

# current archaeology

**FREE**

## Digs Guide 2013



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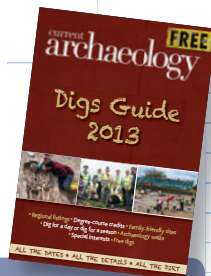


# Welcome

With the 2013 digging season just around the corner, now is the time to channel your inner explorer and get ready to uncover history. Whether you're a seasoned digger or a curious newcomer, there is ample opportunity to get involved in archaeology. Regardless of age, fitness level, and stamina, there is a whole smörgåsbord of different activities to try out, from unearthing human remains to knapping flints.

This year's guide covers a wide range of excavations, field schools, and archaeological courses all over the British Isles. There is a terrific variety of locations and time periods – from Medieval to monastic, Stone Age to Saxon – so you should find something in the guide that catches your interest. Anyone who has spent time on an excavation will be familiar with the wonderful feeling of unearthing your first find. To handle objects that have not seen the light for hundreds, if not thousands of years continues to thrill even the most experienced excavators. With the added benefit of making lifelong friends and working amid some truly spectacular scenery, you will not regret signing up.

Just remember: archaeology is open to everyone. Whether you consider yourself a beauty queen or a couch potato, it's time to kick the stereotype and try it for yourself!



## Digs Guide 2013

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ON THE COVER (left to right):  
Poulton, Caherconnell, Silchester



## Digging a future

**LUCY WOODS** was hooked on archaeology the moment she laid eyes on Harrison Ford in *that* hat. Four digs later, she has never looked back.



**D**espite my admiration for Hollywood's favourite archaeologist, it wasn't until I

attended my first excavation that I realised I was destined to dig. My suspicions were confirmed when I learnt my offer had been accepted to study Archaeology and

Anthropology at the University of Bristol, while standing in the Temple of Philae in Egypt.

Being able to play a part in unearthing the past, and handling artefacts hidden for centuries, is why I became addicted to archaeology. It doesn't matter if your first find is a gold medallion or a pottery sherd; the thrill of discovery is worth all the effort. In

fact, in my experience, a fragment of pottery can tell us so much more about how our ancestors lived than a pretty piece of gold.

What's more, the constant stream of banter, the ability to endure all weather conditions, and the freedom of spending so much time outdoors make every excavation truly memorable. 🍷



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**Please note:** For open-day events and dates,  
please check the excavation/course websites, given on pp.38-45

# Digs round-up

Our region-by-region guide to excavations and short courses across the British Isles presents the wide range of archaeology on offer this year.

## SCOTLAND

### Advance Archaeology

This August, Advance Archaeology will be investigating and recording two conflict sites. The first is a WWII 'Starfish' Command Bunker, located in Westfield, which was built as part of the Clyde anti-aircraft battery. Participants will help identify the extent of decoy defences in the local area, and establish why the bunkers were placed a considerable distance from the Clyde shipyards.

At the second site, volunteers will focus on identifying methods used to construct a series of training trenches in Plean, as well as ascertaining who built them and which units trained in them. The project will also consider the impact these training trenches

had on the local population and surrounding area.

The overall aim of the project is to raise the profile of the two sites within their local communities, with a long-term view of them being promoted and used for educational purposes.

Training will be provided in various archaeological techniques including site-survey, drawing, photography, record-keeping, and excavation. Minimum age to participate is 17. No experience of archaeology is required, although anyone attending should be physically active. Fees cover a packed lunch, and transport to and from the site.

### Green Farm Neolithic Settlement

The excavation of Green Farm, an artefact-rich Neolithic settlement site on the Isle of Eday

in Orkney, has been ongoing for the last six years. Previous excavations have revealed several stone buildings, at least one of which had a complex sequence of occupation with interlinked hearths and runnels (narrow channels in the ground for liquid to flow through).

It is expected to be the final season of this phase of the project, and participants will be excavating the remaining stone buildings and associated large stone drain in order to establish their relationships with each other. The goal is to gain fuller understanding of the sequence of the foundation, occupation and abandonment of the visible parts of the site.

Applicants should have some fieldwork experience, although places are available for enthusiastic beginners and students are welcome (minimum age is 18). Participants will be offered work that falls within their capabilities, and all will be encouraged to extend their skills and knowledge, and where possible pursue areas of particular interest. On-site activities include excavation, recording, drawing, surveying, and finds-processing.

Green Farm





## Newbarns



Costs include all equipment (apart from trowels), lunch, and refreshments. Accommodation and transport can be arranged for an additional fee.

## Newbarns Project

In July and September, the Newbarns excavation in Scotland will be investigating a prehistoric cemetery area comprising three kerb cairns set into the end of a drained loch.

Among other features, cremation deposits inserted into the cairns and shrines are led into by apparent cobbled pathways and beautifully constructed portal ways leading from the water of the loch.

The site has an astoundingly rich archaeological history. It is not just the scale of burials, the beauty of stonework selected in antiquity, and the survival of cobbled graves and cists of the later eras, but also the later

settlement evidence through the Iron Age, the Anglian and on into the Medieval eras.

Volunteers and students of all skill-levels are welcome to participate, but under-16s must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Training is provided by arrangement, and there is a minimum stay of two weeks. Local accommodation, including a campsite, is available nearby.

## Stirling Council Archaeology

Archaeologist Murray Cook will be running a series of training digs on behalf of Stirling Council. For those interested in trying archaeology for a day, the council is offering a series of free digs across the year.

Projects will include the exploration of a landscape designed in the 17th century and Medieval holloways (sunken lanes) in Killearn, the excavation

## DIGS that earn academic credits

1. Strathearn Environs and Royal Forteviot (Scotland)
2. Burrough Hill Archaeological Field School (Midlands)
3. The Silchester Field School 2013 (S. East)
4. Isle of Man Archaeological Training Excavation (British Isles)
5. Achill Field School (Eire)
6. Irish Archaeology Field School (Eire)
7. Caherconnell (Eire)

of a Victorian gatehouse and World War II practice trenches in Plean, and the continued excavation of an Early Medieval vitrified fort (where the stone was melted into glass) at Abbey Craig.

Dates have already been confirmed in May, June, and September, and it is likely more are to follow. Participants must be aged 17 or over, unless accompanied by an adult. Places are limited, so they must be booked in advance, but visitors are welcome to come and view the fieldwork at any time.

## Strathearn Environs and Royal Forteviot (SERF)

For more than six years, the Strathearn Environs and Royal Forteviot (SERF) project has been investigating a rich archaeological landscape in the heart of Scotland. The project has uncovered over 4,000 years of occupation, from the creation of large ritual monuments during the early prehistoric period, through the emergence

of a Pictish royal centre, to post-Medieval land-use.

In 2013 the SERF project will be focusing their attentions around the village of Dunning in Perthshire. Traces within the fields around Dunning indicate a significant prehistoric ceremonial complex, which will be a target for excavation. Within the village, explorations will continue to uncover the remains of its history, from the Early Medieval period through to the present day.

The SERF project offers participation and high-quality training in a range of essential archaeological field techniques including excavation, topographic survey, landscape recording, and artefact-handling through a field school run by the University of Glasgow. The field school is open to all, including absolute beginners (there are no age restrictions).

The cost of participation includes formal training, evening lectures, field trips, transport from Glasgow, and

## Strathearn



single-room accommodation at Perth College. Undergraduate credits are also available. Limited volunteer spaces on the project are available, but only for residents of Perthshire.

## Tamnafalloch, Rampart Scotland

This year Rampart Scotland will be hosting a fun two-day taster dig on a 3,000-year-old hillfort at Tamnafalloch in Callander. Participants will be given an introduction to Scotland's hillforts, as well as a learning some of basic archaeological methods. The cost includes training, but participants should bring their own food. Any under-17s must be accompanied by an adult. For more details, or to book a place, contact [info@rampartscotland.co.uk](mailto:info@rampartscotland.co.uk).

Rampart Scotland also runs several large-scale archaeological excavations, but this year places are fully booked. Volunteers can sign up from November, so book early if you wish to participate in 2014.

## Tamnafalloch





# WALES

## Dyfed Archaeological Trust

Dyfed Archaeological Trust has many exciting opportunities to get involved with throughout the year. The CALCH project, for example, is investigating the forgotten history of the lime industry on the Black Mountain, located in south-east Wales. There are all sorts of ways to take part, from excavation to research, with no experience necessary. There is also an ongoing Arfordir 'Coastline' project which aims to collaborate with coastal communities and heritage groups in order to collect information and ensure monitoring of our coastal heritage continues.

Participants working with the Trust will be able to gain experience in all aspects of archaeology including excavating and recording finds, taking accurate photographic records and detailed field notes, as well as helping with research and other office-based tasks. With a host of other projects

### Dyfed



## Meillionydd



continuing throughout the area, volunteers from all over Wales are encouraged to get involved. There is no cost to participate. Under-18s must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

## The Lost City of Trellech Project

Monmouth Archaeology Society (MAS) will be conducting their 12th year of excavations at Trellech – one of the largest Medieval settlements in Wales. The project's primary aim is to record and better understand the development of the site.

This year, the project will focus on the formerly bustling main high street, where finds usually date from AD 1245 to 1650.

MAS believe that archaeology should be enjoyable, educational, and open to everyone, regardless of age or ability. School groups are also welcome to join in.

There is much to be discovered at this fascinating site, and participation is greatly encouraged. The excavation and educational activities are free, but donations

are always welcome. Equipment and guidance are included.

Low-cost camping is available on-site, but there is also alternative accommodation in the area. Payment must be made for camping prior to the excavation.

## Meillionydd

This fourth season of excavations at Meillionydd, near Rhiw, will continue to explore a 'double ringwork' hilltop enclosure. Despite producing one of the best-preserved, abundant, and comprehensively surveyed settlement records in Wales, the archaeology of the area remains under-researched and poorly understood: few recent excavations have been carried out, chronologies are not well defined, and environmental assemblages are rare. The emergence and development of monumental features including hillforts, ringworks, and hilltop enclosures remain particularly enigmatic. This year, the project will focus on excavating a stone-built Iron Age roundhouse, parts

of the entrance into the inner enclosure, and parts of the outer bank of the monument.

The excavation, commencing in July, is run as an archaeological field school for students at Bangor, Cardiff, and Vienna universities. The project is also open to a limited number of external volunteers, all of whom will be trained in archaeological excavation and field-recording techniques alongside the students. Preference may be given to volunteers who have some archaeological fieldwork experience, depending on the supervision capacity of excavation staff; Welsh-speaking participants are also preferred. There are no age restrictions, although children must be accompanied by an adult. There is no cost to participate.

## Moel Fodig Iron Age Hillfort

In collaboration with the 'Heather and Hillforts' project, Bangor University is conducting a programme of research on the hillforts of the Clwydian Range and Llantysilio Mountain.

