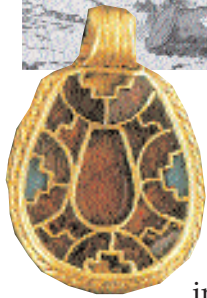
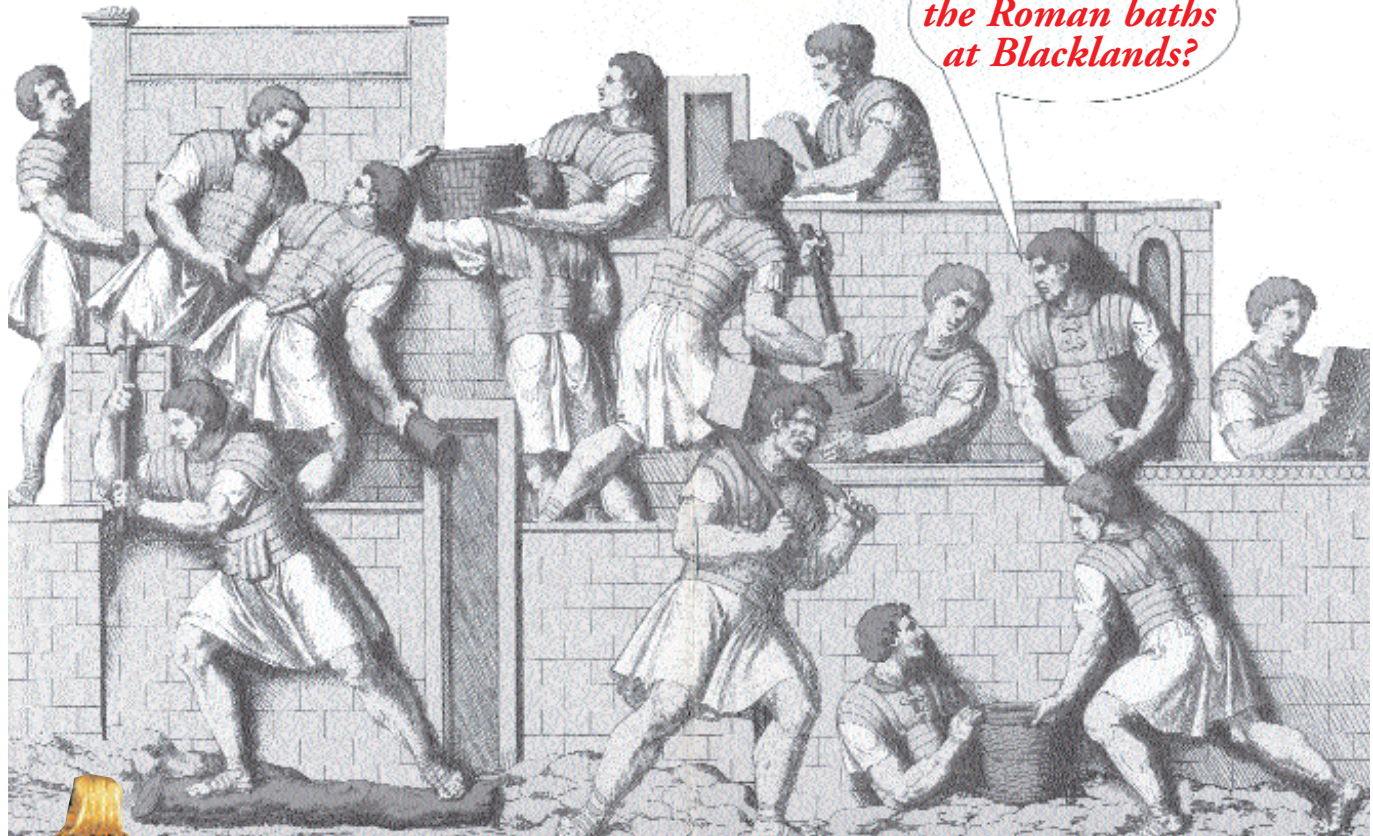


