



BENEATH HAY BLUFF, UNITED KINGDOM

Course ID: ARCH 365BG
June 23rd – August 1st, 2021

FIELD SCHOOL DIRECTOR(S):

Prof. Julian Thomas, Department of Classics, Ancient History & Archaeology, University of Manchester (Julian.thomas@manchester.ac.uk)

Prof. Keith Ray, Department of Archaeology, University of Cardiff (keith_w_ray@yahoo.co.uk)

Dr. Nick Overton, Department of Classics, Ancient History & Archaeology, University of Manchester (nicholas.overton@manchester.ac.uk)

Tim Hoverd, Herefordshire County Council (thoverd@herefordshire.gov.uk)



INTRODUCTION

Since 2010, the Beneath Hay Bluff Project has been investigating the character of prehistoric, and specifically Neolithic activity in southwest Herefordshire, or the border between modern England and Wales. This region has been somewhat neglected by prehistoric archaeology, in part owing to a lack of antiquarian investigations, but it is increasingly clear that it is distinguished by a rich and under-exploited prehistoric record. In seeking to address questions of monumentality, memory, place and material traditions, we have excavated at a number of sites, including the funerary round cairn at

Olchon Court and the long mounds, buildings and causewayed enclosure of Dorstone Hill. The region is a rural one, with picturesque villages, castles, abbeys, rolling hills and lush river valleys: it is at once typically 'English' and bordering on rugged Welsh uplands. The field school provides a unique learning experience by drawing on the resources of both the University of Manchester and Herefordshire Archaeology, who contribute facilities, equipment and staff. Many of our supervisory staff are professionals from the world of commercial archaeology, who bring a wealth of experience and know-how. As well as undertaking four weeks in the field, practicing excavation, recording and survey, students spend a week in the very different urban environment of Manchester, taking part in post-excavation tasks in the laboratory.

In detailing the character of Neolithic southwest Herefordshire, the following themes are of central importance to us:

- The chronology of the introduction and transformation of Neolithic innovations in Britain;
- The creation and maintenance of significant places: 'narratives of place';
- The development of monumental landscapes;
- The use of exotic materials (notably rock crystal) and the establishment of inter-regional contacts;
- The formation and maintenance of regional identities in prehistory;
- The place of prehistoric monuments in modern societies.

The Beneath Hay Bluff Project is now entering into a mature phase of investigation, which will seek to broaden our work in southwest Herefordshire, and to characterise Neolithic activity across a broader timescale. Having identified a site of national importance at Dorstone Hill, we will now seek to place this monumental complex into a wider context, by addressing a series of new sites, and seeking to engage our local community to a greater extent. While completing work at Dorstone Hill, we will be expanding our scope to investigate a number of other sites. These will include the major megalithic tomb of Arthur's Stone. This latter will involve an appreciable realignment of our strategy. While the Dorstone complex was unknown before our investigations, Arthur's Stone is a well-known landmark, and a significant marker of local identity. Yet despite this, the monument has been disfigured by antiquarian activity, road-building, and stone robbing. As a result, it is poorly understood, and both its affinities and date are a mystery. Major investigation will eventually involve total stripping and redisplay, in a way that must be sensitive to local sensibilities. Such a project could only be achieved in collaboration with the local community, in a way that builds on the relationships that we have been fostering over the past eight years.

In 2021, investigations at Arthur's Stone will commence with shovel-testing of gridded areas, areas excavation of features identified by geophysical survey in the immediate vicinity of the monument, and an intensive survey and photogrammetry on the monument itself. In the same season, it is intended to provide students with a greater breadth of experience by adding two other projects in the immediate vicinity. Firstly, excavations will take place at Snodhill Castle (near Dorstone), which is presently being prepared to opening to the public. This will foster skills in the excavation and recording of stone buildings, and it is anticipated that large quantities of small finds (principally Medieval pottery) will be encountered. Secondly, a group of enigmatic earthen mounds at Urishay will be subjected to trench excavation. We believe it likely that these are Bronze Age funerary round barrows. Again, this will expose students to different aspects of prehistoric archaeology. Students will circulate between the three projects on a four-day basis, although those who are staying for the entire month (including IFR students) may choose to concentrate on one of the sites once they have done their initial stint at each location.

ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS

Credit Units: Attending students will be awarded 8 semester credit units (equivalent to 12 quarter credit units) through our academic partner, Connecticut College. Connecticut College is a private, highly ranked liberal arts institution with a deep commitment to undergraduate education. Students will receive a letter grade for attending this field school (see grading assessment and matrix). This field school provides a minimum of 160 direct instructional hours. Students are encouraged to discuss the transferability of credit units with faculty and registrars at their home institution prior to attending this field school.

Transcripts: An official copy of transcripts will be mailed to the permanent address listed by students on their online application. One more transcript may be sent to the student home institution at no cost. Additional transcripts may be ordered at any time through the National Student Clearinghouse: <http://bit.ly/2hvurkl>.

PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this field school. We assume no prior knowledge or skills on the part of the student, although it is possible to tailor the field experience to the requirements of more experienced students.

DISCLAIMER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Our primary concern is with education. Traveling and conducting field research involve risk. Students interested in participating in IFR programs must weigh whether the potential risk is worth the value of education provided. While risk is inherent in everything we do, we do not take risk lightly. The IFR engages in intensive review of each field school location and programming prior to approval. Once a program is accepted, the IFR reviews each program annually to make sure it still complies with all our standards and policies, including those pertaining to student safety.

The IFR does not provide trip or travel cancellation insurance. We encourage students to explore such insurance on their own as it may be purchased at affordable prices. insuremytrip.com or Travelguard.com are possible sites where field school participants may explore travel cancellation insurance quotes and policies. If you do purchase such insurance, make sure the policy covers the cost of both airfare and tuition.

Herefordshire is an extremely low-risk fieldwork destination. The threats of crime and violence are absolutely negligible, although the usual precautions should be taken to secure valuables against petty theft. The climate is mild, but we encourage students to dress for both warm sunshine and occasional rain. Our work is subject to rigorous risk assessment overseen by both the University of Manchester and Herefordshire County Council, and we tend to err on the side of caution where student safety is concerned. You will receive a site induction on issues ranging from the safe use of tools, to campsite decorum, appropriate clothing (hats and stout footwear), and respectful conduct in relation to peers and the local community. We ask that you abide by our simple rules.

We do our best to follow a schedule of activities, methods training, and programming as outlined in this syllabus. However, this schedule can be easily disrupted by any number of unforeseen circumstances, including revised decisions by local permitting agencies, political unrest, and changes

in the weather. While this schedule represents the best of the director(s) intentions, we - students and staff alike - need to be adaptable and tolerant of necessary alterations. This adaptability is an intrinsic part of all field research.

If you have any medical concerns, please consult with your doctor. For all other concerns, please consult with the project director.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This field course aims to introduce students to the archaeology of Herefordshire and the borderland between England and Wales, to a series of current issues in the archaeology of Neolithic Britain, and to the techniques and methodologies employed in the study of prehistory in Britain, both in the field and in the laboratory. As a subsidiary issue, students will be introduced to the contrast between the landscapes and archaeology of a picturesque rural area and a densely populated modern city (Manchester, the world's first industrial city). Learning will therefore take a series of different forms: readings provided before the start of the field school; excavation and survey experience in the field; lectures; informal teaching sessions in the field; post-excavation experience in the laboratory; trips to sites, monuments and museums, both in Herefordshire and Manchester. In the field, students can expect to take part in both shovel-test and stratigraphic excavation, to record contexts and finds, to make use of both total station and GPS survey equipment, and to draw plans and sections. Student progress in the acquisition of skills in the field and the laboratory will be monitored through the use of a personal Archaeological Skills Passport.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the field school, students should:

