

KAFS Newsletter: No. 1.

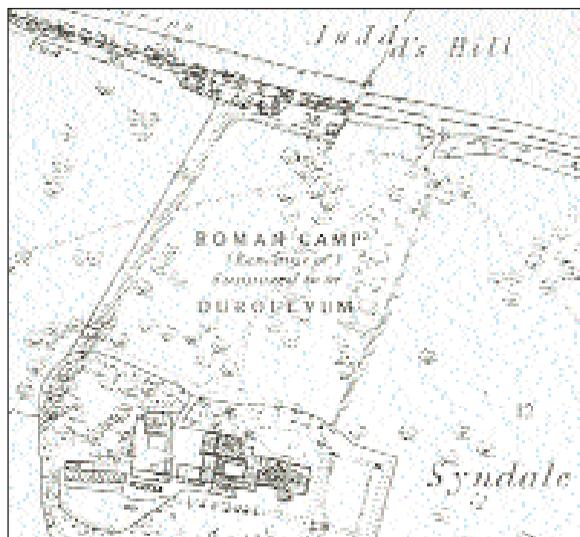
Kent Archaeological Field School: Winter 2004



Welcome to the first edition of the Kent Archaeological Field School Newsletter. We will produce it four times a year and will keep you updated on course details and new discoveries made by you — the people who come to our courses.

This year has been extremely exciting, over 1000 student days were spent on exploring our new discovery of a wonderful Roman building at Hog Brook. There is a fuller article on this amazing discovery on pages 2 and 3. On our first

Excavation will continue at Syndale in 2005 (July 30th to August 14th). The extent of the Roman town of Durolevum has now been identified by the Field School and excavations will continue to tell us more about the establishment, growth and decline of this important site. Evidence uncovered last year refutes Time-Team's prognosis that there was not an early Roman fort to be found here and our work will continue to gather more positive evidence.



course in April we visited Stonehenge and Avebury with Mike Pitts, editor of *British Archaeology*, and we had special access to the stones in a dawn visit.

Our last course, held in October on Roman and Medieval pottery led by MoLSS tutors, was fully booked with 30 people attending. It is essential to book courses early as they do fill up, so look at the exciting courses we have to offer you in 2005 and fill in the booking form on page 8.

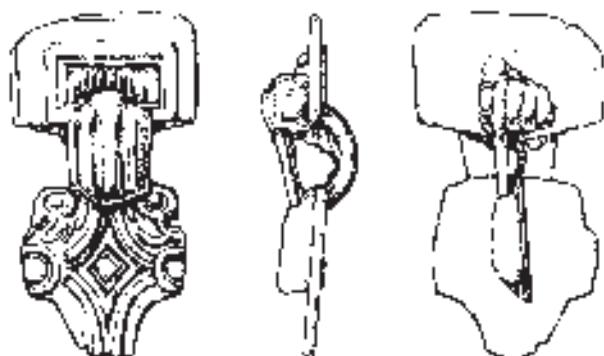
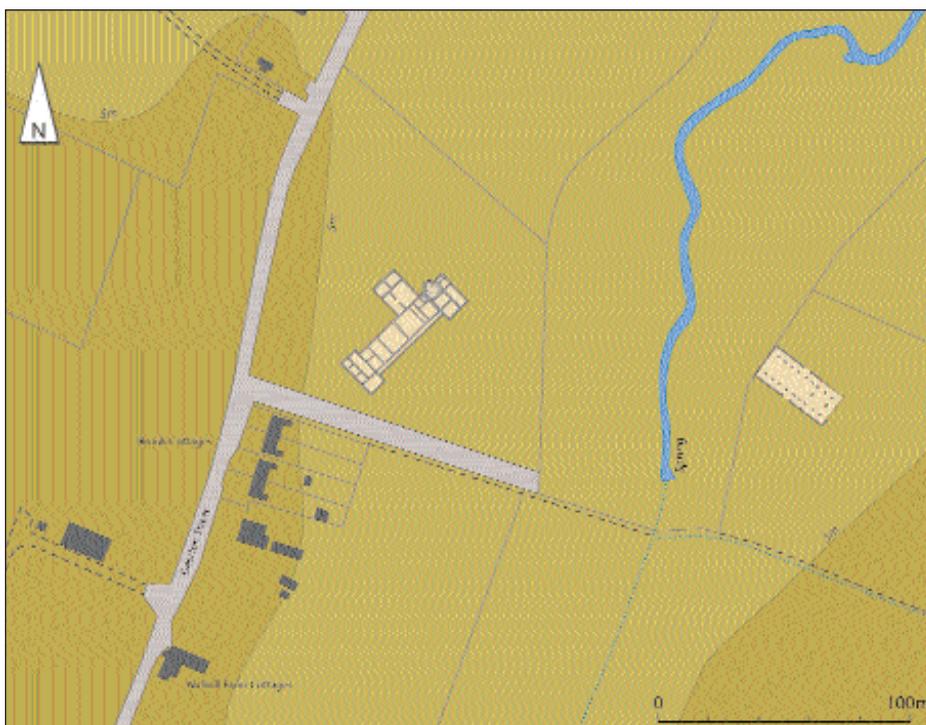


