



Stay in touch! If you have an interesting topic you'd like to share or a question just get in touch and we'll try to answer.

Despite Wyre Archaeology's temporary hold on digs, commercial digging has continued on several major infrastructure projects such as HS2 and on local developments. The Windy Harbour to Skippool A585 Road Improvement scheme started in March this year and aims to be completed by summer 2023 at a cost of £150m. A team from Oxford Archaeology (North) led by Fraser Brown has already uncovered important evidence of human occupation of the area dating back between 14,000 and 5,000 years. These finds were exhibited at public events in Poulton earlier this year and Fraser gave a fascinating talk at the Lancaster University Archaeology Forum in March. It's reported that archaeological work will continue as the project moves forward and we hope to be able to get Fraser to talk at one of our meetings when we resume. The North-west has some surprising archaeology!

NEWS

Another specific example of our area's surprising archaeology was the discovery several years ago of a Roman Auxilliary fort at Burscough (**Fort in the Wood**). Although its presence was suspected in the early 18C, it was only in 2003 that physical evidence was unearthed and only in 2013 that excavation began. The site has remained a closely-guarded secret until fairly recently. However the site has at last been scheduled by English Heritage: https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1470328?fbclid=IwAR3P_fb4pgSjH69F-lbtVwlmvWj39UclmULQWMv8icZXoeYAa9nUe8O3KAM

This follows what appears to have been some action by heavy digging machinery on part of the site (Picture: Fort in the Wood Facebook). Apparently Police intervention was needed to stop the work. It's unfortunate that the site wasn't scheduled when first reported a few years ago.

The existence of this fort has significant implications in regard to understanding the Roman occupation of Britain and for the Northwest in particular, an area generally believed to be poor for Roman period sites. Of course the scheduling of the site means that excavation may be restricted and at the present time, experts are assessing the damage caused by the groundwork.

The virus crisis has forced cancellation of Fort in the Wood's summer dig school but their website indicates that they hope to offer a school next year. See www.fortinthewood.org.uk and Facebook for information.

UPDATE

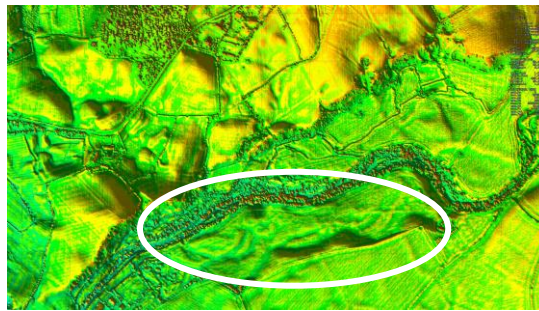
The site's previously secret location has been reported on *LancsLive* on 29 July: www.lancs.live/news/lancashire-news/new-roman-fort-uncovered-lancashire-18681252 with an accompanying photo as, *A Roman fort lies underneath land off Flax Lane, Burscough*. The article appears to have been taken from the scheduling register and



gives a reasonable description. Hopefully nighthawks won't be attracted to the sight as a considerable area has not yet been investigated.

A slight disappointment for Simon and Andy, whose socially-distanced dig of a section of **Roman road near Garstang** was reported in the last issue, is that the farm track which appeared to overlie the Roman surface has since been tarmacked. However, we understand that the landowner remains sympathetic to the idea of further excavation.

PUZZLE



One of our new members reported a find of flints in a field by the River Brock. These are part of a large scatter over a fairly small area of the field and are in largish broken chunks.

Flint is not a natural deposit in this area; the nearest source is probably the North Yorkshire coast where there are chalk deposits. If anyone has an idea of why flints should be lying in a Claughton field, please let us know. The Viking burial mound is not that far away – a connexion perhaps?

POSSIBLE CHANGE OF MEETING VENUE

The Executive Committee is currently considering a change of venue from the River Wyre Pub in Pouton. At the moment it's still an academic question, since meetings continue to be suspended, but our membership base has spread to include those who live south of Preston

or north of Garstang and on the Fylde coast from Lytham to Fleetwood. The centre of this spread is around Great Eccleston where there happens to be a village hall with rooms available to hire. Members have been asked to vote on the proposal to relocate and the results are under consideration as we're aware that transport to this venue may be an issue for some. If you haven't yet voted, or if you have any other suggestion, please email secwya@gmail.com.

In response to Government advice regarding measures to mitigate against the spread of Coronavirus, Wyre Archaeology has cancelled future meetings until further notice. Digs are also suspended for the time being. News will be circulated to members by e-mail, the website and the newsletter.

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We're always on the lookout for new projects so if you have a view about potential sites – especially if you have a contact – get in touch. Come to our meeting (when re-instated) or email: [secwya@gmail.com](mailto:secwya@gmail.com)

**Prospective new members are especially welcome just email: [secwya@gmail.com](mailto:secwya@gmail.com)**

**WEBSITES WORTH VISITING**

Lancashire Archaeological Society  
Lancashire's Roman Roads (David Ratledge):  
Wigan Archaeology Society:  
University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age

<https://lancsarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com/>  
[www.twithr.co.uk](http://www.twithr.co.uk)  
[www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk](http://www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk)  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/lytham-st-annes>,  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/wyre-lancs>,  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/preston>



**Membership Benefits: Full Membership:** 10 meetings with voting rights, group membership of CBA and CBA(NW), free training, participation in digs, basic kit loan, personal dig insurance, WA Newsletter, Wigan AS and Lancashire Local History Federation newsletters, Lancaster Uni's Centre for Regional Studies circulars. (*£12 individuals, £18 two family members at same address, full-time students up to age 21 free*). **Associate Members:** participation in digs, basic dig training, loan of kit, dig insurance, newsletter and circulars as above (*£5*). **ALL CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP ONLY £5 THIS YEAR**

**If YOU have any articles, news or views, email to [secwya@gmail.com](mailto:secwya@gmail.com). Check out Wyre Archaeology Group on Facebook too!**

**WYRE ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICERS & COMMITTEE**

Chair Brian Rigby  
Vice Chair Davinia Jackson  
Immediate Past Chair Chris Clayton  
Treasurer Simon Millward-Hopkins  
Secretary Dave Hampson  
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**Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested.**