

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2018

INVESTIGATING LOST LANDSCAPES ACROSS THE EAST MIDLANDS

A YEAR IN PERSPECTIVE

Once again it has been a year of historic investigations that began with a particular remit and ended up taking us down entirely different paths.

For example, our wider landscape investigations have identified the possible route of a Romano-British trackway that ran from Great Casterton (Rutland) via the ironstone mining settlement at Goadby Marwood to the Romano-British town of Margidunum (Bingham). So, when we were provided with the opportunity to survey a block of fields at Langar (Nottinghamshire), situated in close proximity to the possible line of this trackway, our initial hypothesis was to expect associated finds relating to the Romano-British period. However, the evidence unearthed so far is taking us into the post medieval period.

Taking a closer look at a potential Romano-British trackway that ran from Long Clawson towards the ironstone mining settlement at Goadby Marwood, we were expecting to record associated Romano-British finds. What we didn't expect to discover was a sheep wash/cattle drinker in the middle of a field - This was a surprise!

During our field survey investigation of the Romano-British site at Goadby Marwood in Leicestershire to identify the extent of the site and to evidence the line of a possible ancient trackway leading into the site as informed by the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record Office, we found physical evidence that identified the site where a Mosquito aircraft crashed on Friday 17 May 1946, killing Wing Commander George Laurence Bazett Hull DFC.

As you can see, even though our initial investigations set us on a course to learn more about the Romano-British landscape we were diverted into other periods of history. Time travel is an amazing experience and each one of our journeys begins with a Field Survey - every field certainly does have a story to be told. If you do have a field that holds an unresolved mystery, then we would welcome the opportunity to hear more about it. Just remember, the story we uncover might not be the one that we set out to learn more about!



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COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS IN 2018

- Belvoir Mechanics Group Presentation, Display and Posters: The Field Detectives and their Historic Adventures of the last 18 years
- Keyworth Library Display, Posters & Community Discussion: The Romans in Keyworth
- Annual Archaeology Festival, University of Nottingham: Two Roman Site Comparisons

THE FLYING HULLS

DR ALAN STEVENS & CATHERINE PINCOTT-ALLEN

“This is an account of two exceptional young men, who were first cousins, who served courageously and with distinction in the RAF in the Second World War. Both from South Africa, they came to England in 1935 to serve in the RAF”



Wing Commander George
Laurence Bazett Hull DFC



The report features additional
information

When the tail section of an aircraft was discovered in the woods beside Orbis Field, Goadby Marwood in 2014, it was understood locally that a fatal accident had occurred there soon after the end of WWII. In fact, for many years a gap could be seen in the trees where the aircraft had ploughed through. However, very little was known about the type of aircraft that crashed or the identity of the unfortunate pilot.

An intense research project was undertaken in an effort to understand the who and why of this tragic event and it led to some remarkable discoveries and stories. The pilot who died was Wing Commander George Laurence Bazett Hull, known as Bok, a man who came to England from South Africa with his cousin Caesar Barraud Hull, to join the RAF in 1935. Bok flew Blenheim bombers during WWII and was awarded the DFC, was shot down, captured and sent to Stalag Luft III, Poland. While imprisoned there he was involved in the famous Great Escape but having drawn a high number in the draw was unable to escape and was able to crawl back to his barracks when the escape was detected. He also survived a forced march in the last few days of the war involving thousands of prisoners in atrocious conditions, during one of the coldest winters in decades, many men died of cold and disease and the survivors were then herded in to cattle trucks to endure a 500km train journey to Marlag und Milag Nord POW camp in northern Germany.

After the war Hull was transferred to RAF Cottesmore, Rutland where he was training to fly Mosquitoes. After only about six weeks, on the night of 17th May 1946, he lost his life in the fatal accident. He was only 34 years of age.

His close friend Wing Commander Derek Richard Biggs DFC arranged for Hull's burial at Oving, Buckinghamshire where Hull had been a frequent visitor at the Biggs home.

During our research we managed to track down surviving family members of both the Hull and Biggs families, living in New York, Wales and Buckinghamshire.

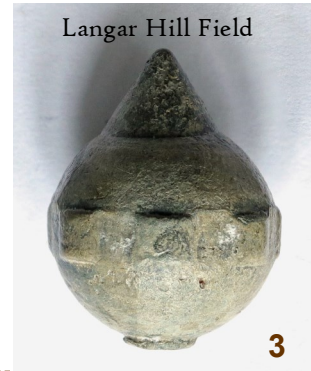
A full account of the Hull cousins has been written and the Field Detectives have planned a memorial day on Friday 17th May 2019 marking the 73rd anniversary of Hull's death. It will take place both at Oving and Goadby Marwood with the full support of the RAF and the owners of Goadby Hall who have designated an out building in the grounds that will house the recovered tail plane section and wall mounted posters telling the full story of this courageous man.



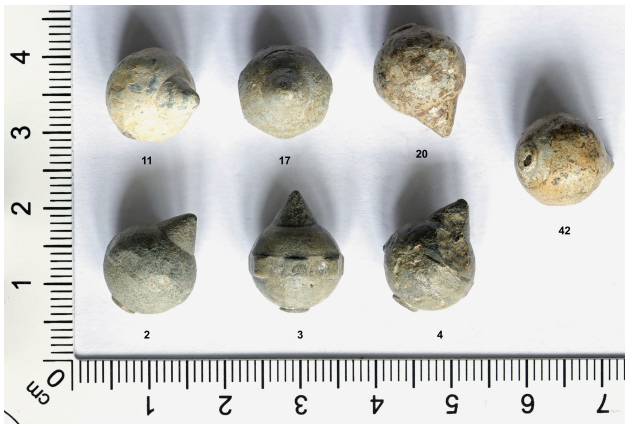
Tail plane section of the De Havilland DH98 Mosquito T MK III

THE LANGAR LEAD BULLETS

JUSTIN RUSSELL - LEAD SHOT CONSULTANT



“The lead shot found at Langar represent an interesting and almost forgotten branch in the development of small arms ammunition”



The seven Langar lead shot in close up

The Field Detectives come across an unusual design of lead shot while carrying out a detailed three field block survey for Samworth Farms at Langar, South Nottinghamshire in 2018. The lead shot were found in arable fields north of Langar Hall, adjacent to the Hall wall boundary.

