be protected in the normal way. Also, battlefields are generally owned by private individuals or organisations and are subject to the same sort of uses and pressures as the rest of the land surface of the country. Rarely is the present landscape similar to that when the battle was fought.

A list of battle sites has been drawn up by historians. These were further examined to establish whether they meet a set of standards including size and significance (several were dismissed as just skirmishes) and whether the site can be satisfactorily defined on the ground. This resulted in a list of forty seven. The current state of the battlefields varies. Some have been swallowed up in urban or industrial development but many are still open land, although under agriculture.

The draft list is now being sent out for public consultation before the final register is drawn up. The inclusion of a site on the Battlefield Register does not give it any statutory protection. It does, however, identify and draw attention to it so that any developments or major changes that are proposed can be considered in the light of the battle in the hope that they will remain sympathetic to the site.

Simon Ward

A re-enactment of the battle at Rowton Moor by the English Civil War Society will take place on 27th and 28th August 1995. Look out for details in forthcoming *Newsletters*.

The *Newsletter* is produced by the City Council's Archaeological Service to keep you in touch with discoveries in Chester District. It appears four times a year, in March, June, September and December. Copies are free from the Grosvenor Museum, Heritage Centre, City Record Office and tourist information offices, or £1.20 a year by post. If you have any comments or questions, or would like to contribute, please contact Gill Dunn at the Grosvenor Museum, 27 Grosvenor Street, Chester CH1 2DD. Tel (01244) 321616 ext.2023.

Printed by Chester City Council Reprographics Unit.

Education

The Education Service, at the Grosvenor Museum, has a handling collection of Roman artefacts available to help children find out about the past through investigating archaeological evidence. 'Handling sessions' can be led by Education Officers or class teachers. They would complement a visit to the museum galleries and an exploration of the sites in the city.

School visits must be booked in advance. For further information, please ring (01244) 321616 and ask for Myra Day (ext. 2017) or Mike Hardman (ext. 2018).

Displays

Some of the many finds recovered during recent excavations at Hamilton Place and Weaver Street (see September 1994 *Newsletter*) are currently on display in the Cash Hall in the Forum precinct. Roman finds include a glass bottle, bone hinges and a bead. A 17th/18th-century candlestick and 19th-century mineral water bottles can also be seen.

Chester Archaeological Seminar 1995

Trade and the Port of Chester - Announcement and Call for Papers

Having just published the papers from last February's Research Seminar, we are now thinking about the next seminar, which we plan to hold in Autumn 1995, in conjunction with the City Record Office. The intention is to devote it to one of the most important but relatively neglected aspects of Chester's past, trade and the port.

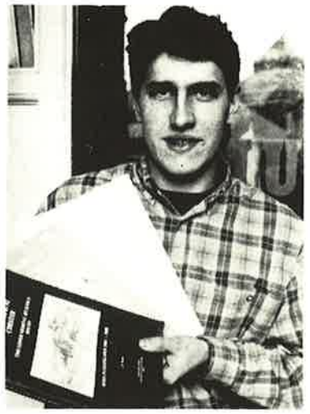
The scope is enormous - ships, harbour installations, connecting land routes, goods traded, from prehistoric times to the present century - and so is the range of evidence.

We shall be circulating lots more information about this, but if you already have a contribution that you would like to offer, please get in touch with Peter Carrington, tel. (01244) 321616 ext. 2028.

Staff Profile

Aaron Wilkes

Merchandising Assistant



Aaron, a native of Stafford, graduated in History and Physical Education from Chester College earlier this year. He joined Chester City Council in August, his main task being to generate income for the Archaeological Service, the Education Service and the City Record Office. Current projects include the promotion and development of publications, event organisation and helping with 'Divided Loyalties', Chester's Civil War Festival. This is his first 'proper' job - others have been on Saturdays or during vacations. The rather dubious list includes work as a paint-sprayer on a production line, a sports coach and a lifeguard.

Aaron, who is studying for a Masters degree in Landscape, Heritage and Society, has always been keen to join the teaching profession, either in a secondary school or as an Education Officer. This would involve moving (again) to a teacher training college and having to spend another year without any money!

He is a keen sportsman and current sporting interests include squash, golf and football - in the dim and distant past he had a trial for Stoke City Football Club. Other hobbies include cinema-going, sleeping and watching his beloved Wolverhampton Wanderers. He lives in Vicars Cross where he shares a house with two friends.

SCH 6009

The Past Uncovered
NEWSLETTER OF THE CHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE Winter1994

A thousand years of Chester's market

Passers-by can hardly miss the work now going on in the Market Square to re-front the 1960s' 'Forum' shopping precinct. But this is only the latest change to an area which has probably been the site of a market since Saxon times.

Chester's Victorian Market Hall, demolished in 1967

FOR the history of markets in Chester we largely depend on the evidence of old documents. These imply that in the Middle Ages there were two market places inside the City Walls. There seems to have been an important, regular market at the western end of Eastgate Street where dairy produce was sold. This continued until the nineteenth century.