Since 2009, the project has been involved with numerous excavations, including at Moel-y-Gaer and Llanbedr Hillfort. The objective is to gain a better understanding of the development of the hillforts in this area, not least regarding the chronological sequence of the construction of these monuments. In the first two seasons at Moel Fodig, parts of two roundhouses and the site's enclosure were examined. In the third season at the site, the intention is to excavate parts of the entrance into the enclosed hilltop.

The dig, commencing in August, is run as an archaeological field school for students at Bangor. The project is also open to a limited number of external volunteers, all of whom will be trained in archaeological excavation and field-recording techniques alongside the students. Preference may be given to volunteers who have some archaeological fieldwork experience, depending on the supervision capacity of

excavation staff; Welsh-speaking participants are also preferred. There are no age restrictions, although children must be accompanied by an adult. There is no cost to participate.

## Moel-y-Gaer, Bodfari

The University of Oxford are currently running a programme of archaeological research at Moel-y-Gaer, Bodfari. Moel-y-Gaer is one of a series of well-preserved but poorly understood Iron Age hillforts on the Clwydian Range in North Wales.

Building on the recent work of the 'Heather and Hillforts' project, the programme aims to combine survey and excavation to gain a better understanding of chronological and social complexities of the hillforts of the Clwydian Range.

The first season of excavation in 2012 focused on a house platform and group of pit-like features within the interior of the hillfort. Excavation of the house platform will continue in 2013, and a third trench will be opened to investigate a possible building or structure at the southern end of the hillfort.

Volunteers are welcome to participate in the summer excavation and/or attend the open day. Training will be provided in basic excavation and recording methods. Participation is free. There are no age restrictions, but access to the site may be an issue for the less able-bodied.

Research is funded by grants from the Denbighshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Cambrian Archaeological Association.

Moel Fodig





## Bamburgh Castle



# NORTH EAST

## Bamburgh Castle

Bamburgh Research Project runs a summer field school at Bamburgh Castle in Northumberland, and another excavation at the nearby Bradford Kaims wetlands. Participants get to excavate on both sites, experiencing the very different styles of excavation and investigation that each site demands.

Bamburgh was the capital of Saxon Northumbria, and has been continuously occupied for well over 3,000 years. It is one of the most impressive and important archaeological sites in North East England, with excellent preservation and over three metres of stratified deposits. This year the principal excavations will take place in the west ward of the castle in two trenches that are currently at c.8th- to 9th-century and 9th- to 10th-century levels.

The field school is open to all students and volunteers over the age of 14. Training is provided by professional

field archaeologists in a variety of practical fieldwork techniques including excavation, drawing, photography, site-recording, and post-excavation analysis.

Evening lectures and site tours are provided, in addition to the training in the trenches themselves. There is also a healthy social life off-site. Food is not included, but there are local supermarkets and food outlets within easy walking distance.

The minimum stay for students is one week, and the costs cover camping and training.

## Binchester Excavation Project

Binchester Excavation Project is a five-year programme of large-scale seasonal fieldwork that began in June 2009 at Binchester Roman Fort in Bishop Auckland. The archaeological dig involves students from institutions including Durham University and Stanford University California, as well as members of the Architectural & Archaeological Society of Durham & Northumberland.

This year the excavation will focus on an area in the east corner of the fort, exposing both defences and barracks, along with an area in the civil settlement south-east of the fort.

The excavation runs from 3 June to 26 July, and the site is open to visitors every weekday. There is a community archaeology element throughout July, and a limited number of places may be available, depending on whether funding can be obtained (the website on p.39 has further updates). Participants

## Binchester



## DIGS for a day

1. Tamnafalloch (Scotland)
2. Stirling Council Archaeology (Scotland)
3. Trellech – try it out for an hour (Wales)
4. Dig Greater Manchester (North West)
5. Nautical Archaeology Society (South East)
6. Cultural Tourism Ireland (Eire)

must be at least 14 years old, and under-16s must be accompanied by an adult. There is a modest fee, which includes automatic membership of the Architectural & Archaeological Society of Durham & Northumberland for one year.

### Fort Arbeia and the Roman Empire in Britain

Students are invited to take part in the permanent excavation site of South Shields Roman Fort, a Roman military and civilian settlement that lies within the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall. For over a decade, Earthwatch teams have helped meticulously map more than 1,000 square metres of pre-Roman and Roman settlement here, with excavations uncovering jewellery, armour, game pieces, and ceramics.

Working in small groups, students will take part in a wide range of tasks including stratigraphic excavation using a trowel (or possibly more robust digging equipment), recording site-data, site-surveying and sampling, cleaning and sorting finds.

Courses cater to all levels of experience. The majority of programmes include food and accommodation. There are also courses available for families and teenagers, as well as taster weekends for anyone interested but unsure what to expect.

### Vindolanda

Unfortunately the 2013 excavation season is fully booked, but excavations will be continuing in 2014. For those who are interested in excavating here next year, applications open on the website (see p. 39) on 1 November 2013, and it is advised that you apply quickly – all places were full within an hour for this year's dig! Minimum age is 16, and under-18s must be accompanied by an adult. No previous experience is necessary.

### Fort Arbeia



This year's excavations at Vindolanda see the start of a new five-year excavation programme. The 'Frontiers in Transition' archaeological research project covers three centuries of occupation at the site, and examines how the earliest 1st-century 'conquest' period of Vindolanda changed into a series of successive new frontiers: the Stanegate road followed by Hadrian's Wall. The project also considers the frontier in its most settled period of the 3rd century, and examines in detail the wider societal conditions of a frontier community in this period. Visitors are welcome to observe excavations at any time.

### Fort Arbeia





# NORTH WEST

## Bury



## Bury Archaeological Group

This year Bury Archaeological Group will be excavating at the site of Gristlehurst Hall near Heywood, Manchester. The project aims to identify the exact location of the original hall, and its possible relationship to surviving buildings. Investigations are at present concentrated in an area that seems to have been occupied by hall outbuildings from the early Medieval to the early post-Medieval period, as evidenced by a kiln and several hearths. A number of 18th-century features have also been identified.

Digging takes place on Wednesdays from the beginning of April until the end of October. Volunteers are asked to become members of the group, but there are no additional charges for joining the excavation. No previous experience is required, and on-site training will be provided. Car parking at the site is very limited, but the dig is easily accessed by bus from Rochdale and Bury. Minimum age is 16.

## Dig Greater Manchester

Dig Greater Manchester (DGM) is a five-year community-engagement project designed to widen participation in heritage in the Greater Manchester Area. The project is funded by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities, and run by the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the University of Salford.

The project aims to provide local communities with access to their own heritage, in the hope of raising awareness of the past at a local community level, and promoting its exploration by that community.

Each authority will have a two-week community evaluation dig, as well as five archaeological skills workshops, and five public talks relating to the archaeology and heritage of each site. In 2013, excavations will take place in Bolton (March), Rochdale (April), Manchester (July), and Salford (September).

All Dig Greater Manchester excavations, open days,

workshops, and talks are free of charge, and places will be booked on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants must be aged 16 or over, although children from local schools and clubs will be on-site during the project. No experience of archaeology is necessary, and teaching and tools are included. Volunteers must bring their own lunch, and organise their own transport to and from the site.

## Poulton Research Project

Poulton is a multi-period rural site located three miles south of Chester. It has yielded evidence of almost 9,500 years of human activity. This season (running from March to August), the project will be concentrating on the Medieval chapel graveyard, so participants will be excavating and recording human remains. Past excavations in the area have uncovered 650 inhumations, and it is estimated that up to 1,800 may still be present.

The project intends to open further trenches in search of Roman activity, having already uncovered Roman ditches and pits with finds including coins, brooches, and high-status pottery. It is thought that somewhere nearby is a villa and/or a temple or shrine.

Students will be taught excavation techniques, surveying, photography, context-recording, and planning. The minimum age is 16, and no experience is required to take part. There is a campsite and hostel nearby, and basic facilities for cooking are available on-site.

## Poulton



# YORKSHIRE

## Archaeology Live!

This summer, Archaeology Live! will be investigating the Medieval church of St John in the Marsh, Hungate, York. The site could contain archaeology from the Romans through to the Victorians, but our main goal will be to see how much of the footprint of the Medieval church survives.

During Archaeology Live!, participants excavate and record the archaeology, while trainers teach and assist when required. It is a field-based training school where people learn by doing the excavation, and by discovering and recording the archaeology themselves, rather than by classroom-based tuition.

The training courses will take place over 12 weeks, starting on 24 June. Self-catered single-room accommodation will be available at an extra cost. The minimum age is 16, and no experience is required to participate.

## Archaeology Live!



## Dales Heritage Field School



## Dales Heritage Field School

The Yorkshire Dales Landscape Research Trust will be carrying out further archaeological investigation at Chapel House Wood, a complex multi-period landscape in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The excavation, which commences in July, will focus on a Roman Iron Age farmstead with iron- and lead-working. Training will be provided in earthwork survey, geophysics, and excavation.

Volunteers must be at least 16 years old (unless accompanied by an adult), and there is a minimum stay of three days.

There is a wide range of accommodation available locally, and transport to and from Kettlewell can be arranged. Further information and a booking form can be found at <http://ydlrt.co.uk>.

## North Duffield Conservation and Local History Society

Volunteers are invited to attend the community excavation at Parkhouse Farm, North Duffield. In 2012, the society uncovered a round feature showing up as a crop mark, cautiously identified as an Iron Age hut-circle. Excavation also revealed sections of a circular and linear ditch, both containing Iron Age pottery.

## DIGS FOR experienced diggers

1. Green Farm Neolithic Settlement (Scotland)
2. Meillionydd (Wales)
3. Moel Fodig (Wales)

4. SHARP (East)
5. Kent Archaeological Field School (South East)
6. Ashtead Roman Villa and Tileworks (South East)
7. Achill Archaeological Field School (Eire)

In July 2013, the society plans to continue work on the round feature to try to find the centre and entrance, and to clarify its purpose. Subject to volunteer numbers, similar features in the area may also be explored. This is a community excavation, but professional archaeologists from York Archaeological Trust and York University will be on hand throughout the dig.

No experience is necessary as instruction will be given, and tools will be provided. Volunteers must apply in advance so that suitable plans can be drawn up. All ages are welcome, but in the event of a big response, some degree of rationing may be necessary, so apply early to avoid disappointment. There is no fee to participate.

The society will also be hosting a Celtic Festival on 8-9 June 2013, featuring Late Roman and Iron Age

re-enactment groups, a static falconry display, local historical and archaeological displays, and a community picnic.

## Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group (SWAAG)

In June 2013, Archaeological Services Durham University (ASDU) will be leading the main SWAAG excavation at Hagg Farm in Fremington, North Yorkshire. Participants will be excavating what is thought to be the main settlement platform of this fascinating Romano-British site. In addition, the high-status settlement, which appears to have been abandoned about AD 370, has some unique carved-stone entrance sills which SWAAG hope to find more examples of.

This excavation is open to everyone, although under-16s must be accompanied by

## SWAAG



a parent. Guidance will be given to those who have not excavated before. Small parties of schoolchildren can also be shown around by arrangement, free of charge, but must be accompanied by teachers.

Volunteers are asked to pay a small fee to cover costs. Non-members must also book ahead just in case the excavation is over-subscribed. Local accommodation is available and volunteers will be given a car-parking location map.

It is likely that a second ASDU-led excavation will take place in the autumn. If confirmed, this will also be open to non-members.

## North Duffield





## Bingham



time will be spent processing and cataloguing finds from the site, and each volunteer will receive a project information pack.

Ideally, the field school is looking for individuals to commit to a full week (either Monday 24 June to Friday 28 June inclusive, or Monday 1 July to Friday 5 July inclusive) and attendance is capped at 10 people per week, so 20 volunteers in all. Past fieldwork experience is not a requirement, but participants must be at least 18 years old.

Accommodation would be an additional cost, but there are plenty of possible places to stay in the local area.

### MBArchaeology Volunteer Opportunity

MBArchaeology is looking for volunteers with basic archaeological knowledge to assist in courses and projects for Adult Education and Family Learning. These are based in the Bolsover Region of North East Derbyshire.

Roles will include assistance in fieldwork activities such as surveying, planning, and excavation; supervising group members; support for group members involved in active research; and preparing and/or delivery of practical exercises and activities.

The role, activities, and days are flexible, and training and support will be provided. There will also be opportunities to work in other areas of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire later in the year. There are no age

## MIDLANDS

### Bingham Digs

Bingham Heritage Trails Association is currently working on an HLF-funded project called 'The Roots and Development of Bingham', which will finish in January 2015. One part of the project involves detailed studies of a number of old houses in Bingham, a market town in South Nottinghamshire. The other part is a programme of one-metre test pits. The aim here is to collect evidence on the origins of the town.

It is thought that the first village came into being during the 9th or 10th century, when Anglo-Saxon settlements in the vicinity of the parish manor united near the church. There is also some evidence of Roman and Late Iron Age settlement at Bingham.

Numerous test pits have been excavated to investigate the date when the Medieval street grid came into existence. Others are sited around the edge of what was once believed to be a deserted Medieval village.

Digging will take place every week from the second half of April to July. The project is free for volunteers, and no experience is required. All ages are welcome, although the majority of current volunteers are over retirement age. Training is provided by experienced members of the team.

### Burrough Hill Archaeological Field School

This year the University of Leicester is calling for volunteers to spend a week working on the fort on Burrough Hill in Leicestershire. This Iron Age site is the finest example of a large univallate (single-banked) hillfort in Leicestershire, and has protected status as a Scheduled Monument.

Participants will receive a full programme of training from highly qualified professionals. This will include archaeological excavation, planning and section-drawing, taking a level, photography, and completion of written site-records. In addition,

restrictions, but the role is ideally suited to university graduates or students with experience of archaeological fieldwork.

## Piddington Villa

The Upper Nene Archaeological Society (UNAS) will this summer undertake their 35th season of excavation at Piddington Villa in Northamptonshire. This fascinating multi-period site features a Romano-British villa complex, as well as a Late Iron Age settlement.

The excavation will run from the end of July to the end of August. Preference is given to applicants coming for two weeks or longer.

Some training will be provided, and anyone over the age of 16 is welcome to participate. Food and basic accommodation (in the form of on-site camping facilities) are available for an increased fee; limited B&B accommodation can also be arranged.

UNAS also owns and runs the nearby Piddington Roman

## Thornton Abbey



Villa Museum, an MLA-accredited and award-winning museum that houses the site archive and displays and interprets material from the site.

## Thornton Abbey Field School

Since 2011 the University of Sheffield has been working on a long-term research programme at the monastic site of Thornton Abbey, including a topographical and geophysical survey of the

entire precinct. In its third year, the field school includes targeted excavation of Medieval and post-Dissolution features in order to gain a better understanding of the site's long history.

In previous years the field school has located and excavated the monastic great barn, a 16th-century bakehouse, and a Tudor formal garden. This season excavation will continue at the site of the abbot's lodge – an area that has seen no previous survey or excavation work. The other major excavation will take place at what is thought to be the site of Sir Vincent Skinner's great Jacobean mansion.

Work is supervised by experienced staff from the University of Sheffield, and volunteers participate in all key activities. No previous experience is required, and younger participants are welcome (the minimum age is 17 unaccompanied). The residential fee includes supervision, materials, all food, and camping.

## Burrough Hill



# EAST

## Copped Hall Trust Archaeological Project (CHTAP)

This year, CHTAP will be running a series of three Taster Weekends at Copped Hall, a ruined country house located near Epping in Essex. It is an important archaeological site with a complex sequence of building phases. Its recorded history starts in the 12th century.

The Taster Weekends will be open to beginners in July on the site of the earlier mansion, 'Old' Copped Hall, which stood at the northern end of the gardens and was demolished in 1748. The site is mainly Tudor, but previous archaeological finds have dated from the prehistoric all the way to modern times. These Taster Weekends are designed to teach the absolute basics of archaeology and excavation.

In August 2013, two five-day Field Schools will also be held for those who have already learned the basics of excavation and recording, either at Copped Hall or elsewhere, and wish to develop their skills further. The aim of the schools will be to advance the archaeology of Old Copped Hall.

## DigVentures



## Heritage Writtle



## DigVentures 2013 Field School

In July 2013, the DigVentures Field School will undertake the first ever large-scale archaeological investigation at Leiston Abbey, a Scheduled Ancient Monument composed of mainly 14th-century remains. Located just half a mile from the beautiful Suffolk coast, it was founded in 1182 by Augustinian canons, and is one of the finest and most complete examples of a Premonstratensian monastery in England.

The excavation will focus on locating the exact positions of the abbey's most important areas, which are at present unknown. It will also examine the evidence of an earlier phase of occupation, pre-dating the abbey, indicated by a moat and the mysterious humps and bumps in the meadows surrounding the site.

DigVentures offer a full programme of archaeological fieldwork, including desk-based assessment, topographic and geophysical survey, excavation,

recording, finds-processing, and buildings-recording.

The dig is appropriate for people of all skill-levels, and can accommodate all ranges of physical mobility. To participate in the main dig, volunteers must be 17 or older, or accompanied at all times by a parent or guardian who must also be a registered participant of the dig. The cost includes camping on the site, showers, and meals. An evening lecture series will also be included.

## Heritage Writtle

Heritage Writtle is a group of local enthusiasts who first united in 2003 to investigate the historic village and parish of Writtle in Essex. The club meets one morning a week throughout the course of the year to examine, interpret, and record aspects of the area's history through field-walking, metal-detecting, excavation, and post-excavation work.

Several fascinating finds from the Roman period have been uncovered by the club:



a 5cm-high bronze of a manacled tiger has now been adopted as the Heritage Writtle logo. Iron Age, Bronze Age, and Mesolithic artefacts are also found in the vicinity.

Noteworthy features of the area include possible roundhouses, indicated by aerial photography; concentrations of Medieval artefacts; known sites of Napoleonic camps, together with musket balls and some larger calibre ordinance from several periods.

The group also go on annual outings to sites of special interest, such as Roman villas and Iron Age sites.

Membership is required to take part in activities, and volunteers must be over 18 to join.

## Marks Hall Jacobean Mansion

Colchester Archaeological Group are conducting their final excavation at Marks Hall Estate in Essex. As part of the Historical Research Project run by Essex University, and at the request of the Trustees of Marks Hall Estate, the excavation hopes to identify the location of the footprint of a lost Jacobean mansion, and to seek evidence of earlier occupation.

Volunteers will primarily be involved in hands-on excavation work, but there will also be opportunities to participate in surveying, finds-processing, planning, and drawing. Interested parties will receive briefing notes by the site co-ordinator.

This excavation is free for volunteers, and includes all equipment and training. Participants are asked to bring their own meals, and organise suitable accommodation. There are no age restrictions, and no previous experience is required.



Marks Hall

## Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project (SHARP)

This long-term, multi-period, multi-disciplinary research project is one of the largest independent archaeological projects in Britain. Its primary objective is to work with the local community to investigate the entire range of human

settlement and land-use in the Norfolk parish of Sedgeford.

Although only a relatively small village, Sedgeford has an incredibly rich heritage spanning over 4,000 years, with evidence of Late Neolithic, Iron Age, and Roman occupation to name only a few.

Excavations run in July and August, during which anyone can visit the dig or attend the archaeological lectures on offer. Those with little or no experience can participate in week-long courses specifically dedicated to teaching everything you need to know about archaeological excavation and recording techniques. Volunteers with a minimum of three weeks' experience are also welcome. Members are encouraged to use the extensive archive of material culture for their own academic research.

SHARP opens its door to all ages, but those under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Charges are only made for taught courses, meals, and use of the campsite, with reduced rates for students and unwaged participants.

## SHARP



# LONDON

## Bexley Archaeological Group

Bexley Archaeological Group (BAG) will be running their annual summer training excavation week at their ongoing site in Bexley, Kent. Novice diggers from all over the country are invited to participate.

All excavators will have the opportunity to experience the main tasks associated with an excavation, under the supervision and guidance of the Field Officers from the Field Unit of Bexley Archaeological Group. Tasks carried out during this excavation will include field-walking, geophysics, surveying, excavating, site-drawing, and finds-processing.

Trainees will be asked to pay a modest fee, which covers the cost of annual membership to the society, insurance, Certificate of Attendance, and admin. Membership subsequently includes unlimited excavation time, discounted workshops, free monthly talks, and insurance.

### Bexley



## TDP



## Scadbury Manor

Orpington District and Archaeological Society (ODAS) will be conducting their 27th year of excavations at Scadbury Manor, a Medieval moated manor house in Chislehurst, Kent.

Membership of ODAS is required to participate in the excavation, and those wishing to dig must be over the age of 18 unless accompanied by an adult. Excavation dates are available on joining ODAS.

Entry to the September open weekend at Scadbury Park is free, during which the public are welcome to visit the site without making any prior arrangement.

## Thames Discovery Programme (TDP)

The Thames Discovery Programme, now in its fifth year, aims to involve the public in recording and monitoring the fast-disappearing archaeology of the Thames foreshore. Over millennia, archaeological deposits, features, and finds have built up, but much of the foreshore is now eroding and its archaeology being washed away. As there is little available funding to record this diminishing

resource, the 400 or so volunteers are performing vital work in taking 'ownership' of stretches of the foreshore, and recording the archaeology as it emerges and before it is washed away.

