

# NEWS LETTER

Issue 32, Late Winter 2014

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## TOUCHING THE PAST



**In September, members of the York Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) took part in YorNight: European Researchers' Night in York.**

Over the past year, with the support of the Department of Archaeology at the University of York, the young members of the York YAC branch have been involved in a tactile mapping project. This has involved training to develop awareness of visual impairment as part of the broad aims of the project to promote wider access to the heritage of York. The project has resulted in the creation of two 3D maps that depict the city in the Roman and medieval periods. The maps were presented in a 'pop-up' exhibition and members of the community, of all ages, were invited to 'touch the past'.

Alongside the 3D maps, a range of replica artefacts and genuine excavated finds were made available to 'feel'.

Members of the public were also invited to 'smell' the past with a selection of sniffer boxes; historic smells included carbolic soap, moth balls, and boot polish.

The team received encouraging feedback from visitors and this will feed into subsequent presentations of the project, including the forthcoming Being Human Festival at the University of York. Through participation in the project, members of YAC have developed their knowledge of how York has changed over time and also increased their awareness of the needs of different sections of the community - helping them (and the adult leaders too) to develop skills for life.

## Council resistance over hillfort housing jeopardises county plan, warn campaigners

Proposals to build 117 houses on a site close to Old Oswestry Hillfort, Shropshire, continue to generate controversy as campaigners accuse the Council of underplaying the scale of objections to the plans.

A public campaign has generated in excess of 10,000 objections through online petitions and social media, arguing that the housing site will seriously damage the setting of the nationally significant Iron Age Scheduled Monument and impact views across the surrounding countryside.

The site forms part of the Shropshire Council Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) masterplan, comprising 18 sites across

the county. Campaigners argue that by keeping the Hillfort site in the plan the Council threatens the whole process, which could fail to pass examination under the weight of these objections. Campaigners previously claimed that the SAMDev plan would not count towards the five-year housing supply for the County while significant unresolved issues remain, putting the Council at risk of being overruled by government planning inspectors if they were to reject other development schemes in the meantime.

The CBA agrees with campaigners and English Heritage that current plans for the site are not in conformity with national planning policy and has written



**An aerial photo of the site of Old Oswestry Hill Fort.**

to Shropshire Council to request that the site be immediately withdrawn from the SAMDev plan and a suitable outcome properly debated. You can follow the case at: [facebook.com/oldoswestryhillfort](https://www.facebook.com/oldoswestryhillfort)

## Wreck of HMS Victory 1744 to be investigated

**In late October the Secretary of State for Defence Michael Fallon MP announced that agreement had been reached for surface archaeological investigation and recovery work to be undertaken on the site of the wreck of HMS Victory in the English Channel.**

The wreck – the flagship of Admiral Sir John Balchin which sank in 1744 - has been monitored since it was located in 2008 and was gifted to the Maritime Heritage Foundation (MHF) by the Government in 2012. The announcement

confirmed that the MHF's project design must conform with the archaeological principles of the Annex to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, agreed Key Management Principles, and with the Government's heritage policies. The phase of work now agreed will involve the recovery of 'at risk' surface items from the wreck site. All artefacts recovered are to be declared to the Receiver of Wreck in accordance with existing legislation to determine ownership. Artefacts transferred under the Deed of Gift that are recovered from the wreck, and the

associated archive, including site plans, drawings and photographs, will form the "Victory 1744 Collection", which will be managed in line with the Museums Association's Code of Ethics for Museums. The CBA welcomed the news that agreement had been reached in line with the UNESCO Convention Annex for work to recover 'at risk' material, but questions remain unanswered and there is a need for more detail to be provided by the Government. In particular the CBA would like to ensure that all recovered material from the wreck is added to the proposed Victory 1744 Collection. [victory1744.org](http://victory1744.org)

## English Heritage 'new model' confirmed

DCMS Heritage Minister Ed Vaizey MP has confirmed that the Government has agreed with plans put forward by English Heritage to restructure the organisation. From 1 April 2015 the current organisation will split into two separate bodies: a charity which will retain the name 'English Heritage', and a Non-Departmental Public Body to be called 'Historic England'. The 'new model' will benefit from additional public investment of nearly £90m over the next eight years. Chief Executives for both organisations are being sought.