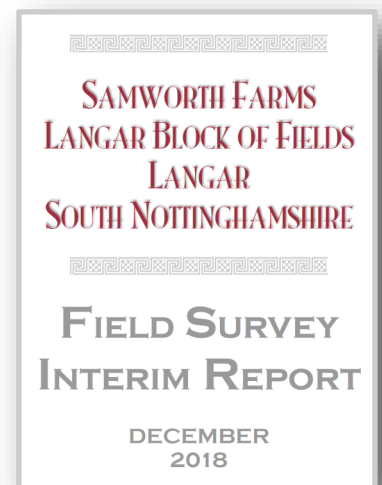
The field survey included a process of recording the locations of other musket balls and lead shot. The summary of our findings will be featured in the final field survey report and it is envisaged that this study will then be made available to experts in the field of lead projectiles at the Newark Civil War Museum, David Harding, Justin Russell and the Royal Armouries Museum, to see if a more detailed examination of the find locations and the related artefacts can tell us more about what was happening on those fields during the post medieval period.

The lead shot found at Langar represent an interesting and almost forgotten branch in the development of small arms ammunition. The only known documentary sources so far uncovered, relating to projectiles of a similar nature, lead back to the 1855 publication by J. Schon (accessed by David Harding) who in 1855 recognized the example held in the museum at Dresden to be in the vicinity of 100 years old (circa 1750s). The 1939 book by Hassler and Bihl gives a date of 1604 to a projectile of similar form. How such a specific date was arrived at is unclear and it places the shot 150 years earlier than Schon.

Rifling was a science known about from the 16th Century, perhaps earlier, but this generally involved spherical shot engaging with rifled barrels, to produce stability in flight. Cast rifling studs on projectiles add in an extra dimension of complexity to lead shot (the moulds require a high precision of manufacture and loading the shot requires a higher degree of care) and they are distinctly uncommon.

Cast rifling studs/rifling guides became more widespread in the 19th Century, with projectiles by Jacobs, Norton, Whitworth and the Brunswick belted ball proving to be successful examples of the concept, though they benefited from an industrialized manufacturing process that was not available in the 17th Century. The Langar shot may well prove to be an updated design of an earlier projectile, utilizing ‘modern’ manufacturing techniques.

The seven examples are all in the realm of .480 inches diameter, though examining similar shot (37 examples in total) it can be seen that diameters up to .751 inches exist. By comparing these known examples, a minimum of six varieties in type can be distinguished (information relating to the Portable Antiquity Scheme examples is partial only and as a result cannot be included in the typology).

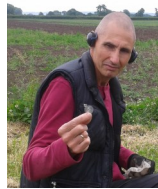


The report features additional information

THE FIELD DETECTIVES

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WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The Field Detectives seek opportunities to survey fields that can tell us more about how our farming landscapes evolved

By sharing the stories that we uncover from our field survey activities we hope to inform a better understanding of how our farming landscapes evolved over the centuries.

Share the Learning and record the information for current and future historical research

On completion of the field survey activities, a field survey report is produced. One copy is presented to the landowner, and a further copy is sent to the relevant County Historic Environment Record where it is allocated a unique reference number and then a copy is sent on to the relevant Finds Liaison Officer to ensure that all related findings are uploaded on to the National Portable Antiquity Scheme Database. Once the field survey reports have been processed, the artefacts, coins and pottery are assembled as a Landowner Collection where they are safeguarded for further research and study. A community presentation is arranged where the information is shared and an opportunity is provided for the local community to get involved in future developments.

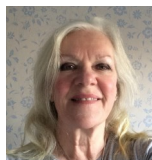
By submitting the completed Field Survey Reports to the County Historic Environment Record and by working closely with our Heritage Sector colleagues, we are providing a growing set of historic collections which are held by the respective landowners who act as heritage custodians.

PDF copies of our reports and posters can be sent out electronically

email: fielddetectives@talktalk.net



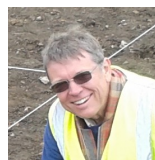
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Detective



David Bate
Geologist & Historian



Alan & Sylvia Massey
Prehistory Consultants &
Witch Bottle Experts

PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2018

- The Eli Coy Roman Coin Collection
- Phase 1 - Romano-British landscape investigations at Goadby Marwood & Langar
- Targeted pottery collection on the Roman-British farmstead site at Cropwell Butler
- Phase 1 - Hoe Hill Investigation at Cropwell Butler/Cropwell Bishop
- Phase 1 - Mill landscape & ancient trackway investigation at Long Clawson
- Phase 2 - Night Hawk investigation at Bunny
- Phase 1 - Parish Boundary Investigation at Cropwell Butler/Bingham

PROJECTS CONTINUING INTO 2019

- Historic Landscape Investigations at Cropwell Butler, Langar, Goadby Marwood, Bunny, Keyworth, Wysall, Harby, Long Clawson, Stanton-on-the Wolds, Plumtree

PROJECTS TO BEGIN IN 2019

- Hall grounds investigation at Owthorpe
- Langar Airfield investigation