30 cm high, was constructed on the inner edge of the ditch, with posts in the top of it, while another post was set up close to the centre of the henge. The site of the former cremation pit was covered with a roughly square rammed chalk platform. The final activity in this phase appears to have been the deposition of a complete miniature Collared Urn in its own pit, not accompanying a human burial. After this, which perhaps took place around 2200 BC, the site seems to have been abandoned until the Roman period.

## A surprising discovery

Further excavation in 2013 revealed a short stretch of foundation trench filled with the chalk rubble. It turned out to be part of a horseshoe shaped structure, with upright plank walling, open to the south-east. This house must be earlier than the henge, so it dates to before about 3000 BC. Cleaning elsewhere revealed parts of two other structures, both also plank built.



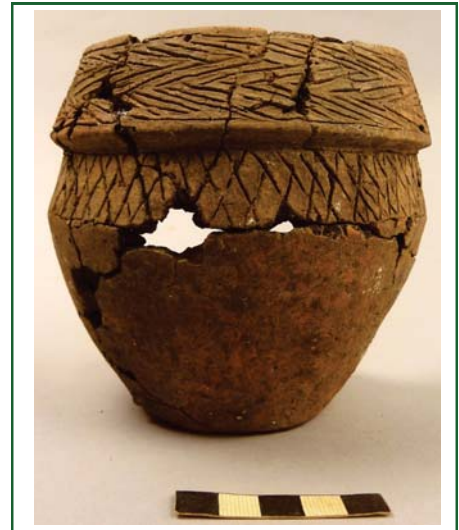
Excavating on the site in 2012

## The site in its landscape

One of the most remarkable aspects of the Norton henge is that we know a lot about contemporary activity in its vicinity. A few hundred metres to the south-west of the henge is Blackhorse Road where Neolithic and later occupation was identified beside the Icknield Way in the 1960s. Five shafts are thought to have been flint mines, back-filled with a mixture of pottery up to a thousand years old with a small dog buried in the base of each. Further to the south, a hengiform monument was discovered in 1999, with the crouched burial of an adolescent at its centre. East of the henge and leading to the Ivel Springs, a cursus was identified in 1963. Further to the east, a flint working floor associated with a post-built structure was identified at Baldock in 1989. Another Neolithic burial, this time in a square enclosure with several groups of pits (including one containing a complete aurochs horn core) were found during the construction of the A505 bypass to the east of Baldock in 2003.

This concentration of Middle and Late Neolithic sites is unusual in Hertfordshire. I have started to refer to the area as "The Baldock Bowl", as it is a distinctive landscape feature with a large number of monuments from the Neolithic through to the Roman period. Unlike more favoured parts of Britain, such as Salisbury Plain, where surviving earthwork monuments have long drawn the attention of antiquaries and archaeologists, the Baldock Bowl has been under the plough for the past two millennia. As a result, the prehistoric landscapes are largely obliterated and it is only through chance discovery and targeted research that we are beginning to understand its richness and complexity.

**For further information, please contact**  
[keith.matthews@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:keith.matthews@north-herts.gov.uk)



The miniature collared urn  
excavated in 2012

## FANCY A WALK?

**SUNDAY 8TH JUNE 10AM**

**Aldbury, Herts**

Meet in NT car park on Aldbury to Ivinghoe Rd (Icknield Way!). Morning walk.



David Lawrence  
01296 482313  
Chiltern Society

**SUNDAY 29TH JUNE 10AM**

**Dullingham, Cambs**

Meet at Taylor Hall CP opposite Boot PH TL631577. 12 miles following Icknield Way Path via Six Mile Bottom, Brinkley & Burrough Green



Phil Prigg  
01638 751289  
Newmarket Group RA

**SUNDAY 10TH AUGUST 10.15AM**

**Lilley, Herts**

Meet at Lilley Memorial Hall TL119262 for a 10-mile walk in rolling chalk country



George Schlesinger  
01763 242281  
Royston Group RA

**WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER  
10AM**

**Cavenham Heath NR, Suffolk**

Meet at Nature Reserve parking area, ½ mile down the Green/Temple Bridge road, Tuddenham TL745721 for 5 mile walk