The overall response from heritage bodies was a cautious welcome – particularly for the financial investment designed to cover the urgent conservation work on the National Heritage Collection and improve the presentation of some of the sites.

However there are still concerns about the long term conservation of the sites in the National Heritage Collection, as the Government will not provide any ongoing financial support to the charity

after 2023. The summary business case does not appear to allow for eventualities such as another outbreak of foot and mouth disease which could have a negative impact on income from visitors.

Following the announcement, English Heritage launched a consultation on the draft corporate plan for Historic England from 2015-18. The plan sets out the purpose of the new organisation as the Government's independent expert advisory service for England's historic environment. It will champion and support the successful conservation of heritage in England through research, knowledge, technical expertise, grants

and advice. Its most important role is the designation of heritage assets for the National Heritage List for England and advising the Government on any important proposed changes to them. The CBA welcomed the Government's announcement with the associated financial investment and the guarantee of a stable financial position for the next two years, however, we remain concerned that the budgets for Historic England are vulnerable to further public sector cuts after 2015-16. The work of the new organisation needs to be celebrated and championed.

To find out more go to:  
[new.archaeologyuk.org/news](http://new.archaeologyuk.org/news)



# Local Agent handbook supports public involvement in casework

**Our Local Agents add vital local expertise to the CBA's national casework. They are historic buildings groups who, having partnered with the CBA can comment on changes to listed buildings on our behalf.**

Using our online database they have easy access to all of the cases that the CBA is consulted on, and, by working with the CBA, one of the national amenity societies with authority to advise on listed buildings, their comments tend to be treated with greater weight by the local authority.

To support these partnerships, we have created a handbook for Local Agents that outlines the CBA's archaeological view on buildings, the Local Agent role and the support and guidance that can be expected from the CBA. It also gives advice on how to write effective letters to local planning authorities, what

aspects are taken into account in decision-making, and how to use up-to-date policy. The CBA hopes that the handbook will be a catalyst for expanding our current network of Local Agents throughout the UK, and involving people more widely in the monitoring and protection of listed buildings in their area.

The CBA's role in advising development on listed buildings is not limited by age, nor grade of designation, and the remit includes all building types, from industrial structures to domestic dwellings, civic buildings to agricultural barns. This makes an interesting role for volunteers with plenty of variety, and equally applicable to any area of the country.

The CBA are looking out for new Local Agents. If you're involved with a historic buildings group or know of one which comments on planning applications, there is an opportunity to partner with the CBA. The first step is an informal chat with the CBA's Listed

Building Caseworker, Claire Price, to find out if our role suits your group.

There are also other opportunities to become involved with casework, from simply letting others know about how the work of the CBA involves buildings – many people consider archaeology to be only below ground – to monitoring planning applications at your local authority or simply alerting us if a listed building in your area is threatened by redevelopment. In all these ways, individuals, CBA Groups and Local Agents can participate in the stewardship of the historic buildings where they live with support from the CBA.

If you'd like to find out more about becoming involved in listed building casework, or to receive a PDF copy of the new Local Agent Handbook, email [casework@archaeologyuk.org](mailto:casework@archaeologyuk.org)  
Follow us on twitter [@cbacasework](https://twitter.com/cbacasework)



# My journey into archaeology

**Continuing our series looking at the many and varied routes into archaeology, Claire Easton, the CBA's brand new Casework Assistant tells us about her journey.**

"Whilst working for a Master's degree in Cultural Heritage Management at the University of York, I realised that I needed to develop my understanding of buildings archaeology and the assessment of proposals for change to listed buildings in practice. So in January 2014, I started volunteering at the Council for British Archaeology as a volunteer caseworker. This provided an excellent opportunity to develop my understanding of assessing the significance of the archaeology of listed buildings, and of the impacts of planning proposals for development on archaeology. It also provided a great opportunity to apply what I was learning through my MA in a practical 'real world' way.

Having previously worked as a consultant town planner, working at the CBA with the Listed Buildings Caseworker has provided a really interesting opportunity to look at planning applications from the opposite perspective - from writing and justifying proposals as a consultant on behalf of a developer, I am now considering proposals from the viewpoint of an amenity society, in this case the impact of a proposal on a building's archaeological importance, and considering how the archaeology of a building can reflect its passage and changing uses through time: the remit of the CBA.



