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THE APPLICANT'S RESPONSES TO EXQ2 - APPENDICES

Appendix 5 – Nagden Bump - Faversham.org webpage article

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Excerpt from <https://www.faversham.org/history/people/beowulf> [accessed 25/08/2019]

Nagden

Dr Wilkinson's attention to another word, the 'nag' of Nagden, opposite Harty, can be traced to Norwegian, Icelandic and Swedish words for 'pointed stone' or 'top of a hill'.

Nagden Bump (dug away to provide material to reinforce sea defences after the 1953 floods) was the second-largest artificial mound in England - 50 metres across and 34 metres high. Faversham Society historian Dr Arthur Percival makes the point that in Beowulf's time tidal waters came much closer to Faversham and that in fact Nagden spit and other headlands created a large natural harbour close to Faversham - fit for the mostly shallow-draught vessels of the time.

Dr Percival points out: "There can be no certainty at this length of time, but we're pretty sure there's a strong case for the identification of the Bump as Beowulf's last resting-place.

"Nagden Bump was at the very tip of the spit which projected NW from Nagden, so its position would have made it a major local landmark".

The poem's dying speech of Beowulf goes, " Bid men of battle build me a tomb on the foreland by the sea so that ocean travellers shall name it Beowulf's barrow".

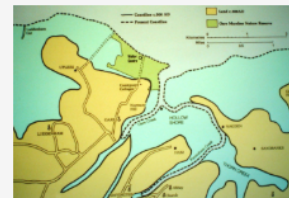
Griselda Mussett likes this colourful story-book conclusion but she also wonders if the Nagden connection may be just that. She says:

"I believe we are on unassailable ground when we say the first two parts of the story are set around here, but, in the ancient poem, Beowulf's third great challenge was to fight the dragon - after he had returned to his homeland to be king over his own people. That was after he had reigned for 50 years. He did kill the dragon but was mortally wounded and so his burial mound (in the poem) would have been with the Jutes, wherever they were...".

Mrs Mussett sees a social poignancy in the tale: "Whereas Beowulf had gone out as a young hero to help the old king Hrothgar, no one came to help him when he himself was old and facing a monster".



Nagden Bump whilst it was being levelled after the 1953 Great Flood



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