

CBAE EVENTS

FREE Tour of Dig at Clare Castle, Suffolk, Wednesday 6th October 2021.

WARNING: this tour may have to be cancelled if restrictions relating to the Covid-19 virus are in place at the time.

Clare Castle comprises the remains of a **19thC railway station** driven through a **Norman motte and bailey castle** which, in turn, overlies an **Anglo-Saxon cemetery**. The whole is now a delightful country park, within a substantial medieval town. This is the final year of a 3-year project to investigate the archaeology below ground.

Tea and coffee will be available from 10.40 am in The Old Goods Shed, and the dig tour will commence at 11.00 am. It will be led by archaeologists from Cotswold Archaeology Suffolk and last about 1.30 hours. Attendees are then encouraged to have lunch in Clare in one of several eating places, or enjoy a picnic in the park, followed by a self-guided tour of the town. 'Clare Town Trail' is available in Clare at £2 (correct at time of writing) or a pdf overview can be downloaded from the Visit Clare website.

The dig tour is free to all members but places are limited and will be issued on a first come, first served basis. **NOTE: The dig site is a hazardous working environment with rough, uneven ground in most places. Flat, sensible shoes or boots are essential. Site health and safety rules must be obeyed.** There is some wheelchair access.

Details of where to meet and where to park will be issued on booking

To book, please email CBAE.Secretary@archaeologyuk.org or write to L. Harrison, CBAE Secretary, 57 Irvine Road, Colchester, CO3 3TT with the following information for each attendee: full name, email address (preferred) or postal address, and contact telephone number.



We have reluctantly decided to again postpone our **AUTUMN CONFERENCE**. It had been hoped to include contributions from many local societies and community archaeology groups under our theme Archaeology for All, and this would have involved considerable planning, with many people involved. It would be unwise to commit to such an ambitious plan when the future is still uncertain. We hope that we will be able to arrange a new Conference in Autumn 2022.

We are trying to arrange more events for early autumn. If we are successful they will be at short notice and we will notify Members by **e-mail**.

CBA COMMITTEE

Chair	Aileen Connor
Treasurer	Richard Cushing
Secretary	Louise Harrison

Mark Curteis (Suffolk rep)
 Andy Instone (Herts rep)
 Henry Webber (Essex rep)
 Shannon Hogan (National Trust)
 Michael Coles (Minutes Secretary)
 David Gordon (Newsletter Editor, Membership Secretary)

The Secretary would be pleased to hear from members interested in being co-opted to serve on the Committee. We should particularly welcome people with a good admin background eg banking, book keeping, IT, marketing, etc, but if you just have a bit of spare time and want to help out we'd love to hear from you too!. Help with updating the website would be particularly appreciated.

Aileen Connor (Chair)



Aileen graduated from UCL Institute of Archaeology in 1981 with a BA in Archaeology, and has over 30 years' experience in professional archaeology in Britain. She has directed and published a number of large-scale urban and rural projects, including Causeway Lane, Leicester, and Brandon Road, Thetford. Her portfolio as a project manager with Oxford Archaeology East includes several large urban excavation/post-excavation programmes in the medieval core of Huntingdon, as well as numerous rural and village core excavations and evaluations. Aileen has been an Associate of the Institute for Archaeologists (ACIfA) since 1990.

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Louise Harrison (Secretary)

Louise became interested in archaeology after watching “Chronicle” on television and joined the Junior Society of Antiquaries Newcastle upon Tyne (now Newcastle YAC) when in the Sixth Form at school. She spent time over the next few years during vacations and when between jobs happily digging in Newcastle upon Tyne. At that time there were two sites being investigated by the city: Blackfriars and Castle Garth. Both sites were enormously rewarding.

After moving south for work reasons Louise stopped all archaeology while working and raising a family until about 12 years ago when she re-discovered the fun, firstly with Colchester Archaeology Group and latterly with Stour Valley Community Archaeology. She has also dug on community digs under professional supervision in Suffolk, Nottinghamshire, and Northumberland. Louise joined the committee of CBA East two years ago and hopes to help spread the fascination, fun and wonder of archaeology.