- Have acquired a broad familiarity with the archaeology and landscapes of the southern borderland between England and Wales, from prehistory to the Medieval period;
- Be familiar with some of the key issues in the archaeology of Prehistoric Britain;
- Be familiar with the main excavation, survey and recording methodologies employed in British prehistoric archaeology;
- Have acquired a basic level of competence in a variety of archaeological field skills (including, for example: trowelling, mattocking, shoveling, barrowing, test-pit excavation, feature excavation, section drawing, planning, total station survey, GPS survey, laying out a grid, soil sieving, feature photography, context recording, finds recording), and should understand their appropriate use;
- Have been introduced to a further series of methodologies conducted by specialist staff in the field (such as drone photography and photogrammetry, environmental sampling, geophysical survey, etc.);
- Have acquired a basic level of competence in a variety of post-excavation skills conducted in a laboratory environment (including, for example: wet sieving and flotation; archive digitization, digitization of field drawings, finds processing).

ASSESSMENT

- 40% Active fieldwork participation
- 60% Assessed fieldwork report

TRAVEL, ROOM & BOARD, & SAFETY LOGISTICS

Disclaimer for 2021 Season. The logistics outlined below for this IFR field school were written according to the most current and accurate information available to IFR. We recognize that the best practices for preventing the transmission of the coronavirus may change in the coming months. The IFR will be revisiting program-specific plans periodically throughout the enrollment period and will update program details according to new developments, such as the presence and availability of a vaccine, new travel protocols, and updated local policies.

An IFR field school is designed to provide positive, constructive experiences for communities, students, and researchers. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the following protocols have been developed based on the assumption that any participant in an IFR field school may be an asymptomatic carrier of SARS COVID-19. Our goal, with these protocols, is to reduce the possibility for COVID-19 transmission among participants, staff, and local community members. IFR depends on the complete and sustained commitment of all students to stay healthy and to help others stay healthy. On enrollment, students commit to comply with all aspects of the IFR COVID-19 avoidance policy as well as any/all policies specific to their respective IFR field school.

PRIOR TO TRAVEL

Students must arrange a test for current infection for COVID-19 through a RT-PCR test for themselves in their home location within 72 hours prior to arrival at the destination and upload proof of negative result to their IFR application portal.

After demonstrating they tested negative, students must take all precautions possible to ensure they remain COVID-19 free prior to and during travel to the field school. Students should plan to travel in the safest manner that they are able (e.g., avoid flights with long layovers and multiple connections). In addition, we require the following from all students: use of a face mask during travel to, from, and on airlines, ferries, trains, busses, and the like; regular washing of hands; and, in so far as possible, maintain social distancing of 6 feet / 2 meters in airports and other spaces.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

To enter the United Kingdom, all U.S. citizens who do not also hold UK citizenship must present a valid

U.S. passport to enter and depart. Your passport must be valid for the entire duration of your planned stay. U.S. and Canadian citizens can stay in the UK for up to 6 months, but check this frequently because regulations change, often with little notice.

Citizens of other countries are asked to check the embassy website page at their home country for specific visa requirements.

TRAVEL (TO AND DURING THE PROGRAM)

We suggest you hold off purchasing your airline ticket until six (6) weeks prior to the departure date. Natural disasters, political changes, weather conditions and various other factors may force the cancellation of a field school. The IFR monitors local conditions 6-7 weeks prior to the beginning of each program and makes a decision accordingly. This approach allows sufficient time to still purchase deeply discounted airline tickets.

We will be meeting all participating students at Manchester Airport, and conveying them from there directly to the field camp in Dorstone village by minibus, at a date and time to be decided closer to the field season. This will be roughly a three-hour drive. If you wish to make other arrangements (for instance, arriving early in the UK), we can arrange to meet you at Hereford railway station.

