



## Middle Nene Archaeological Group

### Nassington Excavation 2017

## Project Information & Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Below is a range of questions with answers that should help you decide how you want to be involved in this exciting opportunity. If your questions are not answered or you still have other queries then please contact Gill Johnston by phone (01832 273 798) or by post or e-mail (agjohnston1941@hotmail.com). Thank you. We want you to get the most out of this fascinating excavation.

### What is the project about?

The Middle Nene Archaeology Group is planning a research and training excavation on a newly discovered Roman site in Nassington. Excavation will only be part of the project which aims to put the site in its local and regional context. There are some indications of a stone structure and preliminary work seems to suggest a site starting point around the Flavian period terminating during the Hadrianic era'.

The excavation will take place from Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August until Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September when members of the general public (adults and young people) can come and view the work of the excavation.

If you are thinking of getting involved please send in your completed application form as soon as possible to Gill Johnston, MidNAG, Volunteer Organiser, Stone Walls, Glapthorn, PE8 5BQ. Please do not email your application.

### 1. Who can volunteer?

Anyone can volunteer who is enthusiastic and keen to learn new skills. All those taking part will need to be a member of the Middle Nene Archaeology Group (MidNAG). You will need to complete [a MidNAG membership form](#) and pay the appropriate rate. Membership lasts for one year from the time you join. There is a lower age limit of 8 years at the time of volunteering. There is no upper age limit.

### 2. What are the Membership fees?

£7 Individual (all ages), £10 for a family. If you come to dig as a member of the Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) on a group visit to the site, there are no membership fees as YAC groups have their own insurance. If YAC members wish to come on their own, they will have to join MidNAG.

### 3. How do I become a volunteer?

Read all the relevant information in this set of FAQ's, look at the website and decide which part applies to you and members of your family. Unfortunately, you cannot just turn up and dig. We will need to know who is coming each day. There is [a basic volunteering form](#), which all volunteers need to fully complete.

### 4. Is there a lower age limit?

Yes, there is. You must be at least 8 years old at the start of your volunteering time with us. Those aged between 8 years (YAC minimum age) and up to 16 years will need to have a parent / guardian with them at all times. Those between 16 years up to 18 years will need to have an accompanying adult who is over 18 years.

## 5. What sort of volunteering opportunities are there?

There is a range of volunteering opportunities.

You can excavate. You can wash finds (bag them up, label the finds bags, etc. ). You can make the tea. You can take photographs of the excavations and volunteers working. You can help on the Open Day.

Volunteers will be shown how to excavate features, record what you do, draw sections, take photographs, wash and identify finds. There will be a series of 'tool box' lunch time talks that you can attend and learn more about archaeology.

## 6. When can I apply to volunteer?

You can apply to volunteer as soon as you want. Read all the FAQ's, complete the volunteer form and POST it to the Volunteer Organiser. As the Excavation will be very popular please apply early. POST your completed application form to: Gill Johnston, MidNAG, Volunteer Organiser, Stone Walls, Glapthorn, PE8 5BQ. Please do not email your application.

## 7. Can I just come for one day?

Yes you can. All the dates of the Excavation are found on the application form. If you can only come for ½ day that is possible but please complete the volunteer application form accordingly. But ONE FULL DAY is more helpful to the organisation.

If you can come for more than one day then please indicate ALL the days you would like to attend in the appropriate section of the application form. Preference will be given to those who live in the Soke of Peterborough. It is not advisable to work every day of the excavation so choose the days you can come but ensure that you have a break. You cannot work every day .. we will need a rest.

## 8. How much will it cost for me to attend?

To provide refreshments, toilets and pay for specialist reports there is a day rate of £3 per person per day. The half-day rate is £1.50 per person per day. ONLY when we have confirmed your place on the excavation do you then send a cheque (NO CASH) to Gill. Cheques are made payable to 'Middle Nene Archaeological Group'. Your receipt will be given to you on your first day.

## 9. What more can you tell me about the format of the Excavation?

The information below covers most of the basic details about the Excavation. Site location and other relevant information will be sent to successful applicants closer to the date.