Between May and September, volunteers will be working with a small professional team based at Museum of London Archaeology, helping to record archaeology in locations including Greenwich Palace, the Houses of Parliament, and the Tower of London. Finds so far include Mesolithic structures, Anglo-Saxon fish traps, and a number of fascinating Medieval and post-Medieval human burials.

Volunteers must first attend the four-day training course at

### Elsyng Palace



## TDP



the end of April. All fieldwork thereafter is free, although donations are very welcome. No experience is required. Volunteers must be over 18 to participate.

## Theobalds and Elsyng Tudor and Jacobean Palaces

Enfield Archaeological Society are running two main summer excavations this year. The first is on the site of Theobalds Tudor/Stuart royal palace, and later Georgian and Victorian buildings, at Cedars Park in Cheshunt.

The second excavation will be on a 17th-century L-shaped threshing barn on the site of the earlier Elsyng royal palace in the grounds of Forty Hall in Enfield. It is likely to be the final year of excavation on this well-preserved brick building. The barn lies across the line of the outer wall of the earlier palace. Notable surviving features include grain-storage bin settings and supporting walls probably used to secure larger storage features.

Both excavations are to take place in July, with other possible

dates to be announced later in the year. No previous experience is necessary, and some informal training will be available, but places are limited to over-16s only. There is no cost to take part, but membership of the society is required. Places are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

### Elsyng Palace



## DIGS THAT won't cost a penny

1. Stirling Council Archaeology (Scotland)
2. Meillionydd (Wales)
3. Moel Fodig (Wales)
4. Moel-y-Gaer, Bodfari (Wales)
5. Dyfed Archaeological Trust (Wales)
6. Dig Greater Manchester (N. West)
7. Marks Hall Jacobean Mansion (East)
8. Bingham Digs (Midlands)



# SOUTH EAST

## Access Cambridge Archaeology

Volunteering opportunities often arise on community projects run by Access Cambridge Archaeology. These projects, which include the chance to take part in excavations, are aimed at local residents in eastern England. Follow the ACA website, blog and Facebook page (see p. 41) to see what might be coming up in your area.

## Archaeology in Marlow

From April 2013, Archaeology in Marlow (AiM) will be conducting further investigations at the site of Warren Wood in Little Marlow, Buckinghamshire. This site comprises a double-enclosure earthwork believed to be Medieval in date. Evidence of Neolithic artefacts and Iron Age pottery suggests the origins of the site are much earlier.

From April to October, AiM members will meet once a fortnight to undertake

### Marlow



research into both the site and the surrounding area. In addition, AiM will be concluding its excavations in a small trench across the bank and ditch of the outer enclosure, and will then commence excavating two new test pits (1m x 1m) in the inner enclosure.

Non-members are welcome to join the excavation, although space is limited so volunteers will need to book in advance. No experience is required, as training will be given in a wide variety of archaeological practices. Non-members are asked to pay a small daily fee.

Participants must be between the ages of 16 and 73 to be covered by AiM's insurance policies.

## Ashted Roman Villa and Tileworks

Surrey Archaeological Society is planning an eighth season of excavation at Ashted Roman Villa and Tileworks. Volunteers are invited to take part across three weeks in August and September.

In 2012, the team developed their knowledge of the early buildings west of the Roman 'villa', and this work will continue in 2013. Questions raised by excavations carried out in the 1920s about the phasing and plan of the villa still need to be answered by further fieldwork, and excavation at the tile kiln will also be completed.

Non-members of Surrey Archaeological Society are asked to pay a non-returnable contribution towards the cost of organising the dig, which must be paid before 17 July 2013. Volunteers of all ability levels are welcome to attend the dig, but inexperienced newcomers

## Access Cambridge Archaeology



## Isfield Enclosure



There are a number of free places for volunteers throughout the excavation season. Free camping is available close to the site, and there are also a selection of bed and breakfast providers nearby. The minimum age to participate is 16.

## Kent Archaeological Field School (KAFS)

This year KAFS have organised a number of excavations for students of all ability levels.

For those who have no digging experience, a training course will run in August at Abbey Barns Roman Villa in Faversham. Afternoons are spent digging with KAFS experts, while specific topics are covered in morning classes, including excavating techniques, recording, and Roman pottery.

For those with fieldwork experience under their belts, there are several excavations on offer, including an opportunity to participate in the evaluation of three Bronze Age barrows on the North Downs throughout July. The Field School investigated this site

in 2011, and the results indicate activity at this site stretching from the prehistoric through to the Early Medieval period.

Volunteers must be at least 16 years old unless accompanied by an adult. There are significant reductions in cost for KAFS members, and some digs are only available to current members.

should stay for at least five days. Participants must be aged between 17 and 77 years old.

Accommodation near the site is expensive, so participants are advised to travel to the site daily by car or train.

## Isfield Enclosure Training Excavation 2013

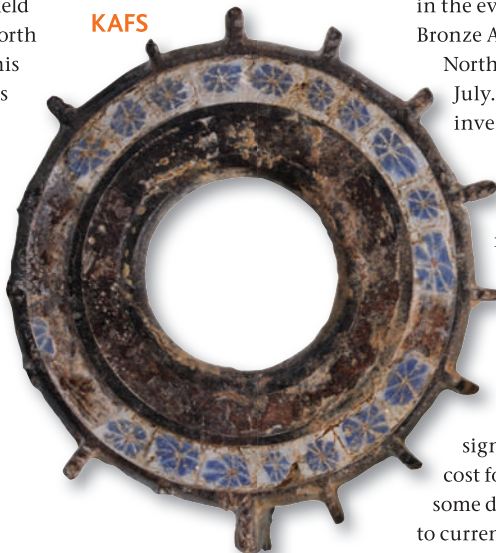
The Sussex School of Archaeology are looking for volunteers to take part in the excavation of a new site, Isfield Enclosure, situated to the north of Lewes in East Sussex. This will provide the main focus for both the field schools and training excavation in the summer.

The site consists of a large, ditched enclosure of probable Late Iron Age or Romano-British date. It is adjacent to a Roman road, and is just a few miles to the north of the Romano-British villa and settlements at Barcombe. The excavations will be focused on answering questions about the date

and function of Isfield Enclosure, while also investigating the effects of plough damage.

The school will be running four, week-long, structured training courses between 8 July and 2 August 2013. These will cover excavation techniques, surveying, planning and section-drawing, context records, photography, environmental sampling, and finds-processing. There will be several dayschools at the site during this time.

## KAFS



## Rocky Clump



## Rocky Clump, Brighton

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society are continuing their excavation at Rocky Clump, a Romano-British farming settlement in Stanmer, near Brighton.

The site is a Late Iron Age to 4th century AD Romano-British enclosure and farmstead. Features include numerous post-holes and pits, and a series of very large ditches forming an earlier enclosure. One area strewn with animal bones over a flint cobbled surface is believed to be a site for

## Nautical Archaeology Society

The Nautical Archaeology Society offers award-winning training in archaeology along the British coastline, and in our lakes, rivers, and waterways. The training programme is open to students of all ages, backgrounds, and levels of expertise. From March 2013 you can take on the first two levels of the programme via the society's e-learning programme in the comfort of your own home.

There are five levels to the programme, and after completion, students can get involved with various projects

and field schools around the world. They can also become a member of the society, join the Adopt-a-Wreck scheme or the Big Anchor Project, and perhaps become a volunteer for the society. If participants are scuba-divers, then they might want to join one of the society's Protected Wreck Days.

The society is also hosting a Shipwreck Explorers Day on Sunday 18 August. Activities will include learning to draw and survey like an archaeologist. What's more, visitors can have a go at handling real-life artefacts from an underwater site and from around the Wharf.

## DIGS WITH that added extra

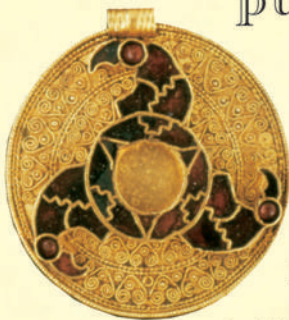
1. Strathearn Environs and Royal Forteviot – field trips included (Scotland)
2. Bamburgh Castle – planned social events in the evening (North East)
3. DigVentures – lecture series included (East)
4. Saveock Water – talk on Ötzi the Iceman (South West)
5. Société Jersiaise - free entry to the island's historic sites, meetings, and lectures throughout the year (British Isles)
6. Caherconnell – day trips and interaction with the local community (Eire)

## Nautical Archaeology Society





# Archaeology Courses for the public held at Faversham in Kent



Our course programme has been fine tuned over the last decade and we are now in the position to offer courses from the very best practioners of the most popular subjects in archaeology today.

In 2013 we will be **Field-walking** in Kent (March 16th to 17th). **Excavating a Roman villa** at Teston over Easter (March 28th to April 7th).

A course on **Roman pottery** with Malcolm Lyne (April 13th & 14th).

An **Introduction to Archaeology** in June (May 4th, 5th, 6th ). Two weekends of **Survey for Archaeologists** ( May 4th, 5th, and June 8th, 9th -June fully booked!). **Landscape Archaeology** June 8th & 9th (fully booked). **Excavating Bronze Age monuments** on the North Downs (July 13th to 28th).

The main **Summer excavation** runs from August 2nd to the 18th at the Roman bath house in Faversham, and there is a **Training Week for students** at the Faversham dig (August 5th to 9th. Cost £100, numbers restricted to 25 participants). **Bones and Burials** we will run with the University of Kent (October 5th & 6th), and Hugo Anderson-Whymark on **Stone Tools** (Oct 12th & 13th). **Archaeological Drawing** with Jane Russell (Oct 26th, 27th), and **Professional Training** with SWAT Archaeology (Nov 2nd, 3rd and 9th, 10th) We are here to enable anybody of any age or experience to participate in our courses or field trips. Our excavation abroad this year is at the **Oplontis Roman Palace** at Pompeii from June 5th-14th, cost is £175.

So join us in 2013 on courses in Kent, trips to **Pompeii** (September 14th to 19th), cost is £250 or **Roman York** (Sept 14th to 19th), cost £120 or stay at home with us and join in investigations of spectacular archaeological sites in Kent. For further details see **[www.kafs.co.uk](http://www.kafs.co.uk)** or write to: KAFS, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP. email [info@kafs.co.uk](mailto:info@kafs.co.uk)  
Telephone 07885 700 112



butchery. Finds have included a complete cow and dog burial, and last season a baby burial was found in one of the ditches.

