

I was introduced as a schoolboy to the world of (Roman) archaeology – practical and social - at the Nottingham University's training dig at Great Casterton Roman villa. I joined the rescue excavations along the A1 when the road was being upgraded in the late 50's – and became hooked on digging Roman pottery kilns. I then went on to direct kiln excavations at Stibbington, Castor, Longthorpe and Stanground, bringing students from Manchester University (where I lectured in archaeology) and supported by a band of keen local volunteers.

I served on the Nene Valley Research Committee (now the Nene Valley Archaeological Trust) during the years of Greater Peterborough's most active expansion, edited its popular journal *Durobrivae* and eventually became the Trust's chairman. I'm a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, Corresponding Member of the German Archaeological Institute and an Honorary Vice-President of the Roman Society. Most of my publications have been on my other lifelong interest, Roman textiles – an international subject which frequently takes me abroad. I enjoy watching my digging trowel wearing down and am suspicious of theoretical archaeology.