# KAFS Newsletter: No.5.

The Kent Archaeological Field School: Winter-Spring 2008



Welcome in 2008 to the 10th anniversary of the Kent Archaeological Field School! Yet again an amazing year with some important investigations of stunning sites. At Easter we followed up investigations begun in 1926 when it was thought that the Roman cemetery of the Roman town at Syndale was located in the Park- it was! The surprise was that we found Roman cremation pots scratched with Christian symbols and buried with an early

Anglo-Saxon gilt cruciform brooch. At Blacklands Roman site an earlier geophysical survey by English Heritage had identified at least 19 Roman buildings focused around a large depression in the hillside. It seems the depression was modelled in the 4th century with terraces cut into the chalk. The exotic bath house overlooking this feature has the remains of some of the finest full colour pictorial mosaics found so far in Kent, and a huge timber building had been built on the demolished ruins in the 6/7th centuries.

Do join us in 2008 for more superb courses.

*Phil Harding of Time Team and Paul Wilkinson of the Kent Archaeological Field School at Syndale in 2003. Time-Teams investigation led to some wonderful opportunities, of which one was a comprehensive geophysical survey of the Park. Building on this work the Field School has discovered the extent of the Roman town, probably called 'Durolevum', and this work continues at Easter 2008.*



Kent Archaeological Field School  
School Farm Oast, Graveney Road,  
Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP  
Director: Dr Paul Wilkinson MIFA.



# FIELD SCHOOL NEWS

“A very useful basic introduction to archaeology”

Mick Aston

This new book on archaeology by Paul Wilkinson has been extremely well received by archaeologists.

*"I wish this book had been available when I started out in archaeology back in the 1960s. It tells you everything you need to know in order to decide what sort of archaeology you'd like to learn more about. It doesn't just deal with digging; instead it introduces you to aerial photography, geophysics, surveying, recording, finds processing, soil science and how to take samples - in fact all the subjects you'll need to master if you want to become a field archaeologist. It's well written and beautifully illustrated in full colour throughout. It would be cheap at twice the price!"*