At present, it is necessary to undertake a ten-day quarantine period if you arrive in the UK from the US, which has been classified as an 'Amber' country under the arrangements published in May 2021, which you can find here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england>

For an 'Amber' country of origin, you do not need to quarantine in a specified 'quarantine hotel', but can quarantine 'at home'. During the quarantine period you must take two PCR tests, one the second and eighth day, which must be arranged before you leave the US:

<https://www.gov.uk/find-travel-test-provider>

We have therefore arranged quarantine accommodation for you at the Campanile Hotel in Manchester, from 23rd June to our departure for Herefordshire on 4th July.

https://www.campanile.com/en-us/our-hotels/united-kingdom/hotels-manchester/?gclid=aw.ds&kard=1&kclid=210526114106633322&kvsld=210521162705467526&gclid=CjwKCAjw47eFBhA9EiwAy8kzNLFBRyh7E4IPUfdynsy4wA4GleqiDP-24QhYNumXO9_2WdCSteciYxoC5jMQAvD_BwE

At present, Covid numbers are low in the UK, and the programme of vaccination is very well advanced, but we would like warn potential participants that it may not be possible to proceed with fieldwork if the pandemic has become appreciably worse by the summer.

The excavation site is very close to the camp site. While it could be walked in under half an hour, we will convey all personnel to site by minibus each day.

If you missed your connection or your flight is delayed, please call, text or email the field school director immediately. A local emergency mobile phone number will be provided to all enrolled students.

LOCAL PROTOCOLS, REGULATIONS, & EXPECTATIONS

The UK has been in national lockdown since January, and the lockdown arrangements are being released in stages. The last restrictions are set to be removed on 21st June, but a decision on this will be taken on

14th June. Covid numbers in the UK are now very low indeed, and the numbers of hospitalizations have decreased dramatically since the start of the year, owing to the combination of lockdown protocols and a very successful vaccination rollout. However, it is to be presumed that some cautious adherence to Covid guidelines will still be in place by July. Maintaining distance, mask-wearing in public areas, and regular hand-washing will still be expected.

Interaction with the local community must be limited to situations where everyone can maintain the required 6-foot/2 meter physical distance, wear masks, and ideally be outside.

Our field school is conducted in close cooperation with Herefordshire County Council Planning Department. Should the pandemic still be continuing at the time of fieldwork, we will abide by the Council's workplace protocols, which can be found in their [outbreak control plan](#).

FACE MASKS / FACE COVERINGS

All students, faculty and staff are expected to wear face coverings. Face masks, along with social distancing, are among the most effective ways of minimizing the spread of the coronavirus.

The objective of wearing a mask is to capture potentially infectious droplets from the wearer. Therefore:

- Masks or respirators that are equipped with an "exhalation valve" are not permitted, unless covered by another mask.
- Neck fleeces (gaiter masks) are considered the least effective form of face masks, and are not permitted. (The material found in gaiters tend to break down larger droplets into smaller particles that are more easily carried away in the air.)
- Folded bandanas and knitted masks are ineffective and are not permitted.
- Masks must be worn so as to cover both the mouth and nose. If your mask becomes loose, it can be tightened by twisting the ear loops.

ACCOMMODATIONS

By 24th May 2021, 72.5% of the adult population of the UK have received their first Coronavirus vaccination, and 44.1% are fully vaccinated. A rough calculation suggests that this means that by the start of the fieldwork, the entire population will have had a first vaccination, and around 75% will have had a first dose of vaccine. Dorstone village is something of a retirement centre, and there are many elderly people living in the village who remain anxious following a year of the pandemic. Despite this, we have been informed that local concerns have receded somewhat, and it is now possible to use our usual campsite on the village sports field. This has many advantages over the alternate campsite that we had identified at Snodhill, including mains electricity, running water, and proper toilet and shower facilities. We will now be able to prepare meals onsite, and have secured the services of our usual cook. We will be sending out a questionnaire in which you will be able to let us know about your dietary preferences (vegetarian, vegan, kosher, halal, any allergies). On a few nights during your stay, we will be eating in other locations: details to follow. Breakfast and lunch will be prepared on the campsite, with the assistance of two students per day on a rota basis. One of the tasks of the day's kitchen staff will be the rigorous cleaning of all food handling and preparation spaces.