Richard Cushing (Treasurer)

Richard is interested in landscape archaeology: where and why people settled in a particular place and why some settlements flourished whilst others were lost. This inevitably leads to the study of water supply and communications. As an engineer, it seems to him that although a variety of geophysical techniques are used in evaluating potential sites, there are a number of less well-known techniques which may have been overlooked. As technology advances, perhaps some of these can be adapted for use by amateurs, or techniques combined to provide faster and more reliable interpretation of results. He believes strongly that we need to study East Anglia as a whole. Modern county boundaries are a hindrance to our understanding of the region. CBA East represents an opportunity to work together to do this.

David Gordon (Newsletter and Membership)



After reading Modern Languages at Durham David spent his working life teaching German and French in South East London, with a bit of spare time archaeology and an MA in Medieval Studies along the way. His first dig was at Irthlingborough/Stanwick with Claire Halpin and David S Neal, and on early retirement he gained another MA from the UCL Institute of Archaeology and did volunteer projects with the London Heritage Environment Record before moving to Ely. He is Treasurer of Fen Edge Archaeology Group.

Michael Coles (Minutes Secretary)



Mike has been involved in amateur archaeology ever since the 1960s. He started in Southampton on bomb sites with medieval archaeology under the guidance of Alan Aberg. In the 1970s he did the London University Advanced Diploma in archaeology while helping on sites in Watford along with experience at Danebury Hill fort and Wharram Percy deserted medieval village. These were followed by excavations at the Roman sites of Gorhambury and Stanwick guided by David Neal. The 1980s saw a move to Cambridge and joining the Cambridge Archaeology Field Group (CAFG) with many years of fieldwalking and excavation, including work on the National Trust's Wimpole Hall. The Cambridge University MSt in Local and Regional history widened his interest but still with a strong emphasis on archaeology.

Shannon Hogan



Shannon has worked in archaeology across East Anglia since 2005 after completing her Masters degree at UCL. Having spent many years running excavations at mineral extraction sites, she has developed a keen interest in Neolithic archaeology and the archaeology of floodplain landscapes. After a few years in project management, Shannon took on a very different role and moved into the National Trust. Her current role as National Archaeologist has a particular focus on heritage engagement through archaeology and she is supporting the development of more inclusive opportunities for people to engage with archaeology across the organisation.

Henry Webber



Henry is a part time lecturer in Agronomy and Archaeology at the Royal Agricultural University and the Cultural Heritage Institute, which he combines with a role as a policy adviser in Defra and farm manager of a mixed farm near Aylesbury. His PhD was from the Universities of Bristol and Reading (in collaboration with Historic England), focusing on Precision Farming and Archaeology, studying the impacts that humans have had on the landscape for thousands of years and why this is important for land managers and farmers today. He has been a member of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History for many years and is keen to be involved in local projects.

Mark Curteis



After completing a Masters Degree in archaeology in 1988, Mark left Durham University to pursue a career in museums. He currently is Assistant Museums Manager at Chelmsford Museum but lives in Suffolk. Along the way he studied for a PhD in archaeology, specialising in Iron Age coins and archaeology. Ancient coins (along with WW2 concrete defences!) continues to be Mark's particular research interest and he is currently studying coins from ongoing excavations at Long Melford and Fordham near Colchester. Mark sits on the committee for the Essex History and Archaeology Society and is also a tutor in Museum Studies for the University of Leicester.

Andy Instone

Andy grew up in Hertfordshire and was a member of the old CBA Mid-Anglia group. He has worked in Ireland and the United States as well as the UK. He spent several years working for the US Forest Service as an archaeologist which included looking after archaeological sites and assisting with volunteer projects for the public. He is currently a Senior Archaeologist with Hertfordshire County Council and has a particular interest in historic buildings.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2021

Following a three-year hiatus, and a brand-new look, nominations for the CBA Archaeological Achievements Awards 2021 are now open.

