

The Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project



Dig for the Day Information

Each year we offer archaeology taster days in the form of our 'dig for the day'. These days provide hands-on experience on a real working archaeological site. You will be assigned a supervisor who will work closely with you this means that anyone, no matter what experience can take part.

The SHARP Working Day

On arrival, please make your way from the car park to the main marquee, find a seat and take in the atmosphere on site. You are welcome to help yourself to tea/coffee on arrival. Our team will try and greet you on arrival but as there is usually a lot going on first thing in the morning this is not always possible. You will be introduced to your supervisor during the site notices at 8.15am. If you are delayed and arrive after the morning site notices, please go to the information hut where a team member will bring you up to site or you will be instructed on where to go to find your supervisor.

8.15 am	Site notices- Daily meeting for allocating work, reading notices, everyone (even those staying off-site) must be onsite by this time as there can be important health and safety notices.
8.30 am	Work begins
10.30 – 10.50 am	Tea break
12.30 – 1.30 pm	Lunch break
3.15 – 3.35 pm	Tea break
5.00 pm	End of work

During the day you will be given an introduction to the site, often at the start of the day, but if doing a dig for the day on a Thursdays this will be given throughout the day as at the end of the day as there is a full site tour for volunteers that you can take part in.

The day can be tailored to you and your interests; however, its likely a large component of the day will involve trowelling in an area or digging an archaeological feature. We can't promise any finds but if you do find anything you will be given support to allow you to uncover, excavate and record it. There are many different aspects of archaeology, and if you are interested in any of these, we can include them in the day (depending on team availability). This can include site drawing, levelling, photography, or even post-ex activities such as environmental science or finds processing. Just let your dig for the day supervisor know what you are interested in, and they will do their best to facilitate this for you.

Poor weather conditions

Sometimes the British weather means that we have to make decisions about whether volunteers can be on site. This is done with the safety of volunteers as the main focus, however we also have to bear in mind the archaeology, that can get damaged in very wet weather. Recently we have suffered more from high temperatures, and in these cases, we adapt the working day to ensure people are safe with longer breaks. However, in extreme cases, such as nationwide heatwaves or very wet weather we will not let people on the excavation site. We do provide other activities (finds cleaning or environmental science). If we cannot get you on site for at least half a day we are happy to postpone your booking to a later date. If you are travelling far and are unsure whether the poor weather predicted will affect your day please contact SHARP via bookings@sharp.org.uk or the site phone number that will be provided closer to the season itself (and will be on the website).

What to bring

Everyone who attends needs eating vessels and cutlery for lunch and tea breaks (although if you forget we can provide some from the kitchen). You will also need to ensure you bring clothing and footwear suitable for the countryside. Here is a checklist of things to cover.

	Plate and bowl
	Cutlery
	Cup/mug
	Appropriate clothing for all weathers
	Decent footwear – the field has areas that have nettles so sandals are worn at your own risk
	Insect repellent – we are close to a river so get mosquitos
	Sun cream – there is little shelter on the site
	Hat

We will provide all the archaeological equipment that you will require, including a trowel and kneeling mats.