

WESEX

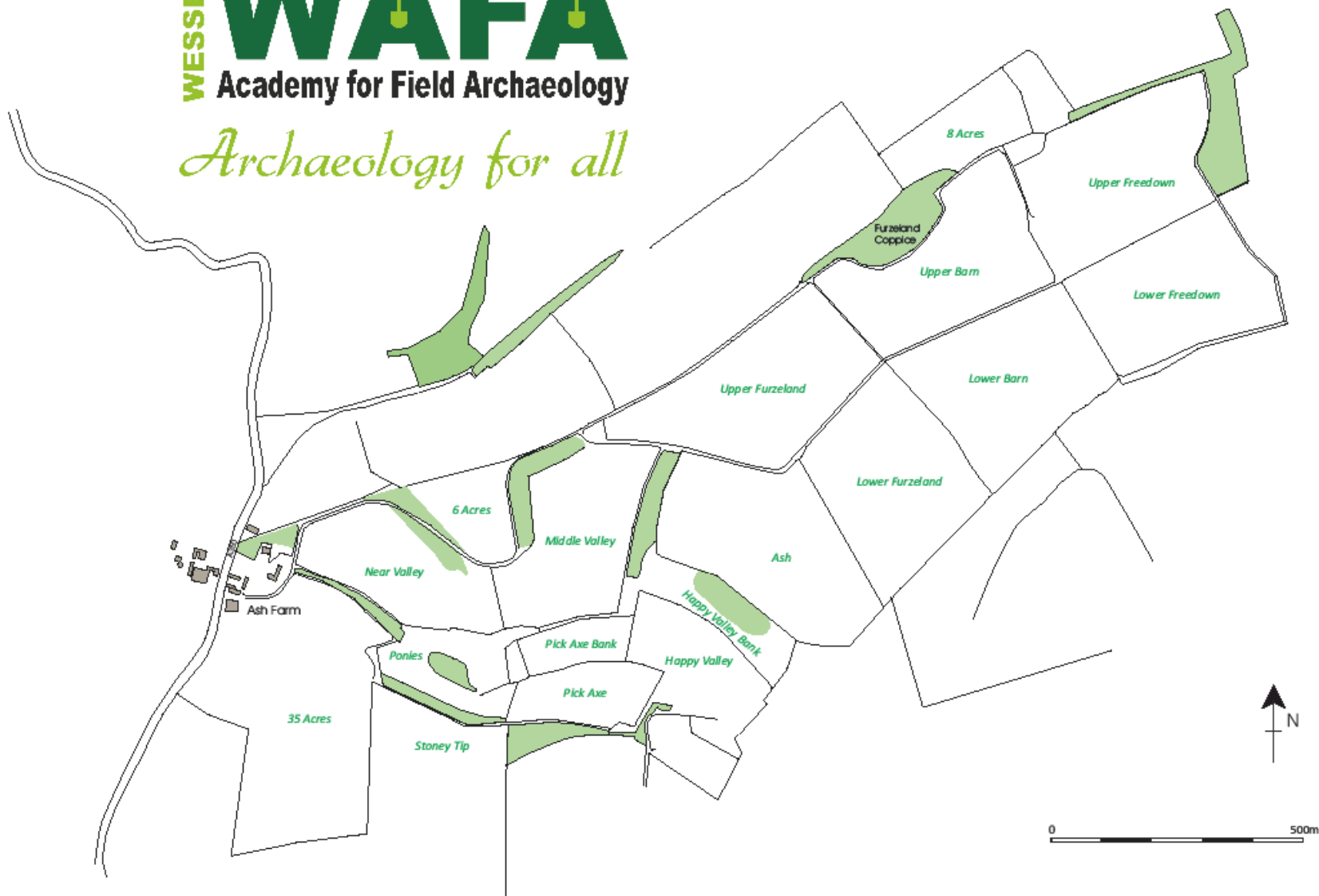
WAWFA

Academy for Field Archaeology

Archaeology for all

WESSEX **WAF**A
Academy for Field Archaeology

Archaeology for all













What is WAFA?

WAFA started out as an idea from the Wessex branch of the CBA (Council for British Archaeology) in early 2013. It grew out of the realisation that many of those who have a fascination with archaeology would love to be able to get involved with its practicalities. They would like to learn how to 'read' landscapes, how to recognise ancient finds and how to dig. But there was a problem – there was nowhere in the Wessex area that all these skills were being taught.

So this was the reason behind WAFA - to provide a venue where a wide range of ways of investigating the past could be taught within the setting of a long term landscape study.

It needed a number of ingredients to make the initial idea work:

- **A home** - through the generosity of the Russell family this was found at Ash Farm, near Stourpaine in Dorset.
- **A vision for what WAFA could offer** - this came from Julian Richards - WAFA's lead archaeologist and CBA member.
- **Funding** - through the generosity of Alistair Somerville Ford of ICM - someone with a passion for history and making the past come alive.

With all the ingredients in place, WAFA is go!

