



**Jigsaw Cambridgeshire
Newsletter – No. 6
March 2015**



NEWS

Best Practice Users' Guide

Several guides have been released since our last newsletter. The following guides are now available to download from the website:

- Metal Detecting Policy – Helen Fowler
- An Introduction to Metal Detecting – Peter Dight
- Archaeological Landscape Survey: Principles for Surveying Earthworks – Nicholas James
- An Introduction to QGIS Level 1 – Stuart Ladd



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Consumables

There is now a stock of consumables (finds bags, permatrace, First Aid for Finds materials) that you can purchase from Jigsaw. We have bought in bulk, and the items are available at the lowest cost possible for groups to buy in the amounts they need. In the Jigsaw Emporium of Delights there are finds bags (of various sizes), Tyvek labels, archive boxes, Plastazote foam, small finds crystal boxes (of various sizes), acid-free tissue, fixative, adhesive, vinyl gloves and humidity indicator strips. Site stationery includes Permatrace (gridded and clear), pencils, and waterproof pens etc.

If you scroll down the Equipment Resource page on the website, a list is now available: <http://www.jigsawcambs.org/resources/equipment>. Items can be purchased by completing the Consumables Order Form. When you have made up your order, please contact Jo or Jemima to arrange a convenient time to collect it from Bar Hill.

Update from the CHER Team – Sally Croft

At the recent Advisory Group Meeting several groups said they would welcome guidance on the preparation of archaeological archives. We have sent the Cambridgeshire Guidelines for Deposition of Archives to all Jigsaw group leaders.

The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team welcome the interest and advised that the guidelines were written for and are directed at professional archaeological companies and the necessary rigours and standards they are required to achieve as part of the planning process. They would encourage all groups to contact them directly to discuss the needs of the particular group and the processes they would need to follow to deposit archaeological archive with CCC.



Cambridgeshire archives in DeepStore in 2013

The CHER team are also intending to write a version for local groups and societies this year. The professional guidelines are relatively new so we are asking the profession to help iron out any issues before creating a streamlined version. They would also like to use the experience of working directly with groups on preparing archive to develop and inform the local group guidelines too.

FenArch Award Nomination - Andy Ketley, FenArch

'FenArch' has been nominated for an award within the 'Groups' category of 'Pride in Fenland'. This is a scheme jointly organised between Fenland District Council and the Fenland Citizen newspaper and rewards people and groups that work to give something back to the community. The presentation evening will be held at the 'Boathouse' community building in Wisbech on the evening of **Thursday 12th March**. There are 14 groups nominated within our category and I don't suppose we'll win (£100 prize) but the nomination will hopefully bring us to the attention of the wider community so that we can grow our working base.

ACE Calling!

Archaeology Cambridgeshire East want to ensure that they have all interested people on their mailing list. Original meetings were in Ely, and are now held in Soham, and ACE members would like to make sure that their meeting information is reaching everyone. If you have not heard from the group for a while, or have just heard about them and would like to join, please contact Donna Martin museum@soham.org.uk, or visit <http://archaeologycambseast.weebly.com/>



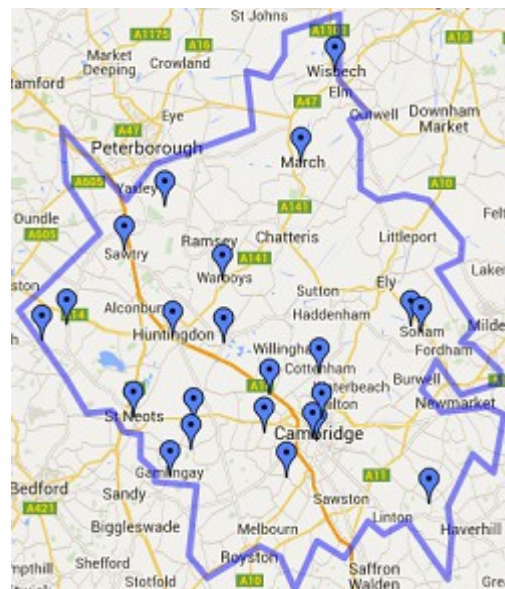
WELCOME

We now have 22 affiliated groups. We would like to welcome to the project:

West Wickham and District Local History Club

The Club arranges a programme of talks and local visits and encourages and undertakes research on all aspects of local history. In 2013, the Club received a Heritage Lottery Fund All Our Stories grant and more than 100 people of all ages took part in excavating 18 testpits. They aim to build on the enthusiasm generated to excavate more testpits this summer.

