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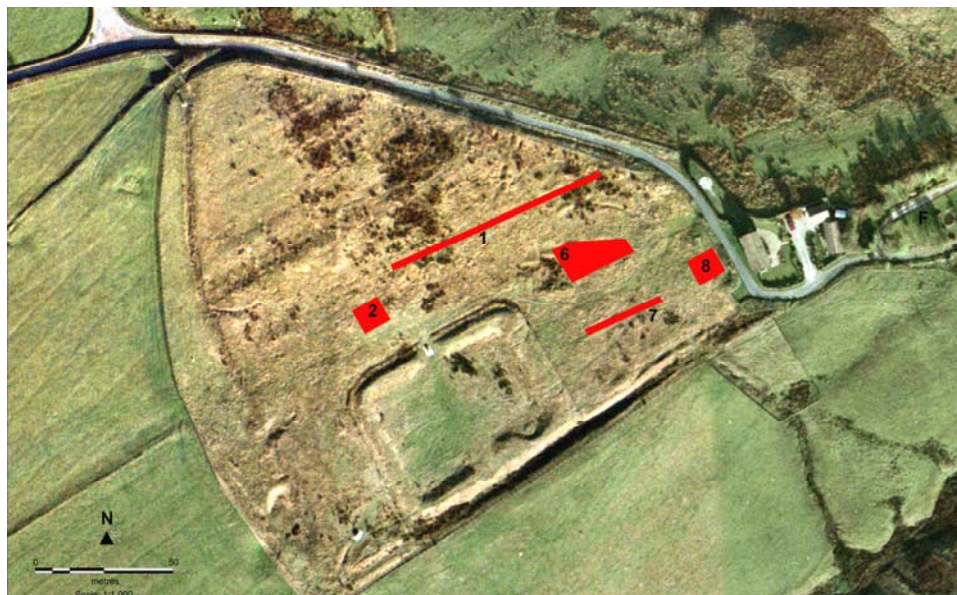
REDEFINING ROMAN CASTLESHAW 2014

AN INTERIM REPORT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Norman Redhead¹

Introduction

On behalf of the Friends of Castleshaw Roman Forts, Norman Redhead submitted a Scheduled Monument Consent application to excavate up to six trenches within and beyond the area of the Agricola period Roman fort, traditionally associated with a foundation date of AD 79. The research rationale for the trenches had previously been set out in the Castleshaw Excavation Strategy document.² Scheduled Monument Consent was granted on 21st January 2014 (Ref: S00075769). The excavations were undertaken as a community archaeology project, funded mainly through a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. The excavation took place over a four week period during July 2014 and involved a large number of volunteer archaeologists from the local and wider community, led by a small professional team from the University of Salford.



Norman Redhead

Figure 1. Five trenches were investigated during the July dig: trenches 1 (east to west trench only), 2, 6, 7 and 8.

From 1985-9 Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU) carried out extensive excavations in the later fortlet (occupied c. AD 105 to 125) which was sited on the remains of the earlier Agricola fort.³ Further investigation was undertaken by GMAU in Daycroft Field outside the south gate of the fortlet that was also the south gate site

¹ Archaeological Adviser Friends of Castleshaw Roman Forts and Heritage Management Director (Archaeology) Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service.

² N. Redhead, *An Excavation Strategy for Castleshaw Roman Forts*, Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service, 2013.

³ J. Walker, (ed), *Castleshaw: The Archaeology of a Roman Fortlet*, Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit Monograph, 1989.

of the earlier fort.⁴ GMAU's work in the 1980s led to the restoration of the fortlet ramparts as they may have looked in the mid-18th century when Thomas Percival first recorded the Roman military site, before ploughing and early antiquarian excavations despoiled the remains. Scheduled Monument Consent permitted GMAU to re-excavate old archaeology trenches within the fortlet and to reveal the top of the Roman horizon, clean and record, and undertake limited sample excavation of Roman features. Using this methodology it was possible to define no less than four separate phases of timber building construction within the fortlet interior.

The first two phases belonged to the earlier, larger fort which was in existence from the AD 70s to the mid-90s, whilst the fortlet also had two phases within its equally short life span. This may reflect the harsh climate and the short 'shelf' life of the timber buildings, but it could also represent changes in design and policy. For instance, in the last phase of the fortlet, around AD 120, it was apparent that a major re-ordering of the interior took place: the hypocaust flue and furnace were moved so that an extension could be made to the building cutting into the service road, the granary was increased in size by at least a third and space was so restricted that there was no room for an *intervallum* road against the inner face of the western rampart. Outside the south gate the area was used for settlement activity resulting in the main trans-Pennine highway being diverted to loop round the opposite, north, side of the fortlet.

The current project, *Redefining Roman Castleshaw*, has provided the first opportunity in over fifty years to examine the interior and defences of the earlier, larger fort beyond the site of the later fortlet. Previous excavations in this area had been carried out by Bruton in 1907-8, who examined the gateways and rampart corners,⁵ Rosser in 1957-9, who looked particularly at the north-west quarter of the fort and located two timber granaries, a rock cut cistern and two defensive ditches beyond the northern rampart,⁶ and Thompson in 1963-4, who excavated a number of long, narrow trenches to define the location of the roads and timber barrack blocks in the north-eastern quarter.⁷