However, in 1093 the first earl of Chester, Hugh Lupus, granted rights to the monks of St Werburgh's Abbey over the three-day Midsummer Fair, held at the Feast of St John the Baptist. The wording of the grant suggests that this was not a new fair but had already been in existence from Saxon times. It took place in Northgate Street outside the Abbey Gateway: in other words, in what is now the Market Square.

In Roman times this part of Chester had been occupied by a single large courtyard building, stretching from Hamilton Place to where the 'Odeon' cinema now stands, and from the Abbey Gateway to behind the Town Hall. Much of the Roman fortress was still standing at the time of the Norman Conquest, and it is tempting to think that the open space in the middle of this building had been taken over as a market place.

The earliest document to show us what the market square looked like comes from Elizabethan times, in Braun's map of *c* 1580. The square had much the same size and shape as it does today, but in the middle of it, opposite the end of Princess Street, were buildings to house the corn and meat markets (the 'Shambles'). It was further filled in during the 1690s when the Exchange was built a little to the south, and other buildings were added later.

By the middle of the nineteenth century the square was largely built over. However, in 1862 the Exchange was burnt down and replaced by the present Town Hall and by the baroque Market Hall which survived until the 1960s. These lay on the western side of the square and so restored to it the open appearance it had centuries before.

In the 1970s the foundations of the medieval market stalls which stood outside the Little Abbey Gateway were found during the construction of the Jobcentre.

The current redevelopment of the Forum has brought to light the massive sandstone foundations of the Victorian Market Hall. Unlike the yellow sandstone of the facade - designed to match the Town Hall which had been built some years earlier - the foundations are of roughly-shaped red sandstone blocks.

Peter Carrington and Keith Matthews

The little-known market in Eastgate Street is discussed in Keith Matthews' *Excavations at Chester, the evolution of the heart of the City: investigation at 3-15 Eastgate Row 1990.*

Extract from Braun's 16th-century map of Chester, showing the area of the Market Square

Castles of Cheshire and North Wales

DIVIDED LOYALTIES 1644–1645 CHESTER 1994–1995

Forthcoming exhibition at the Grosvenor Museum
14 January - 26 March 1995

View of Chester Castle (etched by George Cuitt in the early nineteenth century)

The first half of this exhibition of watercolours, drawings and prints from the Museum's collection explores Chester Castle. It was founded by William the Conqueror in 1069-70 and developed throughout the Middle Ages. Rebuilt by Thomas Harrison in 1788-1822 as one of Europe's finest groups of Greek Revival buildings, it remains a military, legal and administrative centre today. A number of newly-excavated finds from Chester Castle will also be displayed for the first time. In contrast, the second half of the exhibition surveys the romantic ruins of the age of chivalry as seen through the eyes of 18th- and 19th-century artists. These range from sweeping vistas of Beeston and Harlech, rising dramatically on their hilltop sites, to the miraculously preserved Conwy and Caernarfon, seen across shimmering water.

A guided tour of the exhibition with the organiser, Peter Boughton, will take place on Wednesday 25th January at 1.10pm. Admission is £1. Advanced booking is not necessary.

The exhibition is organised by Chester City Council as part of Divided Loyalties, Chester's Civil War Festival, sponsored by NWS Bank plc.

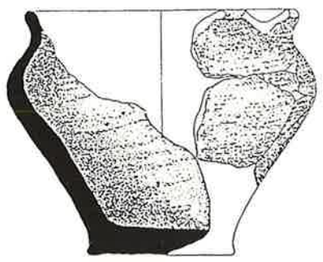
A photographic exhibition on motte and bailey castles will also be shown in the Cash Hall at the Forum, 14 January - 26 March.

Peter Boughton, *Keeper of Art and Architecture*

From Flints to Flower Pots : Current Research in the Dee-Mersey Region

Publications

From Flints to Flower Pots is the offbeat but appropriate title of the publication of the talks given at last February's Regional Research Aims Seminar which attracted wide interest. It contains thirteen papers and, as the title implies, these cover subjects ranging from flint scatters around Cheshire's wetlands to nineteenth-century pottery in abandoned cottage gardens at Tattenhall. The Iron Age to Saxon periods are particularly well covered, with an emphasis on landscape studies.



A cooking pot from Great Woolden Hall Farm on the Greater Manchester/Cheshire border, dated to the first century BC or early first century AD. It is not known if it was made locally or imported (from Mike Nevell's paper from *Flints to Flower Pots*). Scale 1:3

Thanks to a generous grant from County Archaeologist Adrian Tindall, we are able to offer the book at the special price of £5.95 until the end of January; thereafter it will cost £7.95. The book is selling well, so be sure to get your copy now!

From Flints to Flower Pots, compiled by Peter Carrington, Chester City Council (Archaeological Service Occasional Paper 2). Pb. 95pp. 12 illus. ISBN 1 872587 04 6. £5.95 from the Grosvenor Museum Shop (£6.95 including postage and packing).