**Claire Easton and Claire Price assess a development proposal.**

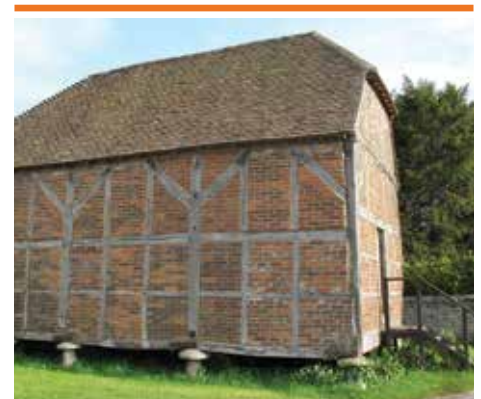
In September 2014, after six months of volunteering, I started work as a Casework Assistant, working with the Listed Buildings Caseworker at the Council for British Archaeology offices in York. The transition from volunteer to staff has provided the opportunity to look at more listed building consent applications in detail, to work with the other casework volunteers and even to get involved with organising a World Monuments Fund event about Deptford Dockyard for the Young Archaeologists' Club.

My day to day role involves ensuring that the Listed Building Consent cases which are received by the CBA as a statutory consultee for both England and Wales are entered on the casework database, and can therefore be accessed and commented on by the CBA's network of Local Agents. With up to 50 applications per week I am luckily helped by a small group of volunteers. I also review cases and bring them to the

attention of the Listed Buildings Caseworker who will assess them in more detail and potentially respond to make comments on behalf of the CBA.

Recent cases I have looked at have included an eighteenth-century granary, which was proposed to be picked up as a whole, and moved, using a crane, to a new location within the farmyard site, but separate from the other farm buildings. The CBA objected to the relocation on the grounds that the location of the granary within the group of the other farm buildings illustrates a traditional and historic coherent farmyard form and that its removal would impact negatively upon the reading of the site in this historic context. We also had concerns about the structural integrity of the building and potential damage to fabric caused through the move.

I'm looking forward to learning more about our wealth of fascinating buildings, and the complex issues around their protection, as I continue on my journey." [new.archaeologyUK.org/CBA-volunteering](http://new.archaeologyUK.org/CBA-volunteering)



**A traditional raised eighteenth century granary, similar to that in the proposal.**

## ICE AGE JOURNEYS



CBA East Midlands and the project Ice Age Journeys co-hosted an 'At the end of the Ice Age' conference for the archaeological community in November to cascade knowledge of excavations at the Stone Age site at Farndon Fields near Newark in Nottinghamshire. The project, hosted by community group, FARI Archaeology and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, investigated the activities of the people that lived in the British Isles at the end of the Ice Age some 14,000 years ago.

The project archaeologist, Daryl Garton, led a group of volunteers to discover the flint tools that our prehistoric ancestors left behind in the sediments by the River Devon, a tributary of the River Trent. "The site was perhaps close to where migrating herd animals crossed the rivers each year - where they would have been more vulnerable to attack. The flint toolkit is dominated by scrapers and cutting tools, so this is where the hunters processed the skins and carcasses of hunted animals. The scattering of small clusters of tools may represent the debris of many visits as the hunters returned year after year."

Phil Harding, who was involved in the project believes this is an exceptional site, "A small area we found had the remains of where someone actually sat down and knapped flint. It was literally like looking over someone's shoulder while they were knapping the flint to make tools."

"We wanted to help bring the Ice Age Journey's results to a wider audience", said David Ingham, Secretary of CBA East Midlands, "alongside the project's outreach events such as exhibitions, films and hands on flint working in a local shopping centre. Our event was a sell out!"

Look at the tool scatter on the project's interactive site map at: [iceagejourneys.org.uk](http://iceagejourneys.org.uk)

## Marsh Awards for Community Archaeology announced

The annual community archaeology awards, sponsored by the Marsh Christian Trust, and administered by the CBA celebrate projects, groups and individuals actively involved in researching the archaeological heritage of the UK.

**In 2014, we announced two new awards to recognise individual archaeologists both under and over the age of 18.**

**The Young Archaeologist of the Year Award** is for a young person or group of young people under the age of 18 who have made an outstanding contribution to community archaeology.



Lynda Walker, Young Archaeologist of the Year at Hadrian's Wall.