Check out this short film introducing WAFA



Sponsorship and Partners





A series of day schools, details of which are given below, provides an introduction to the Wessex Archaeological Field Academy (WAF A) and to its home at Ash Farm, in Dorset. The landscape of Ash Farm, 320 acres of rolling chalk downland which lies in the shadow of the Iron Age and Roman fort of Hod Hill, is the project's classroom. Here, on a working organic cereal and deer farm, we can teach techniques of field investigation, from fieldwalking and geophysical survey to excavation, finds analysis and environmental archaeology, all as part of a genuine landscape study.

Our basic questions are:

- Who has lived at Ash Farm since prehistoric times; and
- How have they shaped and changed the landscape?

Ash Farm is a blank canvas: with the exception of some documentary evidence of a Domesday settlement and a few metal detected finds, we will be starting from scratch. If you become involved at Ash Farm you will be signing up to a unique project, not to investigating an already well-studied landscape. But this means that although we can teach the 'how to do' aspects of investigation, we have no idea what, if anything, we will find.

This is the excitement of archaeology!

While geared to studying this particular landscape, the skills developed by those that take part, particularly those who can follow the whole series of day schools, will equip them to carry out their own landscape study, either individually or as part of a group. The emphasis will therefore be on participation, doing as well as just talking and listening, and on developing skills. As far as possible equipment used will be simple and therefore not beyond the means of the individual or group while advice will be available about grants that can be applied for to facilitate investigations.

The venue for the days schools is 'Mick's Barn', the project HQ on the farm. (see map). Part of each day (the timetabling of which will be flexible according to weather conditions) will be spent indoors here and part out on the farm. It is essential to bring warm and waterproof clothing and suitable (sturdy) footwear. Unlimited tea and coffee (and if you are lucky cake) will be provided during the day. We will not be leaving the farm at lunchtime so please bring something to eat or you can order a packed lunch (home-made sandwiches/savouries/cake) when booking. If time allows we are intending to end each day with an indoor 'de-brief' to answer questions that may have arisen during time in the field and to discuss the implications of findings on subsequent stages of the investigation.

In some cases day schools which take place on a Saturday will be followed by a practical application session on the Sunday.

We will repeat these day schools if there is sufficient demand.

Sponsorship and Partners





WESEX

WAWFA

Archaeological Field Academy

Archaeology for all











roughs
AOK

2
Stone
9. 3. 10

5
Stone Close
12. 2. 1

2
Pigeon
House
Close
3. 2. 29

3
Close
6. 0. 25
5. 3. 39

Plums & Apples

4
Old Clover
14. 2. 14
" 1. 27
14. 0. 27

Apple

ow
26



What is WAF

A?

WAF

A started out as an idea from the Wessex branch of the CBA (Council for British Archaeology) in early 2013. It grew out of the realisation that many of those who have a fascination with archaeology would love to be able to get involved with its practicalities. They would like to learn how to 'read' landscapes, how to recognise ancient finds and how to dig. But there was a problem – there was nowhere in the Wessex area that all these skills were being taught.

So this was the reason behind WAF

A - to provide a venue where a wide range of ways of investigating the past could be taught within the setting of a long term landscape study.

It needed a number of ingredients to make the initial idea work:

- A home** - through the generosity of the Russell family this was found at Ash Farm, near Stourpaine in Dorset.
- A vision for what WAF**A could offer - this came from Julian Richards - WAFA's lead archaeologist and CBA member.
- Funding** - through the generosity of Alistair Somerville Ford of ICM - someone with a passion for history and making the past come alive.

With all the ingredients in place, WAFA is go!

Accreditation

Sponsors/partners/links: [ICM](#), [CBA](#), [YAC](#), [Wessex Society](#), [ATC](#)

Links: [CBA/ATC/YAC/Wessex Society](#) etc



The Ancient Technology Centre has developed a unique program of hands on learning for people of all ages at its site in Cranborne, Dorset. We believe that children and adults should explore their surroundings, environment and history through an exciting blend of full scale building projects and traditional skills and crafts. Our starting point is archaeology and this informs the many buildings and activities that we offer. Our goal is to enable genuine experiences of daily life in the past, we encourage hard work, sweat and blisters in the context of seasonal and sustainable practice, the results of this hard work is plain to see (www.ancienttechnologycentre.co.uk).



The Wessex Archaeological Field Academy at Ash Farm offers us the opportunity to test ancient agricultural and woodland management techniques. We aim to make genuine links between the archaeological evidence that emerges from the Ash Farm landscape study and the daily life and practices of individuals and communities that have lived there in the past. This work will expand as the project develops and will follow lines of enquiry that are determined by the archaeological evidence.

There are two separate projects that can be started immediately.

The Bluebell Wood Project (October – March each year – starting February 2014)

Bluebell Wood is an area of hilltop hazel and ash coppice woodland which has been allowed to become overgrown. It will be the venue for an ongoing programme of woodland management aimed at bringing the coppice back into a strict harvest rotation. We will start by surveying the woodland in detail after which we will create working coups with the overall aim of increasing coppiced stool density. Harvesting both coppice and larger trees will be carried out using replicated tools, from Stone-Age to Medieval and the material produced will be used in a range of practical tasks.