Kent Archaeological Field School
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Director: Dr Paul Wilkinson

FIELD SCHOOL NEWS

Our 2005 summer excavations include Syndale and Hog Brook (June 4th to 17th). Excavation by students of the Kent Archaeological Field School in 2004 at Hog Brook, revealed an exceptionally well-preserved early Roman stone-built aisled building which continued in use into the Saxon period. Full details of the excavation will be in the final report due to be published in 2005.

Hog Brook is close to Deerton Street and just to the north of Watling Street (the A2). From a geophysical



survey, conducted on a KAFS course, it is clear that the structure was not isolated, but associated with other buildings in the vicinity, including the large Roman villa to the west of the spring. The Roman villa estate at Deerton Street is one of a number found in recent years along the line of Watling Street, by Dr Paul Wilkinson. All the estates are located around a spring, set back from Watling Street and with easy access to the sea. The area usually farmed was about 2000 acres per villa. At Deerton Street, the modern field boundaries form field divisions of 20 actus square, the classic field size from the Roman period.

The spring at Deerton Street is called Hog Brook and on the east bank, field-walking located the remains of a substantial Roman building

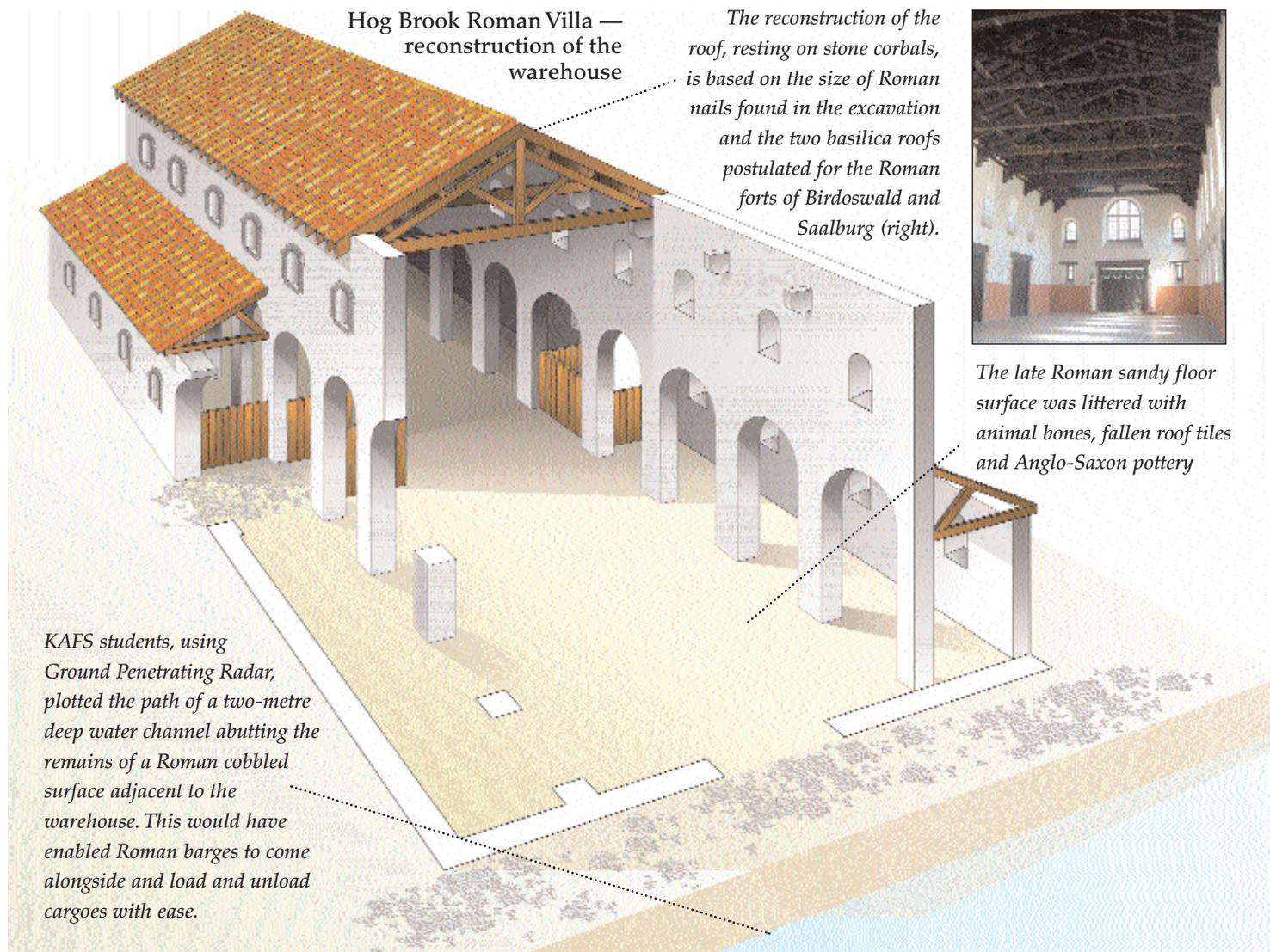
The spring at Deerton Street is called Hog Brook (above). To the west (left) is a large and substantial Roman villa found by the Field School and excavated over four summer campaigns. The villa is about 49m (160ft) long and includes a substantial apsed bath suite decorated with fine painted plaster and a tessellated floor.

