RK 233(1-2)

NEWBOLD VERDON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

This group was founded in 1979 and was one of many that was set up in the county at that time by Leicestershire Museum's Services to enable a fuller picture of man's past to be drawn, before the traces that remain were lost forever. Extant buildings, earthworks, pottery and building material scatters in the fields were, and still are, under threat from housing developments, road improvement schemes and modern agricultural techniques. The group has used a wide variety of techniques to enable it to gather information about the history of the village: fieldwalking, surveying, excavation, researching the documentary evidence and seeking out old photographs, have all added to our knowledge.

For a long time it had been thought that West Leicestershire had been sparsely populated until as late as the Medieval period; it had been densely wooded and evidence of activity from earlier periods would not be found. The work of the Newbold Verdon Local History Group has helped to disprove this theory. Flint tools and implements have been found that date from the Meseolithic period(10,000-4,000 B.C.),showing that Hunter-Gatherer groups were moving through the area during that time. The remains of Bronze Age burial mounds have been located with the aid of ariel photographs and associated scatters of pottery and flint tools have been picked up during fieldwalking.

The site of a Roman Villa has been found in Osbaston; pottery, roof tile and pieces of mosaic flooring have been found in the surrounding area. A Roman tile kiln site has been identified in Newbold Verdon (the first in the county) which may have supplied roof and building tiles to Ratae Corieltauvi, the Roman precurser of Leicester.

Work has also been undertaken on the Medieval period. The moat next to the Hall has been excavated and the earthworks in the fields towards Botany Bay Spinney have been surveyed. Results from fieldwalking and documentary research have begun to show which fields were cultivated during the period and where the Medieval "Park" may have been.

Coming closer to our own time, the group has been trying to locate and copy old photographs of the village from the earlier parts of this century. These have been displayed on an exhibition stand at various functions and lectures that the group has attended.

Although a start has been made researching the history of Newbold Verdon there still remains a vast amount of work to do and information to retrieve; it is a rewarding and fascinating study. It is hoped eventually to publish the results so that all may read the history of Newbold Verdon.

RK 233(2-3)

1	CHATER HOUSE	NEWBOLD VERDON		ELEVN. LIBRARY LONDON.	
2	"	"	"	CHIMNEY BREAST.	
3	"	"	"	FIREPLACE.	
4	"	"	"	ELEVATION.	
5	"	"	"	OUTHOUSE.	
6	"	"	"	"	REAR.
7	"	"	"	FRONT VIEW	
8	"	"	"	FIREPLACE.	
9	OSBASTON	R+F. & CROP MARK	SK423040	SK40 SW/C	OS.125
10	N. VERDON	CROP MARK	SK435031	SK40 SW/K	NV 34
11	NV/DESFORD	" " I/A?	SK 457035	SK40 SW/W	NV110/111
12	DESFORD	" " / "	SK460035	"	DES.
13	"	" " / "	"	"	"
14	"	" " / "	"	"	"
15	"	" " / "	"	"	"
16	"	" " / "	SK457028	SK40SW	"
17	"	" " / "	"	"	"
18	N. VERDON	RECT. ENCL.	SK445031	SK40SW a	NV 98/99
19	PECKLETON	LINEAR C/MKS.	SK456015	SK40SE	PECK
20	"	"	"	"	"
21	"	"	SK448022	"	"
22	BARLESTONE	MED QUERN C	SK4305	SK40NW	?
23	"	"	"	"	?
24	"	"	"	"	?
25	CADEBY ~~OSBASTON~~	TRACTION E.R. SITE.	SK429029	SK40SWy	C36
26	"	CIRCULAR CROP MKS.	SK435031	SK40SWK	C24