

## THE THETFORD WHITE HORSE & OTHER NOTES.

'- a white horse had (at one time) been cut out of the short turf that concealed the Chalk in the neighbourhood of Thetford.'

G.B. Greenough, in Conybeare & Phillip's 'Outlines of the Geology of England and Wales' p. 84. London, 1822.

'- no vestige of the animal now remains, nor can I obtain any clue to its former whereabouts?'

H.B. Woodward. Transactions Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists Society volume 3 (read 1882).

'- ? near Great Snarehill?'

W.G. Clarke, 1900-'01. Eastern Counties Magazine, p. 175.

---

More recently, to celebrate the Olympics, a 'running man' was created in Felsham and Gedding (Suffolk) Plying Field (pictured in Bury Free Press, 6 July 2012). This is a different type of chalk work, not cutting into Chalk but using chalk to cover a marked outline. A similar filling of cut outlines with chalk was used for the Forant Badges in Wiltshire (see Conservation bulletin 71, 2013).

Useful help for doing your own White Horse is given by C. Roberts in 'Heritage' May 2008 and by J. Aram in 'Rockwatch' 12 (1995) -

- on hill-sides, take foreshortening into account.

- mark it out: transfer a grid pattern from paper to hillside.

- cut trench along outline through soil to the underlying chalk.

- regular maintenance - remove weeds and soil; can use blocks of chalk to mark the main outline.

- and -

Leucipotomy - the cutting of white horses on hillsides.

Gigantotomy - the cutting of white figures.

---

R. Markham.

GeoSuffolk Notes # 58.

RM 2016.