This year's winner is Lynda Walker, aged 16, who is the longest-serving member of Canterbury Young Archaeologists' Club. She was nominated by her Branch Leader, Abby Found, who said, "Lynda's first meeting was on a very wet and windy day, field-walking for Bronze Age finds in Thanet. From the start Lynda has been avidly interested in archaeology and is an extremely enthusiastic member of the Branch." Lynda hopes to become an Archaeological Conservator and is working hard to get the skills and knowledge she needs, for example by arranging her year 10 school work experience with Pre-Construct Archaeology.

**The Community Archaeologist of the Year Award** is for an individual who has inspired others to share their love of archaeology.

This year's award was presented to Viv Samuelson. Viv has been involved with excavations at the eastern end of Hadrian's Wall since the 1990s and was nominated by Nick Hodgson of Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums. Nick said, "I want to nominate Viv as an



**Viv Samuelson,  
Community Archaeologist of the Year.**

outstanding community archaeologist because her persistence and inspiration to others had led directly to one of the most important discoveries on Hadrian's Wall in recent years." Over the past three years Viv has been one of the leaders of a community-led initiative to find out more about Wallsend in Roman times. Through her leadership, the team were able to identify and excavate the long-lost bath house which once stood outside the Roman fort of Segedunum.

**The Marsh Award for Community Archaeology** recognises and promotes innovation and quality in the dissemination of the results of research and/or fieldwork through publication, communication and archiving.

The 2014 Award has been given to the Restoration of Carwynnen Quoit project in Cornwall. This project, a partnership between the Sustainable Trust and the Cornwall Archaeological Unit, related to the community space at Frying Pan Field being developed: the site of Carwynnen Quoit, a neolithic monument which collapsed in the 1960s. Careful research and a series of community events led to the restoration of the monument, captured in the



**The Award winning Community Archaeology team working to restore Carwynnen Quoit.**

re-enactment of a historic photograph taken in the 1920s when the monument was still standing. Nominating community archaeologist Richard Mikulski said, "the project brought together a wide variety of individuals of all ages and backgrounds, ranging from innovative young photography students, Julian Richards and his experimental archaeology team, to schoolchildren from all over mid-Cornwall. The final capping of the quoit on midsummer's day was truly a once in a lifetime event which brought hundreds of people to the site to share in this special experience."

The winners were chosen by Brian Marsh, of the Marsh Christian Trust at the CBA's Beatrice de Cardi Lecture in November from among a fantastic range of shortlisted nominations. The CBA are delighted to be able to celebrate and share the incredible range of community archaeology happening throughout the UK, and particularly to recognise the passion and dedication of the many people working so hard to protect and understand British archaeology. See the shortlisted and winning projects at: [new.archaeologyuk.org/marsh-archaeology-award-2014](http://new.archaeologyuk.org/marsh-archaeology-award-2014)

**"The CBA does more to support archaeology with the British public than any other organisation. Its survival as a strong and innovative institution is essential if Britain is to retain its unique reputation as a forward-looking nation that values its past.**

We must learn to cherish our heritage, not destroy it thoughtlessly. With your backing, the CBA will continue to remind politicians and others in authority that there is more to modern life than money alone."

Francis Pryor, Former President of the Council for British Archaeology and CBA Ambassador.

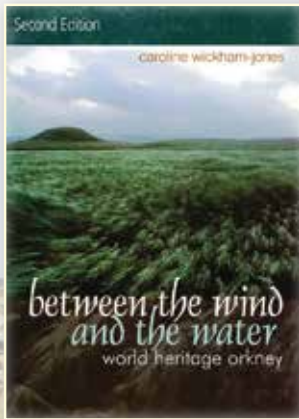
Give the CBA your support by becoming a Lifetime Member or a Friend of Archaeology, or by making a donation. Support our campaigning work and join our network of local groups championing archaeology services and safeguarding heritage on the ground.

