



## Skelton Earthwork Survey

Tees Archaeology is working with Skelton Township Heritage scheme which is funded by the HLF. We are specifically looking at an area of earthworks known as Boroughgate near Skelton Castle. These earthworks represent an unsuccessful attempt at creating a medieval town. A geophysical survey of the site took place in autumn 2016 and this was followed by an earthwork survey this spring. The work was carried out by local volunteers working with Tees Archaeology and a report will be produced and made available on our website.

The final phase of work will be an archaeological excavation in June 2018 and we will provide more information about this closer to the date.



produced finds that date from the Romano-British period; including pottery, bone, glass, flint, metalwork, coins and stone objects. A narrow gully, potentially forming part of an enclosure was found in trench D. In Trench E the banks associated with the ditches were determined on both the north and south edges of the route way/hollow way. One of the ditches in this trench was cut by an oval pit; Roman pottery and animal bone were also recovered from this fill. The plough soil layer in Trench C, positioned closest to the Fort, contained a higher percentage of finds than the other trenches possibly suggesting a higher level of settlement activity in this area in comparison to the areas examined further to the north and west. No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified in Trench A.



## Excavations at Piercebridge

In June Tees Archaeology carried out excavations at Piercebridge as part of the [River Tees Rediscovered](#) project. The fortnight was a great success with the involvement of over 70 volunteers (not including the sheep and chickens!).

The site was located to the west of Piercebridge Roman Fort. The project was designed to form a better understanding of the area west of the fort, as previously little archaeological work had been done in this area.

The initial part of the project comprised a Geophysical Survey of the site. The results indicated a route way parallel to the fort defences which appeared to link to the patrol road that ran around the perimeter of the fort. It was therefore presumed that the alignment dates from the 3rd century when the fort was established. There were however a number of other route ways and boundaries on different alignments which may have predated this.

Five trenches were excavated across the site (Trenches A–E), targeting geophysical anomalies to investigate the route ways and examine the areas immediately to both the east and west of the same. The results from the excavation of the ditches within Trenches B, C and E

## Farewell Peter, welcome Janice!

Tees Archaeology has had a hectic year, as Peter Rowe left us for a new job at North Yorkshire County Council last summer. Peter had been with the service for twenty years and has an extensive knowledge of the archaeology and heritage of Teesside, as well as expertise in prehistoric flint technology. We continue to miss his contribution to the team and wish him all the best for the future.

Fortunately after a hiatus of a few months Janice Adams joined us in February. Janice is responsible for the Historic Environment Record, and will also be assisting with community field projects – you may already have met her at Skelton or Piercebridge! Janice has been working as a professional field archaeologist in the region for many years, and her experience on site has already proved invaluable.



### A wild find at Low Grange...

This badger skull was found by a member of the public many years ago and was donated to Tees Archaeology at the Low Grange open day on 9<sup>th</sup> July. It will now form part of our education collection.



All volunteers welcome, but booking is required (see booking form on website). No experience necessary.

**11<sup>th</sup> October** (Wednesday). A guided walk of the site of the Battle of Piercebridge, Darlington during the English Civil Wars. Meet at George Hotel car park at 2pm. Led by Phil Philo. Booking with River Tees Rediscovered required

<https://www.riverteesrediscovered.org/Event/civil-war-guided-walk>.



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## Forthcoming Events

(Please check our [website](#) for updates and booking forms)

**3<sup>rd</sup> September** (Sunday) Low Grange, Billingham. Daffodil Park Community Event. Medieval themed event 2-5pm. Try your hand at leather working, making pots and using quill pens as well as sorting real archaeological objects. There will be a guided walk of this site of a Medieval Manor House of the Prior of Durham at 2.30pm led by R Daniels.

**5<sup>th</sup> September** (Tuesday). Railways and the Industrial Revolution, Preston Hall Museum, Stockton on Tees, 10am. A Bettenev, Cleveland Industrial Archaeology Society. Booking with Preston Hall Museum required <http://www.prestonparkmuseum.co.uk/talks/>.

**11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September**. Skelton 'Snapshot in Time'. Help to record the buildings of Skelton, Redcar & Cleveland no experience necessary but booking is essential (see booking form on website).

**3<sup>rd</sup> October** (Tuesday). Maritime Archaeology of Teesside, Preston Hall Museum, Stockton on Tees, 10am. R Daniels, Tees Archaeology. Booking with Preston Hall Museum required <http://www.prestonparkmuseum.co.uk/talks/>.

**9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October**. Archaeological excavations at Dalton on Tees as part of the *River Tees Rediscovered* project.

**East Cleveland workshops** (all on Wednesdays) tailored to the location and immediate area; these are joint events led by Tees Archaeology and Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. Booking is required through Tees Valley Wildlife Trust <http://www.teeswildlife.org/events/>.

**25<sup>th</sup> October** (Wednesday). East Cleveland Landscape History workshop, Skelton.

**8<sup>th</sup> November** (Wednesday). East Cleveland Landscape History workshop, Loftus.

**22<sup>nd</sup> November** (Wednesday). East Cleveland Landscape History workshop, Margrove Heritage Centre.

**25<sup>th</sup> November** (Saturday). Discover your village – Egglecliffe Heritage Day. Open day in Egglecliffe Village Hall with displays and activities. 10am to 3pm. Trace the story of the village through time! Find out about the English Civil War in Egglecliffe; see postcards and maps of the village from 100 years ago. Discover what was found during archaeological excavations in the village. Play with Victorian toys and find out about the buildings of the village.

**2<sup>nd</sup> December** (Saturday). The Creation of the Medieval North. Elgee Memorial Lecture at 10.30am at Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough. R Daniels.