Formerly known as British Archaeology Awards, the awards have been expanded and renamed to include the Republic of Ireland and the UK. Along with these changes the award categories have been revised to better reflect the aspirations of the steering group and judging panel to showcase the very best of archaeological activity across the British Isles and island of Ireland.

As a central event in the archaeological calendar, the purpose of the Archaeological Achievement Awards is to advance the study, practice and dissemination of archaeological activity in all its aspects and to celebrate its impact and legacies. There are five main award categories and one overall achievement award. The awards will be judged against a series of cross cutting themes.

Award categories:

- Archaeological innovation
- Public dissemination of presentation
- Engagement and participation
- Early career archaeologist
- Learning, training and skills

Overall achievement award

Cross cutting themes:

- Health and wellbeing
- Collaboration – commercial/academic/public
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Placeshaping/placemaking

Neil Redfern, Chief Executive of the CBA, said: “We are all aware of how important the archaeology and heritage on our doorsteps has become during the COVID pandemic and lockdowns. These awards will allow us to demonstrate the importance as well as the wider contribution archaeological activity makes to health and wellbeing, inclusion and placemaking.”

Nominations are open until 11.59pm on Sunday 31 October 2021. Full details including nomination criteria and guidelines can be found on the Archaeological Achievement Awards website <https://www.archaeologicalawards.com/>.

DOGGERLAND EXHIBITION

In case you can't get to see the Doggerland exhibition in Leiden, there's a virtual tour on YouTube (Dutch with English subtitles): [Guided tour through the exhibition 'Doggerland' at the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Leiden - YouTube](#)

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BRONZE AGE FORUM

The 2021 Forum has been cancelled. It is hoped that it will be able to go ahead on 12-13 November 2022 in Cambridge.

HIDDEN ARCHAEOLOGY OF CAMBRIDGE

A YouTube video from Oxford Archaeology East exploring parts of Roman Cambridge: [\(726\) Hidden in Plain Site- Cambridge - YouTube](#)

EAST OF ENGLAND RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

The East of England Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment covers the counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The current revision of the East of England Research Framework augments both the original version of the Framework, published in two parts in 1997 and 2000, and a revised and updated version, published in 2011.

A review process was undertaken during 2018–20 by ALGAO East of England and funded by Historic England. The website <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/> went live in 2021 and contains a series of period-specific Resource Assessments, **which provide updates on fieldwork and research** undertaken since the last Framework review and summarise the progress which has been made towards the research aims set out in 2000 and 2011. Each Resource Assessment is complemented by a Research Agenda, which sets out a number of new questions to guide research during the next ten years.

RECENT DISCOVERIES AT BURWELL

Significant discoveries at the British Land site in Burwell (Cambridgeshire) have been mentioned in the local and national press. Here is the latest from Oxford Archaeology East:

The 6.5 hectare excavation on Newmarket Road is taking place ahead of the construction of a new housing scheme being delivered by This Land. The archaeological team started work on the site in May and has uncovered a prehistoric settlement dating to 1,100-800 BC.

There are a large number of pits and postholes, suggesting there was a relatively large and well-established farming community in the late Bronze Age. The pits seem likely to have been used for seasonal storage of food and then repurposed as middens to dispose of rubbish. They contained layers of late Bronze Age pot and animal bone showing they were in use over some time, not filled up at once. One of the larger pits contained fragments of fired clay which would have been the positive mould for casting an axe head from bronze, and other notable finds so far include a ceramic spindle whorl, bone needle, copper alloy pins and a fragment of shale bracelet.

Darker soil-filled holes are all that remain of timber structures and these show up clearly against the white natural chalk geology of the site. The layout of the post holes suggests there were several rectangular timber-framed buildings, most likely to have had thatched roofs and floors raised off the ground. Some of these had four posts driven into the ground, and others were larger with six posts. These may have been used as granaries, to store grain. Soil

samples have been taken which will be checked for charred grains or other clues about their functions.

