

# The Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project



## BERT For Young People Information

This special two-day course has been created to allow our younger archaeologists to get a feel for the SHARP experience, in a safe and supervised environment. Working with skilled leaders from the Young Archaeologist Club, we have developed a structured 'mini version' of our basic excavation and recording techniques course, which will take 8-16 year olds through the process of digging and recording a site, on real archaeology, with real tools, on a real excavation!

The age range of this course is the same as for YAC; 8-16 years, however we do recommend that you think about your child's maturity, level of interest in archaeology, and experience of taking part in structured group activities. Our team are highly experienced and will provide appropriate pastoral support, but the full two days will be quite an intense experience working with new people in a strange environment! If you have any concerns, please do contact us for a chat first.

### Timetable

The course takes place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July (you must book both days) and will be for just 12 participants this season, so please book early to avoid disappointment. We also suggest that families attend the SHARP Archaeology Festival on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> if they can.

The two days will run from 9.30am-4.00pm, and you will need to drop off and collect from site promptly at those times. During the day, snacks and lunches will be provided, but your child will need a water bottle for drinks. There is an option for you to provide your own packed lunches if your child has dietary requirements - although the catering at SHARP is excellent! A full kit list of everything to bring will be sent to you on confirmation of your booking.

An example timetable is below, this will however be subject to change depending on team availability and or weather conditions, however all activities will be carried out during the course.

#### Monday 27th July

9.30	Site safety intro & tour
10:30	Snack
10.50	Digging time, then lunch
13:30	Activity: Finds & Enviro
14:30	Digging time
16:00	Home

#### Tuesday 28th July

9:30	Activity: Site Drawing
10:30	Snack
10:50	Digging time, then lunch
13:30	Activity: Photography
14:30	Digging time
16:00	Home

### The Team

All the leaders on this course have long term experience with the Young Archaeologists Club, run by the Council for British Archaeology - and as such are DBS checked at the higher level for the child

workforce, and trained in child protection awareness. We all have experience of supporting young people with SEND, and there will be a first aider with the group at all times.

There will be a parents Zoom call a couple of weeks before the course takes place so that you can meet the team.

**Sophie Cabot.** I am an archaeologist, and a teacher of archaeology, and I currently work for Norfolk Museum Service. I have been Leader of Norwich YAC for over 20 years, and involved in SHARP since the very beginning. I'm also a Woodcraft Folk Leader, so I have organised many camps and residential for children. In the early 2000's I led a series of residential archaeology holidays for YAC which included visits to SHARP, and I have developed this course based on that experience.

**Joe Ogden.** I am an archeologist specialising in digital recording. I've been working at SHARP for the past 8 years, and currently work as a Research assistant at the university of Bradford. I also volunteer at my local YAC branch in North Yorkshire, where I help especially with all things technology! I also have a lot of recent experience working with SEND children through work and YAC.

**Charlie Mijatovic.** I am a Raising Achievement Mentor for science. I completed my SHARP BERT in 2011 and hold a degree in biological sciences from the university of East Anglia where I completed a module in science communication. I have worked with children in a variety of roles, though my current position focusses on SEND and EAL students in a secondary school setting.

## **SEND Children**

We are happy to support students with SEND to the level our training and experience allows. When you book, you will be asked to provide information on your child's specific needs, including any medical issues, medications, disabilities, learning needs or individual support they may require. We will try to accommodate as many people as we are able, but the nature of the site means that we might struggle with some physical disabilities, or with more complex needs requiring 1:1 support.

If you think this may be an issue for your child please do get in touch as soon as possible via our bookings email, so that we can see what accommodations might be possible and complete a Personal Support Plan.

There will be a parents Zoom call a couple of weeks before the course takes place so that you can meet the team.

## **Accommodation**

Please note this is **NOT** a residential course. SHARP's camping facilities are not suitable for unaccompanied minors. Your child will only be able to sleep on site if you are also booked on a course or as a volunteer that week.

We recommend that if you are not locally based, you look into holiday accommodation nearby as a family, Sedgeford is in a popular tourist area, and if the rest of the family are not digging you will find plenty of things to see and do locally. We also recommend that you consider attending the Festival of

Archaeology together on the Sunday before the course, so that everyone is familiar with the site and has met the team.

### **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 will adapt the course with other activities finds cleaning or environmental science depending on the weather conditions, while trying to ensure participants get as much time on site as possible.

### **What to bring**

Participants should arrive ready to get dirty! They should wear long trousers or leggings, with a t-shirt or shirt - shorts and skirts are not suitable, neither are strappy tops. Their shoes must be enclosed, ideally walking boots. Trainers will do but *not* sandals, wellies or crocs. This is for safety reasons, and unsuitable clothing or footwear may result in not being able to fully participate on site.

Your child will need a day bag containing:

- Personal water bottle
- Eating things. A plate, cup, knife, fork & spoon. (**OR** a packed lunchbox and mid morning snack.) You will be informed in advance if the course is going to be nut free.
- Any essential medication, which should be placed in a Ziplock bag, with the child's details on it, and handed to a team member - children who are used to doing so may carry their own inhalers and EpiPens, but we need to be shown where they are stored at drop off.
- Waterproof coat or cagoule.
- Warm sweater or fleece.
- Sun hat with a brim all around.
- Sunscreen.

Each young participant will receive their own trowel, a mini site kit including a handbook, and a certificate of participation suitable for Records of Achievement and future school and college applications. We will provide all the archaeological equipment that you will require, including a trowel and kneeling mats.

Useful but not essential extras include

- Waterproof trousers - with opening at bottom of leg seam so they can be put on without removing boots
- Notebook and pencil case
- Tape measure (3m retractable)
- Knee pads or a kneeling mat, if they don't want to share site ones

- Work gloves to fit smaller hands.

We discourage phones being brought on the course, since they are a distraction and potentially a child protection hazard. A disposable camera is a nice addition, but the team will take photographs in line with permissions granted, which can be shared with parents after the course.