We will request students to each occupy a separate tent, and to pitch their tents at least two metres apart (for reasons of fire safety as well as health). All project tasks will be conducted out of doors, but we will require all onsite tasks, as well as kitchen activities to be conducted while maintaining social

distancing. Our usual cleaning and sanitation arrangements will be expanded to ensure the cleaning and disinfection of all high-touch surfaces. We have a full refuse disposal and recycling system which will dispose all potentially contaminated materials. Launderettes are found in Hereford and Hay-on-Wye, and washing can be collected and sent in for a service wash during the week. You can also hand-wash clothes at the campsite.

All participants in a field school, students and staff, will wear masks while indoors (i.e., during lectures, during labs, in shared residential spaces, etc.).

Regular hand washing will be a part of the project's daily schedule.

MANAGING COVID-19 CASES & OUTBREAKS

As noted above, we do not anticipate that fieldwork will go ahead if the pandemic has returned to a high level of severity. Imagining a scenario in which a minority of participants had not yet been vaccinated, we would be able to manage isolated COVID-19 cases. We would set up an isolation tent at a remove from the rest of the encampment, with separate toilet facilities. The nearest intensive care unit is in Hereford, a 30-minute drive away. If a student needed to be taken to this facility, an emergency ambulance would be summoned. In previous seasons we have been able to call on local paramedic teams in the event of medical emergencies (sunstroke, burns, etc.). We have close contacts with the local community, through the village hall committee, the parish council, the local history group and Dorstone's Front Room, which enable us to communicate effectively with local stakeholders. Should a student exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, a member of staff who had been vaccinated would take responsibility for processing their laundry.

EQUIPMENT LIST

- 4 or 5 inch mason's drop-forged (*not* riveted) pointing trowel
- Waterproofs, *including* waterproof trousers
- Sun hat
- Sturdy footwear – boots, *not* trainers, ideally with steel toecaps
- Small tent (e.g., 2- or 3-person)
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping mat
- Mask (see 'Face Mask' section above)
- Hand sanitizer
- Steel tape measure (3-meter; metric)
- Plate, bowl and mug
- Knife, fork and spoon
- Torch / Flashlight
- Personal medical supplies and medications
- Sunscreen
- Hard-bound notebook (recommended)
- Folding camp chair (recommended)

COURSE SCHEDULE

All IFR field school begins with safety orientation. This orientation includes proper behavior at the field area, proper clothing, local cultural sensitivities and sensibilities, potential fauna and flora hazards, review IFR harassment and discrimination policies and review of the student Code of Conduct.

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|---------------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 23 rd June | Arrive at Manchester Airport: transfer to Campanile Hotel |
| Sunday July 4 th | Leave Campanile Hotel; minibus to campsite at Dorstone Village |
| Monday July 5 th | Site Induction Fieldwork begins |
| Saturday July 31 st | Fieldwork ends |
| Sunday August 1 st | Travel day > Manchester Fly out after 5:00 pm |

ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

Since the announcement of new international travel arrangements on 17th May 2021, and the approval of the project risk assessment on 20th May, we have been reorganizing the academic component of your field school in order to better harmonize with the demands of the quarantine regime. We have slightly increased the academic component, so that you will be kept busy during the quarantine period at the Campanile Hotel. You will now have an academic lecture each morning, and some kind of other activity on many of the afternoons. In addition, we will be providing you with an extensive reading list of items that will be available to you in electronic format. In theory, you will be able to access the lectures, videos and workshops on your phones, but we would recommend bringing a tablet device or laptop.

