

# The ARP ACTA



## Aylsham Roman Project



Special Edition - Aylsham Roman Experience August 2021

Vol 6 Issue 7 May 2021

### Welcome to this special edition of the newsletter

We can finally confirm the arrangements for this year's ARP Roman Experience. It will be very different to our previous years, but the good news is, **it will happen!**

There will, though, be many of you who will be disappointed at not being able to participate, or come and visit and watch the excavation taking place, but we hope you understand why.

Due to Covid arrangements, we cannot open up for everyone to take part as we normally do, which is a great shame. We will also have only one site open for excavating and there will be just two weeks of active digging. Numbers taking part will, unfortunately, be limited. There will be no children's area.

Those Friends who have joined us again this year will be the first to be contacted, giving details of payment etc. You will be receiving that email very shortly and, if you paid last year and would like that rolled over to this year, please let us know by reply. If you do hope to take part, please remember to renew by Monday May 31<sup>st</sup>, as detailed in the email sent to all Friends on May 17<sup>th</sup>. If we do still have space after this, we will email and let you know.

**Health and safety is our main concern, hence limited numbers. We want you who have joined us before to feel comfortable to join us once again.**

### Dates for 2021

Preparation days - Tues/Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> August

Digging, sieving, washing etc - weeks 1 & 2, w/b Monday 9<sup>th</sup> & Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August

Sieving, washing etc (no digging) & group visits - week 3 w/b Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

*Further details and arrangements to come re visiting during week 3.*

### Activities

**Digging** - week 1 and 2 only, w/b 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August

There will be two evaluation trenches on Mary's Beck, this side of the lake. The geophys has thrown up what looks like possible enclosures etc, but, as always, not until the top and sub soil is removed will we know for certain. Depending on what is uncovered, these areas may be extended during the two weeks. People will be asked to work in pairs.

Maximum number digging for half day = 16

## Sieving

This is always great fun; you never quite know what will turn up! The top and subsoil heaps will need sieving and 6 sieves will be available for this. Two further sieves will be for soil from the trenches. People will be asked to work in pairs.

Maximum number sieving for half day = 12

## Washing, sorting, marking finds

A really important area. This will take place in the large marquee already erected and used by the scouts and bordering Mary's Beck. Tables will be spaced out ready for working, two at a table. Finds, in trays, with context labels will be brought to this area and left in a designated area for those working in the marquee to collect

Maximum number for half day = 10

## Drawing and recording

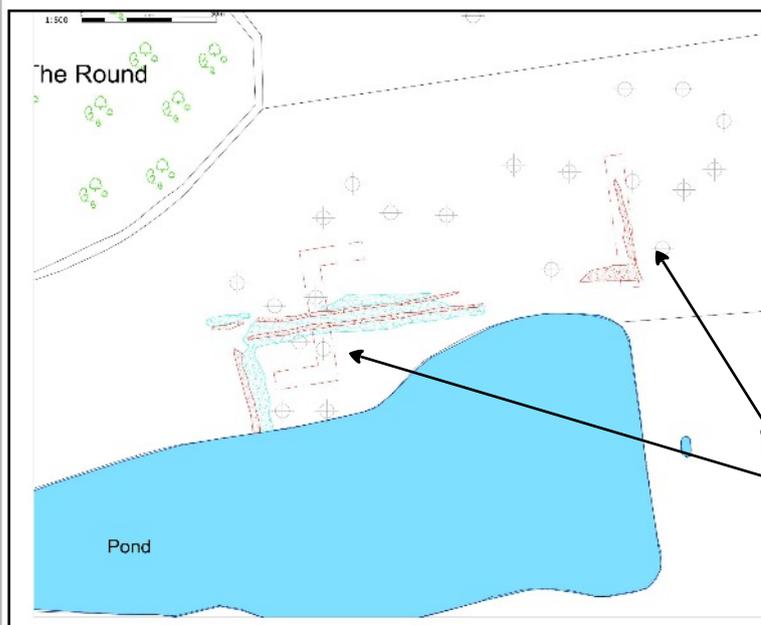
Friends have found this rewarding, seeing a whole process through. This comes with guidance from Britannia Archaeology, our professional partners.

## Welcome Tent - meet and greet and shop

This will not be so busy as usual as once people have registered their arrival, there will be no visitors. Our promotional items will be available for purchasing throughout the day, so take a breather and come and buy!

## Act as a tour guide - week 3 only, w/b 23<sup>rd</sup> August

We would like to offer our wider community and local groups the opportunity to visit during this last week at certain times during the days. This will involve talking about what we have found during the two weeks and some background to the site as a whole. Sieving and washing etc will continue, but these areas will be cordoned off so only those of you taking part during that week are allowed in the areas. People may come and look at what you are doing, but at a safe distance.



**Photos and Filming** - as usual photos will be taken for use on Facebook, presentations, flyers etc. This year the whole procedure from prep to finish will also be filmed. *Sounds exciting!*

## August 2021 dig area - Mary's Beck

Two areas north of the lake - red dotted lines

Depending on what is found, these may be extended.

## What does a typical day look like?

0830 - volunteers arrive to prepare the site for the day, ready to receive everyone.