Methodology

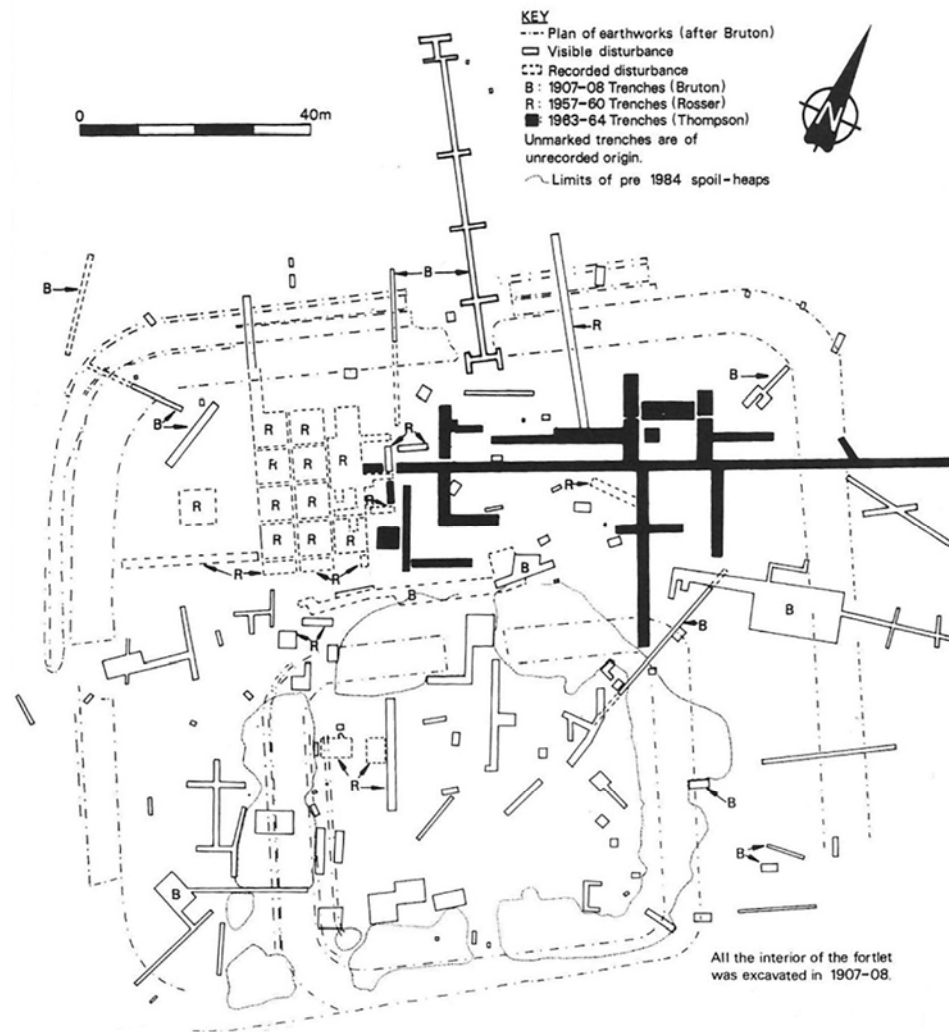
The project focused on five trenches (Figure 4) which were felt to be at the limit of what was achievable in the time available. The thinking behind the trench locations was to re-excavate old archaeology trenches and expand these areas to allow a better understanding of the character and level of survival of Roman deposits and features. 116 adult volunteers took part in the excavation. Much of the time was spent cleaning the extensive road surfaces that were exposed and excavating out old trench backfill.

⁴ N. Redhead, 'Daycroft Field, Castleshaw', *Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin (SHSB)*, Vol. 26, No. 1, 1996, pp. 1-18; N. Redhead, 'Castleshaw Evaluation Stage 2; Further Investigations of Extra-Mural Activity at an Upland Roman Military Site', *SHSB*, Vol. 27, No. 1, 1997, pp. 1-31; N. Redhead, 'Extra-Mural Settlement in a Marginal Context: Roman Castleshaw' in M. Nevell, (ed), *Living on the Edge of Empire: Models, Methodology and Marginality*, Manchester, 1999, pp. 74-81.

⁵ F.A. Bruton, *Excavation of the Roman Forts at Castleshaw*. Second Interim Report, Manchester, 1911.

⁶ J.A. Petch, 'Castleshaw 1957-1961', *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, Vol. 71, 1963, pp. 163-5.

⁷ F.H. Thompson, 'The Roman Fort at Castleshaw, Yorkshire (1957-64)', *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, Vol. 77, 1974, pp. 1-13.



Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit

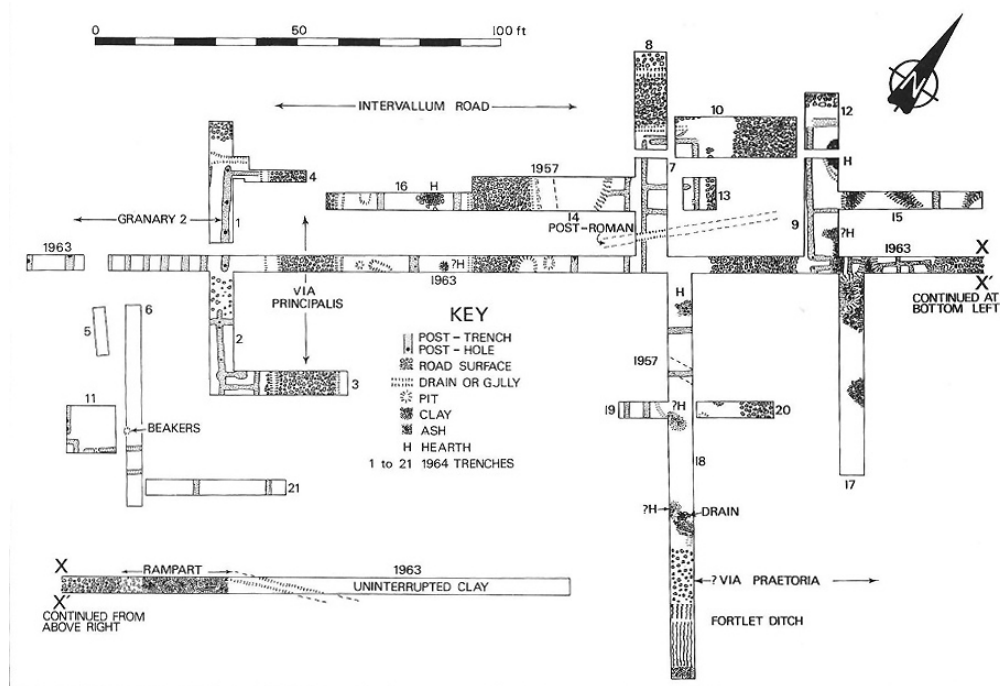
Figure 2. GMAU disturbance plan showing old excavation trench locations.

The digging team number around twenty each day and compromised a range of experiences. The professional team of four from the University of Salford were responsible for recording standards and undertook a considerable amount of training. There were only two wet days in a month of dry sunny weather. Features stood out clearly when the ground was moist, but as it dried out the high clay content meant that the colour faded and the ground became hard to excavate. As the unexpectedly complex nature of the archaeology became apparent in areas such as Trench 2, it was felt that the dig should be treated more as an evaluation so that the archaeology was not rushed and was mostly left intact.

Trench 1 was designed to re-excavate Thompson's long trench marked '1963' on his 1964 plan.⁸ This crossed the eastern rampart and area of potential ditches and allowed us to re-investigate an area he defined as 'uninterrupted clay' where the fort ditches should be. This trench also followed the Thompson trench through the

⁸ F.H. Thompson, (1974).

north-east quarter of the fort interior as far as the *via principalis*. Special regard was given to evidence for phasing and post-fort activity. Thompson trench backfill was selectively removed where Roman features were likely to be exposed in the sides or base. The trench length was 80 metres. In order to ensure the edges of the old excavation trench were properly defined and to better understand archaeological features/deposits revealed in the trench sections and floor, a strip of 1 metre was excavated on either side of the old trench to reveal, clean and record the top of Roman archaeology.