The schedule below should be seen as provisional at this stage, and the dates of particular lectures may change. But for the moment this will give you a sense of what to expect.

| | AM | PM |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Thursday 24 June | An overview of British and European Prehistory (John Piprani) | Arrival orientation meeting |
| Friday 25 June | Palaeolithic Europe (John Piprani) | |
| Saturday 26 June | Mesolithic Britain (Nick Overton) | |
| Sunday 27 June | Early Neolithic Britain (Julian Thomas) | |
| Monday 28 June | Late Neolithic Britain (Julian Thomas) | |
| Tuesday 29 June | Iron Age Britain: Chariots (Melanie Giles) | |
| Wednesday 30 June | Iron Age Britain: Bog Bodies (Melanie Giles) | Snodhill: How to Rescue a Castle |
| Thursday 1 July | Dorstone Hill: A Neolithic Landscape (Julian Thomas) | Snodhill: A Castle of Puzzles |
| Friday 2 July | Site Formation and Stratigraphy (Nick Overton) | Workshop: writing your fieldwork report |

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| Saturday 3 July | Archaeological Excavation and Recording in the UK (Nick Overton) | Departure orientation meeting |
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In addition to these lectures, once you arrive in Herefordshire you will be going on two long 'archaeology walks' in Herefordshire landscapes, guided by Tim Hoverd, and you will have a series of 'fireside talks' on aspects of the project, run by Keith Ray and Tim Hoverd.

Furthermore, you will have a series of field tuition sessions, on a selection of the following: health and safety on site; using the recording system; survey using a total station; survey using GPS; geophysical survey; use of drones in archaeology; petrological study of prehistoric stone tools; making a Bronze Age flint arrowhead (practical session).

REQUIRED READINGS

PDF files of all mandatory readings will be provided to enrolled students via a shared Dropbox folder.

Cummings, V. 2012. What lies beneath: thinking about the qualities and essences of stone and wood in the chambered tomb architecture of Neolithic Britain and Ireland. *Journal of Social Archaeology* 12, 29-50.

Garwood, P. 2007. Regions, cultural identity and social change, c. 4500-1500 BC: the West Midlands in context. In: P. Garwood (ed.) *The Undiscovered Country: The Earlier Prehistory of the West Midlands*, 194-215. Oxford: Oxbow.

Lucas, G. 2001. *Critical Approaches to Fieldwork: Contemporary and Historical Approaches*. London: Routledge. [Chapter 5: Eventful Contexts, pp. 146-99.]

Lucas, G. 2012. *Understanding the Archaeological Record*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Chapter 6: Archaeological Interventions, pp. 215-57.

Myers, A. 2007. The Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology of the West Midlands. In: P. Garwood (ed.) *The Undiscovered Country: The Earlier Prehistory of the West Midlands*, 23-38. Oxford: Oxbow.

Ray, K. and Thomas, J. 2018. *Neolithic Britain: The Transformation of Social Worlds*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Chapter 1: Writing Neolithic Britain, pp. 15-48.
- Chapter 2: 4000 BCE: a Cultural Threshold, pp. 49-96.
- Chapter 3: Narratives for the Fourth Millennium, pp. 97-166.

Ray, K. 2015. *The Archaeology of Herefordshire: An Exploration*. Eardisley: Logaston Press.

- Selected sections will be supplied.

Whittle, A., Barclay, A., Bayliss, A., McFadyen, L., Schulting, R. and Wysocki, M. 2007. Building for the dead: events, processes and changing worldviews from the thirty-eighth to the thirty-fourth centuries Cal. BC in southern Britain. *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 17 (supp.), 123-47.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Bradley, R. 2007. *The Prehistory of Britain and Ireland*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press

Cummings, V. 2018. *The Neolithic of Britain and Ireland*. London: Routledge.

Harris, O. and Cipolla, C.N. 2017. *Archaeological Theory in the New Millennium*. London: Routledge.