Field-walking to the east (right) of the spring identified the site of another substantial building. On investigation this turned out to be a huge aisled stone barn built in the first century and surviving as a structure well into the Saxon period. Roman coins show late activity in the third and fourth centuries.

which, after excavation, turned out to be 35m 70cm (117ft 2") long and 15m 40cm (50ft 7") wide. It had 20 substantial stone piers still surviving to the first course and most of the late Roman floors were still intact. The most incredible find was a Roman rectangular column, built of Kentish ragstone and Tufa blocks mortared together with a double line of Roman tiles spaced vertically every 1m 8cm to 1m 15cm. The column had fallen down and it lay in the same position until it was revealed by KAFS. Under the fallen 6m column was the articulated skeleton of a small cow.

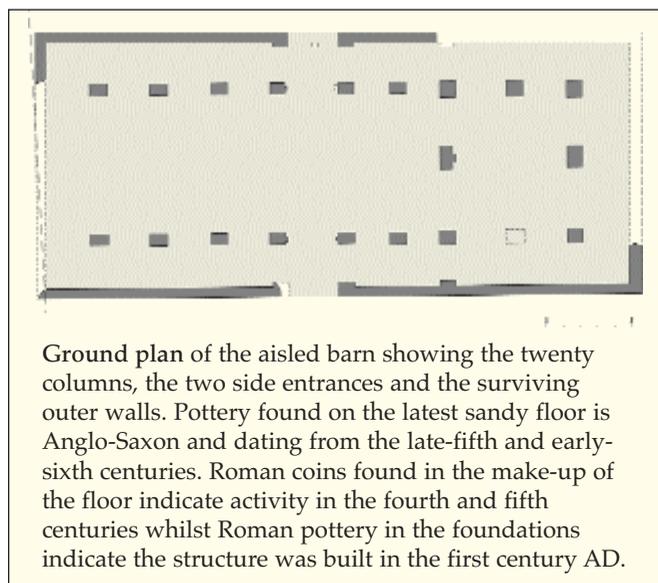
Stamped Samain pottery from the original builder's trench, date the construction of this massive stone building from 80 to 95 AD. Saxon pottery and a gilt bronze brooch (above left),

FIELD SCHOOL NEWS



found on the late Roman floor, show that the building was used until at least the 6th century. The building was destroyed by fire, for burnt roof timbers have survived under the fallen tiled roof.