We look forward to working with you!



UPCOMING

Jigsaw Training Programme

The Jigsaw Training Programme 2015 is now live! We have some treats in store for you this year. Highlights include:

Animal Bone Level 2: follow on course by Chris Faine from two years ago.

Human Bone Level 2: new course by world-renowned forensic archaeologist Corinne Duhig!

Flint Knapping Demo and Workshop: with amazing young knapper James Dilley, who used to be an OAE volunteer.

Medieval Pottery Making Demo: with Graham Taylor, potter extraordinaire, coming all the way from Northumberland!

Environmental Archaeology Practical: with OAE's Rachel Fosberry – learn how to process your samples.

And much much more. This is the penultimate year of Jigsaw so do take up the opportunities while we're here! Check out the website for dates and the full programme: <http://www.jigsawcambs.org/training/2015>

Training Dig: Covington, near Kimbolton from Saturday 4th – Saturday 18th July.

The village has been subject to widespread archaeological excavation and geophysical survey by the Covington History Group over the 3.5 years since Jigsaw has been in existence. A range of multi-period archaeology has been revealed by magnetometry surveys. Accordingly, despite being on the edge of the county, the village seemed an ideal location for an open excavation as part of the Jigsaw Training Programme, when we will excavate what appears to be a Medieval site.

Why? Over the course of the project we have had frequent requests to teach practical excavation skills such as completion of context sheets, drawing site plans and sections, taking archaeological photographs and finds processing. We have attempted to meet this need through visiting groups during their projects, and through class-based teaching, but came to the conclusion that a training dig would solve this training need fully.

Who? If you are just looking for an opportunity to attend a dig for fun this summer, and are fairly expert at archaeological methodology and recording, this is not necessarily the dig for you. However, if you are new or newish to archaeology, have only dug testpits (not archaeological features) or feel in need of a refresher course in how to dig and record features, we'd love to have you.

Not just for rookies... We're also interested in recruiting a few more experienced Jigsaw archaeologists from the groups to help supervise areas of the dig and give field school talks on various fieldwork-related topics. You'll be given the opportunity to shadow Oxford Archaeology East archaeologists in learning how to supervise various aspects of an excavation, e.g. machining at the start of an excavation, and soft skills such as managing volunteers. We hope this will provide a useful training aspect to our very much appreciated 'old hands'!

Time commitment: Participants will be encouraged to book for a minimum of 2 consecutive days, and a maximum of 5 (not necessarily consecutive) days, to ensure that everyone can attend who would like to! Further details of the dig, and a booking form, will be released in late March.

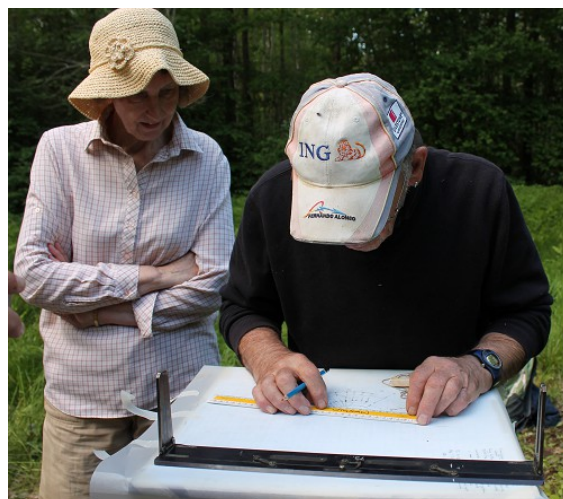
SPOTLIGHT ON GAMARCH - Ken Abbott and Julia Manley

2014 was a busy year for GamArch! It began with a visit to the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in Cambridge to see and handle finds from Gamlingay and the surrounding area. Of particular interest were a quern stone from Gamlingay and a rare and complete Roman glass vase from Hatley Park.