Tony  
01638 604797  
Newmarket Group RA

## KNETTISHALL HEATH—UPDATE

In our Summer 2012 newsletter, we reported on the successful purchase of Knettishall Heath nature reserve by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. People and Wildlife Ranger, Samantha Gay writes:

“ In 2013, the Suffolk Wildlife Trust received funding for a 5-year heathland restoration project, the aim of which is to link up isolated heathland blocks and gradually recreate the more open and varied landscape of the Brecks that was once at Knettishall. Part of the project will create a larger grazing enclosure for our Exmoor ponies to enable them to very gradually open up parts of the woodlands to improve biodiversity. Creating this new grazing enclosure will include installing cattle grids on the roads running through the site. The project will also include creating new waymarked trails and improving interpretation for visitors. The project went to public consultation in Winter 2013, with the works scheduled now for Autumn 2014. Parts of the project work are beginning this Spring in preparation”.

More information about this project can be found at:

<http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/reserves/knettishall-heath> or by contacting Samantha directly on 07717 156601 or at [samatha.gay@suffolkwildlifetrust.org](mailto:samatha.gay@suffolkwildlifetrust.org)



Knettishall Heath (photo:Suffolk Wildlife Trust)



## VOLUNTARY ROUTE WARDENS

Maps 1-3	Ivinghoe Beacon to A5	Helen Fletcher-Rogers	hfrogers@dial.pipex.com
Maps 4, 33-34	A5 to Sundon Hills Country Park	Tom Chevalier	tom@chevalier.me.uk
Maps 5,6	Sundon Hills to Hexton-Lilley Rd	Carol Bond	carol.bond@hotmail.com
Map 7	Lilley Road to Pirton	Lesley Blundell	lesleyblundell@btinternet.com
Map 8-9	Pirton to Wilbury Hill	Alex Goldie	kathy_alex.goldie@mac.com
Map 10	Wilbury Hill to Baldock	Chris James	chrisjames56@btinternet.com
Maps 11-15	Baldock town centre to Heydon	David Allard	david.allard@ntlworld.com
Maps 16-19	Heydon to Linton	James Quantrill	01279 653899
Maps 20-21	Linton to Willingham Green	<b>WARDEN NEEDED HERE — CAN YOU HELP US?</b>	
Maps 22-27	Willingham Green to Icklingham	Phil Prigg	phil@prigg.co.uk
Maps 28-29	Icklingham to D-house	Tom & Gill Caple	gill.caple@btinternet.com
Maps 30-32	D-house to Knettishall Heath	Edward Wortley	ewortley@tiscali.co.uk
Maps 35-36	Thetford Link	Mike Gee	ramblergees@hotmail.co.uk

## COMMITTEE

**Chairman: Tom Chevalier**

22 Byfield Close, Toddington, Dunstable, LU5 6BH.  
(01525 873986)

tom@chevalier.me.uk

**Secretary: Lesley Blundell**

7 Church Street, Shillington, Nr Hitchin, SG5 3LH.  
(01462 711530)

lesleyblundell@btinternet.com

**Treasurer: John Boardman**

11 Green End Road, Sawtry, Huntingdon, PE28 5UX.  
(01487 831937)

john@windgather.com

**Editor: Chris James**

56 Back Street, Ashwell, Baldock, SG7 5PE.  
(01462 742684)

chrisjames56@btinternet.com

**Website, Membership and Guide Book Sales: Sue Prigg**

1 Edgeborough Close, Kentford, Newmarket, CB8 8QY  
(01638 751289)

sue@prigg.co.uk

**Independent Accounts Examiner: David Allard**

david.allard@ntlworld.com

**Committee Member: Phil Prigg**

Address as for Sue

phil@prigg.co.uk

*We have space for another committee member!*

*Would anyone be interested in helping us promote the Icknield Way Trail across the six counties?  
Please do get in touch if you think you have skills to offer the IWA.*