ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG: Jack Lain, from Caister High School, with archaeologist Dr Carenza Lewis.

ACLE

Archaeologists unearth village’s rich past

If you told most people to jump in a hole that may contain animal remains and urine they would understandably back off. But for top archaeologist Dr Carenza Lewis the chance to explore the 1m deep hole in a Broadland village was not one to be sniffed at.

Dr Lewis and fellow ancient artefact hunter Paul Blinkhorn, who have both appeared in Channel Four’s Time Team, were in Acle this week to help unearth the village’s rich past. The archaeologists were joined by high school students from the area as they excavated 10 test pits in villagers’ gardens.

The most exciting discovery was of a medieval rubbish hole full of animal remains. Dr Lewis believes the hole was from a post-Black Death tannery in which tanners used urine to create leather from animal hides. Other finds included a Prehistoric arrowhead and a wide variety of pottery ranging from the Roman times to the late medieval period.

It is the second year in a row that the two archaeologist have excavated gardens in Acle. Dr Lewis hopes the finds will help provide evidence for a new archaeological theory that East Anglian communities were in a constant state of flux thanks to events such as to the Black Death and foreign raiders instead of the perceived state of gradual change.

She said: “We still have a lot of pieces of the puzzle to find yet. The latest dig has been absolutely fantastic, especially with the discovery of the medieval hole.”

The dig had been organised by the University of Cambridge and the Acle Archive Community Group to encourage youngsters to get involved in history projects.

To help prove the state of flux theory, Dr Lewis has also taken part in other digs across the region, including Carleton Road, near Attleborough.