The pottery is well stratified and shows a wide period of occupation, with the large ditches producing a number of almost complete pots. Metal finds include coins, brooches, a child's bracelet, and a torque-shaped silver ring.

The excavation will commence on Saturday 30 March and will continue until the end of October. No experience is necessary, and training will be given. You have to become a member of the society to be covered by the insurance, for which the cost is £12 (£6 students). Volunteers must be 16 or over, and all participants must be inoculated against tetanus.

## The Silchester Field School 2013

The 2013 Field School will see the 17th season of excavation for the Silchester Town Life Project. The site, located just ten miles from Reading, is unusual because it was completely abandoned during the 5th century. The excavations focus on Insula IX, an industrial and commercial district at the heart of Silchester.

This season, which runs from July to August, will concentrate on the Iron Age origins of this important administrative centre, with volunteers helping to uncover evidence of the very earliest town life in Britain.

Organised and run by the University of Reading, Silchester welcomes applicants of all abilities and levels of experience (you must be at least 16 years

### Silchester



old) to help tell the story of this fascinating Roman town, from its origins in the Iron Age to its abandonment in the 5th century. The cost includes all food and campsite facilities, as well as expert tuition and guidance from a team of archaeologists and specialists. Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so apply early to avoid disappointment using the online link: [www.reading.ac.uk/silchester/field-school/sil-fs-applicationform.aspx](http://www.reading.ac.uk/silchester/field-school/sil-fs-applicationform.aspx).

## Winchester–Guildford–London Roman Road

NEHHAS Field Archaeology Branch will be digging at a site off the A31 at Four Marks, near Alton, Hampshire. Participants will have

the opportunity to experience the main tasks associated with an excavation under the supervision and guidance of a society member.

There is also a training exercise (five-day minimum) that participants can undertake at an additional cost. Those helping with the site set-up will receive a discount. Experienced and novice excavators from outside the society are welcome. Everyone attending the excavation will be required to join the society for insurance cover, and novice excavators will need to purchase the NEHHAS training manual. Minimum age is 16, but younger children can participate if accompanied by a fee-paying adult.

Volunteers are asked to bring their own refreshments and lunch. Tents are available on-site for shelter and meals. Equipment will be provided, but participants are asked to bring their own trowel.

Please note: the North East Hants Historical and Archaeological Society – Field Branch is not to be confused with the North East Hants Historical and Archaeological Society, nor with their website [www.hants.org.uk/nehhass](http://www.hants.org.uk/nehhass).

### Winchester



# SOUTH WEST

## Archeoscan

Archeoscan is planning to excavate again this year on a Roman site located between Bath and Bristol. In 2012, a combination of geophysics and an evaluation excavation revealed the presence of a series of high-status Roman buildings located close to the old Roman road to Bath, set on the stunning Cotswold scarp.

The aim of the 2013 excavation is to explore the extent and nature of the main buildings within the enclosure ditch, and to attempt to establish a more precise dating sequence for the site. It would be useful to begin constructing a plan of the site and establish functions for the buildings identified.

Beginners are more than welcome, and anyone over the age of 12 can participate; young people aged 12-16 must be accompanied by a fee-paying adult. The participation fee includes full instruction, and there is a reduction for longer-term attendance.

## Archeoscan



## Dorchester-on-Thames

Dorchester-on-Thames is one of the very few sites in the country where urbanised activity running through the Late Iron Age, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon periods has not been obscured by later development. It is a key site for British archaeology.

In collaboration with Oxford Archaeology, and members of the community, the School of Archaeology has been investigating several sites in and around Dorchester since 2007, as part of the long-term 'Discovering Dorchester' research project.

The July 2013 season of excavation will largely focus on excavating the main north-south Roman road through the walled town. The project will also examine Roman wall footings that may indicate a high-status townhouse.

Volunteers will receive complete field-school training in excavation and recording techniques. Participants must be at least 16 years old (14 with accompanying adult) and students will be required to bring their own waterproofs,

## Berkeley Castle



digging clothes, work boots, and packed lunch.

Individuals are welcome to visit the site if they arrive between 1pm and 2.30pm during the working week. Groups of more than five are asked to make arrangements ahead of their visit.

## The Durotriges Big Dig

In June 2013, Bournemouth University will be running their final year of excavations. The site is a Late Iron Age 'banjo' settlement containing round-houses, work surfaces, storage pits, and the footings of a Roman masonry building. The site is located in the beautiful county of Dorset, which has one of the best-preserved archaeological landscapes in Britain.

The field school will focus on the transition from the Late Iron Age to the Early Roman period in Southern England, through a detailed programme of field survey, geophysical investigation, and targeted excavation. Students will also receive training in environmental sampling, drawing plans and sections, and finds-processing and -recording.

No experience is required to attend the field school, which has been designed for students and volunteers. Two weeks' minimum participation is recommended to be able to undertake some or all of the activities. The minimum age is 16.



## North Cornwall Heritage

North Cornwall Heritage is offering the opportunity for volunteers to take part in their ongoing training excavations. The aim is to provide a fun, relaxed, and safe environment, coupled with tuition from highly trained and experienced professional archaeologists. Participants will receive high-quality, industry-standard education in archaeological practice. North Cornwall Heritage runs multiple sites each season, offering varied learning environments, while a flexible curriculum allows for a more tailored, personal tuition. No experience is required to take part. Sites include a 13th-century deserted Medieval village, and a large, pentagonal, double-ditched enclosure of unknown date.

While project dates are subject to change, all excavations will take part during one of two seasons, the first in June-July and the second in August-September. There is a modest participation fee, and facilities, food, and camping can be purchased at additional cost.

### Saveock Water



Students will receive a discount. The minimum age is 14.

## Saveock Water

Saveock Water is a multi-period excavation site dating from the Mesolithic to the 17th century. A new area was opened at the end of last season, which dates from the Early Bronze Age and features a prehistoric hearth and furnace.

During the first week, students will be taught basic excavation techniques, planning, section-drawing, context sheets, and post-excavation work. In the following weeks they will have the opportunity to work on the different periods of the site, and hone their post-excavation skills.

There is also a permanent Experimental Archaeology department at Saveock, with a full-size replica of a split-level Bronze Age house.

Once a week, students are given a lecture on the famous and fascinating 'Ötzi the Iceman' by Site Director, Jacqui Wood, who worked on the 'Iceman' artefacts in Northern Italy.

No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm and a love of discovering the past. The

minimum age is 14, but they must be accompanied by an adult on the dig; 16-year-olds can dig unaccompanied. The less physically able are welcome to take part in post-excavation work.

## University of Bristol Archaeology Summer Schools

This year, the University of Bristol will be running a number of archaeological summer schools at both beginner and intermediate levels. The introductory course will comprise two-and-a-half days of classroom tuition, a half-day surveying session, and two days of practical excavation experience. The advanced field school will consist of five full days of excavation, and includes expert tuition on archaeological recording and drawing techniques. Fieldwork will take place at Berkeley Castle.

The Berkeley Castle Project, launched in 2005 by the University of Bristol, is a long-term archaeological research endeavour that is examining the history and archaeology of Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire. Past excavations in the 2011 and 2012 seasons have yielded evidence suggesting that the settlement associated with the castle may have begun during the Roman period. The site has produced a rich assemblage of material culture and human skeletal remains.

Participants must be at least 16 years old, and those wishing to do the advanced field school are expected to have some basic excavation experience, or to have completed the Introduction to Archaeology week.

# BRITISH ISLES

## Isle of Man Archaeological Training Excavation

The University of Liverpool Centre for Manx Studies will be running a summer training excavation at Ballacagen, Isle of Man.

Students will take part in both excavation and surface and geophysical survey at settlement sites dating from the late prehistoric to historic periods. There are opportunities to visit museums and sites of all periods from the Neolithic to historic. There may also be a chance to take part in archaeological surveys of historic graveyards. Students require no previous experience, but those who wish to broaden their expertise are welcome. The highly experienced staff will support students in their learning, while at the same time working together on an important research project.

Students will learn to use a wide range of hand tools, along with site-recording methods including drawn plans and sections, written context records, and photography. There will be sampling for environmental analysis and radiocarbon dating, and finds-processing. Training will be given in surface survey using an EDM theodolite, and students may take part in geophysical survey using a gradiometer and resistivity meters.

The weekly fee includes camping accommodation, tuition, on-site insurance, and

## Société Jersiaise



meals. Tents may be available to rent. Students must be at least 17 years old to participate.

## Société Jersiaise

Under the direction of Field Archaeologist Robert Waterhouse, the archaeology branch of the Société Jersiaise will be carrying out summer research excavations at St Clement. This is the second season of a long-term project to identify the extent and nature of Iron Age and Roman settlement evidence on the island.

The excavations are free of charge, but participants must be paid members of the Société Jersiaise. This enables volunteers to benefit from the society's insurance, and also entitles them to receive the annual Bulletin and quarterly journals, free entry to the island's historic sites, meetings, and lectures throughout the year.

All experience levels are welcome, whether volunteers are seasoned diggers or absolute beginners. Members must be at least 16 years old to participate in excavations.

The society will be hosting a conference in July, showcasing

recent archaeological research in Jersey. There will also be a number of free guided archaeological walks taking place throughout July.

## Field schools

1. Dales Heritage Field School (Yorkshire)
2. Burrough Hill Archaeological Field School (Midlands)
3. Thornton Abbey Field School (Midlands)
4. Kent Archaeological Field School (South East)
5. The Durotriges Big Dig (South West)
6. Isle of Man Archaeological Field School (British Isles)
7. Achill Archaeological Field School (Eire)
8. Caherconnell Archaeological Field School (Eire)
9. Irish Archaeology Field School (Eire)

## EIRE

### Achill Archaeological Field School

The Field School will be running a number of courses including introductory and specialist programmes. From April to June, students will work at the deserted post-Medieval village at Slievemore to begin excavating at House 6, one of the many structures now standing empty on the southern slopes of the island's largest mountain. The settlement grew steadily in the 18th and early 19th centuries, before declining rapidly with the onset of the Great Irish Famine in the later 1840s.

In July and August, excavations are expected to commence at the late Medieval tower house at Kildavnet. This small castle stands on the edge of Achill Sound, close to the southern tip of the island, and the project will focus on the bawn (defensive wall surrounding an Irish tower house) area around the castle. The excavation has the potential to

reveal much about the social and agricultural context of the castle in the Late Medieval period.

Students should be at least 17 years old, although younger volunteers can be accommodated by special arrangement. The cost includes lodgings (with self-catering facilities), local transport, and tuition in all aspects of site excavation and recording. Academic credits are available on the modular courses. Visitors are welcome at any time.