F H Thompson

Figure 3. Plan of Thompson trenches.

Trench 2 was 10 metres square, incorporating the Bronze Age beaker pit indicated as 'beakers' on Thompson's plan (Trench 6). The adjacent area was examined to establish the potential and record any other evidence for prehistoric activity to shed light on the nature of Bronze Age occupation. The trench incorporated most of Thompson's square trench 11 and a small portion of the western end of his trench 21. The southern side of the trench was designed to expose the remains of the later 'loop' road indicated on Bruton's plan and the intention was also to examine the potential for Roman features relating to a possible workshop area. Following removal of topsoil and plough soil, Trench 2 was carefully cleaned and features recorded at surface level. Old excavation trenches were re-excavated but elsewhere there was only selective excavation of Roman features to examine relationships between inter-cutting building slots and to determine the depth of Roman stratigraphy.

Trench 6 was excavated across the fort east gate to expose Bruton trenches and the remains of the gateway and exit road. Most of the excavation focused on cleaning the road surface to reveal its nuances of construction and possible phasing. Over 26 metres length of road were exposed. Bruton trenches varied in depth but were not re-excavated. For instance, in places, his trench could be seen to stop at the road surface, whereas in the central post pit for the Roman gate a deep backfilled trench was exposed in the side of the post pit and related to where he had dug right through

the road levels. The rampart was revealed either side of the gateway. The only intrusive excavation was in exposing post pits for the gate structure and excavating out two of the post pits to establish depth and form. Roman features either side of the road as it exited the gate were revealed in plan only and recorded.

Trench 7 involved the re-excavation of a still visible but unrecorded (and of uncertain origin) trench running west to east across the southern part of the fort's east rampart and continuing across the expected course of defensive ditches. The old backfill was removed and the trench widened to provide straight edges and to aid interpretation and recording. The trench was extended eastwards to encapsulate the potential double ditch alignment and excavated down through natural to confirm the absence of the ditches.

Trench 8 was a 10 metre square trench sited on part of the Husteds Farm site. The excavation focused on well preserved wall foundations and a flag floor previously identified in a test pitting evaluation exercise in March 2014.⁹ These appear to have belonged to a cottage or animal byre. This area was identified as suitable for the nine Saddleworth Primary School classes that were taking part in the summer dig. The robust nature of the remains made it possible to excavate rubble demolition material down to hard floor surfaces and the tops of wall foundations. At the end of the dig, adult volunteers cleaned the remains for recording purposes. To the west of the building remains a c. 3 metre wide strip was excavated down to natural clay to test for Roman archaeology survival.

Results

The Eastern Defences

Trench 1 (Figure 5) was 80 metres long and followed Thompson's trench running from the main central axis road, the *via principalis*, to beyond the east rampart where defensive ditches should exist. However, it had been noted by both Bruton and Thompson on their plans and in their descriptions that no defensive ditch could be found on this, east side of the fort defences. This seemed a very curious arrangement and became a focus of our attention. Trench 1 was able to re-locate and further reveal a 'U' shaped drain running out at an oblique angle from under the rampart. The drain fills were of sticky, silty clay which may retain palaeo-environmental evidence of the Roman environment. The nature of these fills suggested wet conditions over a long period of time and it was noticeable that the water table was encountered at around 1 metre depth. The drain fills could be seen at a splayed angle in the straightened north facing trench edge section. However, the opposite side of the 2 metre wide trench was entirely different. Here there were stone rich deposits filling what appeared to be a shallow potential ditch feature. Further away from the rampart there was only natural clay where one might have expected to find the second defensive ditch, a phenomenon observed by Thompson and corroborated by the recent excavation. The rampart was not excavated within this trench.

A second trench (7) was examined across the eastern defences about 10 metres from the south-east corner of the fort. Again an old excavation trench (of unknown date) was emptied and the sides cut back to create a straight section. The old trench had gone to

⁹ N. Redhead, Archaeological Evaluation of Area 8, Dirty Lane, Castleshaw, Saddleworth, Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service, 2014.

the base of the rampart but had not examined the potential ditch area. It was found that there were no ditches here. The natural strata of angled, plated bedrock and orange clay was evident but no ditch cut or fill. Whilst the rampart survived to only a shallow depth of about 50 cm it did present a good example of turf construction with black lines representing decayed grass. Behind the rampart were the remains of a stone structure, partly removed by the old excavation trench. This feature was not examined in detail but is likely to be an oven base set into the back of the rampart.

A third opportunity to look for the eastern defensive ditches presented itself in Trench 6 which was across and beyond the exterior of the east gateway. Here once again there was no evidence for ditches. A possible ditch terminus was identified against the road running out of the gate but on excavation this turned out to be a shallow feature. It can be concluded that to date the only evidence for a ditch on the fort's east side is the stone filled feature in the north section face of Trench 1. This may represent the terminus or petering out of the ditch as it wraps around the north-east corner of the rampart. The ditch system was excavated on the north side of the fort and has been partly excavated on the south side, but does not appear to exist along most of the east side. This is surprising given that the east side is the flattest approach to the defences and, one would have thought, the most vulnerable side. Possible explanations for this absence could be that this area formed a military annexe and that the ditches are further east, or that this was a parade ground where the flat space was not encroached on by ditches. Although unusual, such an arrangement has been noted at a handful of other forts. For instance, at Slack, which is the next fort towards York, there is no ditch beside the rampart for half the length of the eastern defences. The baths complex is adjacent and perhaps there were other buildings in this area as well. Further comparative analysis is required to help understand the situation at the Castleshaw Fort.

The East Gate and Exit Road (Trench 6)

Bruton exposed the remains of the east gate in 1907-8 and recorded seven post pits which took the wooden uprights for a dual portal gateway. Originally there would have been three sets of three post pits. However, Bruton's work was partly impeded by a 19th century dry stone wall which ran south to north across the former gateway. The current excavations found that this wall had mostly been removed but had left a shallow foundation trench. Bruton's plan of Roman features also shows the 'loop' road angling through the gateway to re-join the main highway in an area later built over by Lower Castleshaw settlement.

