



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Curious about Stone Age life in Brighton over 5000 years ago? Come along to the 'Dig Whitehawk' Site Open Day, Whitehawk Hill, Saturday 23 August 2014, 11am-5pm. Displays, demonstrations and activities. View our community excavation and join in tours of the monument.

The event is running as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded Whitehawk Camp Community Archaeology Project. The project is focusing on Whitehawk Camp and the collection of objects excavated from the site in the 1920s and 1930s. Whitehawk Camp is a 5,500-year-old Stone Age site (known as a Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure) on Whitehawk Hill (sometimes called Race Hill) in east Brighton. Whitehawk Camp is a Scheduled Monument, which is a nationally important archaeological site which has legal protection against damage and unauthorised change. The people who built Whitehawk Camp were Brighton's first residents, and this early, and rare, archaeological site represents the emergence of Britain's first farming communities. The project is running until March 2015.

The site open day is a free event for families and people of all ages designed to showcase the 'Dig Whitehawk' project, our community excavation and prehistoric life. Visitors will be able to explore Brighton's Stone Age past through activities, demonstrations, displays and walks including object displays; food and diet in prehistory; local ecology; Stone Age art activities; primitive technology; and more! Visitors will also be able to view the community excavation and find out what the team of volunteers has found, take tours of the site and find out how the Project team plans to improve the condition of the monument.

Details of sustainable travel to the event are on the Project website
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/caa/whitehawk-hlf>.

Parking will be available (at Brighton Racecourse) but we advise visitors to travel by public transport. The site cannot be accessed by wheelchair users.

Related news

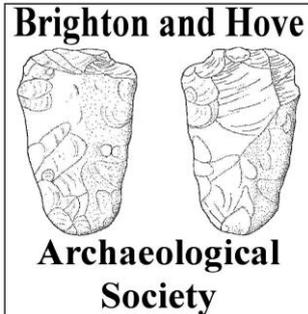
In May 2014, a geophysical survey was undertaken to find out more about Whitehawk Camp. Geophysical surveys create maps which indicate below ground features such as buried ditches or walls. Archaeological geophysics is mainly used to identify potential archaeological sites for further work such as excavation. The team found mysterious archaeological features hidden beneath the soil. If these are archaeology, they could dramatically extend the size of the monument (currently the size of eight football pitches!). This survey has helped the Project team to decide on the location of a community excavation which is taking place on the site from 11th-29th August 2014. A team of skilled archaeologists will be working alongside around 90 Brighton and Hove residents to excavate these features and help to assess how they relate to the Camp. The results of the excavation could radically change our understanding of one of Britain's earliest Neolithic sites.

Meanwhile, work on the archive of archaeological finds from the 1920s and 1930s excavations is continuing at Brighton Museum and Art Gallery. A team of volunteers have been busy repacking, photographing and cataloguing the collections.

Project Partnership



Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove



Centre for Applied
Archaeology



Event supported by



Notes to editors

The Whitehawk Camp partnership

Centre for Applied Archaeology (University College London) incorporating Archaeology South-East; Brighton and Hove City Council (Park Ranger Service and Royal Pavilion and Museums) and Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society.

The Site Open Day is generously supported by Brighton Racecourse.

“Brighton Racecourse are delighted to be involved in the Heritage Lottery Funded Whitehawk Camp Community Archaeology Project. There is a lot of history here at the racecourse, now in its 231st year and it is great to be part of an exciting project in the local community and so close to home turf” – Davina Wells, Executive Director

Further information

Project website <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/caa/whitehawk-hlf>

Facebook 'Whitehawk Camp Community Archaeology Project'

Twitter @DigWhitehawk

Tumblr <http://digwhitehawk.tumblr.com/>

University College London - Centre for Applied Archaeology

The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), and its professional arm Archaeology South-East (ASE) is part of the Institute of Archaeology, University College London and employs a team of over 70 professional archaeologists working out of offices in Portslade, London and Essex. As well as undertaking commercial work CAA aims to connect archaeologists in commercial practice, academic/research professionals and local communities in the shared goal of protecting and investigating our historic environment. CAA is committed to ethical and sustainable approaches, which build on and enhance the capacity of local communities to benefit from the historical and archaeological interest of the places they inhabit.

Brighton & Hove City Council

- Royal Pavilion and Museums

The Royal Pavilion and Museums (RPM) brings together world-class heritage, art and culture, with the iconic Royal Pavilion at its heart. It is one of the leading museums in the country, and one of only 16 granted Major Partner status by Arts Council England. RPM holds wide-ranging, multi-themed collections, including a natural history collection designated of national importance, Ice Age, Neolithic and Bronze Age archaeology, and extensive local social, oral history and archival records. Over the past three years, the RPM has piloted new ways of working with audiences that have shown the enormous potential and appetite for genuine engagement. Building on this, one of the RPM's key aims is to create contemporary, challenging exhibitions that engage and inspire, developed in collaboration with cultural partners, artists and community groups.

- Park Ranger Service

City parks rangers work alongside the public and local preservation and horticultural groups to ensure that everyone enjoys our public open spaces safely. The Park Ranger Service carries out practical conservation tasks and surveys. They keep a close watch over public open spaces in the city through patrols and encourage cooperation and consideration from user groups through education and interpretation including events.

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society

Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society, a registered charity, with a membership of 300, was founded in 1906, and through its long history has been a leader in the fields of archaeology and local history. The Society organises for its membership, a wide range of activities including lectures, walks and visits, and via its Field Unit, carries out excavation and post-excavation work. It trains the members of the Field Unit to work up to professional standards. Their outreach activities include working with schools and local organisations from Brighton and Hove, and from East Sussex. They closely work with Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and Archaeology South-East; relationships which will stand them in good stead as a partner in this Project.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Using the money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported almost 36,000 projects with more than £5.9bn across the UK. www.hlf.org.uk.

For further information, images and interviews, please contact

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Images



Neolithic pot making (photographic permission form completed, including permission to use image in articles in newspapers (parent Paul Satchwell, children Isaac and Tom Satchwell).



Artist's reconstruction of Whitehawk Camp (Ian Dennis). Please include artist's name.



Stone Age pottery from the site. From the collections of the Royal Pavilion & Museums