### Caherconnell Archaeological Field School (CAFS)

Caherconnell Archaeological Field School (CAFS) was set up in 2010 with a vision of providing unforgettable archaeological experiences in the picturesque Burren region. In partnership with the National University of Ireland in Galway, the aim is to provide the very best archaeological education, as well as a cultural element that sees students interact with local people on a daily basis. Volunteers will work with some of Ireland's

## Family-friendly digs

1. Dales Heritage Field School (Yorkshire)
2. Burrough Hill Archaeological Field School (Midlands)
3. Thornton Abbey Field School (Midlands)
4. Kent Archaeological Field School (South East)
5. The Durotriges Big Dig (South West)
6. Isle of Man Archaeological Field School (British Isles)
7. Achill Archaeological Field School (Eire)
8. Caherconnell Archaeological Field School (Eire)
9. Irish Archaeological Field School (Eire)

Achill



best archaeologists during the day – and some of Ireland's finest conversationalists at night!

In the months of June and July, participants will get the chance to excavate Caherconnell Fort, one of the best-preserved forts in the entire Burren. The story of Caherconnell is a complex one, and each excavation brings the project closer to unravelling the site's secrets. It is the ideal place for anyone who wishes to learn the skills of archaeology in a professional manner where academic credit is provided.



## Blackfriary



There are no age restrictions and volunteers of all experience levels are welcome. Course fees include tuition in a wide range of archaeological methods, accommodation, transport to and from the site, food, and day trips.

## Cultural Tourism Ireland, Blackfriary, Trim

Cultural Tourism Ireland provides the opportunity for anyone to become an archaeologist. Volunteers can participate in both day- and week-long archaeology adventures at the 13th-century site of Blackfriary Dominican Abbey. Day courses are ideal for those seeking a brief taste of life as an archaeologist, while the week-long courses provide plenty of excavation experience under the observation of friendly and experienced archaeologists.

The longer courses include an orientation to the Blackfriary excavation, meeting the team, and seeing what the dig is currently uncovering, and a visit to the finds laboratory to see the artefacts that the excavation has unearthed so

far. Participants can expect to carry out excavation and post-excavation work. The longer the stay, the more knowledge you will gain. No experience is necessary, and courses are open to all ages; 12- to 17-year-olds must be accompanied by an adult, while children aged 6-11 may attend the adjacent Dig It Kids Camp. Cost includes tea, coffee, and a cold lunch.

## Irish Archaeology Field School, Blackfriary

The Irish Archaeology Field School will be hosting a fourth season of excavations at the 13th-century Dominican Abbey of Blackfriary in the

town of Trim, Co. Meath. This is a training excavation, and students over the age of 18 will be taught excavation methods by a team of professional archaeologists.

This year, the aims of the project include distinguishing the site's layout, investigating the burials identified in the church, and exploring the relationship between the townspeople and the friary during the use of the site by the Dominicans.

As a community archaeology project, the idea is to create a space where community and visitors alike can explore heritage and use the site in a mutually beneficial and sustainable way.

There are three courses available this year: 'Introduction to Field Archaeology', 'Advanced Methods in Field Archaeology', and 'Introduction to Bioarchaeology and Osteoarchaeology'.

Excavations run from May to August, and costs cover module-based teaching. Although no previous experience is required for the introduction courses, students are expected to have basic fitness and a willingness to work.

## Caherconnell



## Brecon Beacons



## OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

### Brecon Beacons National Park

The Brecon Beacons National Park has volunteer opportunities in both archaeology and heritage. Those involved will work alongside park officers in ongoing projects, such as helping with the production of the Local List, and helping to record and conserve archaeological remains. No previous experience is necessary. Projects tend to be more suitable to those aged 16 and over. Please check the website (see p.45) for more details.

There are also a number of family-friendly archaeology walks planned for 2013. The National Park's Archaeologist is leading a number of short guided walks to explore the archaeology of three of the most impressive

### Caerleon Samian



hillforts in the Brecon Beacons National Park – Y Garn Goch, Twyn-y-Gaer, and Pen-y-Crug – while, of course, taking in the spectacular views and scenery. Booking is essential.

### Caerleon Samian Group

This year, the Caerleon Samian Group will be running a course at the National Roman Legion Museum in Caerleon. The project aims to record all the Samian

ware (a type of luxury pottery from the Roman period) from Wales and look for chronological and other patterns.

This season there will be an emphasis on plain ware and stamps from Caerleon, but some work may also be undertaken on decorated pieces. Enthusiasm for Roman pottery and a willingness to learn are the main requirements, rather than knowledge of Samian pottery. The first meeting will include

an introduction to Samian ware and to the project.

The course will take place on Tuesday mornings every week from October to December. It is free for participants, but they must enrol as a volunteer with the National Museum of Wales to take part. The minimum age is 16. Unfortunately, there is no disabled access to the museum basement where the group meets.

## CSV Heritage Camps

CSV Heritage Camps is an exciting volunteering opportunity that gives young people the chance to participate in taking care of some of the greatest examples of historical architecture.

Each summer, in July and August, CSV runs a series of residential camps that are ideal for anyone who may have an interest in heritage conservation or doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Activities vary depending on the needs of the building and its surrounding grounds, but can include the preservation of stained-glass windows and statues, painting community rooms and railings, and conducting graveyard surveys.

The camps are designed to introduce volunteers aged 16 to 30 to the heritage of these great buildings, and to teach them to work as a team while having fun. Each camp runs from Wednesday to Wednesday, with Saturday afternoon and Sunday off to explore the local area with the group. Sites include Bangor and Brecon Cathedral in Wales, Tewkesbury Abbey in Gloucester, Wimborne Minster

in Dorset, Islington Union Chapel and St Mark's Church in London, Wells Cathedral in Somerset, and Southwell Minster in Nottingham.

## Introduction to Human Osteology

In June 2013, the University of Sheffield will be running a short course in human osteology. This hands-on course will be taught in the main osteology laboratory using the department's human skeletal reference collection.

Participants will be given an overview of human skeletal anatomy, and taught a variety of osteological methods. This course is ideal for those wishing to gain confidence in dealing with human skeletal material.

Students will begin to develop skills in recording skeletal material, estimating age, sex, and stature, and interpreting osteological findings and relating them to the wider archaeological context.

This course is introductory, so it is aimed at people who have little or no osteological/archaeological experience. All

course materials are provided, and no prior qualification is needed, just enthusiasm and interest! Participants must be aged 16 years or over. To register, go to the website (see p. 45) and follow the five-day course/online shop links. Registration closes on Friday 14 June 2013.

## KAFS Two-Day Courses

The Kent Archaeological Field School will be running several hands-on courses that do not require participation in fieldwork. Courses are open to those who wish to further their knowledge of archaeological practices.

Courses include 'Bones and Burials' led by expert Dr Chris Deter, which will cover the on-site recording of human remains, and how they can reveal information about an individual's age, sex, and state of health. Excavated skeletons will be available for study and analysis in practical sessions.

Participants can also sign up to courses in archaeological drawing, surveying, landscape archaeology, and how to identify

## Human Osteology





and make prehistoric stone tools. The latter course includes a practical exercise on field-walking for lithics and flint tools.

KAFS members will enjoy discounts on full prices (except field trips). To book, you need to fill in an online form which can be found on the KAFS website (see p. 45). The website also contains further details of courses and membership.

## Osteoarchaeology Initiatives

This year Stockwood Discovery Centre has announced a new and updated programme of osteoarchaeology courses. All courses are aimed at increasing knowledge of human skeletal remains, providing thorough hands-on access, and teaching people how to identify sex, age, and pathologies on skeletons that are over 1,500 years old.

Luton Culture is hosting one- or two-day human remains workshops as part of a project to further understanding of health in and around Luton, and allow people the opportunity to analyse human remains from the Roman and Medieval periods. This is an ideal opportunity for undergraduates and graduates in archaeology and forensics, museum staff, local archaeologists from societies, as well as anyone who wants to know more about osteology. It is a great way to gain hands-on experience of human remains in a museum environment, and to learn about the past from people who lived through it.

One new session has been added to the programme due

to popular demand. This is an Intermediate Skeletal Analysis Day, which has major pathologies as its focus.

Courses run in May and June, and are open to anyone aged 17 years or older. Price includes tea, coffee, and course materials.

## SHARP Day Courses

This year, Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project will also be running several day courses, combining archaeological teaching with a fun day out.

There are three courses to choose from, which take place in July and August: 'Cooking up an Anglo-Saxon Feast', 'Flint in Archaeology: a basic introduction' and 'Flint Knapping' with John and Val Lord.

Day courses are open to participants of all ages. Those under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

## The Sussex School of Archaeology

The Sussex School of Archaeology is a new and exciting venture providing archaeology courses to the

general public, as well as more specialised training courses for amateur and professional archaeologists. It will run a series of day schools, evening classes, and trips, together with practical training courses to suit the interested armchair archaeologist as well as the keen amateur or professional looking to enhance their existing knowledge and skills. The course tutors are all specialists, most of whom recently taught at the University of Sussex and are very experienced in their fields, thus providing excellent archaeological training.

There is a huge range of archaeological programmes to get involved with, including survey courses at Shoreham Fort, and a three-day course looking at the conservation of the internationally famous mosaics at Fishbourne Roman Palace. Other courses include flint knapping, archaeological illustration, local ironworking, and many practical courses in field archaeology. Participants must be at least 16 years old. No previous experience is required.

### Sussex



# INTERVIEWS

## Experts in the field give us their digging tips and tricks

### Lisa Westcott Wilkins New venture



#### Why did you decide to start DigVentures?

Just before I left *Current Archaeology*, we did a special issue about the cuts, and followed this up with a fairly intense panel discussion session at CA Live. It was clear that things were going

to change quickly for archaeologists, and that this was quite a serious moment for our careers and the relevance of archaeology in the wider world.

We saw an opportunity to do things differently, to flip the paradigms of how archaeology is funded, how people external to the profession are included, and how we communicate the value of what we do. We started DigVentures because we felt strongly that a disruptive change was needed for archaeology, that these things needed to be challenged and quickly pushed forward. Plus, we are passionate about actually doing archaeology, and the provision of good field training that prepares people adequately for site work. Don't even get me started on that...

#### What do you think is the best way to encourage young people to get involved in archaeology?

We have to move past the idea that building in a youth-focused programme on a dig site is enough to inspire young people to get involved with archaeology. Our greatest duty regarding young people is to invest in the profession, to reinvigorate it, and to ensure that there will be an end-market for their skills and knowledge. Archaeology is not just something people do for fun – though, of course, it's incredibly fun – and when careers in archaeology can be seen to be stable and aspirational, more young people will be encouraged to do it.