The 2014 excavation revealed six of the gateway post pits (Figure 7), with the other three being beyond the western edge of the trench. Two of the pits were fully re-excavated and found to be very deep at c. 1.8m. One of them had not been completely excavated by Bruton and the bottom contained the decayed remains of the original gate post. Elsewhere, it was clear that Bruton's excavators had struggled to find the post settings and had dug east to west orientated trenches against the rampart edges on either side of the gateway to try to locate the post pits. This process had also involved over-digging around the post pits before their edges could be accurately determined. This created a ragged edge around the top of the post pits, a phenomenon seen during GMAU's excavation of the south gate in the 1980s. The remains of the rampart sloped down to the road edge where Bruton's trenches had been cut to look for the post settings. Post rampart deposition was removed to reveal the surviving level of the rampart surface but the rampart itself was not excavated. The decayed

turf lines seen in section in Trench 7 (Figure 6) were not evident on the surface in Trench 6, nor indeed in Trenches 1 and 7, which suggests that the original rampart material had not been properly exposed by excavation or that the foundation only was comprised of piled turves, and that the superstructure was of clay.

The easternmost central post hole revealed in its east side a cut feature which was the narrow linear trench excavated by Bruton along the middle of the exit road. This trench was characterised by short spur trenches running off at right angles. The depth of the Bruton trenches varied, in places being shallow and merely exposing the top of the Roman road surface, in other places being cut right through the road to examine its make-up. The Bruton trench was not fully re-excavated. In the gateway it was clear that there had been no backfilling after Bruton's dig, because the modern turf was very shallow over the stones of the Roman road surface and the grass roots were entwined with the road metalling making excavation quite challenging.

Machine stripping followed by careful hand trowelling revealed the character of a large expanse of Roman road running through and out of the east gate. Different phases of road appeared to be represented by the different types of metalling. For instance, the 'loop' road, which angled through the gateway and is associated with the later fortlet, was fairly crude comprising mainly medium size angular gritstones, with occasional patches of more rounded, smaller grit stones surviving to indicate the original top spread of metalling. This contrasted with a more lightly coloured, smaller and much smoother gritstone metalled surface evident within the gateway area. It is possible that this represents the original fort road surface. Of course a road that saw heavy traffic probably had several phases of localised patching and repair; however, the difference in style and form was quite marked and surely represents two different phases of site use. The 2014 excavations did not put a section through the Roman road but this should be a priority for future investigations.

The northern edge of the road exiting the east gate was exposed but not the southern edge due to the restriction of the trench area. However, the northern edge indicated that the road was curving southwards to run to a junction with the main highway running up to Stanedge. It has been reported elsewhere that the Hinterland Survey has failed to find evidence for this main highway close to the fort on its eastern side and it can only be concluded that the development of the hamlet at Castleshaw has removed the remains of the road. Recently an archaeological section cut across the lawn of Castleshaw House, under which the Roman road line is projected, failed to find any survival of this road, even though the earthwork remains are quite clear further up the hillside towards Stanedge.

The northern side of Trench 6 (Figure 7) produced some unexpected and very interesting features. One of these was an apparent spur road running north from and connecting to the exit road. It was exposed for a length of about 2 metres before running under the trench edge. It was 4.7m wide and would have run alongside the exterior of the fort rampart. On the east side of this spur road and running up to a clearly defined straight edge against the main exit road was an area of clay characterised by frequent inclusions of fragments of oxidised red (fire heated) daub. A corresponding straight edge could be discerned against the east side of the spur road so that it might be argued that this was the site of a timber structure. However, it should be pointed out that there were no construction trenches or evidence of sill beams and that burnt daub material also spread onto and amongst the adjacent road metalling for a short distance.

Another surprising feature was a well laid platform of medium to large gritstones

lying between the spur road and the rampart; indeed the feature may even run under the rampart but there was not time to clearly determine this relationship as the stone platform was discovered very near the end of the excavation. The southern edge of the platform was marked by a stone kerb separating it from the exit road by a distance of about 1 metre. The presence of this stone platform, the possible timber building and the spur road demonstrate that this area beyond the eastern rampart was used for a specific purpose, either as a *vicus* or military annex in the fort phase. This would also explain why there is no ditch here. This provides a new insight into the character and function of Castleshaw Roman Fort, as previous excavations have not picked up on this extra mural activity. It is clearly a subject for future research focus.

The North-East Quarter of the Fort Interior (Trench 1)

Within the north-east quarter of the fort, Trench 1 (Figure 8) re-opened Thompson's trench that bisected this area of the fort interior, running from the *via principalis* to the rampart. This provided an opportunity to validate the 1960s plans and interpretation and allow a better understanding of the level of survival and nature of the archaeology. The excavation revealed a strip on either side of Thompson's trench, cut so that the surface features and deeper cut features could be identified and recorded. The *via principalis* and two service roads were revealed, as recorded by Thompson, but a fourth road indicated on this plan, the intervallum road was not evident. Backfill of the Thompson trench was not removed across the whole length due to time constraints, but it was excavated out in key areas. It was found that its depth was variable; for instance the roads had been completely cut through to reveal their sections but in other places Roman pits had only been partly dug so that intact Roman fill survived in one or two cases. The old excavation trench also varied in width and one or two features had been followed. This made interpretation of the Roman archaeology a little harder as the uniform trenching shown on the 1963 plan was much less regular in reality.

Only the eastern half of the *via principalis* was excavated and this was found to have been badly disturbed in the area of Thompson's trench but nonetheless a drainage gully was exposed and recorded and road metalling was well preserved beyond the disturbance area. The two service roads were also in good order but there were changes in metalling across the road surfaces. For instance the eastern most of the two service roads had a linear strip of smaller, angular and rounded grit stones forming a narrow cambered surface, whereas elsewhere the road was comprised of larger and angular grit stones not as well laid or as closely packed. The metalling for this easternmost service road spread out beyond the road edge suggesting access to adjacent buildings. A square flat stone was suggestive of a padstone for a building's veranda. It was also possible to see at least two circular post settings cut through the road metalling. Here was clear evidence of more than one phase of Roman building activity.

In between the *via principalis* and the service roads Thompson had recorded several gullies and hearths representing presumed timber barracks. It was noteworthy that the gullies were difficult to pick up at surface level but were much better defined at the lower level. It was also apparent that the archaeology survived better the further east the trench went, so that features between the *via principalis* and the first service road were sporadic and limited to a hearth and a building slot. The distances between the roads were irregular with that between the two service roads being considerably greater than that between the *via principalis* and the first service road. This suggests that there were different functions for these areas.

