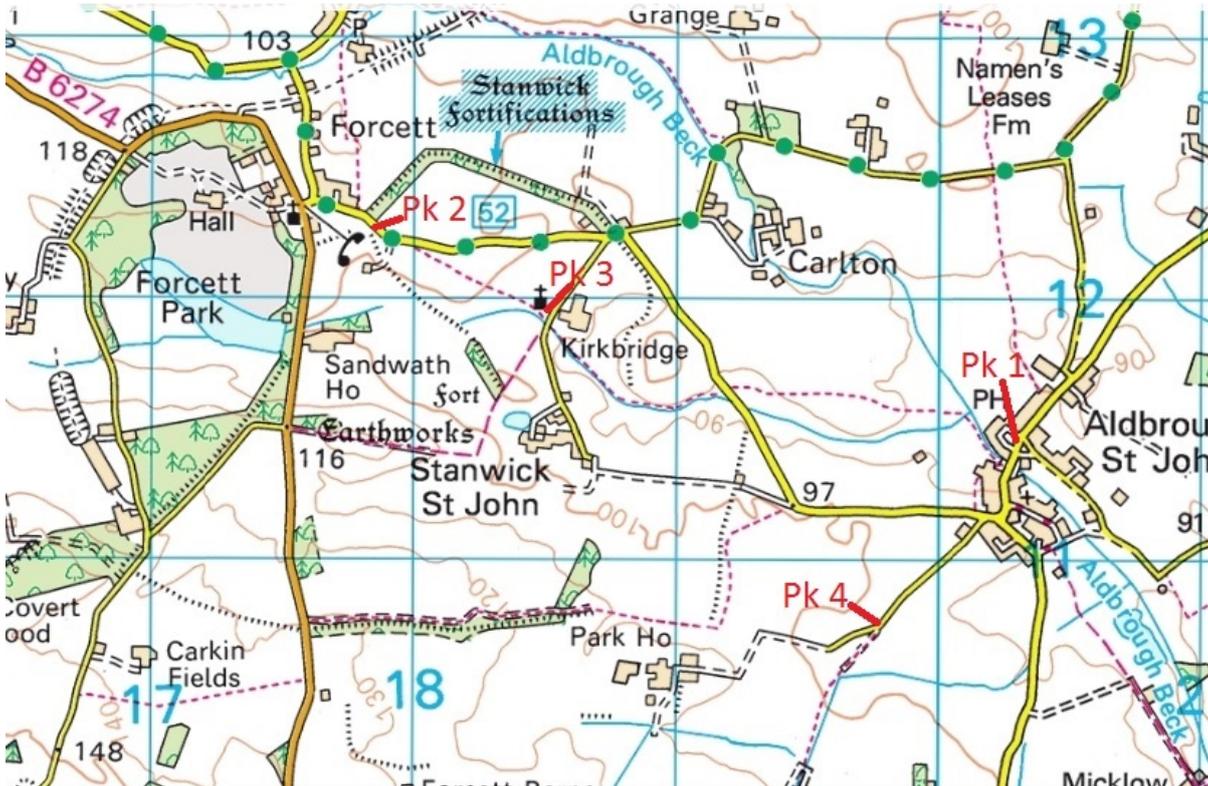


Stanwick Fieldtrip

Prehistory Research Section YAHS

RESCHEDULED - Saturday 24 September 2016

Following on from the lecture delivered by Professor Colin Haselgrove at our AGM about the Durham University excavations at Stanwick 1981-9, and to celebrate the publication of the research in a new volume *Cartimandua's capital? The late Iron Age royal site at Stanwick, North Yorkshire, fieldwork and analysis 1981-2011*, it was decided it was time for a Section visit to Stanwick itself. We will visit or view the sites of a number of Wheeler's excavations, as well as those conducted by Durham University. This will be followed by a 2 hour circular walk through the landscape to follow the southern and eastern perimeter earthworks, and get a sense of the scale of the Stanwick and its place in the landscape.