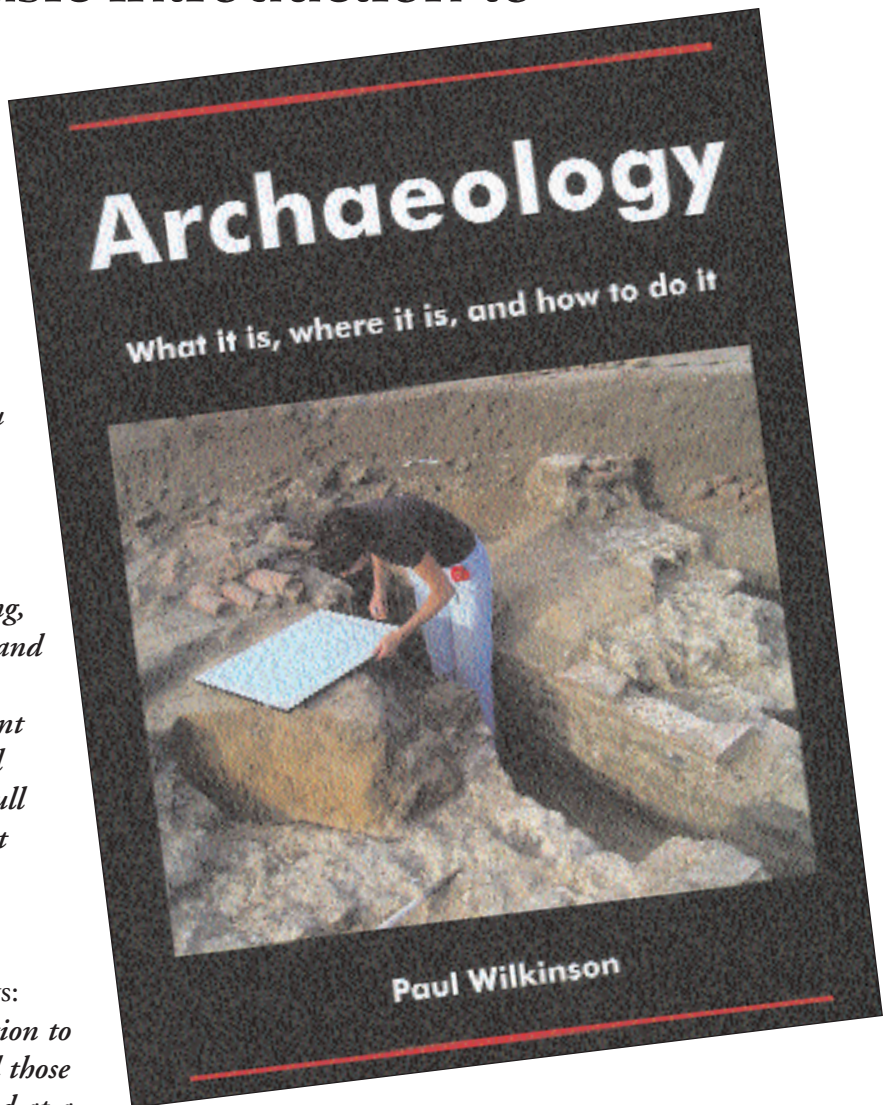
Francis Pryor

David Rudling of Sussex University says: *"A well illustrated and useful introduction to practical archaeology for beginners and those with some experience. User friendly, and at a sensible price"*.

Peter Drewett, Professor of Archaeology comments: *"A splendid introduction which should be very popular with first time diggers"*.

Customers have said: *"there is nothing like this"*, *"really useful"*, and *"what an informative book at such a good price"*.

**New books by Paul Wilkinson**, the director of the Field School, will be available this winter from KAFS; *Pompeii* (£10), *Faversham* (£25), and recently published is *Archaeology* (£10.95). All are signed and include post and packaging.



### Order form for books

If you want a signed copy please put the name at the bottom of the coupon.

Your Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

E-mail.....

I enclose a cheque (payable to KAFS) for.....

signed copies of *Archaeology*.....*Pompeii*.....

*BAR Port of Faversham*.....

Name in

book.....

# EASTER EXCAVATION

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*For the last 200 years Anglo-Saxon brooches of gold (left) have been found throughout Kent. It is thought they could all have been made in the Roman/Anglo-Saxon town of Faversham. The name (Fabreham) suggests it is the Anglo-Saxon town (ham) of the Roman metalsmiths (fabri) and as a place-name is unique in Britain.*



**O**ur Easter investigation in 2008 is going to continue our work on the limits of the Roman town situated in Syndale Park just to the east of Faversham. Last Easter we followed up the 'route map' of Colonel Hawley who in September 1922 dug 23 holes and trenches on top of the hill opposite Syndale Park finding some burials. The same



*The Roman mausoleum (above) was first discovered by Hawley in 1925. He noted "a paved hearth and wall foundations". The plan that Hawley drew was used to re-locate the site which on investigation turned out to be more than a paved hearth and wall foundations. The stone monument*

*revealed is a sarcophagus with a ceramic lid made out of shaped terracotta tiles. The monument is late, having been built over the remains of a 3rd century kiln. The tiles have been damaged sometime in the past, but the grave has not been robbed- the burial is still in situ.*

year he dug on the east slope inside Syndale Park and recorded "a long trench was dug at G, and two others at H, the main object of the latter being to prove the existence of the original Watling Street on the line indicated. A rubbish pit was found at H containing potsherds, pieces of burnt wattle and daub, and many animal bones; a coin of Commodus was the most important item".

By the time Hawley had finished work in Syndale he had excavated 172 cremations, 74 burials and recovered about 500 pots. We now have the opportunity to continue his work, by plotting the grave groups (above right) and mausoleums (below left) by ground-penetrating radar and focused investigation. Other important features will also be investigated and these include a deep defensive ditch full of late Roman items.

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## Easter Excavation Booking Form

Easter 2008, March 21st to 30th.