We helped at the Millbridge Brook Heritage Walk open day, where we dug a test pit in Lower Field and ran the boat race with Saxon-looking boats. Later in May we were in Gamlingay Wood with permission of the Woodland Trust to plot the layout of a ring ditch. There is a circular outer ditch averaging 20 metres from the centre and a semi-circular inner ditch 10 metres from the centre. It took 4 hours to carefully survey the ring ditch with accurate measurements (see picture).

GamArch continued its fieldwalking exploration of Avenells field, extending the area investigated last year. Avenells is so called because it was the site of Avenells Manor, now destroyed. In 2013 we recovered nearly 500 finds, all fragmented and abraded, the majority of which were ceramic building material (CBM), worked flint (dating back to the Neolithic and the Bronze Ages) and pottery sherds, one of which was Roman and the rest ranged from early Medieval through to modern and included fragments of Everton ware.

The conditions were far from favourable this year: due to the lack of rain the field was like a desert and covered in dry dusty sand which made it very difficult to identify finds when we were walking row E. However, we did not have the same problem in row F because the spread of finds was so dense that we were unable to collect them all. The ground was littered with CBM, almost all in the form of roof tiles, together with some worked flint, pottery sherds and some glass and metal items. The presence of so many fragments of roof tiles could indicate the site of one or more buildings; we shall know more when we have finished cataloguing the finds and have identified the age of the tiles and whether they are all from the same period.

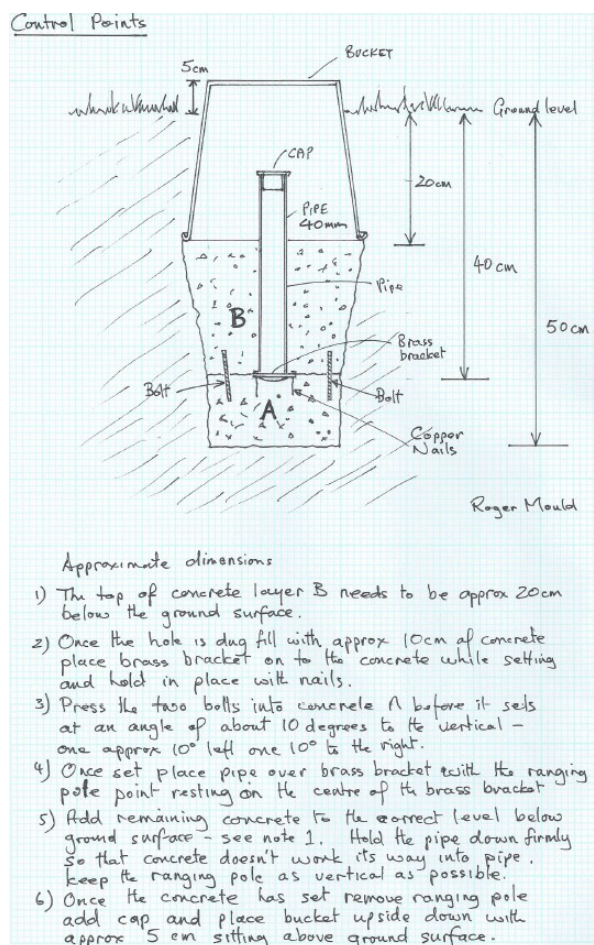


FIELD NOTES FROM WARBOYS

Members of Warboys Archaeology Group have been putting in the control points for their next site, between Pidley and Fenton on the Fen Edge. Roger Mould has compiled this diagram to show how the group put the control point together, a method designed by WAP member Peter Dight. A similar method has also been used by Covington History Group. Roger has modified the parts slightly so that the equipment can be bought in local DIY shops:

"The brass bracket, which is a drawer handle plate with a concave centre, gives a good metal detecting signal in case, over the years, the bucket covering the CP degrades in the sun. In theory they should be able to find the 3 CPs whatever happens but only time will tell! The 40mm plastic pipe is just right for a ranging pole to sit in. The CPs are relatively safe from farm equipment as long as they are positioned near field boundaries, but shouldn't be used in the middle of fields."

Roger Mould



The finished CP with the bucket bottom sitting just proud of the surrounding field.