Between the easternmost service road and the rampart the archaeology was better preserved with more evidence for stratigraphy, deposits and intercutting features. Of particular note was an apparent surface of compact shale forming a wide camber and bounded by building slots or drainage gullies. This was not recorded by Thompson and may represent a building platform or a former road that has had its metalling removed. Eastwards from this feature instead of encountering an intervallum road running inside the rampart, the archaeology instead turned out to comprise a series of closely spaced and possibly intercutting pits full of charcoal, ash and burnt daub. This fill material was cut by the gully for the cambered compact shale surface. The spread of ash filled pits continued right up to the rampart edge. Some of the daub showed wood impressions and some were oxidised red on the outside but grey coloured on the inside. This suggests daub for a timber building that had been damaged or destroyed by fire, dismantled and deposited in the pits which are located close to the north-east corner of the fort. None of the pits were excavated but clearly there is considerable surviving archaeological potential in this part of the fort. It is unusual not to have an intervallum road; Thompson's interpretation may relate to occasional stones seen in this area but they certainly did not constitute road metalling. So it looks as though this corner of the fort was used for rubbish disposal at one time; however, another possible explanation is that the proliferation of ash, charcoal and daub could represent the presence of a workshop area or rake out from ovens. Thompson's plan shows some ash deposits here but also several closely spaced building slots which were not evident in the recent excavation.

Trench 1 has demonstrated that the fort interior retains complex archaeology of differing phases. It is possible that there is evidence of post fort demolition or/and fortlet related activity in this area as well as possible as re-building and re-ordering within the period of the fort's occupation.

The Fort Workshop Area (Trench 2)

This trench focused on a 10m square area sited on the west side of the *via principalis* between the fort headquarters building and the granary (as revealed by GMAU and Rosser respectively). This area has been interpreted as the workshop site. The other interest with this trench was being sited over one of Thompson's trenches where in 1964 he found a pit with a number of sherds from early Bronze Age beaker vessels.

Excavation of topsoil revealed that this area had good archaeological survival with many features and deposits being exposed across the trench. Substantial parts of two Thompson trenches, a square shape (11 on Thompson's plan, Figure 3) and a long narrow one (6), were re-excavated with a very small part of a third Thompson trench (21). Along the south side of the trench was found the edge of the 'loop' road identified by Bruton and shown on his excavation plan. A section at right angles to the road revealed a roadside ditch. This and most of the southern half of the trench was sealed by a compact layer of shale and clay which appeared to be either a floor surface possibly associated with the re-use of this area in the later fortlet phase. It went up to but did not overlap the edge of the loop road which is associated with this same phase. Two post settings were visible in the surface and may relate to a late phase timber building.

Elsewhere there were numerous Roman features including post settings, hearths and timber building slots. The latter were particularly evident in the south-west quarter of the trench and appear to represent several phases of construction. There were also



SUAVE Aerial Photography

Figure 4. Aerial view of the opened trenches.



Norman Redhead

Figure 5. The angled drainage gully, visible to the left of the 1m photo scale, exits from under the rampart in Trench 1. It was partly excavated by Thompson and his trench backfill is evident in the section beyond the photo scale.



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Figure 6. North section of Trench 7 showing rampart turf construction to left and no ditch.



SUAVE Aerial Photography

Figure 7. Trench 6 aerial view, showing the east gateway and some of its post pits, the exit road, and Bruton's trench showing as a dark, narrow linear strip.



SUAVE Aerial Photography

Figure 8. Trench 1 aerial view with *via principalis* on far left and rampart towards the right.

building slots running south to north and east to west across the most of the length of the trench. Slots were excavated across junctions to establish relationships. Some of the slot fills were capped with a yellow clay whereas the main fill was of grey, silty clay loam. Running along the southern edge of Thompson's trench 11 was a building slot that was cut by a Roman period pit. This slot continued through the long Thompson trench 6 before meeting another building slot at right angles. Several patches of oxidised red clay were revealed scattered across the excavation area. These were interpreted as former hearths and were sampled for laboratory analysis to see if there is any evidence for metal working. One of the hearths was cut by a building slot. Adjacent to and running under the eastern edge of the excavation was a nicely preserved compact shale floor. It was sealed under the later compact shale and clay deposit mentioned earlier but in turn it sealed charcoal and stone deposits.

The earliest feature in Trench 2 (Figure 11) was the remnant of the Beaker pit excavated by Thompson, which was located half way along his narrow trench 6. The backfill was re-excavated but no more pottery fragments were recovered. Close by this feature, in the base of Thompson's trench, was a curving linear gulley filled with close packed angular sand stones set on edge within the a mid-grey, silty clay matrix. No dating material was recovered but the depth of the feature, the way it enclosed and respected the Beaker pit and the fact it was cut by a Roman building slot, suggest it could be part of a prehistoric structure linked to the Beaker pit.

The archaeology in Trench 2 was in the form of an evaluation rather than a more complete excavation. This was due to time constraints and the evident complexity of the archaeology. The surface of Roman archaeology was cleaned and recorded and the old excavation trenches re-excavated. Selective excavation was then undertaken to gain a sense of phasing and character of the archaeology. We can now say that there are several phases of Roman activity in this area, which might relate to continuous refurbishment of a workshop building during the life of the fort, with evidence for deposits and a timber building at a later, fortlet, date associated with the loop road. No more Bronze Age pottery came to light but there was a possible structural feature close to the Beaker pit excavated by Thompson in 1963. Trench has revealed that this area has significant archaeological survival and considerable complexity, close to the centre of the fort. This would be a key area for future excavation as it has the potential to answer several research questions put forward in the Conservation Management Plan and Excavation Strategy.

Husteds Cottage

Trench 8 (Figure 9) was located over the site of a cottage belonging to the larger farm complex known as Husteds. This area had been the subject of evaluation through test pitting in March 2014.¹⁰ This exercise demonstrated good archaeological survival and suitability for the focus of schools activities during the main community excavation. A John Schofield of 'Hustids' grew ½ acre of oats¹¹ and paid tax for one hearth during the late 17th century.¹² In a deed of 1767 the farm is described as 'a cottage, messuage or dwellinghouse'.¹³ Husteds is recorded in the 18th century and reportedly

¹⁰ N. Redhead, (2014).

¹¹ J.M. Hunt, 'Saddleworth Tithes in 1669', *SHSB*, Vol. 14, No.2, 1984, pp. 20-25.

¹² M. Buckley, 'Saddleworth Hearth Tax Returns, Part I', *SHSB*, Vol. 31, No.3, 2001, pp. 11-15;

M. Buckley, 'Saddleworth Hearth Tax Returns, Part II', *SHSB*, Vol. 32, No.1, 2002, pp. 17-21;

M. Buckley, 'Saddleworth Hearth Tax Returns, Part III', *SHSB*, Vol. 33, No.2, 2003, pp. 6-13.

¹³ West Yorkshire Archive Service (WYAS), Wakefield, Registry of Deeds, BG 83 118.

had a 1737 datestone. A 10m square area excavation trench (Figure 10) was opened over the site of the cottage and adjacent ground. As well as studying the cottage remains themselves, to help shed light on the origins and character of Lower Castleshaw hamlet, it was intended to look for evidence of Roman activity.