Winter Special price is £20 a day for members (£30 a day for non-members: To join see back cover or [www.kafs.co.uk](http://www.kafs.co.uk))

Your Name.....

Address.....

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E-mail.....

Tel No.....

I enclose a cheque (payable to KAFS)

for.....

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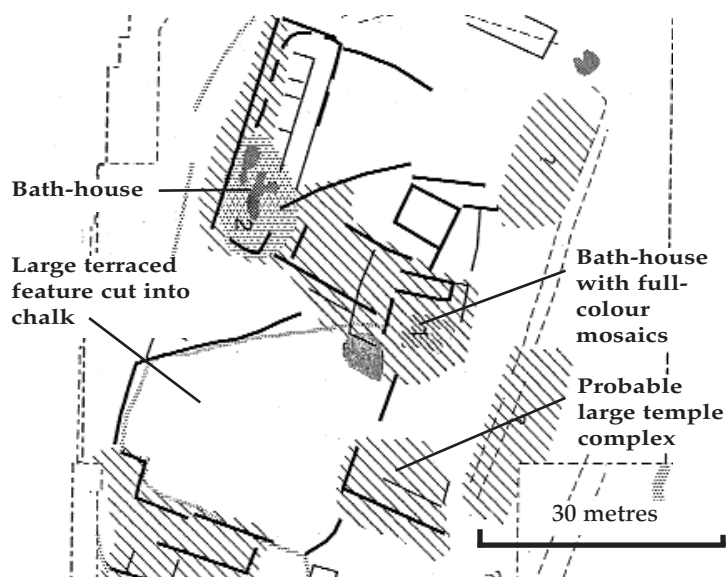


# FIELD SCHOOL NEWS

## Investigations at Blacklands, Faversham

In August archaeological students and members of the Field School descended on School Farm, just to the east of Faversham, and adjacent to Watling Street, to investigate the probable site of a Roman settlement found by field-walking, limited excavation and geophysical survey.

Paul Wilkinson had discovered the site by field walking some years before and had excavated a small area with Brian Philp in 1997. Later English Heritage had generously offered to conduct a geophysical survey with stunning results (right). The initial investigations had revealed the remains of a Roman bath house with mosaic fragments



The geophysical survey by English Heritage (above) shows a plethora of features. The black lines were conjectural walls, some of which has now been shown to be Roman foundation walls. The Roman bath-house (left) has a hypocaust system built of chalk blocks which were full of demolished parts of the building including mosaic fragments and painted plaster.

and highly decorated painted plaster. It was thought that this was the only Roman building on the site- one of the so-called 'isolated bath-houses' found only in Kent (Detsicas 1987). With the later English Heritage survey a further 18 buildings were revealed, albeit electronically. Investigation in the summer of 2007 exposed a huge Roman building further to the west of the known bath house, again with hypocaust heating with terracotta *pilae* still standing, and vast quantities of everyday painted plaster and pottery. The depression was also investigated and found to be Roman and in use in the 4th century- its function still an enigma waiting to be solved.



Mosaic fragments retrieved from the demolition debris of the hypocaust flues are exceptionally fine. Informed opinion is that they are the most important found in Kent.

The mosaic pavement covered an area of about seven square metres. It was full colour and pictorial with individual tesserae sometimes smaller than one centimetre.



# 'NO FRILLS' TRIPS

## Field School trips for 2008 include Pompeii, Split, Bath, and Hadrian's Wall

An exciting new development is study tours offered exclusively to members of the Field School. These 'bare bones' trips with no frills include a long weekend in Pompeii at a price of £199, Diocletians Palace at Split for £199, Roman Bath weekend, and a weekend on Hadrian's Wall for £99. All you have to do is book the flight and hotel (as low as £20 for the flight) and meals. You will see all of the main sites with a specialist guide and Dr Paul Wilkinson. To Book: send the full amount to KAFS by end of February 2008.