Associated with the 'Castles of Cheshire and North Wales' exhibition, a series of events has been organised:

Tuesday 21st February - workshops for children aged 8-15 making miniature terracotta castles with potter Neil Glendinning. Choice of two sessions : 10.30am - 12.30 pm or 1.30 - 3.30 pm. Tickets £1 from the Education Service, Grosvenor Museum (please send s.a.e.).

Wednesday 22nd February 1.10 pm - lecture on 'Chester the Walled City: The Fortifications in Art' by Peter Boughton, at the Grosvenor Museum. Tickets £1 from the Museum Shop (please send s.a.e.).

Saturday 11th March 2pm - a guided tour of Chester Castle with Eileen Willshaw and Simon Ward. Meet under the main portico, Chester Castle. Tickets £1.50 from the Museum Shop (please send s.a.e.).

Rare Roman tile stamps link Chester and Merseyside

Excavations undertaken last year by the Field Archaeology Section of Liverpool Museum, at Tarbock, on Merseyside, have produced an unusual group of tile stamps which confirm the reading of some fragmentary stamps found in Chester in 1972.

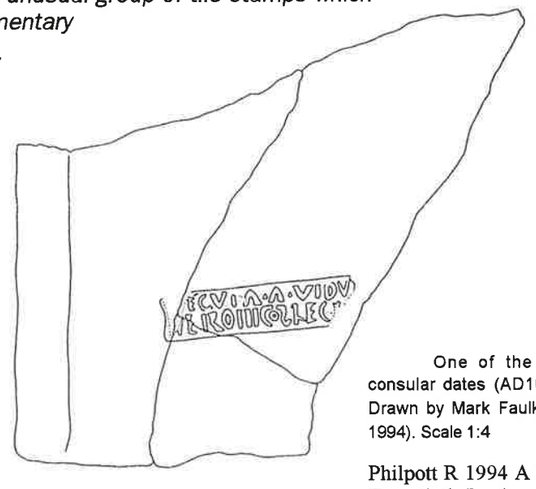
AMONG the large quantity of Roman roofing tile from the site of a Romano-British enclosure were six with legionary stamps. Four of these were of a rare type with a consular date. They bear a strong similarity to two tiles from excavations at Northgate Brewery in Chester. The inscription on the Chester examples reads :

TEGVLA A VIDV/VERO
III COS LEG XX

(*Tegula(m) A(ulus) Vidu(cius? fecit). Vero III Co(n)s(ule) Leg(ioni)XX*) which means : 'Aulus Viducius(?) made this roofing-tile for Legion XX in the third consulship of Verus' (ie AD 167). (Hassall and Tomlin 1978, 476, no 16). This reconstruction is confirmed by a complete stamp from Tarbock and it is possible that all the stamps come from the same die.

The only known manufacturing site for tiles stamped for the XXth Legion is at Holt in Clwyd, 7.5 miles south of Chester and used in the construction of Chester's legionary fortress. These tiles have also been found in North Wales and north west England with a few stray finds in Hampshire and Northamptonshire, on sites which either had military connections or were nucleated civil settlements where tile may have been re-used - neither category of which applies to Tarbock.

Why were these tiles found at Tarbock? As the assemblage includes overfired, distorted tiles and blocks of fired clay, which may be manufacturing debris, it does not appear to be common re-use of building materials (Philpott 1994). It is possible, therefore, that the tiles were made locally. The type of clay used supports this view as it has the same characteristics as the local medieval and post-medieval pottery. Also, there are no recorded examples of these stamps from Holt itself. So who *did* make these tiles - was it the army? If so, what were they doing at Tarbock? Further analysis is due to be carried out in order to distinguish the Tarbock tiles from known Holt products.



One of the tile-stamps with consular dates (AD167) from Tarbock. Drawn by Mark Faulkner (from Philpott 1994). Scale 1:4

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Hassall M 1979 Military Tile-Stamps from Britain in *Roman Brick and Tile* edited by A McWhirr British Archaeological Report Internat. Ser. 68, 261-66

Hassall M W C and Tomlin R S O 1978 Roman Britain in 1977: II Inscriptions. *Britannia* 9, 473-85

Philpott R 1994 A Recent Group of Twentieth Legion Tiles from Tarbock, Merseyside in *Archaeology North West - The Bulletin of CBA North West* No 7, Vol 2, Part I 8-10

Legionary tile-stamp from Chester (Hassall 1979)

Gillian Dunn

Local battlefields on register

Two Cheshire Civil War battle sites, Nantwich (1644) and Rowton Moor (1645), are included on a register of battlefields recently compiled by English Heritage.

For some years the preservation of battlefields has been a problem faced by conservationists, historians and archaeologists. Should they be preserved and how or what do we preserve? Battles form major events in history and have been crucial and decisive moments in the development of the nation state that we have today. Unlike many historical events battles are often relatively well documented and their sites are well established. All this has invested the actual battlefields in a certain mystique, a historical atmosphere and a feeling that they are part of a jointly-owned national heritage.

However, battles are short-lived events and rarely produce archaeological structures or features that can