

Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA)

is an outreach unit at the University of Cambridge, based in the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research. The aim of **ACA** is to make hands-on participation in archaeology available as widely as possible in order to enhance personal, educational, economic and societal well-being.

Access Cambridge Archaeology runs, facilitates and supports a wide range of opportunities for communities, schools, societies and members of the public to develop or take part in archaeological and heritage projects, working alongside experts from the University of Cambridge.

Projects can be tailored to a wide range of requirements and audiences.



Access Cambridge Archaeology was set up in 2004 and is run from the University of Cambridge by Dr Carenza Lewis, well-known to millions from TV appearances on Channel 4's *Time Team* and BBC's *The Great British Story*.



To find out more about **ACA** and how we might be able to help you, your community, your students or your organisation enjoy making new discoveries about the past around you please contact us on the details below. Initial consultations are usually provided free of charge.



Find out more at www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk
Or contact access@arch.cam.ac.uk

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Community Archaeology For anyone and everyone

Access Cambridge Archaeology develops and runs heritage-related activities for, with and within local communities, helping groups develop their own ideas into successful projects.

ACA has wide experience and an excellent track record in devising, setting up and running **community archaeology and heritage projects**. Since 2005 these have involved thousands of people from all walks of life in making new discoveries about their local heritage, meeting new people and achieving something uniquely different and enduring in their local area. The range of activities include archaeological excavation, field-walking, garden test pit digging, local history, oral history and more.



ACA supports projects of all size and has collaborated with organisations such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage as well as scores of community groups. Feedback is consistently excellent, with more than 97% of community volunteers recommending their experience to others.

"The best week of my life!"
(JT, community excavation volunteer in 2013)

Activities for Schools - Educational and inspiring

Access Cambridge Archaeology school programmes extend learning beyond the classroom, instilling knowledge, raising educational aspirations, boosting confidence and inspiring students and staff alike.

School programmes offered by ACA include a range of exciting and inspirational cross-curricular hands-on activities which introduce new knowledge, ideas and approaches from the multi-disciplinary subject of archaeology in structured formats designed to educate, inspire and enthuse.



- The **Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA)** raises educational aspirations, enthusiasm and attainment in 14-17 year-olds carrying out their own new archaeological excavations.
- **Discovery Days** enable 10-15-year-olds to extend their skills and knowledge in multi-disciplinary indoor challenges linked to subject specific concepts.
- The **Cambridge Archaeology Project** brings local history engagingly into the GCSE classroom.

Over 10 years, 91% of school students rate HEFA 'good' or 'excellent' and 84% feel more positive about going to university on completing the course.

"It was brilliant fun and I feel like I've learnt so much. I would recommend this to anyone!"
(GM, Pirton 2010)

Personal, customised support to meet diverse needs

Access Cambridge Archaeology is experienced in working successfully with groups and people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and interests, helping achieve results which communities want and value.

If you already have ideas for an archaeological, historical or heritage project, ACA can help make it happen by providing the expertise, advice, training, supervision and interpretation you need.

If you would like to find an exciting way to explore your local archaeology, history or community heritage, ACA can suggest ideas and help you develop, fund and run a project that's right for you, your group or your community.

If you are involved with a school and would like students there to benefit from any of ACA's school programmes, we can help you identify what will work best for you and how to make this happen.



ACA is part of the University of Cambridge, one of the best universities in the world, and so can connect schools and communities with top specialists and involve wider publics in cutting-edge research.