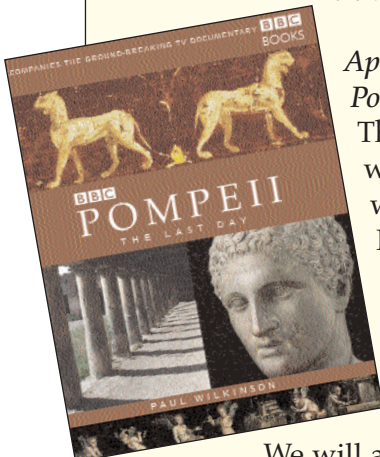
May 3rd, 4th, 2008.  
Hadrian's Wall

An exciting trip to the very edge of the Roman Empire with Professor David Breeze author of the definitive work on Hadrian's Wall. We will visit Housesteads, Birdoswald, Vindolanda, Great Chesters, Segedunum, the supply base of Corbridge, and Arbeia. Price for the weekend is £99, which includes entrance fees and coach travel to sites along the Wall.

September 26th to 29th, 2008

Diocletians Palace at Split, Croatia

The palace of the Emperor Diocletian at Split in Croatia (*below*) is today the heart of the inner city of Split. It is an amazing monument and essential to visit. We will also travel to the island of Brac and the medieval town of Trogir by boat and coach and spend a day at the nearby Roman town of Salona.



April 4th to 7th, 2008

Pompeii and the Bay of Naples

This trip is for the student who has been before but want to spend more time at Pompeii- it includes almost two full day of guided tours of the well-preserved Roman town of Pompeii and a half day tour of Herculaneum.

We will also visit Cumae, Baiae, Pozzuoli, Oplontis, Boscoreale, the villas' at Stabiae, and the Naples Archaeological Museum. The tour costs £199 which will include a local guide, entrance fees and coach.

November 1st, 2nd, 2008. Roman Bath and the Roman Cotswolds

We will visit behind the scenes at the Roman bath complex at Bath with the curator Stephen Clews. On Sunday we will have special access to the Roman bath-house at the Roman villa at Great Whitcombe and visit Chedworth Roman villa with Dr Paul Wilkinson, a specialist in Roman villas.

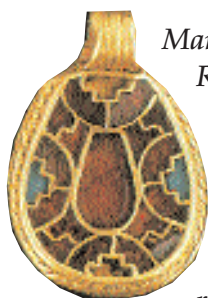
Cost for the weekend is £99 which will include entrance fees and a private coach on the Sunday.



# FIELD SCHOOL COURSES

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*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 all courses and membership see: [www.kafs.co.uk](http://www.kafs.co.uk)*



## *March 8th & 9th, Field-walking and Regressive 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. The course will cover: strategies and procedures, standard and non-standard line-walking, grid-walking, pottery distribution, identifying pottery, Roman and Medieval building ceramics.

*Easter, March 21st to March 30th, Investigation of the Roman cemetery at Syndale Park, Faversham*  
Our second season of field work and excavation at Syndale Park on both the extent of the Roman cemetery in Lion Field and its relationship with the adjacent Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Kings Field. KAFS member's special fee £20 per day, non-members £35 per day.

*April 4th to 7th, Pompeii and the Bay of Naples*  
See page 5 for details

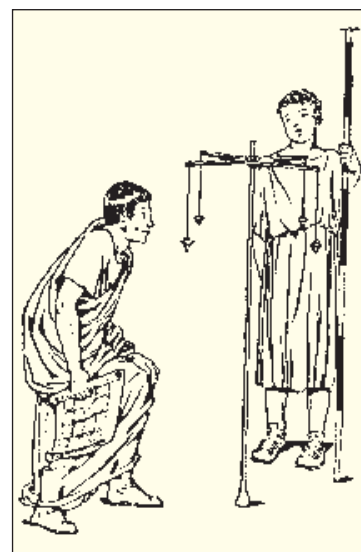


## *April 19th & 20th, How to Identify Flints*

A course on the identification of flint  
We 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.

*May Bank Holiday, 3rd, 4th, Field Trip to Hadrians Wall with David Breeze* See page 5 for details

*May 17th & 18th 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 in Kent. We will locate, excavate and record the route of a Roman road found by the Field School last summer leading from Syndale to Newnham.