It seems a basilical prototype was drawn upon for the aisled building, and that in form it had much more in common with a basilica in a Roman forum than with a medieval aisled barn. Why such a sophisticated building should have been built so early in the Kentish countryside remains a mystery. It is possible that a deep-water channel, along the west end of the building, would have allowed barges to load and unload alongside this huge warehouse with ease, so making water access important. Join us next summer to continue the exploration of this wonderful building.

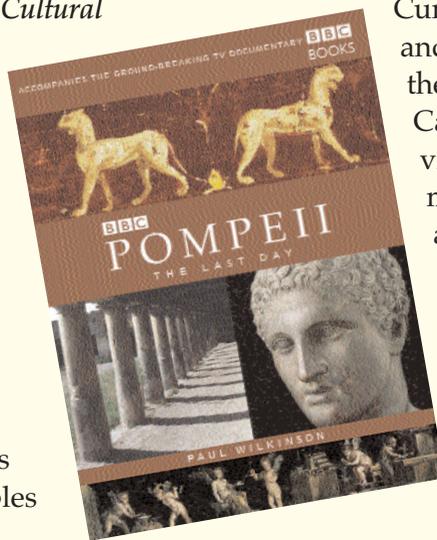


FIELD SCHOOL TRIPS



May 14th to 22nd, Sicily — the Cultural Heritage of Greece and Rome

A spectacular tour around Sicily, an island that has attracted invaders and traders for many years. As well as a rich prehistoric inheritance, Sicily has been inhabited by the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs and Normans. We will tour the island, focusing on ancient Greek and Roman sites such as the Valley of the Temples at Agrigento, the beautiful mosaics in Piazza Armerina and great towns including Syracuse and Palermo. This trip will include stays at three/ four



of the Roman Empire. We will guide you to the Roman remains of Arles, Pont du Gard, Nimes, Glanum, Orange, and Vaison-la-Romaine. The trip costs £1,247 per person (single £1,492).

September 17th to 24th, Pompeii and the Bay of Naples

This trip includes guided tours of the well-preserved Roman towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum. We will also visit Cumae, Baiae, Pozzuoli, Oplontis and the Greek temples at Paestum, there is a day trip to the isle of Capri, to see the Villa Jovis, and a visit to Naples archaeological museum. We will stay in Ravello, an elegant resort on the Amalfi coast. The trip costs £1,400 per person (single £1,645).

October 15th to 22nd, Rome and Ravenna — Roman and Early Christian Mosaics

A tour that reveals the mosaics of ancient and medieval Italy. This two-centre trip will take us to some of the hidden gems of Rome and Ravenna. We will explore the early Christian architecture of Ravenna and see some of the best early Christian mosaics in the world, before travelling to Rome where we will



hotels, the price is £1,610 per person (single £1,890).

June 18th to June 25th, Roman Provence

A wonderful combination of beautiful Provencal scenery, the relaxed ambience of lovely towns and some of the most spectacular Roman remains in Europe make this an incredibly exciting holiday. We will stay

at a historic hotel in the centre of Arles, regarded as the Rome of the north at the time



discover some of the magnificent mosaics surviving in small churches and in major collections, such as the Vatican. Prices tbc.

Stop press: due to the success of the tour to Roman and Moorish Spain, we are offering it with History Today magazine from September 3rd to 10th 2005.

Prices include flights, b&b, dinner, most lunches, entrance fees and coach travel. For further details and to book see www.romanolidays.co.uk or call 01795 532548.

FIELD SCHOOL COURSES

KAFS two-day courses cost £70, three-day courses cost £105 unless otherwise stated, KAFS members enjoy a 10% discount on full prices, except field trips. To book, fill in the form on page 8. For further details of courses and membership, see: www.kafs.co.uk

March 5th & 6th, Field Walking and Map Analysis
Walking across the landscape and recording features seen on the ground, is fundamental to most archaeology. This weekend course explains how to recognise and record artefacts found within the plough soil. These objects include flint tools, building material, pottery, glass and metal artefacts. One of the uses of field walking is to build up a database for large-scale regional archaeological surveys. We will consider the importance of regressive map analysis as part of this procedure. The course will cover: strategies and procedures, standard and non-standard linewalking, grid walking, pottery distribution, identifying pottery and building ceramics.

March 19th & 20th, Discovering Archaeological Sites
We shall look at the ways in which archaeological sites are discovered and excavated, and study the techniques used to pinpoint sites. During the weekend we will locate, survey and excavate, with test pits, a new prehistoric site near Bridge to the east of Canterbury.



