

“Dig for History” – Press Release

In true wartime spirit, archaeologists are appealing for public help to record a fast disappearing piece of ‘Homefront’ history in the Tees Valley.

Over 2 million Anderson Shelters were constructed during World War Two, but now only a tiny number survive.

Tees Archaeology’s Gary Green, who is leading the recording team, said “While Military structures such as pillboxes and tank-traps are well-represented in the archaeological record, civilian defences are rare. At present we have no record of any surviving Anderson Shelters in the whole of the Tees Valley region”

The team is hoping to hear from anyone who still has an Anderson Shelter in his or her garden, so a visit from the team can be arranged. Gary added “Archaeologically, the ‘Homefront’ is often overlooked, so it is extremely important that we record these shelters now, before they are lost forever”.

A travelling exhibition based on the results of the appeal will run across the region later in the year.

This appeal is part of the “Dig for History” project run by a partnership between Hartlepool Arts and Museums Service, Redcar and Cleveland Museums Service, and Tees Archaeology. It is funded by a £15,000 grant from Renaissance, a national scheme to transform England’s regional museums led by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

Focussing on the archaeology of World War two in the Tees Valley, the “Dig for History” project will also see the production of a interpretive booklet, free full-colour posters, a handy field-guide to the surviving military defensive structures in the Tees Valley, and artefact loans boxes for schools and community groups.

For further details, please contact Gary Green at:
Tees Archaeology, Sir William Gray House, Clarence Road, Hartlepool TS24 8BT
Gary.Green@hartlepool.gov.uk Tel: 01429 523457

Note to Editors: It is hoped to be able to offer an on-site photo opportunity with the first people to respond to the appeal.