



**Stay in touch! If you have an interesting topic you'd like to share or a question just get in touch and we'll publish or try to answer.**

*Hopefully everyone has received details of the on-line Research Seminar organised by Oxford Archaeology North to discuss the prehistory of the Fylde Peninsula. The event will be in two parts; on Friday 19th February 2021, a video will be released introducing the project, a site tour, and overview of the finds and initial thoughts from a number of professionals, then at 11.00 on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> there'll be a live Q & A with the panel. If you didn't receive the email or 'accidentally' deleted it just let me know.*

*It's great to see that mainstream archaeology continues despite the current difficulties, but read on to see what member Andy needs help with...*

Also in this issue: Lancashire Archaeological Bulletin - the Freckleton Pavement, NW Archaeology.

### **Mystery Object**

Our intrepid solo excavator, Andy, has been out and about again, this time with his metal detector and is asking readers for any ideas as to the identification of an intriguing find.



It's approximately 130mm (5 inches) wide, made of an alloy of some kind and is convex in profile. It appears to have been broken off at the 'shaft' end. It doesn't have a sharp edge, so it's not an axehead or lawn edger.



Andy would be grateful for any suggestions as to what the object might be. In the meantime he'll be consulting the PAS Finds Liaison Officer.

Suggestions (serious or amusing) to [secwya@gmail.com](mailto:secwya@gmail.com)

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I've delved again into the *Lancashire Archaeological Bulletin*, to find firstly a local mystery and secondly a regional or even national mystery that still has impact today.

### The local mystery is 'The Freckleton\* Pavement'.

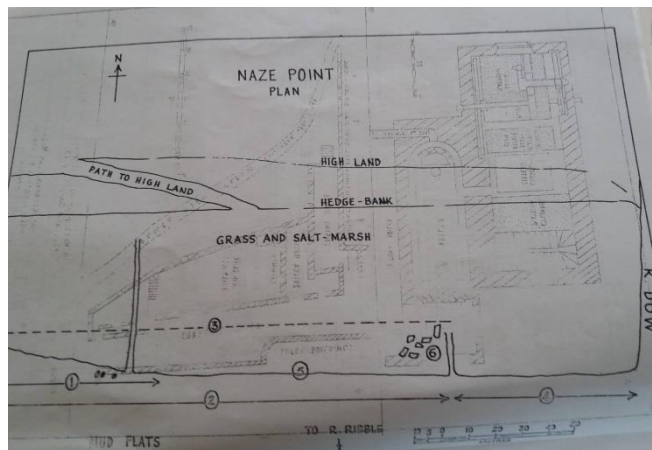
In Vol 1/No 3 of the *LAB* of July 1975, J C Plummer a Fylde amateur historian/archaeologist, describes how he was informed of a 'curious structure' on the north bank of the River Ribble close to The Naze where the Dow Brook joins the river. Plummer reports that local residents told him that the wall-like feature had not been visible 'twenty years ago' and that its first recording was in 1970 after a severe storm.

A photograph taken at that time by his informant, Mr A K McLerie of Poulton (whose description of Burn Hall (*sic*), was revisited in WA Newsletter Issue 38), was described as showing a long line of stones with a few displaced by storm and wave action. The 'wall' appeared to be based on a bank of firm red clay but by the time of his writing many of these original stones had disappeared leaving more of the red bank 'or edging' visible but also more stones '... at a similar depth to that at the original line when it was photographed in 1970'.

At the time of writing, the wall appeared to start some 70 metres to the west of Dow Brook and continued for approximately 188 metres westwards.

Mr Plummer went on to describe his attempts to investigate this feature in several expeditions accompanied by various interested individuals among whom on 28 August 1975 was County Archaeologist, Ben Edwards. On this occasion, as they tried to excavate a particular large cuboid stone, they noted that the overburden consisted of alternating layers of soil and sand, suggesting deposition by the river over a long period of time.

In Vol 1 No.6, published in January 1976, Mr Plummer gives a lengthy account of several further expeditions to the river bank, culminating (at least at this point of writing) in November 1975 in which attempts at excavating the wall were made. His excavations penetrated to a depth of up to 80 cm, recording the soil profile and using a probe for a further 15cm, noting continued 'gravelly resistance'. Obviously intrigued by the masonry and the red clay bedding, Plummer nevertheless offered no explanation or hypothesis for the feature. Maybe later *LAB* issues will have the answer.



