

From Robert. 28/10/2014.

Dear Mr Wilkins.

Yesterday (Monday) I met a man by the name of MacKay. As I grew up in Ravensden, I had known a farmer by the name of Josh MacKay, and asked if he was related. It turned out that he was not (he came from Keysoe), but we talked and he mentioned your organisation and website.

I grew up on Cleat Hill and as a boy and young man I spent a great deal of my spare time with farmer Bill Allen on his smallholding that included Mowsbury Hillfort ('The Goss' as we all called it). As such, I grew to know it like the back of my hand! I still do, and visit it regularly if infrequently now. My legs are not in great condition, but I managed to struggle up there in July and at the beginning of this month. I noticed that the outer enclosure had been cut, and that someone had been doing some hedge laying!

Bill Allen did some digging in the 1950s and early 1960s. He had a collection of material, and sketches of his diggings. I fear though that they would all have been destroyed by his sister after his death!

I also did some work, with my friend Peter Dudeney, in the later 1960s. (The two of us initiated an Archaeological Society at school). With the help of my late father, a Civil Engineer, we surveyed and mapped the site. I retrieved a certain amount of pottery sherds, mainly St. Neots Ware, from the outer enclosure (then cultivated). The spot was marked on our map. These items and the map were handed to the County Archaeologist in the early 1970s.

I also knew Putnoe Wood of course, when it was a riot of bluebells and other wild flowers and wild life. That was before it was opened up and 'improved' by the Council. Fortunately, 'The Goss' is not so frequently visited and now that it is so overgrown, is showing signs (including a few bluebells) of becoming a real wildlife preserve. Unfortunately, this does not seem to include the characteristic honeysuckle of my childhood, although some still grows around Bill Allen's old farmhouse. I have a plant outside my flat in town as well). I would very much like to become involved with your organisation, although my legs would limit the physical work that I could do. I could perhaps tell you a bit about the site, on the ground. Please let me know how I can become involved.

Yours Sincerely.

Robert.