Easter, March 25th to April 3rd, Excavation of a Prehistoric Site near Bridge

Our third season of field work and excavation at Bridge. Beginners should book for the first five days, with the option to continue for further days (same daily fee applies). Experienced participants may book the days they wish. Topics taught each

day are: Friday. History of the Site & Why Dig?; Saturday: Excavation Techniques; Sunday: Site Survey; Monday: Archaeological Recording; Tuesday: Small Finds Recording. KAFS member's special fee £30 per day, non-members £35 per day.

April 9th & 10th, Landscape Archaeology

A course designed for all those who want to know more about the English landscape. Six main categories of information will be studied: Field archaeology, aerial photography, maps, local history and place-names. Dr Paul Wilkinson will guide us through the countryside to show how to apply archaeological theory to interpret and understand the landscape of England.

April 16th & 17th, Prehistoric Kent

An introduction to the archaeology of ancient Kent. The mornings will be spent in lectures, whilst in the afternoons we will visit many of the prehistoric sites and monuments in the county including Kit's Coty, the Coldrum Stones, Caesar's Camp and Julliberries Grave.

April 23rd & 24th, How to Identify Prehistoric Flints

A course on the identification of prehistoric flint and stone with Terry Hardaker. He will explain the technology used to produce prehistoric tools from all periods. On Sunday there will be a practical exercise on field walking for lithic material and flint knapping with John Lord, one of the country's leading practitioners, everyone will have the chance to make a flint tool.

May Bank Holiday April 30th, May 1st & 2nd Roman Roads in Kent

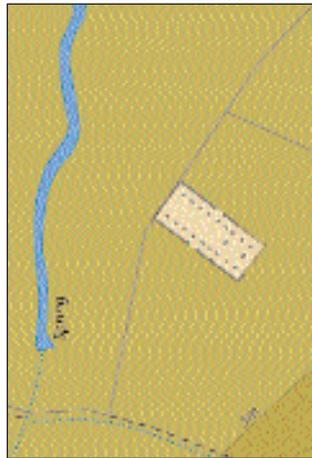
A practical three-day bank holiday course dealing with how archaeologists investigate to prove the existence and route of Roman roads. We will locate, excavate and record a section of Roman road near Bridge on the route of the road from Canterbury to Dover.

FIELD SCHOOL COURSES

May 14th to 22nd, Trip to Sicily — the Cultural Heritage of Greece and Rome
See page four for details.

May Bank Holiday 28th, 29th, 30th, Surveying for Archaeologists

Archaeological survey plays a vital role in fieldwork. It provides a framework for detailed recording and helps us to analyse a site. Many methods from the correct use of basic optical site levels to laser technology will be taught by Ges Moody from the Trust for Thanet Archaeology and Paul Wilkinson. Practical exercises will take place at Stone Chapel, a unique Roman and Anglo-Saxon building.



June 4th to 17th, Further Excavation of a Roman Building at Hog Brook

This year we will spend two weeks excavating and recording a high-status Roman building at Hog Brook near Faversham. The aisled building was discovered by KAFS archaeologists last year and was previously unknown. It is the largest and most spectacular aisled stone building ever found in rural Kent. Beginners are welcome on the Monday to Friday courses, with the option to continue for further days (same daily fee applies). Experienced participants may book the days they wish. Topics taught each day are: Monday: History of the Site & Why dig? Tuesday: Excavation Techniques; Wednesday: Site Survey; Thursday: Archaeological Recording; Friday: Small Finds Recording. KAFS member's special fee £30 per day, non-members £35 per day.

June 18th to June 25th, Roman Provenance
See page four for details.

July 2nd & 3rd, Geophysical Surveying for Archaeologists

A course on the theory and practice of geophysical survey. Methods from basic optical site levels to laser technology, resistivity and Ground Penetrating Radar will be taught. Practical exercises will take place at Syndale, our late summer excavation site.

July 9th, 10th, 11th, Interpreting the Roman Villa
Course led by Paul Wilkinson author of *Roman Villas in Kent*. The course will concentrate on how and why villas played such an important part in the Roman landscape. We will visit the Roman villas at Lullingstone, Fishbourne and Bignor.