#### Apart from excavation experience, what else do volunteers get out of taking part in a dig?

A massive sense of accomplishment, a bunch of new friends, and something to brag about down the pub. Many of DigVentures' volunteers had never touched a trowel before they came to our dig. No matter how much time they spent with us, they left having conquered, in some small way, their fear of the unknown.

#### What is your favourite part of an excavation?

My favourite part of an excavation is 6am, when I'm up before everyone else, drinking coffee, and hanging

out with Raksha watching all the diggers emerge from their tents. We tend to play dance music to get ourselves going, which is really confusing for most of them, but we've had a couple of raging 6.30am dance parties. For me, that's what site life is all about.

#### What has been your most exciting find?

Francis Pryor's plastic watering can, left behind in a trench at Flag Fen from one of his earlier excavations. I'm sure he did it as a joke, though he won't admit to it. It was random chance that we uncovered it in one of our test pits, and it filled my heart with joy. Looking at it, I felt totally connected to the earlier work at Flag Fen, to the adrenalin and sense of discovery that Francis must have had all those years ago when he was first excavating the site. I love that thing: it's so retro.

#### What do you hope to find this year?

The sky is the limit – our site has never been excavated before, so everything is going to be a first. I'm too excited to think about it.

#### What do you think are the most important aspects of running a successful excavation?

Excavation is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to doing 'successful' archaeology. It's absolutely essential to have good planning and adequate budgets for post-ex, and a plan for publishing your work. Be conscious that the research question and project design are only half the story if you're working with volunteers.

#### BELOW Francis Pryor's plastic watering can, Flag Fen.



## Lauren McIntyre Introduction to human osteology



### Why are you interested in osteology?

I remember the first time I handled an animal skull in a science class at secondary school. All the other kids thought it was disgusting, but I was fascinated by it. Later when I went to university I got interested in funerary archaeology, and my interest in osteology grew from there.

For me, osteology is capable of supplying us with information about both individuals and whole populations, in a way that other archaeological

disciplines can't. It's completely amazing what the human body is capable of and what a skeleton can tell us.

### Why do you think the general public should be interested in human skeletal remains?

Archaeology is all about interpreting and finding a connection with the past. There's no greater connection than the physical remains of our ancestors. We're constantly trying to understand who we are and where we came from, and archaeological human skeletons are the remains of who we once were. They tell us a story (no matter how big or small) on a very personal level that many people find they can relate to. That's why skeletal remains and mummies are so popular in museum exhibitions – people can relate to them in a way that not everyone can relate to other archaeological finds such as pottery.

### What is the most interesting pathology (evidence of disease) you have found on a skeleton?

Definitely the individual we found with fused knee and elbow joints at the All Saints Fishergate site in York. His left elbow and right knee were totally fused at the joints, so each limb was at a right angle. We've had numerous palaeopathology specialists

## Cat Jarman Encouraging potential archaeology students



### How did you become passionate about archaeology?

I grew up in Norway, and going to see the Viking ships in Oslo when I was very young made a great impression on me. Although I had been really interested in history, it was only when I moved to the UK at the age of 18 that

I realised I could make a career out of it – I saw a TV documentary and got hooked.

### What do you think is the best way to encourage young people to get involved in archaeology?

By letting them take part as much as possible. This doesn't have to mean going on a dig: museums and heritage sites are great too. The important thing is to encourage them to think about the people who lived in the past, and what we can learn from what they left behind.

### Apart from excavation experience, what else do volunteers get out of taking part in a dig?

Digs are a great way to get a better understanding of how we learn about the past, and how each

wall, pottery sherd or animal bone can be used to piece together the past. They are also a great way to learn new skills, make new friends, and be active outdoors.

### What has been your most exciting find?

A piece of decorated pottery – which was probably not exciting to anyone other than me! I worked on a site in Zambia and was writing my undergraduate dissertation on the pottery we found there. This particular piece had decoration of a type I hadn't seen there before, which could tell me a lot about the people who lived there 1,000 years earlier.

### What advice would you give to a young person considering a degree in archaeology?

My best advice would be to give it a go if you can. Try to take part as a volunteer in an excavation, or at least go to visit a dig on an open day. Try to think like an archaeologist wherever you go: what do the surroundings tell you about the past? What can you find out about the past from place-names, maps, lumps and bumps in the landscape, or architecture and monuments incorporated into new towns? Archaeology is a subject with endless topics to specialise in, so a degree in archaeology can be useful in a great number of ways.



examine him, and a number of tests done, but we still can't figure out exactly what's wrong. We ruled out trauma and a number of infectious diseases. I think it's something that happened when he was young, because of the way bones such as the ulna and radius have developed. Whatever caused the two joints to fuse, it's a very extreme, rare case.

### **What is your main field of research within the discipline of osteology?**

At the moment I'm just writing up my PhD research. I've been reconstructing the population of Roman York using osteological evidence. I've been looking at the demographic composition of the population, have re-estimated the population size, been using dental pathology to try to figure out what sort of foods people were eating, and looking at non-dental pathology to examine health status.

### **What is the oldest skeleton you have studied?**

I did a couple of osteological assessments of skeletons that turned out to be Iron Age (2nd century BC), from the University of Sheffield's student field school at Brodsworth near Doncaster. The bones were in very bad condition, but during cleaning in the lab I found that one of the skeletons had pendants made out of pig tusk, and a large tooth that could have belonged to a dog or a wolf.

### **How difficult is it to excavate human remains without damaging them?**

It very much depends on a lot of factors! If you have a well-preserved skeleton in good soil, a lot of time, and decent weather, it can be relatively straightforward. However, as any field archaeologist will tell you, conditions are rarely optimum! Fragmented, poorly preserved remains can be very difficult to excavate without causing more damage. Things like time pressure and bad weather really don't help, and it's situations like this where both osteological knowledge and field experience are necessary in order to keep remains in the best condition possible.

### **What advice would you give to anyone thinking of pursuing a career in the osteology?**

Make sure it's a career you're very dedicated to – there are a lot of very good osteologists in Britain, so standards of practice are high and competition for jobs is fierce. If you decide that's the direction you want your career to go, you need to make sure you get as much practical experience as possible. Books are great, but there's no substitute for handling real material. I always recommend to our MSc students that they help out with cleaning our new collections – it might seem boring, but you get to handle loads of whole and broken bone specimens, and it really helps you get to grips with identifying those pesky fragments!

## **Vicky Nash Community archaeology**



### **Why do you think community archaeology is important?**

Community archaeology is important as it brings together a wide variety of people and allows them to experience and understand history in a way that a book or a television programme could never do. With regards to the Dig Greater Manchester Project, community archaeology has helped

to raise awareness of the past at a local level, and has encouraged local communities to access, explore, and interpret their heritage, building a sense of ownership and understanding.

### **What do you think are the main challenges for archaeologists in encouraging new volunteers?**

Unfortunately people still believe that archaeology is all about the digging and that you have to be young, fit, and able to take part. Dig Greater Manchester is hoping to quash this belief by encouraging individuals and groups not normally associated with archaeology to get involved in not just the digging, but also other archaeologically related activities such as archaeological drawing and recording, finds analysis, geophysical surveying, historical research etc.

### **What is your favourite part of an excavation?**

For me, the best part of an excavation is always the first few days when a site is still a blank canvas. As an archaeologist you always have an idea of what you expect to find when you arrive on-site, but in those first few days of digging you are never sure, and it is a nail-biting time. Being able to watch the site evolve day by day has always fascinated me.

### **What has been your most exciting find?**

I guess my most exciting find has to be an Early Bronze Age amber necklace, which I found when I was volunteering at the Shaw Cairn excavations in Stockport in 2006. Nobody ever expected to find actual treasure, so it was a shock for all of us, and something which I will never forget.

### **What do you think the most exciting part of archaeology is for kids?**

Kids always get most excited about the digging. They are normally convinced that when they get on-site, they will be like Indiana Jones and uncover lots of treasure. In reality, what they find is broken pottery. However, when I tell them that the piece of pottery is 200 years old and that they are the first person to touch it since it was thrown away, it suddenly becomes treasure and they get very excited.

## SCOTLAND

## WALES

## NORTH EAST

## NORTH WEST

## YORKS

TITLE	LOCATION	OPENING DATES	COST	
Advance Archaeology	Cumbernauld, and site near Stirling	19-30 August	£550	
Green Farm Neolithic Settlement, Isle of Eday	Orkney	18 May-30 June, 13 July-24 August	£230 for one week, up to £500 for four weeks or more	
Newbarns Project	Newbarns, between Colvend and Sandyhills	1-28 July, 2-29 September	£45 per week up to two weeks, then free (booking fee of £20 when accepted)	
Stirling Council Archaeology	Killlearn, Plean, and Abbey Craig	May, June, and September	Free	
Strathearn Environs and Royal Forteviot (SERF)	Dunning, Perthshire	15 June-5 July	£1,400 (undergraduate credits available for an additional charge of £216)	
Tamnafalloch, Rampart Scotland	The Trossachs	25-26 May	£50 per day	
Dyfed Archaeological Trust	South and West Wales	Throughout 2013	Free	
The Lost City of Trellech Project	Trellech, South-East Wales	13 July-11 August	Free (donations welcome)	
Meillionydd	Meillionydd near Rhiw, Llyn Peninsula, North-West Wales	1-27 July	Free	
Moel Fodig Iron Age Hillfort	Moel Fodig hillfort near Corwen, Denbighshire, North-East Wales	tbc	Free	
Moel-y-Gaer, Bodfari	Bodfari, Denbighshire, North Wales	21 July-2 August	Free	
Bamburgh Castle	Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland	3 June-28 July	£235 per person per week (4% surcharge if paying by PayPal)	
Binchester Excavation Project	Binchester, County Durham	3 June-26 July	£25	
Fort Arbeia and the Roman Empire in Britain	South Shields, Tyne & Wear	June-August	Contributions range from £525 to £1,450, depending on expedition length	
Vindolanda	Northumberland	Monday to Friday (weather permitting) from 1 April-6 September	See website for details	
Bury Archaeological Group	Gristlehurst Farm, Heywood, Manchester	Early April-end of October	Free, but each participant must be a member of the group (£10 per year)	
Dig Greater Manchester	Bolton, Rochdale, Manchester, and Salford	March, April, July and September respectively	Free – booked on a first-come, first-served basis	
Poulton Research Project	Poulton, Cheshire, three miles south of Chester	25 March-26 April, 24 June-30 August	£80-£125 per week, depending on dates and duration	
Archaeology Live!	City of York	24 June-13 September	Fees vary, depending on duration	

