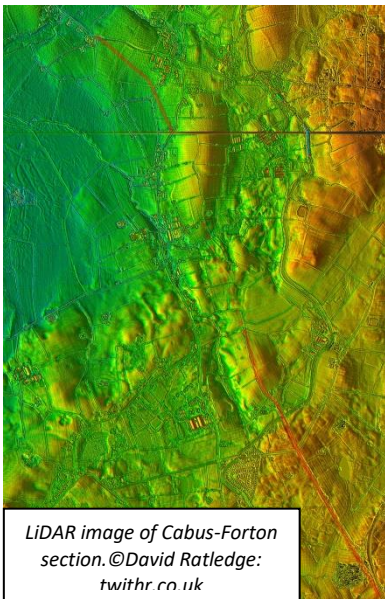


Stay in touch! If you have an interesting topic you'd like to share or a question just get in touch and we'll publish or try to answer.

**September is following August as a busy month, which is great news in one way, but poses some challenges in others. Next month sees the close of our official meeting season until February (fingers crossed there are no blocks on that!) but we may still get a few dig days in.**

### Dig News

Great excitement, as reported in the last newsletter, about an invitation from a Forton landowner to investigate a suspected section of the Roman road running through her land and an accompanying suggestion that workmen some years ago found what might have been a 'shrine'.



LiDAR image of Cabus-Forton section. ©David Ratledge: [twittr.co.uk](https://www.twittr.co.uk)

Members of our Planning Group (Chris, Mike and Helen) met at the location and were quite positive about what they saw, although LiDAR expert David Ratledge suggested they were out of line – sorry – slightly off the line, and Helen and Andy who arranged a metal-

detecting foray on the site found nothing of interest. Andy managed to put in a few test pits on neighbouring land which seemed to confirm David's views and he and David were able, over a couple of field walks and with a brilliant stroke of luck involving a field drain, to confirm the route. A short video of this outcome may be seen at: <https://youtu.be/dyJM5wF9fTY> (Note this is not a live link).

We hope to be able to excavate near this site before the end of this dig season.

Meanwhile, we still have the Brock Cottage dig, which has been on a back burner for a few weeks and a potential dig at Wardleys Creek.

**Our main challenge** is having a sufficient number of diggers to take on these projects. Despite having almost 50 'active' members we struggle to get more than 6 out into the field, a problem also shared with other field work groups.

If you'd like to participate but are anxious about experience, equipment or ability, don't be put off. No prior experience is needed; we provide basic kit and generally there's always a role for any level of ability or fitness.

We'd like to have a 'register' of members who are willing to take part in digs and who would agree to the Planning Group having their email addresses. At present members' contact details are shared only with the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and all communication goes via the Secretary. If the Planning Group held a register of diggers' email addresses it would make communication about digs much easier.

**Let us know your views on this, please.**

### Society News

Our first 'ordinary meeting' (the previous month's was the AGM) took place on 15<sup>th</sup> September. The business side was kept brief as our guest speaker was Fraser Brown, Regional Manager at Oxford Archaeology North based in Lancaster and Project Manager for the archaeological investigation on the Windy Harbour-Skipool A585 Road

Improvement Project. Fraser described the fascinating archaeology of the Lytham-Skippool Valley that once separated the coastal area around present-day Blackpool from the higher land to the west. Over thousands of years the valley had been subject to successive marine incursions as sea levels rose then fell, sealing organic and non-organic materials under layers of silt and peat. The site is of national importance, offering a unique insight into the transition from the hunter gatherer society of the late Mesolithic to the farming society of the Neolithic. Fraser's presentation can still be seen at <https://oxfordarchaeology.com/research-publication/windy-harbour-research-seminar>.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 7.15pm at Great Eccleston Village Centre. In the meantime, Dave Berry has stepped into the role of Vice Chairperson, Helen Coulthard has joined the Executive Committee and Planning Group but we still have two vacancies on the Committee.

If you'd like to get involved, just email [secwya@gmail.com](mailto:secwya@gmail.com)

**WEBSITES WORTH VISITING**

Lancashire's Roman Roads (David Ratledge): [www.twithr.co.uk](http://www.twithr.co.uk)  
 Roman Roads Research Association: <http://www.romanroads.org>  
 Lancashire Archaeological Society: <https://lancsarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com>  
 Wigan Archaeology Society: [www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk](http://www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk)  
 University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age: <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 Council for British Archaeology and CBA(NW) and Lancashire Local History Federation, 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 paid membership in 2021 - £5 per person*

**WYRE ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICERS & COMMITTEE**

Chair	Brian Rigby
Vice Chair	Dave Berry
Immediate Past Chair	Chris Clayton
Treasurer	Simon Millward-Hopkins
Secretary	Dave Hampson
Committee Members	Mike Edwards, Peter Scott, Helen Coulthard.
	<b>Two Vacancies.</b>

**CONTACTS**

**WEB** [www.wyresearchaeology.org.uk](http://www.wyresearchaeology.org.uk)  
**EMAIL** [secwya@gmail.com](mailto:secwya@gmail.com)  
**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/groups/1091772967850657](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1091772967850657)

**Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested.**