Interestingly, a 2010 paper by Mike Coyle entitled *The Rise and Decline of the South Fylde Ports* details some of the attempts to 'train' the Ribble by building training walls to control the tidal flows but these tended to be built of rubble rather than masonry (and are marked on maps of various periods). Coyle also notes that in 1799 there was found 'Evidence of a Roman Port at Freckleton, evidenced by discovery of Anchors and ships timber'.

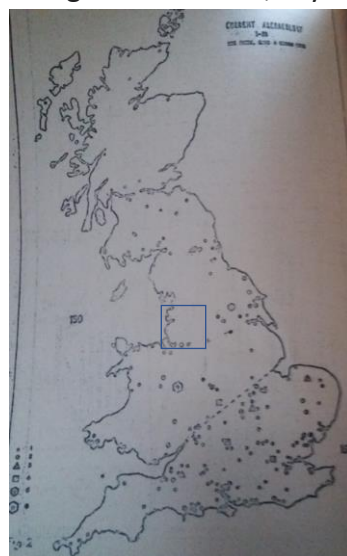
With David Ratledge's possible Roman road from the Burscough fort to Hesketh Bank immediately south of the Freckleton Pavement, it's tempting to suggest a Roman connexion.

If readers have any comments on the Freckleton Pavement we'd be pleased to receive them.

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The other, **regional/national mystery** concerns the **absence of archaeology in the North-west**.

The Editorial of *LAB* Volume2/No4, composed by Margaret Edwards, by whose kind permission



these extracts appear, contained a brief note on the apparent reluctance of the magazine *Current Archaeology* to cover archaeological excavations in Lancashire. A 'conflation' of maps that appeared on the back cover of *CA* from Issue 1 published in 1967 to Issue 50 published in 1976

illustrates this point. The North, and particularly the North-west, has very few excavation sites; I think I can spot Warrington and Manchester and of course, prior to 1974, these *were* in Lancashire but nothing else.

Of course this was over 40 years ago and things have changed; or maybe not! In May 2020, we

sent a press release with photographs to Current Archaeology about our successful excavation of the Ribchester – Catterall section of the main Roman road to Lancaster. No reply was received to the notice, nor to a follow up email a few weeks later asking for advice if the format was unsuitable.

\* **Freckleton** = (Old English) *Frecla's / Freca's Place, or, Homestead (tun) by the dangerous(frec) pool (wael).*

## Lockdown Newsletters

If you would like to share any archaeological experiences you have enjoyed over the last few years we'd be pleased to receive them. A few photos with a brief description, location and significance whether archaeological or personal would be ideal.

In response to Government advice regarding measures to mitigate against the spread of Coronavirus, Wyre Archaeology has cancelled future meetings until further notice. Digs are also suspended for the time being. News will be circulated to members by e-mail, the website and the newsletter.

We're always on the lookout for new projects so if you have a view about potential sites – especially if you have a contact – get in touch. Come to our meeting (when re-instated) or email: [secwya@gmail.com](mailto:secwya@gmail.com)

Prospective new members are especially welcome just email: [secwya@gmail.com](mailto:secwya@gmail.com)

### WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

Lancashire Archaeological Society  
Lancashire's Roman Roads (David Ratledge):  
Wigan Archaeology Society:  
University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age

<https://lancsarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com/>  
[www.twithr.co.uk](http://www.twithr.co.uk)  
[www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk](http://www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk)  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/lytham-st-annes>,  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/wyre-lancs>,  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/preston>



**Membership Benefits: Full Membership:** 10 meetings with voting rights, group membership of CBA and CBA(NW), free training, participation in digs, basic kit loan, personal dig insurance, WA Newsletter, Wigan AS and Lancashire Local History Federation newsletters, Lancaster Uni's Centre for Regional Studies circulars. (£12 individuals, £18 two family members at same address, full-time students up to age 21 free). **Associate Members:** participation in digs, basic dig training, loan of kit, dig insurance, newsletter and circulars as above (£5). **ALL CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP ONLY £5 THIS YEAR**

If YOU have any articles, news or views, email to [secwya@gmail.com](mailto:secwya@gmail.com). Check out Wyre Archaeology Group on Facebook too!

### WYRE ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Chair	Brian Rigby
Vice Chair	Davinia Jackson
Immediate Past Chair	Chris Clayton
Treasurer	Simon Millward-Hopkins
Secretary	Dave Hampson
Committee Members	Mike Edwards, Dave Berry, Peter Scott.

### CONTACTS

**WEB** [www.wyresearchology.org.uk](http://www.wyresearchology.org.uk)  
**EMAIL** [secwya@gmail.com](mailto:secwya@gmail.com)  
**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/groups/1091772967850657](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1091772967850657)

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