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SCOTLAND

WALES

NORTH EAST

NORTH WEST

YORKS



	TITLE	LOCATION	OPENING DATES	COST	
YORKSHIRE	Dales Heritage Field School	Chapel House Wood, Kilnsey, North Yorkshire	7-26 July	£15 per day, minimum 3 days	
	North Duffield Conservation and Local History Society	Parkhouse Farm, Hugh Field Lane, North Duffield	10am-4.30pm daily, 20-26 July	Free	
	Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group (SWAAG)	Hagg Farm, Fremington, Yorkshire Dales	10-21 June (excluding middle weekend)	£5 per day for non-members, £3 per day for members	
MIDLANDS	Bingham Digs	Bingham, South Nottinghamshire	Second half of April-July	Free	
	Burrough Hill Archaeological Field School	Burrough Hill Country Park, Somerby Road, Burrough on the Hill, Leicestershire	24 June-5 July	£200 per person per week	
	MBArchaeology Volunteering Opportunity	Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	Throughout 2013	Free	
	Piddington Villa	Piddington, Northamptonshire	27 July-26 August	Fees vary	
	Thornton Abbey Field School	Thornton Abbey, Ulceby, North Lincolnshire	30 June-26 July	£195 per week	
EAST	Copped Hall Trust Archaeological Project (CHTAP)	Between Epping and Waltham Abbey, Essex	July-August	£50 for Taster Weekend, £90 for Field School	
	DigVentures 2013 Field School	Leiston Abbey, Theberton, Leiston, Suffolk	2-21 July	Vary – visit website for more details	
	Heritage Writtle	Writtle, Essex	One morning a week, throughout the year	£10 annual membership	
	Marks Hall Jacobean Mansion	Colchester, Essex	Spring-October	Free	
	Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project (SHARP)	Norfolk parish of Sedgeford	7 July-16 August	£80-£290 per week	
LONDON	Bexley Archaeological Group	Bexley, South-East London	29 July-2 August	£100 for non-members (for the week)	
	Scadbury Manor	Scadbury Park, Chislehurst, Kent	Dates available on joining ODAS	£10-£13 membership	
	Thames Discovery Programme (TDP)	London	May-September; training in April	Training session £100 (£50 concessions), free thereafter	
	Theobalds and Elsyng Tudor and Jacobean Palaces	Cheshunt and Enfield	Throughout July	£9 annual membership	
S.EAST	Access Cambridge Archaeology	tbc	tbc	tbc	

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YORKSHIRE

MIDLANDS

EAST

LONDON

S.EAST

TITLE	LOCATION	OPENING DATES	COST
Archaeology in Marlow	Warren Wood, Little Marlow, Buckinghamshire	Once a fortnight, April-October	£2 per day for non-members, free for members
Ashted Roman Villa and Tileworks	Ashted Roman Villa, Ashted Common, Ashted, Surrey	28 August-1 September, 4-8 September, 11-15 September	£25 per five-day week for non-members (to be paid before 17 July 2013), free for members
Isfield Enclosure Training Excavation 2013	Isfield, East Sussex	8 July-2 August	See website for details
Kent Archaeological Field School (KAFS)	Teston and Hollingbourne in Kent	July-August	£35 per day for non-members, £25 per day for members
Nautical Archaeology Society	Along the coastline	From March 2013	See website for details
Rocky Clump, Brighton	Rocky Clump, Stanmer, near Brighton	30 March-end of October	£12 (£6 student) membership
The Silchester Field School 2013	Silchester Roman Town, near Reading, Hampshire	1 July-11 August	£75-£275 per week, depending on experience
Winchester-Guildford-London Roman Road	Four Marks, Hampshire	March-September	£10 membership, £6 for training manual
Archeoscan	Hanging Hill, on the edge of the Cotswold scarp between Bristol and Bath	Most days, 1 September-1 November	£20 per day (reductions for longer-term attendance)
Dorchester-on-Thames	Dorchester, Oxfordshire	14-26 July	£250 per week
The Durotriges Big Dig	Dorset	3-28 June	tbc
North Cornwall Heritage	Slaughterbridge, Camelford, Cornwall	30 June-28 July, 18 August-15 September	Standard rate: £25 per day (£10 per day extra for facilities, food and camping) UK student rate: £10 per day (£10 per day extra for facilities, food and camping)
Saveock Water	Saveock Water, Truro, Cornwall	7-11 April, 14-18 April; main dig season: 2 June-29 August	£200 per week (non-refundable)
University of Bristol Archaeology Summer Schools	Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Bristol, and Berkeley Castle, near Bristol	July-August	For both field schools: £250 per person per week
Isle of Man Archaeological Training Excavation	Ballacagen, Isle of Man	15 June-13 July	£165 per week for UK and EU students
Société Jersiaise	St Clement, Jersey, Channel Islands	13 July-11 August	Société membership: £6 per year students, £55 per year adults
Achill Archaeological Field School	Dooagh, Achill Island, Co. Mayo	15 April-30 August	From £450 per week



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SOUTH EAST

SOUTH WEST

BRITISH ISLES

EIRE

TITLE	LOCATION	OPENING DATES	COST
Caherconnell Archaeological Field School (CAFS)	Caherconnell, Clare	June-July	From €1,950
Cultural Tourism Ireland, Blackfriary, Trim	The Blackfriary, Trim, Co. Meath	tbc	One-day adventure €125, one-week adventure €550
Irish Archaeology Field School, Blackfriary	Blackfriary Dominican Abbey in Trim, Co. Meath	20 May-23 August	€1,000 for two weeks
Brecon Beacons National Park	Various locations around the Brecon Beacons National Park	Throughout 2013	Free – £3 per person suggested donation for each walk
Caerleon Samian Group	National Roman Legion Museum, High Street, Caerleon	October-December	Free – participants must enrol as a volunteer with the National Museum of Wales
CSV Heritage Camps	Across the UK	July-August	£200
Introduction to Human Osteology	Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield	24-28 June	£400 (£340 for students/unwaged)
KAFS Two-Day Courses	Different locations around Kent	Throughout 2013	Most courses £75 for non-members, £50 for members
Osteoarchaeology Initiatives	Stockwood Discovery Centre, Luton	May-June	£97 per day
SHARP Day Courses	Norfolk parish of Sedgeford	14, 18, 27 July, and 7 August	£40
The Sussex School of Archaeology	Different locations in Sussex	March-December	Most courses £30

Bamburgh Castle



Moel-y-Gaer



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Société Jersiaise



Ballacagen





# Survival guide to volunteer excavation

**Are you heading out on a dig this season? If so, congratulations! Volunteers are an essential part of the excavation season – without their help, many digs would not be able to finish the scheduled work. Whether you are there to fulfil university requirements, on a holiday with family, or want to learn something new about the area where you live, these digs are a fantastic way to meet new people and learn an interesting set of skills.**

**However, field archaeology is work, and being prepared can make a world of difference to your experience. We've put together a short guide, including a checklist, to identify key areas for your preparation. Happy – and safe – digging!**

## Dig equipment

Most projects will supply the essential tools, however, there are a few basics that you must bring. You will not be very popular if you have to keep borrowing equipment!

- If you are serious about archaeology, even if it is only for a two- or three-week project, consider buying your own kit. The items listed in the checklist will enable you to dig, draw, record, and measure. At the very least, bring your own trowel, as these are personal items and most archaeologists don't like to loan them out.
- Most of what you need can be purchased online. A good website to try is the Past Horizons tool store: [www.pasthorizons.com/shop](http://www.pasthorizons.com/shop).

## Travel

- Plan carefully how you will reach your destination, and check that the route is feasible: this is especially important for remote locations!
- Bring appropriate maps so you won't get lost.
- Be sure you have the contact phone number of the project director in case you get lost or need help.

## Facilities

Accommodation can vary greatly, from tents or cabins to hotels. Often, access to a decent shower is restricted and facilities, which will vary depending on your location, are usually pretty rudimentary. Think carefully about whether you can handle these kinds of conditions before committing to a dig.

- Confirm with the project ahead of time exactly what facilities are available.
- Sleeping arrangements are often basic and communal; check whether you are required to bring your own bedding or tent.

## Clothing and packing

Essentials will vary, obviously, depending on the time of year and the location. However, here are a few ground rules:

- A sturdy pair of boots is essential. Always remember to break in your boots in advance of the project to avoid the discomfort of blisters.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be provided by the organising group, but do bring your own knee pads or kneeling mat, and don't forget a good pair of gloves to protect your hands from cuts and blisters.
- Travel as light as possible. There is no need to go overboard on toiletries: you will need a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and roll-on antiperspirant.

## Health and safety

As with most outdoor activities, there are potential hazards involved, from extreme weather conditions to physical stresses and strains. You are there to enjoy yourself; however, do remember there are issues of health and safety that need to be observed on any archaeological site.

- Be prepared with your own medical kit that includes paracetamol, anti-septic wipes, and plasters.
- Ensure your anti-tetanus vaccination is up to date.
- Most projects will have a 'tool talk' and risk assessment that is designed to highlight the potential dangers and how they have been mitigated.
- The British Archaeological Jobs Resource (BAJR) provides a guide, called *Working Safe on Archaeology Projects*, that can be downloaded at [tinyurl.com/y9kzcmh](http://tinyurl.com/y9kzcmh).



# YOUR PERSONAL CHECKLIST

## Travel and money – preparation

- ☐ Travel tickets and insurance
- ☐ Maps, directions, and phone numbers
- ☐ Appropriate jabs and medication

## Packing for projects – essentials

- ☐ Functional shirt / long-sleeved T-shirt and trousers (military or cargo are best)
- ☐ Well-treaded boots
- ☐ Waterproof jacket and trousers
- ☐ Hat or bandanna
- ☐ Socks and underwear
- ☐ A full set of clothes for evenings and days off
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Mug for tea breaks
- ☐ Torch and spare batteries
- ☐ Small penknife with scissors
- ☐ Small sewing kit and safety pins



## Medical kit and toiletries

- ☐ Sun block and after-sun lotion
- ☐ Hand-wash or wipes
- ☐ Small First Aid kit
- ☐ Any essential medication you require (notify the project in advance of any medical condition you may have)
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Spare toilet roll

## Equipment – check with project for any other requirements

- ☐ WHS 4" archaeologists' trowel (or similar)
- ☐ Gloves or padded palm fingerless gloves
- ☐ 5m hand tape
- ☐ Kneeling mat or knee pads
- ☐ Mechanical pencil and eraser
- ☐ Ruler
- ☐ 2 x Biro pens
- ☐ Small notebook
- ☐ Foldback clips
- ☐ Large ziplock bags
- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Small rucksack or shoulder bag
- ☐ Compass
- ☐ Camera and spare memory card
- ☐ Always check with the project for a full kit list

## Suggestions

- ☐ Book, or MP3 player or similar with headphones – for a bit of downtime
- ☐ Sweets, biscuits or a favourite spread like Marmite
- ☐ Swimming costume/trunks and flip flops



# Location of 2013 digs