Pk 1 Aldbrough St John village green – meeting place

Pk 2 English Heritage site of Wheeler's 'Site A', grass verges

Pk 3 St John the Baptist Stanwick, grass verge by Church

Pk 4 Wide gravelled verge

Afterwards (or before if they prefer) those who desire to see part of the Scot's Dyke system, which appears to be associated with Stanwick, can visit the section between Aldbrough and Melsonby. Access is from a lane south of Aldbrough – there is a wide gravelled verge (Pk 4 – see attached map) which will take several cars close to the place where the field footpath leads over to the Dyke. Take the public footpath marked on the map, and you will come to the earthwork within a couple of hundred metres. The public footpath follows it all the way to Melsonby.

If you would like to come on this fieldtrip please contact Yvonne Luke ilkleymoore@hotmail.co.uk 01943 602422. There will be a maximum of 20 places.

- Please indicate to me if you are happy to give others living in your area a lift, or indeed would like one if possible. It would be useful to have a contact phone number as well.
- Please bring a picnic lunch and any other refreshments you require with you.
- Please note there are no loo stops on the guided walk! Occasional woodland is available, however!

- Walking boots are required. The afternoon walk around some of the interior and perimeter of Stanwick is 3.6 miles of easy walking. ½ mile is along a quiet main road, but please take care here as we will encounter traffic. Most of it is on farm tracks and footpaths and a very quiet country lane. There are a few stiles towards the end of the walk, and the footpaths are uneven underfoot.
- Please dress according to the weather.

Travel arrangements

If any drivers can offer lifts to others, please let us know when you book a place and we will try to match up those requiring or preferring lifts with those happy to drive.

Due to restricted parking at Stanwick we are meeting up at the adjacent village of Aldbrough, which has a wide village green and parking opposite the pub at 11.30am (Pk 1 - see attached map). We need to reduce the number of cars travelling to Stanwick to 4-5. Drivers will be given a local map showing the route to Stanwick at Aldbrough.

Stanwick visit (approximate times)

OS 1:25000 304 Darlington and Richmond

12.00 noon – 12.30 pm

First of all we will drive to the English Heritage site, near the village of Forcett which shows Sir Mortimer Wheeler's 'Site A' excavation (1951-2) of the perimeter earthwork and stone rampart. We have to park here on the roadside grass verges (Pk 2 on map), so please park tidily. Wheeler's 'Site D' (earthwork excavation) and 'Site B' (entrance) as well as Durham University Site 1 are also visible from the road.

12.30 – 1.00 pm Lunch and Church visit

We drive round to the Church of St John the Baptist at Stanwick to have a picnic lunch. There is a wide verge beneath the church wall (Pk3 on map). Please park here rather than the other side of the road which appears to be private. There is only one small bench to sit on here, so we suggest you bring picnic rugs to sit on. If the weather is damp there are ample stone bench seats in the church porch where we can sit. The Church has a collection of stone carvings dating from 850AD onwards.

1.00 – 1.30pm The Tofts

This is the pasture field south-west of the Church and adjacent to the Mary Wild Beck, where both Wheeler (Site F) and Durham University (Site 9) excavated enclosures and buildings. It is now thought to span 150 years of occupation, from c.75-50 BC to 70 AD, originating as an unenclosed settlement, but being developed as an enclosed settlement subsequently. Its earthworks are thought to pre-date the main Stanwick earthwork enclosure.

Please note there are cattle grazing in the field, but they do appear to be used to people walking along the public footpath. This is the start of the afternoon walk.

1.30 – 4.00pm Stanwick enclosure

From the Tofts, past the end of the Duchess Walk (earthwork) and Stanwick Hall grounds, up Hillhouse Lane ridge from where most of the Stanwick complex and earthworks can be seen. South along the B6274 for half a mile, turning east along the farm track, past Wheeler's 'Site H' and through the probable original southern entrance. Much of the earthworks are in woodland, but there are occasional places where their size and shape can be observed. Footpath around the south-east corner of the earthworks, on to the lane and down to Mary Wild Beck. Back by the stream to see the Henah Hill earthworks and on to the church.