

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.

Not only too hot to dig but also the sun bakes the ground hard making it difficult to open trenches. Once open, the dry earth and bright sun make it hard to identify differences in earth colour that indicate the 'horizons' in the strata so clues may be missed. However I believe thunder storms are predicted once the heatwave recedes, so then we'll have floods and lightning to contend with...

Dig Update

1 Walton le Dale – Lancaster Road

Plans are in hand to return to Hornby Farm at Forton on Wednesday 17 August to continue investigation of this road.

Last month's dig did appear to have revealed some evidence of the road but there were some questions raised by the team. The line of the *agger* appeared to run along a slope without any obvious terracing to level it and no evidence of side ditches was found.

The team hope to extend the area exposed to see if ditches are present. Andy Jackson's photo below gives an idea of the slope with the *agger* running left to right.

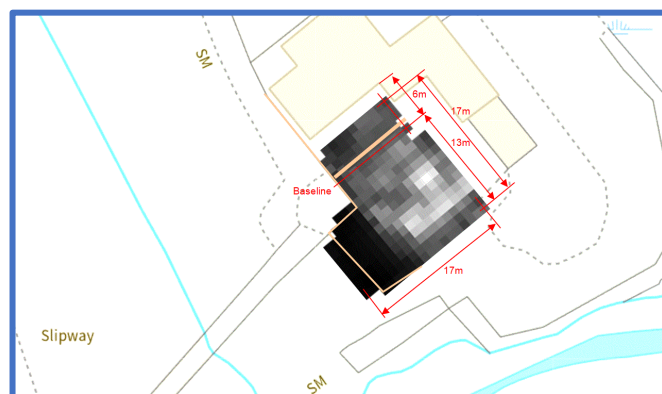


Photo: Andy Jackson

2 Wardleys

Following the interesting dig at Wardleys last month, Chris and his team made plans to return to the site on **Saturday 10 September** to coincide with the start of the Wyre Heritage Open Days from Friday 9 September to Sunday 18 September. Members are welcome to visit on **Saturday 10th**. Contact secwya@gmail.com for directions, times, parking etc.

To prepare for the new dig, Chris arranged with Wigan Archaeological Society to carry out a ground resistivity survey (GRS) which took place on 6 August. Image courtesy of Wigan AS.



Chris said, '...the thing that jumps out straight away is the lack of features (i.e. low resistivity) on the river side of the site. The line of that change is almost exactly on the line where we excavated and found the substantial wall. Additionally, the higher resistivity area that runs on a SW-NE axis (roughly parallel with the quayside) corresponds with our excavations that revealed sections of the front wall.'

3 Brock Cottage

It's hoped that digs at Brock will recommence soon. These will generally be on Thursdays with the occasional weekend. This is because the picnic area car park is very busy at weekends as might be expected. Keep an eye out for emails from Dave Berry.

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#### WORLD OF STONEHENGE EXHIBITION BRITISH MUSEUM 17 February – 17 July 2022

I was lucky enough to enjoy a trip to the British Museum in London last month as a birthday present from my daughter. Despite spending more time on trains - and waiting for them - than in the exhibition itself, *The World of Stonehenge* was a fantastic experience. The exhibition had been 10 years in preparation and its theme was to illustrate the interconnectivity of early human society across Britain, Ireland and Northern Europe.

Its time scale ranged through the first farmers of the Neolithic, the Beaker People, the beginnings of metal working, through to fantastic artefacts of the Bronze Age and stunning examples of the artistry and skill of early goldsmiths and covered the practical day to day necessities to social and possible religious themes.



**Clockwise from top left:** Cup & ring marked boulder – product of boredom?; Stone axes from UK and Europe; Bronze axes and stone mould; carved stone balls from various UK sites; carved chalk ‘drums’ from East Yorkshire buried with a young child; gold lunula collar; gold cape from Mold, Wales; gold hat from Schifferstadt, Germany; Nebra ‘Sky Disc’ found near Leipzig, Germany – possibly some gold from S-W England.  
**Bottom:** 6000 old elm leaf from Windy Harbour- Skippool bypass dig, Wyre, Lancashire.  
*Photos by D W Hampson except Nebra Disc by Helen Hampson*

### 4 Kirkham Community Dig

It was originally intended that this would take place this summer but Mike Glover tells me that it has now been moved back to May 2023 to allow more time for strengthening the funding application and concentrating on building public information displays over winter.

On this point my only criticism would be that there was a tendency in a number of descriptive panels to ascribe the objects’ origins to religion or belief systems when of course there is no way of knowing, at a distance of 5000 years what was going on in the minds of early people.

Examining cup and ring marked boulders, described as representing the sun as a religious object, my daughter – a practising cynic – said ‘Maybe they were just bored.’ Ritual has always been a good cop out for archaeologists!

However, the skill of those who made the stone and later metal axes, the gold jewellery and other examples of early ‘bling’ was breath-taking as I’ve tried to show in these photos. Oh! And there was one surprise!

**If you've had an interesting archaeological experience, a visit to a historical or pre-historical site send in a description and photos for inclusion in the newsletter.**

#### **WEBSITES WORTH VISITING**

Wyre Archaeology: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1091772967850657>  
Friends of Hurst Grange Park: [www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/The-Friends-of-Hurst-Grange-Park-127722403929150](http://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/The-Friends-of-Hurst-Grange-Park-127722403929150)  
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>

#### **WYRE ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICERS & COMMITTEE**

|                      |                                                                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Acting Chair         | Dave Berry                                                                         |
| Immediate Past Chair | Chris Clayton                                                                      |
| Treasurer            | Simon Millward-Hopkins                                                             |
| Secretary            | Dave Hampson                                                                       |
| Committee Members    | Mike Edwards, Peter Scott, Helen Coulthard, Andy Jackson.<br><b>Two Vacancies.</b> |

#### **CONTACTS**

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