

Highways to the past

The past few years have seen a major extension to West Yorkshire's network of motorways, with the completion of the M1-A1 Link Road. Further improvements are planned for the A1 itself, with a £250 million scheme recently announced by the Highways Agency to upgrade the stretch between Darrington and Dishforth. These routes cross parts of the county that are covered with extensive archaeological remains – settlements, trackways, fields and areas used for burial and other rituals, beginning over five thousand years ago and continuing down to Anglo-Saxon times.

Between 1996 and 1999 the Archaeology Service carried out a four-year programme of fieldwork and analysis on over thirty sites along the route of the Link Road, and it has recently published a volume detailing the results of this work. These investigations were so extensive that they have revolutionised our understanding of several aspects of West Yorkshire's past.



Hook Moor: triple-ditched enclosure.
(Photo: P. Gwilliam)

And just as the Link Road report was being completed, the Archaeology Service was commissioned by the Highways Agency to carry out another major excavation near Ferrybridge, on the route of a new stretch of motorway that will link the M62 to the A1. The road will run close to a major monument of the Neolithic period, an earthwork 'henge' first created around 3,500 BC. Work has already uncovered settlements dating to the Roman period, and banks and ditches of the Iron Age. Some of these remains can be seen elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Archaeology Service's new publication, entitled *A New Link to the Past. The Archaeological Landscape of the M1-A1 Link Road* (330pp, 146 figs) is available from:
West Yorkshire Archaeology Service,
P.O. Box 30, Nephshaw Lane South,
Morley, Leeds LS27 0UG
Price: £9.50 plus £5 p&p
Please make cheques payable to *Wakefield MDC*



Manor Farm Iron Age structures. (Photo: P. Gwilliam)



The excavation of the Roman Road at Roman Ridge.
(Photo: P. Gwilliam)

New Publication

A new publication:

**Romano-British
Enclosures at Apple
Tree Close, Pontefract**

West Yorkshire Archaeology Service and Wakefield MDC have recently published a 26 page booklet about the excavation, in 1987, of two ditched enclosures in Pontefract. The enclosures, which date to the 2nd to 4th centuries are reported with the aid of illustrations and photographs.

The publication of this site has been funded by Wakefield MDC Museums and Arts and copies of the report are available at £3.50 plus 75p postage and packing, from the following address:

Wakefield MDC Museums and Arts HQ, PO Box 262, Wakefield WF1 1ZA (Tel. 01924 305794).
Please make cheques payable to *Wakefield MDC*