The Ancient Crops Project (March – September each year)

Ash Farm will host a project based on the growing of ancient crops in a number of small enclosures, of comparable size to many ancient 'Celtic' fields. Starting with the current (organic) soil and growing the same crop, various comparative methods will be used in the different plots to improve the soil and test the effect on yield and quality, as well as the cumulative effect on the soil. We are particularly interested in the soil requirements for producing good thatching straw in early farming communities and the subsequent thatching methods that may have been employed.

These two projects, and the experimental work that will no doubt develop as WAFa's investigations continue, will help to illustrate the lives of those who have worked this land since Neolithic times. They also offer an opportunity to become involved in practical experimental archaeology.

Sponsorship and Partners





LOL 002 AREA 7 (1B)

LINE .303 Round

Dated 1943

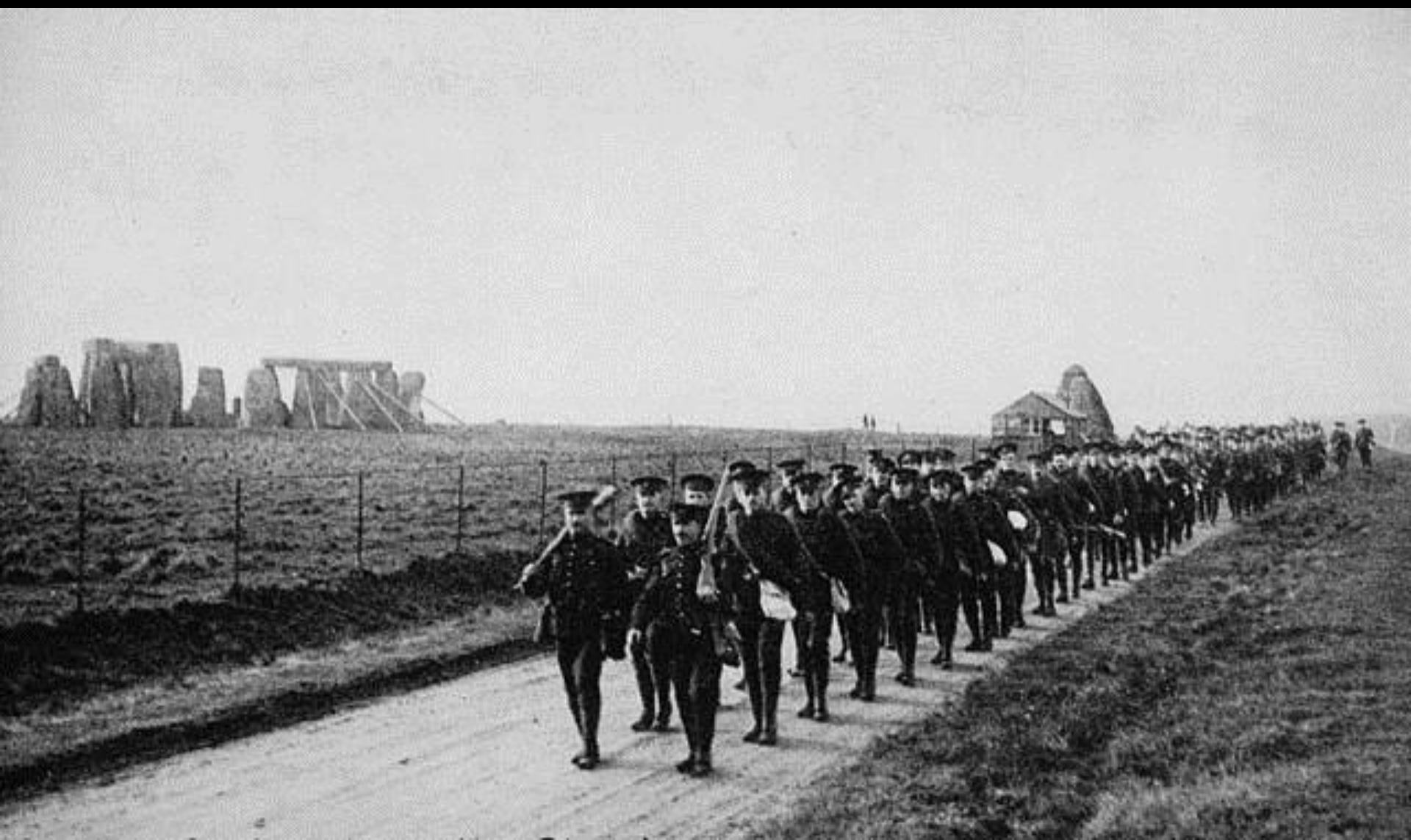






RLC BOMB DISPOSAL

AB 22 AB





Lark Hill and Durrington Camps, Salisbury Plain

Fuller
Ormsby