The excavation revealed the well preserved remains of a stone built cottage of several phases. The latest phase appears to have involved its conversion to an animal byre, as a thick concrete floor slab had been inserted at an angle to allow effluent to drain away. On the west side of the cottage there was no evidence for the Roman road which exits the east gate and loops back to the main highway. It has either been completely removed or is in a different location. There was a ditch like feature clearly cut into the natural orange clay but this had the appearance of an old excavation trench or a post-medieval cut feature. There was not time to excavate it but post-medieval pottery came from its upper surface. Elsewhere the finds assemblage provided evidence for a pre-18th century origin. There were a number of sherds of 17th century trail slipped ware and one sherd of 14th or 15th century pottery with a lead glaze. These finds push back the origins of the cottage and add considerably to our knowledge of Lower Castleshaw settlement.

Roman Finds Analysis

The finds assemblage was not large due to the fact that much of the archaeological work consisted of cleaning down on to the top of Roman deposits or re-excavating old excavation trenches. The assemblage appeared to conform to the types of material and date range seen in previous excavations ie. late first or early second century AD. A small collection of Samian ware, some of it quite abraded, has been sent to the specialist, Felicity Wild, for analysis and reporting. The larger assemblage of Romano-British coarse wares has been sent to Ruth Leary. Both these specialists visited the site for a tour of the archaeology and gave training workshops at Saddleworth Museum to volunteers. Ceramic building material, including a few tile fragments and the more numerous pieces of daub, is being assessed and reported on by Dr Phil Mills. Glass and metal work has gone to Christine Howard-Davies at Oxford Archaeology North who is a regional specialist on these materials. The glass includes several melon bead fragments. The metal work will be x-rayed prior to analysis. Flint finds will be reported on by Dr Andrew Myers. There were no Roman coins and only a few small pieces of calcined animal bone were recovered which are not worth further analysis. Plant macro fossil and pollen assessment of palaeo-environmental samples is being undertaken by Archaeological Services at Durham University. Samples from hearths in Trench 2 will be subjected to chemical analysis at the University of Salford. These will include: Scanning Electron Microscope, X-Ray Diffraction and Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy. These will be used to test for metal elements to help determine the original function of the hearths. Finds reports will be incorporated into the final excavation report.

It is possible to provide a short summary of some of the key findings from the pottery reports which have recently been submitted. There were 82 sherds of Romano-British pottery weighing 794gm. Mortaria fragments from the Oise/Somme area of northern France dated to the late 1st century AD. There was a Dressel 20 oil amphorae rim sherd from Baetica in southern Spain. Amphora stoppers from previous excavations at Castleshaw show vessels arrived as sealed containers. More local pottery included rusticated grey ware sherds, some from neckless everted rim jars. These can be dated to the Flavian-Trajanic period. Oxidised orange wares also included an everted rim form (from a jar) plus a rouletted jar rim of a type found at other fort sites in Cheshire

and Lancashire such as Wigan. There is nothing beyond the late Flavian-Trajanic period, which accords with previous Castleshaw excavated material. Interestingly, one flagon neck was reduced, that is it was over fired and discoloured and probably a 'waster'. It may indicate a production kiln near to the fort. This is not an unusual occurrence for forts but it is the first time this evidence has been produced for Castleshaw.¹⁴

Samian ware retrieval comprised seventeen sherds representing a maximum of eight vessels. They were in poor condition due to acidic soil conditions. All of the Samian was from south Gaul and dated to the Flavian or Trajanic periods. There was just one decorated sherd which displayed an ovolo motif belonging to Form 37.¹⁵

Geophysical Survey

As part of the Redefining Roman Castleshaw project, Tameside Archaeology Society (TAS) undertook a resistivity and magnetometer survey of areas outside the eastern and northern defences of the auxiliary fort. This was carried out under a Section 42 licence. The survey was challenged by very difficult terrain due to the uneven nature of the ground and high vegetation. Whilst the results for the strip outside the eastern defences were poor, particularly for the magnetometer survey, those for the resistivity survey beyond the northern rampart were very promising and suggest the presence of structural remains. The results of this study will be the subject of separate report by TAS. For information the northern area survey plot is shown below. Former archaeological trenches and field boundaries and at least one possible (rectangular) building are indicated. On Saturday 19th July a team from GSB Prospection came to site to test out various pieces of survey hardware as a free, research exercise. This welcome input was unfortunately curtailed due to severe weather conditions and the difficulty of the terrain. GSB have promised to return another day. In the meantime the United Utilities Ranger has undertaken to cut the grass over the survey areas to facilitate better access for the survey.

Conclusion

The recent excavations have thrown up a few surprises and demonstrated that the site is far more complex than previous excavators have led us to believe. The July excavations were essentially a large scale evaluation of the Roman fort site. This work has demonstrated that multi-phased, stratified Roman archaeology survives across much of the site. The excavations have found several phases of Roman activity, suggesting that the fort was rebuilt at some stage and that after its final demolition the land was re-used by the Romans for other purposes before and during the occupation of the fortlet. Our understanding of the site has been significantly enhanced and will inform a revised research framework to reflect the new discoveries.

It is proposed to complete the final excavation report by the end of the HLF project in April 2015. The report will be sent to English Heritage, a copy placed with the Historic Environment Record and it will be put on to the Friends of Castleshaw Roman Forts website: <http://www.castleshawarchaeology.co.uk>, which holds a number of archaeological reports and publications relating to the site.

¹⁴ R.S. Leary, 'Castleshaw excavations 2014: Post Excavation Analysis Romano-British Pottery'. Unpublished report, 2014.

¹⁵ F. Wild, 'Castleshaw (CRF 14): the Samian Ware'. Unpublished report, 2014.



Norman Redhead

Figure 9. The remains of Husteds Cottage, looking south.



Norman Redhead

Figure 10. The one surviving early post-medieval building of Lower Castleshaw hamlet is in the background. The linear cut feature can be seen in front of the photographic scales.



SUAVE Aerial Photography

Figure 11. Trench 2 showing the fortlet phase loop road edge on the left, with a Roman floor surface visible against the middle of the bottom edge of the trench.



Norman Redhead

Figure 12. Pottery finds from Husted's Cottage site: medieval body sherd (above left), fragments of 17th century trail slipped ware (above right), farm themed decoration on 19th/20th century vessel.



Norman Redhead

Figures 13 & 14. Pottery finds from Husted's Cottage site: medieval body sherd (above left), fragments of 17th century trail slipped ware (above right).



