

## Newsletter Re-launch

Welcome to our new-look **electronic newsletter**. Many of you will be aware that our former printed newsletter fell foul of budget and staff cuts. This short pdf is intended to keep you informed of our activities. We hope to provide regular updates to you all in this new format.

## The Moordale Bog Cup Marked Stone

Back in 2007 we were made aware of a new rock art panel on the **Eston Hills** eroding from a footpath. After several reports of damage to the stone by illegal off-road vehicles it became necessary to move the panel to a safer location nearby.



In August we spent a day excavating the stone with staff from the Flatts Lane Visitor Centre. The stone was then winched a short distance from the path to a stand of birch trees which will presumably be less accessible to the rogue four-by-fours.

The exact meaning of the carvings is not known. They are often connected with ritual activity and date to the late **Neolithic** or early **Bronze Age** (2500-1800BC). The Moordale slab is the correct shape and size to cover a cist (a stone lined grave) but nothing lay beneath it.

## Developer funded archaeology

Despite the recession the volume of **developer funded** archaeological work in the area continues to grow. In the last quarter 16 projects were carried out across Teesside. Highlights include trial trenching at **Brotton** which recovered the plan of a high status **Roman** building. Renewable energy schemes including windfarms near **Hilton** and **Upleatham** have both had archaeological implications.

## Stockton Building Recording

In October we carried out a third season of building recording in **Stockton Town centre**. The work was lottery funded and forms part of a wider programme of environmental improvements and regeneration in the town.



A team of nine volunteers carried out the work over a week, recording over 60 historic buildings or structures. The history of each property was also researched using old town directories and historic maps. The project will run again next year. Watch this space for details of **volunteering** opportunities.

## Recording Historic Farmsteads

Last year we began a project to add information to our **Historic Environment Record** (HER) about historic farmsteads, past and present. Using old maps and aerial photographs we completed the survey for **Middlesbrough**.



**Ninety-two** farms were identified from maps dating from 1618 to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century (sixty-five of which were new to the HER).

Over 70% of these farms have been lost to urbanisation with only 13% being still in use for agricultural purposes. This year we are working on a similar project for **Hartlepool**.