[www.archaeologymatters.org.uk](http://www.archaeologymatters.org.uk)  
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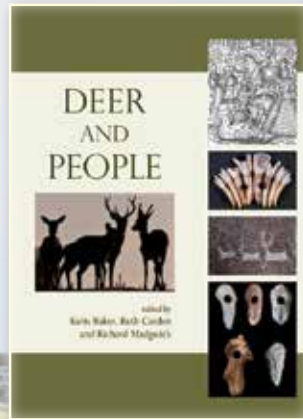


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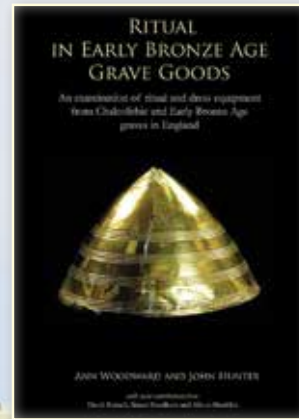
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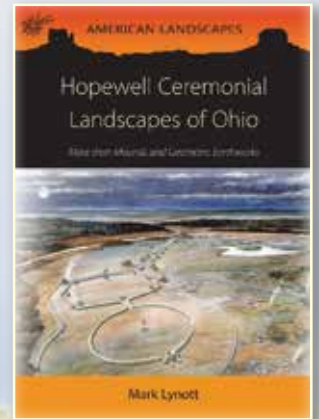
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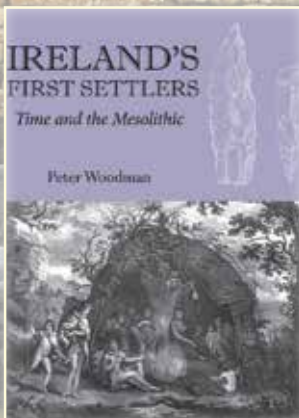
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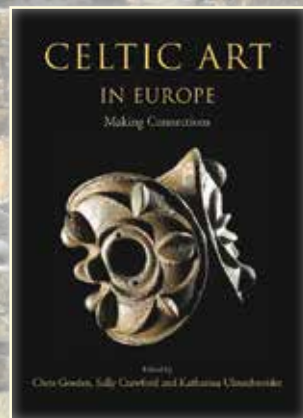
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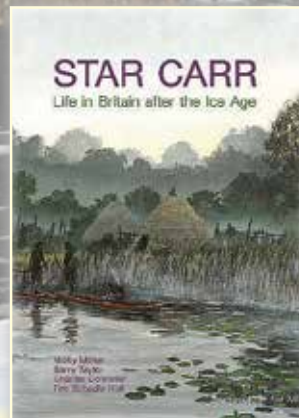
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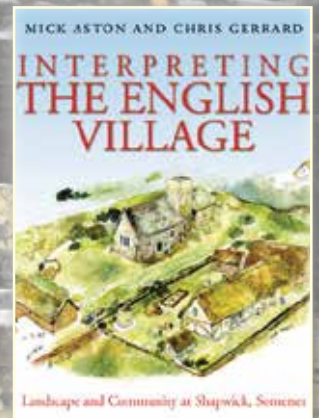
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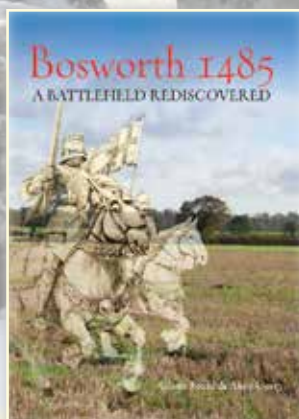
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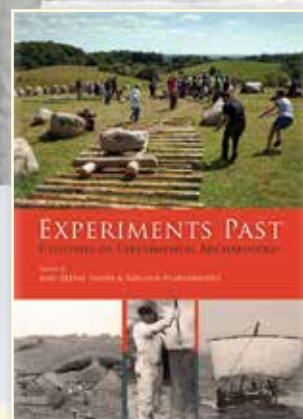
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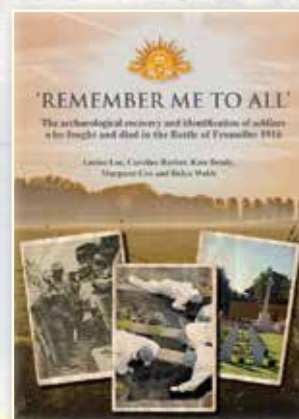
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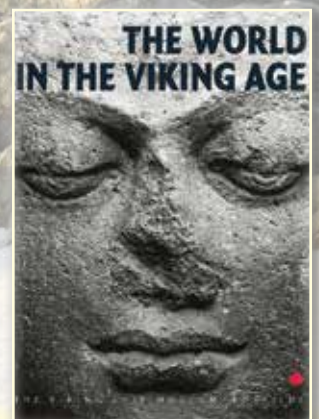
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