Earlier in the Bronze Age, about 2,500-2,000 BC, a funerary monument was built at the site. A circular ditch was dug and the earth mounded up in the centre. A complete male skeleton, at least 40 years old and relatively muscular, was buried at the centre of this monument alongside a large circular hole for a timber post. This post would have acted as a tall visible marker of the burial. The later Bronze Age settlement does not overlap with the earlier funerary monument and appears to have been respected as a feature of the landscape when people settled in the area a millennium later.



An archaeologist carefully trowels to reveal the remains of an early Bronze Age burial at the centre of a funerary monument.

At the end of July, there was an open day for residents in neighbouring streets, as well as guided tours for Burwell Parish Council, the Burwell Museum committee and members of Staploe Archaeology Group, as well as the two Year 6 classes at Burwell Primary School. A press day was attended by a local newspaper, the Cambridge News, and BBC Radio Cambridgeshire's Chris Mann.

These finds offer a fascinating insight into daily life nearly three thousand years ago, and the team will be continuing their excavation in Burwell during the remainder of 2021.

NEW INTERPRETATION BOARD AT GRAFHAM



Grafham Landscape| © Tom Crowley

Earlier this year the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre was approached by Historic England with a request to produce an interpretation board for a listed monument [Moated site 700m ENE of Village Farm, Grafham - 1020909 | Historic England](#). The monument was a medieval moated settlement which lay just off a public footpath to the west of the Huntingdonshire village of Grafham. The landowner had cleared the site of trees and was in the process of turning it into grazing. A condition of this change of land use was that the

landowner fund the creation of an interpretation board which users of the footpath might use to learn about the site. CHRC PhD member, Tom Crowley, took on this project. Below Tom explains how he carried out this work.

The site had never been excavated and had only briefly been surveyed in the 1970s as part of a larger Cambridgeshire earthworks documentation project (Brown and Taylor 1977). We did not have much to go on, therefore, and researching the board necessitated a fair amount of consultation with archaeologists who had investigated similar sites. Following consultation, it seemed reasonable to make a few assumptions: that the site had been occupied by a manor house which was built no later than the fourteenth century, and that surrounding the manor house there would have been assorted outbuildings and barns, and beyond these stockyards, vegetable gardens and perhaps orchards. Community engagement formed an important component of the brief. COVID-19 regulations and a tight timescale made face to face interaction difficult, however Grafham has a very active Facebook page, and this proved to be a useful forum on which to share updates and gather feedback. The village also has a monthly digital newsletter, the excellently named Grafham Gossip, and here we published a summary of the entire project which included links to relevant and freely accessible resources. When it came to the reconstruction drawing, I chose the view from the interpretation board and adapted a panorama photo I took at the site, so that the visitor would get a sense of being in the same place, albeit centuries ago. I set the drawing in the fourteenth century, as this was the time when most moated compounds were created. The contents of the drawing were, of course, speculative, but I ensured that everything shown was at least likely to have been there. The timber framing, thatching and tiled roofs all follow the local fourteenth century vernacular. The buildings are clustered in the southeast corner of the site, where the 1970s survey suggest the original house platform stood. There is a cart which is taken from a contemporary English illustration, preserved in the beautiful Lutterell Psalter. By the cart is a medieval wattle chicken coop and at the far right of the scene is a pig sty, both adapted from medieval manuscripts. Medieval aristocrats were averse to their greens, so only a modest area of the site is shown given over to vegetable gardens. There is however an orchard in bloom with sheep and their lambs grazing below to keep the spring grass down. Finally, there are plenty of pigs (of the medieval Tamworth-like breed), as we know that pork featured prominently in the diet. Creating the board was a pleasure and we hope that the residents of Grafham and walkers on the footpath enjoy what we have produced.

References:

A.E. Brown and C.C. Taylor. 1977. 'Cambridgeshire Earthwork Surveys, II'.
Proceeding of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society LX VII: 85-101.