*May Bank Holiday, May 24th, 25th, 26th, Introduction to Archaeology*

A practical three-day bank holiday course on the newly discovered important Roman settlement at Blacklands near Faversham. We will survey the extent of the settlement, its access roads, field systems, and sample, through evaluation and field-walking the extent and quality of survival of the Roman infrastructure. There will be experts on site to date Roman pottery and coins as they are revealed by investigation. This course is ideal for newcomers to archaeology who wish to understand the archaeological process. This three-day Bank Holiday course costs £50 if membership is taken out at the time of booking.



*June 14th, 15th, Landscape Archaeology*

We can trace the history of the landscape by studying historic maps and aerial photographs.



# FIELD SCHOOL COURSES

## August 23rd to September 7th 2008. Summer excavation at Blacklands, near Faversham. Cost: £20 a day with camping (£10)

*Excavation of some of the Roman buildings and bath-houses' at Blacklands, near Faversham.*



Investigation in the summer of 2007 has revealed a unique Roman complex of buildings (right) and bath-houses to the east of

Faversham- see page 4 for details. Some 19 Roman buildings have already been identified by geophysical survey and field-walking. We will spend part of the summer investigating and recording this wonderful Roman complex, which may be a lost Roman town, in a genuine course of discovery.

Beginners are welcome on the Monday 13th August to Friday 17th August training course, with the option to continue for further days (same daily fee applies, camping £10 a day extra). Experienced members and 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 £20 per day.

Non-members may join in advance.



During the course of the weekend we will trace, investigate, and record a new site in the very best traditions of Time-Team.



### June 28th, 29th, 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 the basic optical site levels to laser technology will be taught by Ges Moody from the Trust for Thanet Archaeology and Paul Wilkinson from KAFS.

### July 12th, 13th, Prehistoric Kent

An introduction to the archaeology and pottery of ancient Kent. The mornings will be spent in lectures from Kent prehistorians whilst in the afternoon we will visit many of the prehistoric sites and monuments in the county including Kits Coty, the Coldrum Stones, Bigbury, Julliberries Grave, and Caesar' Camp.

### August 23rd to September 7th, Excavation at Blacklands

Investigation in the summer of 2007 revealed a unique Roman complex of buildings and bath-houses to the east of Faversham- (see above and page 4 for details). Some 19 Roman buildings have already been identified by geophysical survey and field-walking. We will spend part of the summer investigating and recording this wonderful Roman complex, which may be a lost Roman town, in a genuine course of discovery.



# FIELD SCHOOL COURSES

For further details of all field trips, courses and membership, see: [www.kafs.co.uk](http://www.kafs.co.uk)

**September 24th to 27th  
Roman Provence**

Arles, the base for our Field School trip was regarded as Rome of the north, and we will visit many of the wonderful Roman remains in the region. Independent travel can be either by train or air. We will visit the Roman remains of Arles, the Pont du Gard aqueduct, Nimes, Glanum (above), Orange, Avignon, and Vaison-la-Romaine. The price of £350 includes entrance fees on all days, guiding by Dr Paul Wilkinson, and all local transport costs. All you have to do is book the flight or train, hotel and meals.



**September 13th to 14th,  
Archaeological Drawing**  
A beginner's course on drawing archaeological artefacts. There will be practical sessions each day with Jane Russell showing how to illustrate pottery, bone, metal and other artefacts found on archaeological sites.

**November 1st & 2nd, Field Trip to Roman Bath**  
We will visit behind the scenes at the Roman bath complex at Bath with the curator Stephen Clews. Also visit Chedworth Roman villa with Dr Paul Wilkinson, a specialist in Roman villas. Cost for the weekend is £99.



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

to the KAFS Newsletter, tick the box on the right and the forms will be sent to you, or download them from our website — [www.kafs.co.uk](http://www.kafs.co.uk).

## KAFS BOOKING FORM

Name of Course or Trip.....  
 .....  
 Date of Course or Trip.....  
 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](http://www.kafs.co.uk) e-mail: [info@kafs.co.uk](mailto: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.