

The Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project



What to expect of your week volunteering at SHARP

Arrival

Saturday is induction day and all volunteers camping on site should arrive at the main Boneyard site between 3pm and 5.30pm, if you are likely to arrive outside of this time frame, please let us know. You will need to arrive in plenty of time to pitch your tent and unpack, although there is usually people around who can help you with tents.

At 6pm there will be a site induction, this will focus on the site facilities and rules, it will not include a site tour. This is not particularly relevant for anyone staying off-site.

At approximately 7pm we will have a welcome meal, including those staying off-site, which is open to everyone and a chance to meet the team and other volunteers attending that week.

The site is quite remote and while there is a TESCO in Heacham (10 minutes' drive) it may be prudent to bring whatever your chosen beverage is with you to save having to make an additional journey during Saturday afternoon/evening.

Contact Phone Number when travelling to SHARP

During the season, so from the first Saturday of week 1 to the Saturday of the final week, we activate the site phone, the number for this phone is [available here](#). This number is primarily monitored on our arrival days, i.e. if you are lost or need to update us on progress (if likely to arrive after 6pm). It is also the phone to contact if travelling by public transport as it is provided to team on meet and greet. This number however is not actively monitored out of season.

This number can also be used to contact us in emergencies, although it would be sensible to also write to the bookings email address as this is also checked fairly regularly during the season.

The SHARP Working Day

At SHARP we try to be fairly relaxed however volunteers should try and be prompt with their time keeping, particularly arriving in time for the site meeting in the morning. As this will help with the everyday running of the project, to ensure people hear safety announcements and to make things a more enjoyable experience for all concerned. At each break there will be a call to announce when we are going back to work, this is to ensure that everyone is aware that we are heading back to the site.

The timings below may change depending on the days activities and weather conditions.

7.30 am	Breakfast (for those staying on site, or who have paid for meals)
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8.15 am	Site notices- Daily meeting for allocating work, reading notices, everyone (even those staying off-site) must be onsite by this time.
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 – Clean and return tools to tool shed
6.00 pm	Dinner (for those staying on site, or who have paid for meals)

Poor weather conditions

Sometimes the British weather means that we have to make decisions about whether volunteers can be on site. Recently we have suffered more from high temperatures, and in these cases we adapt the working day to ensure people are safe. However, in extreme cases, nation wide heat-waves or very wet weather we will not let people on the excavation site. This is done with both the safety of volunteers but we also have to bear in mind the archaeology, that can get damaged in very wet weather, and this can last for a couple of hours after very heavy rain. We do try and provide other activities (finds cleaning or environmental science) in these cases, however if the weather is looking really poor we may suggest volunteers go offsite to local museums.

What to bring

Everyone who attends needs eating vessels and cutlery for lunch and tea breaks. 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
	Tea towel
	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

There will be specific lists for camping, excavations and courses.

The SHARP Week

Each day of the season we try and offer different activities in the evenings. These are included in your fees and there will be no further charge, they are available to everyone including those staying off-site. If you are staying off-site but would like to have a meal with us in the evening this is possible but please inform the catering staff, and there will be a small surcharge to cover the price of the meal.

Saturday	Until 3pm	Day off for all still staying on site, this includes the supervisors and the catering team.
	3pm-5.30pm	Arrival of new volunteers who are camping on site.
	6pm-6.45pm	Induction for on-site volunteers, and any off-site volunteers who wish to attend.
	7pm	Buffet meal for everyone.
Sunday	8.30am	Brief tour of each trench for excavation volunteers, and BERTs
	8.00pm	Quiz in the marquee.
Monday	8.00pm	Free evening, with campfire.
Tuesday	8.00pm – 9.30pm	Public lectures – Each season we organise a series of high-profile speakers from the archaeological and historical world to come to talk to us on various subjects. Held in the parish church.
Wednesday	8.00pm	Informal card/board games evening.
Thursday	3.30-6pm	Site tour of the trenches, this is open to all on site including those doing courses or people in the post-ex team.
	8.00pm	Free evening, with campfire. Occasional trips out (beach, bowling or pier) could be arranged.
Friday	8.30am – 5pm	Site recording check - making sure that the archaeology you've excavated is fully recorded i.e. drawn, photographed and context sheets completed.
	9pm-11pm	It's PARTY time! A range of live music, karaoke and other events. Held in the marquee on Boneyard.