

Project Directors Report - Year 1

Since the Feasibility Study was completed in January 2010 members of BTP have continued to work hard recording and surveying features in the township....meeting the aims of the project by working through the objectives. Walk-over surveys (WOS) are continuing until all fields have been recorded. Some enclosures have been surveyed and drawn up during and following survey week July 2010.

Buildings have been recorded too Know Bank Farm and Park House were two farm complexes recorded by two teams. (detailed account in Interim Report 2011). Other buildings recorded: Bark Side Laithe, Hagg Laithe and the Bordley Hall north barn complex.

Time has been spent indoors also. Preparations for the Schools Plan (sessions began in the Spring Term 2011). Plant pots were painted, broken and the sharp edges smoothed down, for a 'pot matching' exercise. Drawings were produced for the children to colour in and answer questions related to archaeology.

The Schools Plan

Each of four primary schools has been allocated one, two hour sessions each term for the duration of the project. The 'plan' started with Maps and Plans for the 4 - 7 year olds with the PD and Meet the Professionals for the 7 - 11 year olds with Kev Cale. A walk in the fields looking at the archaeology is planned in the summer term for 7 - 11 year olds and a power point on observation for the younger age group. A different 'plan' is being prepared for the senior school - a whole week of activities for 60 children.....not all at once!!

The older age group: 17 - 18 year olds

Nine Explorer scouts from the Edmund Hilary ES Unit, Harrogate visited Bordley to carry out surveying and building recording on three occasions, each of two days duration. Two groups spent time surveying in remote areas in the north of the township whilst a third group recorded a standing building supervised by Alison Armstrong. Their finished plans are included in the Interim Report 2011. Their voluntary work not only assisted the Project but also counted towards their Queen's Scout Award. All enjoyed the experience, learning new skills and interacting with members of the Project.

Time has been spent updating the 'Grey Folders' which contain all the data on each farm or field within the township. Each folder contains: information collected during walk over surveys (WOS) of each field, maps and plans, photographs, record sheets, aerial photographs (AP) and sketches. Members were

encouraged to work on the folders; appraising APs and map regression.....enhancing their knowledge of the township.

The Flint Collection is being updated, 69 flints to date – sketching and photographing each flint has taken time. A lot of research has been done by Pauline Dodsworth who found the ‘Bordley Flint’. She spoke of her findings during a recent presentation. This was something she hadn’t done before and wasn’t keen on the prospect either, but gained the confidence needed through encouragement and did an excellent job!

Survey Week in July 2010 started with an indoor session on Monday morning followed by feature sketching in the afternoon. Subsequent days were spent in the field surveying using either solo survey or the dumpy level survey technique. The group have been trying a ‘solo method of surveying’, very effective, devised by a colleague; Paul Smith. This method works exceedingly well (quicker) with three people! Plans were drawn up over the following weeks either at indoor meetings or occasionally in members own homes. The completion of the process, the addition of hachures and boulders took place in the field to finish the plans. 12 people took part in all aspects of survey week over 6 days and it was a great success.

A second survey week took place in April this year and a third is to follow in September. During the survey week members had the opportunity to assist in the survey of the lead workings, which are to be found on the higher parts of the township, whilst others surveyed in the field known as Cow Gill High Mark (Rocking Stone). This field is full of early earthworks, enclosures incorporating low limestone scars, hut circles, small enclosures and large enclosures, single wall lines and double wall lines. A considerable amount of work was accomplished providing a platform for further surveys over the next two years. During the run up to and following survey week a visit was organised to the Lead Mining Museum at Earby – Mike Squirrell gave an informative talk before showing the group round. The afternoon was spent looking at features on Grassington Moor. Mike Gill (mining historian) was invited to give a talk on lead mining in the area at an evening meeting. He also spoke on coal mining in the township during a winter indoor meeting.

Several members accompanied the PD in visits to townships which abut Bordley. The purpose of this activity was to compare the settlement/enclosure style and design. This proved a useful activity.

Several specialist archaeologists were invited to walk-over the township with members of the group to offer their advice: Roger Martlew, John Barnatt, Mike McCarthy, Tom Lord, Tony Keates, Kev Cale and Miles Johnson. Gerry McDonnell (late of University of Bradford) has recently been contacted re. his vast knowledge of Fountains Abbey granges.

Several visits have been made to archives – Skipton Library, YDNPA at Bainbridge, NYCRO at Northallerton, YAS at Leeds, and Borthwick at York - by the research group and the oral history team have been out and about too, taking them as far as Bedale!

Disseminating the information.

Three walks, led by the PD and Alison Armstrong, for local groups took place and one talk, in 2010, with more to come. A website was set up for BTP by Jim Brophy of Iron-Age Nidderdale and run for a time by Ann Thake prior to Ann Wilkinson taking it on. Some thought has been given to the publications; booklet, walks leaflets and DVD and it is hoped that a framework for the main publication will be formed by the end of 2011.

An article was written by author Gill Hovell about the group and can be seen in the May 2011 edition of The Dalesman. A group in Cumbria have shared their ideas with the group re. a book and walks leaflets produced at the end of their project. Several venues, enabling us to provide an exhibition using the display boards, have been visited too.

Regular All Group evening meetings have been held so that recent discoveries can be presented to an audience of members and the general public. Speakers on topics related to the project were secured for these meetings for example: the Lost Chartularies of Bordley, lead mining, and flints.

The PD presented a power point presentation at the Northern Mines Research Society (NMRS) 50th Anniversary in October 2010 and produced a paper on The Lead Industry of Bordley Township. The paper is included in the British Mining no. 90. A guided walk, in the lead mining area of township, was led by the PD and Peter Claughton for members on the NMRS in April. This was attended by 14 members.

A new idea was started in March – What We Did Today – (WWDT) an account of the work, discovery walks or indeed any day relevant to the project. The idea is to tell members and the public what is happening at Bordley and how the project is progressing. WWDT is posted on the website, emailed to members and posted out monthly to members who are not on email. It has been very well received and enjoyed by all.

Summary and update

Field work has followed a specific plan. The author and members of the group were unfamiliar with the area within the township so discovery walks were organised. Field walks were followed by walk – over surveys.

Two thirds of the walk-over surveys of fields are complete. Several fields will be subjected to further recording by field surveying later this year when dressing floors (lead mining process) and a botany survey will start and run for two years. A couple of members have shown interest in the Oral Histories group. A report has been produced on the Bordley Flint. To date five primary schools have had the first terms sessions delivered to them. One school has already enjoyed the second session a power point presentation on walls (a lesson on observation) followed by examination of the school field walls for younger children and finds handling and recording plus a session on walls for the older children. All the primary schools will receive the same programme.

The project is hoping to enter into a partnership with to involve older students in the schools plan 2011.

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