Norman Redhead

Figures 15 & 16. Neck of oxidised orange ware jar (left) and fragment of tegula roof tile (right).



Norman Redhead

Figures 17 & 18. Abraded sherd of Form 37 Samian (left) and melon bead (right).



Norman Redhead

Figure 19. Resistivity survey plot over northern defences and potential area of extra-mural activity.

Once the finds are returned by the specialists, they will be stored at Saddleworth Museum. Some of them will go on display when the Museum completes its HLF grant-aided refurbishment project. The Friends are organising an Archaeology Day at Uppermill Civic Centre on 21st March 2015. The results of the Castleshaw project will be presented and there will be presentations by archaeologists working on other Roman fort excavation projects in north England. This will provide a context for the work at Castleshaw and help inform future research strategies.

Acknowledgements

Especial thanks are due to the team from the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CfAA) who led the excavation and provided training to volunteers. In particular Adam Thompson, overall project manager, Vicky Nash, who ran the excavation, and John Roberts, who supervised Trench 1, have provided detailed records and useful comments. Committee members from the Friends of Castleshaw Roman Forts facilitated the excavations and made a significant contribution to finds processing (as did Kirsty Whittall from CfAA). The landowner, United Utilities, supported the excavation and Morgana Restall, their Ranger, was particularly helpful. Mike Buckley has provided advice and information on the history of Husted's Farm. Thanks go to Saddleworth Museum for providing space for finds processing. Aerial photographs were taken by SUAVE Aerial Photography using a micro-helicopter. The excavation was made possible through a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, with additional support from the Saddleworth and Lees District Partnership.

A GRIM DIARY OF SADDLEWORTH - 6

Paul Fryer

November 9 1900 - Somewhat severe injuries were inflicted on a servant in the employ of Stephen Wall of Clough Bottom, Uppermill. She was walking out with two bull terriers when suddenly they attacked her. Despite the efforts of witnesses, who used sticks and long brushes lustily on the dogs, the victim was some little time in being released from her perilous predicament. She was found to have suffered a severe bite on her right arm, which she had held up to protect her throat, and there were also injuries to her legs.

November 10 1911 - Mr Hill held an inquest at Springhead Council offices touching on the death of Leonard Livesey, who was found drowned in a well at Quickedge. Margaret Leonard, of Higher Butt Farm, said Leonard was her grandson, aged 3. She had last seen him alive in the farmhouse on the afternoon of November 8, playing with two other children. Nobody saw Leonard Livesey leave the house. About 10 minutes later Alice, Margaret's daughter, went out to the well to get some water. In the water was what she at first thought was a bundle of rags, but then she recognised it was Leonard. The well was a stone trough about 2 feet deep, and 1 foot above the ground. It was 40 yards from the house. The children had been told not to play near it, and Alice said she had never seen Leonard near it before. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidentally drowned.'

November 11 1888 - On the Sunday morning Mrs Grover of Dobcross died very suddenly. Mr Grover, her husband, got up early, and at about 7 am called his wife, but he received no answer. He went upstairs, and found her dying. She expired a short time later, the cause being heart disease. When she had gone to bed the previous evening she had apparently been in good health.

November 12 1913 - Saddleworth magistrates considered a charge of neglect of children against Mary Hilditch of Springhead. Supt Vaughan said the neglect was very apparent, the children's condition being filthy. The house, too, was dirty. He had cautioned the mother, and a great improvement had taken place and was being maintained. He did not press for a conviction. Mr H H Waddington, representing Hilditch, said she had had a hard struggle for existence. She had only 5s a week coming in, being separated from her husband.

November 13 1876 - A fire broke out at John Howard's farm at Heights. He went to fodder his cattle early, but going into the hayloft with a candle, he set light to its contents. The cows were burnt, some of them hanging themselves before they could be released from the manger.

November 14 1888 - An inquest was held at the Bridge Inn, Uppermill, on the body of John Bottomley of Den. Mary Bottomley said that the deceased was her son, 14 years old, and an imbecile. He had been subject to fits since he was 9 months old until he was 7, then they had resumed again when he was 11. He had gone to bed on Saturday night, apparently in good health after eating a hearty supper. At about 6.45 am on the Sunday Mary heard a cry, and she knew her son was having a fit. She saw that both his fists were clenched. After he came out of his fit he gurgled twice and then died in her arms.

November 15 1911 - At Saddleworth Police Court Jonathan Walker, of Ashton, was charged by the NSPCA with working a pony in an unfit state. PC Garnett said that on November 2 he saw Walker in Horsforth Road, Greenfield, with a piebald mare pony which went lame in the hind off leg, and which appeared in a very weak condition. He examined the animal and found a large sore under the saddle, and two on the shoulders. Another constable said that he had warned Walker on September 16 against working the pony. Walker was fined 10s and costs.

November 16 1916 - Rfm Herbert Williamson, 32, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked at Bentfield Mill, Greenfield.

November 17 1916 - Pte Oliver Brierley, 31, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had been a farmhand in Delph. He had previously been wounded twice, and gassed once.

November 18 1917 - Pte Maurice Bradbury, 20, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked at the Bailey Mill, New Delph.

November 19 1879 - At the Saddleworth Petty Sessions Giles Bradbury of Uppermill was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Shaw Hall on November 12. PC Gilbert stated that he found Bradbury's donkey and cart without anyone in charge on the turnpike at Smithy. After waiting 10 minutes he took it down to the Farrars Arms where he intended putting it up. A short time later Bradbury arrived making a great disturbance. He was drunk and PC Gilbert advised him to go home and not to be a fool, but Bradbury declined to take this advice. Bradbury denied the charge and said that he had lived in Uppermill for 70 years and that no one could be found to say a word against him. He had seen the PC take charge of the donkey and called after him, knowing he would have to pay for leaving it unsupervised. He was fined 5s and costs.

November 20 1917 - Pte Alfred Butterworth, 19, of the 1st/5th Battalion, the Duke of Wellington's regiment, was killed in action. He was the son of John and Mary Butterworth, and lived at North Avenue, Greenfield. Prior to enlisting he had been a linotype operator at the Oldham Chronicle. He is commemorated on his grandparents' grave in Christ Church graveyard.

November 21 1878 - During the dense fog there were a series of accidents. Mr J.M. Clifton of Carr Cote was proceeding to his son's house in Delph by the back way and fell into the river. His face and hands were severely bruised so that he had to be confined to his home for a few days.

November 22 1871 - At Saddleworth Petty Sessions Ann Taylor, who on the previous day had refused to appear, was charged with being drunk and disorderly. Police Sergeant Peters stated that on November 2, at 7.30 pm, Taylor was drunk in Uppermill, with a crowd around her. He had some difficulty in keeping the crowd away, and the village was quite in uproar. She was fined 5s and costs, or 7 days' imprisonment in default.