(Source Cambridge Heritage Research Centre Bulletin, 19 May 2021
<https://www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk/documents/2021-5-19-bulletin>)

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST GUIDED TOURS

Following lifting of Government restrictions NAT sites can again accept on the day attendees for their free guided tours at Burgh Castle Fort, Caistor Roman Town and St Benet's Abbey, which run until the end of September. Tours will be limited to a maximum of 18 people, so it may be better to book in advance at <https://bit.ly/36RzCBq>

Burgh Castle Fort: 2pm Sundays

Caistor Roman Town: 2.30pm Sundays plus Wednesdays in July/August

St Benet's Abbey: 3pm Wednesdays/Saturdays/Sundays

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LOCAL SOCIETIES AND EVENTS

We normally aim to offer a selection of events hosted by local Societies in our region, with particular emphasis on organisations affiliated to CBA East. **Some Societies have now published their autumn/winter programmes, but there may be changes to events which have been scheduled, as well as new programmes. We are not therefore listing specific events this time. Please check the individual websites for up-to-date information.**

ALDEBURGH AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

<http://www.adlhs.org.uk/>

ARCHAEOLOGY RHEESESEARCH GROUP

. <http://www.rheeseearch.org.uk/>

AYLSHAM ROMAN PROJECT

<https://aylshamromanproject.com/>

BRAUGHING ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

<https://www.ehas.org.uk/html/bag.html>

CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

<http://www.cafg.net/>

COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

<http://caguk.net/>

EAST HERTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<https://www.ehas.org.uk/html/events.html>

FANE ROAD ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP (PETERBOROUGH)

<https://peterborougharchaeology.org/>

FEN EDGE ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

See www.feag.co.uk. Any last minute changes will be posted on <https://feagblog.wordpress.com/>

FENLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<https://www.fenarch.org.uk/>

GREAT YARMOUTH LOCAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

. <https://www.greatyarmouthlocalhistoryandarchaeology.com/meetings>

MIDDLE NENE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

<https://www.midnag.org.uk/events.html>

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NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP

<http://www.nahrg.org.uk/>

NORFOLK INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

<http://www.norfolkia.org.uk/>

NORFOLK AND NORWICH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.nahrg.org.uk/>

ROCHFORD HUNDRED FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

<http://rhfag.dubsnet.co.uk/>

SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

<https://www.sgsoc.org/lectures>.

SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD GROUP

<https://www.suffolkinstitute.org.uk/fieldgroup>

THE SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

<https://www.suffolkinstitute.org.uk/>

WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.walthamabbeyhistoricalsociety.org.uk/>

WELWYN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<https://welwynarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com/>

WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

http://www.weag.org.uk/events_main.html

WEST NORFOLK AND KING'S LYNN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

http://wnklas.greylhawk.org.uk/main.php?p=lectures/meeting_programme2020.htm

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Quite a few Members have **still** not provided us with an e-mail address. If you have received this Newsletter by post, PLEASE let us have your e-mail address at CBAEast@archaeologyuk.org. This will be used purely for contact purposes and will not be passed to other organisations.

Without a current e-mail address, you may not receive details of CBAE events.

Some e-mails have been returned to us. If you expected to receive information by newsletter but have a printed copy instead, please supply us with an up-to-date e-mail address.

Please also contact us if you no longer wish to receive communications from us.

GRANTS

CBA East awards **individual grants of up to £250** in support of archaeological study. We are keen to support a broad range of activity, and particularly wish to promote education, research, public awareness and participation in archaeology in the region. The criteria are flexible and hence appropriate for individuals or newly formed groups who are seeking funding for training, help with investigation of potential sites, or informal publication of initial work. Applications from young people who live in the region are welcome.

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to cbaeast@archaeologyuk.org, by 31st December each year. These will normally be acknowledged within fourteen days, either indicating that the application meets the criteria, or with a request for more information. All valid applications will then be considered together at the first committee meeting of the following year, with one or two grants being made. Further details at <http://cbae.archaeologyuk.org/grants/>.

COPY FOR THE NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter is due to be published in January 2022. **Please send items for inclusion to CBAE.Newsletter@archaeologyuk.org by the end of November.**