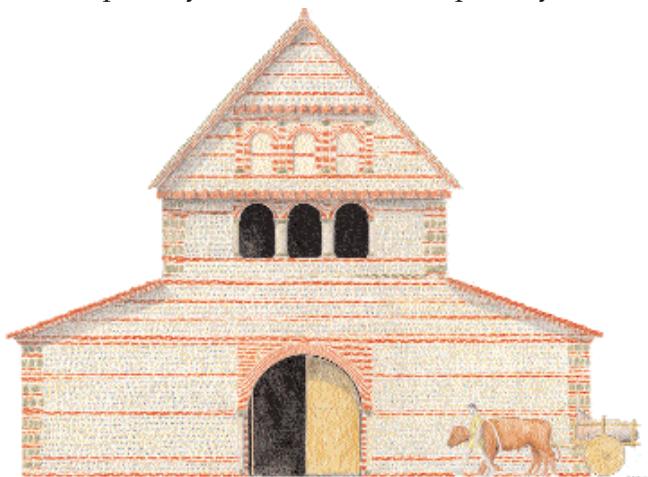
July 16th & 17th, An Introduction to Archaeology
We shall look at how archaeological sites are discovered and find out how different types of finds, such as bones and flints, reveal the lives of former peoples. This course, run with *History Today* magazine, and anyone over the age of 11 years old is welcome, but under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.

July 30th to August 14th, Excavation at Syndale, Site of the Roman Town of Durolevum

The site of the lost Roman town of Durolevum is now established at Syndale, near Faversham. The town appears in the Antonine Itinerary, but its location was later forgotten, until it was re-discovered and confirmed as the site of the town by the activities of the Kent Archaeological Field School. This year we will spend two weeks excavating and recording Roman buildings on the west side of the town. Beginners are welcome on the Monday to Friday courses, with the option to continue for further days (same daily fee applies). Experienced participants may book the days they wish. Topics taught each day are: Monday: History of the Site & Why dig? Tuesday: Excavation Techniques; Wednesday: Site Survey; Thursday: Archaeological Recording; Friday:

FIELD SCHOOL COURSES

Small Finds Recording. KAFS member's special fee £30 per day, non-members £35 per day.



August 20th & 21st, Roman Building Techniques and Materials

An intensive course on Roman buildings and Roman building material to be found in early Christian church's in Kent. In the afternoons we will visit St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury, Richborough and the Dover Pharos and a number of East Kent churches including Lower Halstow.

August Bank Holiday 27th, 28th, 29th, Identifying Field Systems and Boundaries

We can trace the history of the landscape by studying the development of field and parish boundaries. During the course of the three days we will trace, excavate and record a new site in the very best traditions of *Time-Team*. This is a recently identified enigmatic field and parish boundary at Bax Farm that runs for 22km and divides Kent.

September 3rd & 4th, Geology for Archaeologists

An intensive course on the geology of the south-east. Archaeologists need to understand the local rocks and soils if they are to completely evaluate an archaeological site. There will be field trips in the afternoons to Pegwell Bay and the cliffs of Reculver. Course led by Peter Golding.

September 3rd to 10th, Roman and Moorish Spain

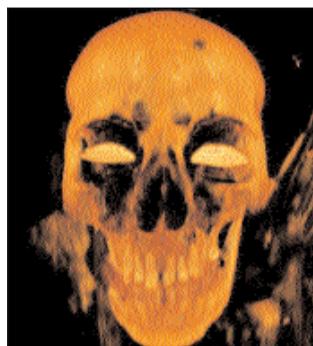
In association with *History Today* magazine. See page four for details.

September 17th & 18th, Natural History: Habitats of Prehistoric Kent

Over the centuries human influence has shaped and altered our landscape. We will consider these changes in land use, the different types of farming, and see how the pressures of a rising population have affected the natural environment of East Kent over the last two thousand years. The course will be led by John Weavers, a specialist in landscape studies and the weekend will include afternoon field trips.

September 17th to 24th, Pompeii and the Bay of Naples

See page four for details.



October 1st & 2nd, Bones and Burials

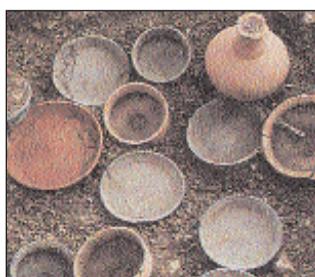
Osteo-archaeology is the study of human remains. The course will be led by Trevor Anderson, consultant to Canterbury Archaeological Trust, who has appeared on *Meet the Ancestors*. The course will cover the on-site recording of human remains and how they can reveal information about the person's age, sex and state of health. Excavated skeletons will be available for study and analysis in practical sessions.