November 23 1913 - On Sunday afternoon a bevy of six girls were walking towards Bill o' Jacks when a cyclist collided with one of the party, Mabel Wright. As a consequence her arm was cut, and the cyclist also suffered some severe bruises. It is said that he had not ridden a bicycle for 10 years, and an attack of 'nerves' had caused the accident.

November 24 1917 - Pte Hadyn Gartside, 24, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked at Byrom's Linfitts Mill, Delph.

November 25 1877 - A very lamentable accident happened at Greenfield Reservoir, resulting in the death of 2 men, William Maguire and Peter Bennett, and severe injuries to 5 others. The reservoir was being built to supply water to Ashton and surrounding towns. On this Sunday a gang of navvies arrived seeking work. On arrival it was found that they had a quantity of beer, which they shared with other men on the site. Two wagons were being prepared to be taken down from the mouth of the northend tunnel to the lower part of the works, about a mile and a half away. The men asked if they could ride back in the wagons. The man in charge, Thomas Murphy, advised that it would not be safe to ride down until after the wagons had crossed the bridge over Greenfield brook, however, the men ignored him. Soon the wagons picked up speed, and 2 or 3 of the men jumped off before it became too fast to do so. At a curve the wagons, and their occupants were thrown into the brook, distance of around 20 feet. A wagon fell on top of Bennett, fracturing his skull. Maguire suffered dreadful head injuries, with his skull smashed in, and his brains protruding. At a later inquest, held at the Clarence Hotel, the jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental death.'

November 26 1838 - John Winterbottom of New Tame died of yellow fever on Barbados. He had joined the Army in 1799 and had risen from the ranks to become a lieutenant. He was wounded in several of the battles of the Peninsular Wars, and at Waterloo.

November 27 1917 - Pte Leonard Foster, 32, was killed in action. He lived in Springhead. Also on the same day, L/Cpl Stanley Nugent, 23, was killed in action. Before enlisting he had worked at Greenfield Bleaching Mill. He had been wounded in 1915. Also, Pte Alfred Platt, 27, who had worked at Eastwood and Carr, Wall Hill.

November 28 1883 - At Saddleworth Petty Sessions James Worsnip was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Quick View. PC Nightingale said that he and PC Armitage, on hearing a great noise at the Traveller's Rest, went to the public house and found Worsnip in the lobby. While talking to the landlord, Worsnip was shouting that the 2 policemen were themselves drunk. The policemen told Worsnip that if he did not stop swearing and go home, he would be locked up. PC Nightingale put his hand on Worsnip's shoulder. Worsnip's solicitor said that his client had only drunk 2 pints of beer, and that PC Armitage had deliberately tried to trip him up. It had been another man who had shouted at the policemen, and that the policemen had assaulted Worsnip. Two witnesses, Ann Seville and Eliza Radcliffe, supported these claims. They saw PC Armitage hit Worsnip in the eye, and were then told by the policemen to move along or they (the policemen) would help them along. The case was dismissed.

November 29 1910 - At Huddersfield County Police Court Walter Mallalieu, a Marsden millhand, who resides in Delph, was fined 2s 6d and 6s 6d costs for throwing snowballs in the highway.

November 30 1877 - William O'Brien, a tramp, was charged before the Rev R. Whitelock with wilfully destroying his clothes. He was committed to Wakefield prison for a month, with hard labour.

OBITUARY

Thora Hindle **1921 - 2014**



Hindle collection

Thora in the ATS as a 'Silent Listener'

Thora was born in Bolton, but much of her early life and education was spent in Middleton, Lancashire. Educated at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, she attended Long Street Methodist Church. Here during Easter 1938, she met her future husband, Jack Hindle. Badminton was the original attraction. In those days she was known as Thora Hall.

At school she studied French, amongst other subjects, and then later commercial French at a commercial college. After college, she worked in an office at Richard Kew & Sons, a belt manufacturer, in Ancoats. Her courtship continued with Jack until war broke out and conscription for men took place in October 1939. Jack joined the RAF, while Thora stayed in Middleton at home.

In 1942, Thora was conscripted and trained at Knutsford. They learnt of Thora's good commercial skills and French, so she was chosen to be a wireless operator. After her training, and from 1943 until 1946, she was posted to Forest Moor, Harrogate. She listened to Morse-code messages from the Germans and anything important was sent to Bletchley Park, by dispatch riders. She had to sign the Official Secrets Act and became what is known as 'A Silent Listener'. In 2010 she received an award for this work, when the war work by women was recognised. Her name is on the Roll of Honour at Bletchley Park.

Thora was demobbed in 1946, and returned to work at Richard Kew & Sons in

Middleton. In August 1946, she married her 'schoolboy sweetheart', Jack Hindle. She continued to work at Richard Kew & Sons until the birth of her son.

After his RAF career, Jack worked for Connolly Bros, Blackley, soon to become part of B.I.C.C. After promotion in 1954, the family moved near Southport, where they lived for almost 30 years.

On retirement, they returned nearer their roots and settled in Delph. Thora and Jack soon became volunteers at the Museum, she running 'Friends' coach trips and Wednesday Coffee Mornings, while he became Chairman of the Friends' Committee. The Saddleworth Historical Society was another interest, and Jack served on the committee, while Thora was a keen member attending the talks and going on outings.

After a marriage lasting 64 years, Jack died in 2010. Thora sadly passed away on 4th September this year. She had been unwell for some time.

Thora leaves her son, Richard.

She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.



Jane McCann 2014

Thora with her certificate



Jane McCann 2014

Medal awarded to Thora in 2010

Patricia A Foster.

I wish to acknowledge and thank Jane McCann and Jim Carr for their assistance with this obituary. Photos reproduced by kind permission of Jane McCann.

Some of the above facts came from the *Friends of the Museum Newsletter* of Spring/Summer 2014 and Autumn 2014. Also from the obituary to Jack Hindle in *SHSB*, Vol. 40, No. 3, Autumn 2010.

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The Bulletin aims to reflect and encourage interest in all aspects of the history of Saddleworth. It relies on a regular supply of articles, letters, short reviews, etc. from members and others. Fresh material is required constantly, and should be sent to the Editorial Committee via Neil Barrow, who will be happy to discuss ideas for articles (or shorter contributions). These need not be confined to subjects within Saddleworth's borders, but should have some connection with the district.

Contributions for Vol. 45 (1) must be submitted to the Editors by 7 March 2015.

The Society's Website is currently being refurbished and should be available in its new form by March 2015.