0915-0945 - arrival time. This gives time to sign in, read any safety documents. **There will also be a QR code to scan into your Track and Trace App, please remember to bring your phone!**

0930 onwards - there may be an opportunity to sieve while you wait

1000-1200 - groups for digging/ sieving/washing etc are detailed.

1200-1245 - lunch

1245-1500 - again groups organised and all activities continue

1500-1515 - sites tidied, finds labelled and gathered in. There may be an end of day talk, socially distanced, around the trenches, this will be announced at the beginning of the afternoon session.

1530 - departure time. This may be a bit later depending on what exciting discoveries have been made during the day. Volunteers remain to complete the site tidy, secure finds, clean toilets etc. During the evening of every day a report and photos are posted onto our Facebook page and copied onto the website, keeping everyone informed of our progress.

**What happens if it rains?** We keep going as much as we can, but dig areas etc may not be available if too wet, for safety reasons.

**Will digging take place every day?** We dig as much as we can, but there are times, apart from when it rains, when it might not be possible. These will be dictated by Britannia Archaeology and the need to record, but with just one site working, this should be at a minimum.

**What do I need to bring?** Essential - masks, sanitiser and gloves, please.

If possible, please bring your own eg kneeler, trowel, bucket, sieve, hand shovel, chair, even a wheelbarrow! We will have items for you to purchase on site, such as trowels, kneelers, buckets, sieves and hand shovels, with prices being confirmed nearer the time. As mentioned above, please bring your own gloves, plenty on sale in the Nursery. **Please** label anything you buy!! There will be ones to borrow, at the end of your session there will be an area to leave them ready for cleaning. *The more you bring, the less we will have to clean at the end of each session, thank you.*

## Facilities

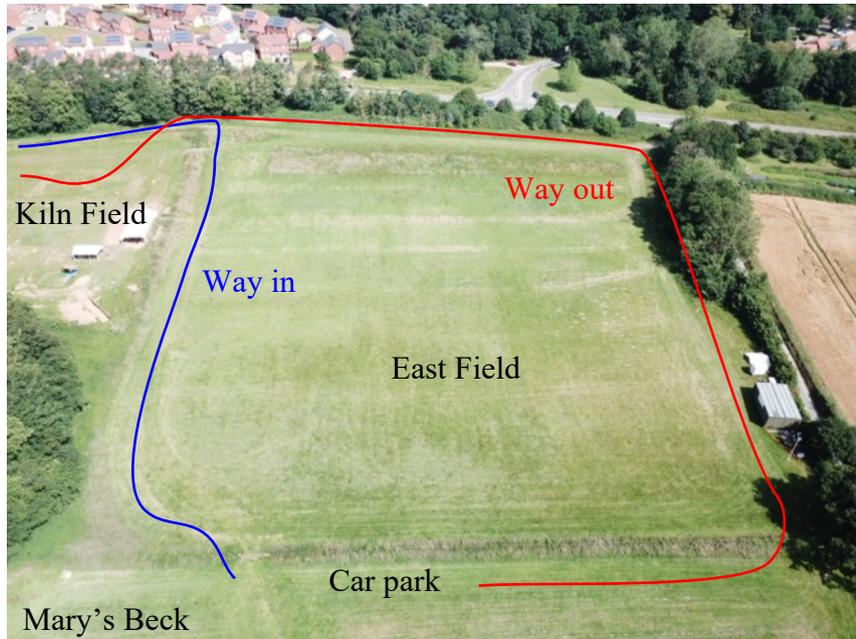
There will be portaloos and hand washing stations on the field, These will be cleaned regularly and sprayed completely at the end of each day.

We may be able to offer hot and cold drinks. Please bring food and drink with you and be prepared to sit well spaced out - joining as a big group in the large marquee will not be possible. Do bring your own seat if possible, too. It may mean eating in the car!!

*Oh crumbs!*

## Car parking

Enter the Nursery as usual and turn left into the Kiln Field, continue straight on and turn right into the East field, go through the gate and park on the left. **If the gate is closed, please wait for someone to come and open it.** When leaving, exit via the path leading up past the scout building, turn left at the top and exit the Kiln Field via the sign saying EXIT.



## Final call for clothing orders!

Get prepared for the summer and order your ARP clothing.

T-shirts £10 - in stock, certain sizes sell quicker than others, worth ordering

Polo shirts - £12, in stock. certain sizes sell quicker than others, worth ordering

Pre-order: -

Sweatshirt - £14;

Hooded sweatshirt - £17;

Hooded sweat jacket with full zip - £22;

Rugby Shirt - £27; S - XXL.

Aprons - £12

Bags - £4

Minimum order of 25 required to place the order. Email us for an order form to fill in so we can get them here for August!

**Visit us at Woodgate Nursery, weather permitting, Saturday - Monday 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May from mid morning for more information, pick up your card, buy some goodies, pay to participate or just for a chat!**

**Keep safe everybody**



ARP.....Getting the community into holes



Don't forget to check out our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) links plus our [website](#)

<https://aylshamromanproject.com/>

Email us at [aylshamromanproject@gmail.com](mailto:aylshamromanproject@gmail.com)

Look at our 360 world <http://virtronix360.world/arp>