October 8th & 9th, Archaeological Drawing

A beginner's and refresher course introducing participants to drawing archaeological artefacts. The reasons for drawing artefacts and the principles of archaeological illustration will be taught. There will be practical sessions each day demonstrating how to illustrate pottery, bone, metal and other artefacts found on archaeological sites. Course led by Jane Russell, who was senior illustrator of the UCL Field Archaeology Unit.

FIELD SCHOOL COURSES

October 15th to 22nd, Rome and Ravenna — Roman and Early Christian Mosaics
See page four for details.



October 29th & 30th, How to Identify Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Pottery
The course, led by MoLSS tutors, will introduce students to the practical problems of identifying Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval pottery. The types of pottery from each period will be explained and examples will be available for examination.

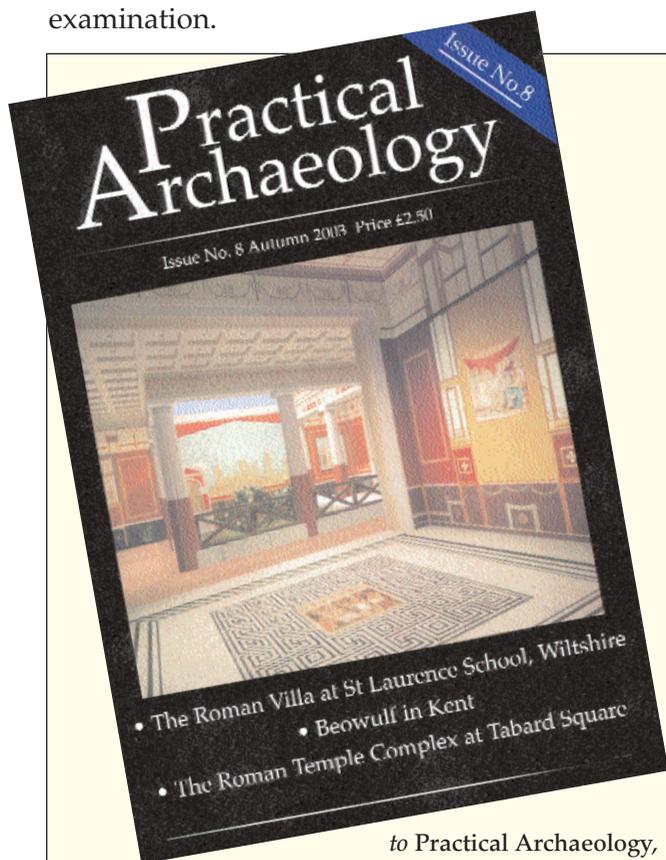
A course for those who want to distinguish the many types of pottery found on British sites.

November 5th & 6th, Bronze Axe and Pottery Workshop

On Saturday this workshop will explore many aspects of bronze age metal working, with the smelting of copper and tin ores. Each person will work on their own axes. On Sunday we will fire our own prehistoric 'beaker' using bronze age methods and learn how to build a simple kiln to fire your own pot at a later date. Course led by Neil Burrige a specialist in bronze age crafts.

November 26th & 27th, Meet Your Ancestors

A course designed to enable you to research your family tree. Genealogy is the study of your past and this weekend course will allow you to find out who your ancestors were.



To become a member and enjoy a 10% discount on courses plus a subscription

to Practical Archaeology, tick the box on the right and the forms will be sent to you, or download them from our website — www.kafs.co.uk.

KAFS COURSE BOOKING FORM

Name of Course.....

 Date of Course.....
 Your Name.....
 Address.....

 Postcode..... Tel No.....
 E-mail address.....
 I enclose a cheque (payable to KAFS) for.....

Please send me a KAFS membership form

Return this form to:-
 The Kent Archaeological Field School,
 School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham,
 Kent ME13 8UP. Tel: 01795 532548
 Website: www.kafs.co.uk E-mail: info@kafs.co.uk
 Please note that courses are bookable in advance only and are non-refundable or transferable. Member's 10% discount does not apply to special fees and field trips. Children over 14 and under 16 years old are welcome on courses, but must be accompanied by an adult; under-16s are not allowed on excavations.