All volunteers will work in small teams, excavating a range of archaeological features supported by professional archaeologists. Everyone will undergo an induction and will be provided with all necessary equipment (**i.e. gloves & trowels**). The site will have a toilet, hand washing facilities, a meeting tent and first aid point.

The work times will be from 9.30am to 4.30pm each day with a morning tea break (11am-11.30am) and a break for lunch (1pm – 1.30pm). There will also be a short afternoon break from 2.45 for 20/30 minutes. If it gets very hot then the Site Director may change the times and length of the break.

Work at weekends may be shorter. All volunteers will be expected to stay for the whole day if possible and if young people (i.e. all those under 18 years) are also volunteers then parents/guardians will work alongside them. Unfortunately, there are no crèche facilities.

## **10. If I do not want to excavate can I still come and help at the Excavation?**

Yes you can. There will be an opportunity to find process (i.e. washing the artefacts that the other volunteers have excavated). The finds processing will take place on the same site and at the same times with professional support. There may also be other opportunities to help on site e.g. taking photographs, making the tea, acting as stewards, etc.

## **11. So when can I volunteer for the Excavation?**

You can volunteer as soon as you want. Read all the basic details, complete the volunteer application form (one per person) and POST it to the Volunteer Organiser at the address on the application form so that it arrives as soon as possible. All volunteers will be on a first come first serve basis with preference for local people. If we are overwhelmed by applications volunteers may be limited to the number of days they can come. But apply early with the dates that you want to come.

## **12. What do I bring if I come to the Excavation?**

You will need to wear old casual clothes, walking boots or stout shoes, waterproofs (as we don't necessarily stop just because it's raining a bit), a sunhat and sun protection cream, gloves, sunglasses and any medication needed. Tea / coffee / squash / water will be provided but you are advised to bring plenty to drink and food for the day. You may also wish to bring a gardeners mat (helps to protect the knees), a notebook, pencil and a camera (to record the event). Volunteers will be loaned all equipment (gloves, high visibility vest ). But you can bring your own trowel & gloves if you so wish. As part of the official record, MidNAG will be taking photographs throughout the Excavation. By signing the volunteer application form you agree for this material to be used by MidNAG

## **13. Where will the Excavation be based?**

The Excavation will be based on a site close to the centre of Nassington. Once we have received your completed application forms (send them AS SOON AS POSSIBLE) we will send you more details. Daily teams of volunteers will be made up to work with the professional archaeologists. We will decide who is able to come on certain days and then we will send out confirmation details. Please do not just turn up at the site.

## **14. Can you provide accommodation?**

Unfortunately, we cannot offer any accommodation. There are hotels, B & Bs and campsites in the area. For further details please contact Peterborough Visitor Destination Centre on 01733 452 336.

## **15. What happens if I cannot come one day?**

If for some reason you are unable to work it is important that you contact the relevant person as soon as possible. Contact details will be given at the introduction meeting. Communication is very important particularly when there may be others that could take your place.

## **16. What happens if MidNAG feels that a volunteer is not suited to the work?**

If a senior archaeologist feels that a volunteer is not suited to their current work they will talk in the first instance to the volunteer. The volunteer may be asked to leave the community excavation.

## **17. What if I no longer wish to continue being a volunteer?**

If you are no longer able or no longer wish to continue volunteering then please let the Volunteer Organiser know as soon as possible by e-mail, letter or phone.

### **18. I still have some questions, what do I do?**

If you still have any queries after reading the above FAQ's please contact Gill (the Volunteer Organiser) by e-mail at [agjohnston1941@hotmail.com](mailto:agjohnston1941@hotmail.com) or by phone (01832 273 798). The aim of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) is not to put you off but to ensure that you are ready to take the next step and join us in this exciting opportunity.

### **19. How do I get a volunteering application form?**

You can download an application form to print or contact [agjohnston1941@hotmail.com](mailto:agjohnston1941@hotmail.com). Gill will email you one. Gill will also email you the membership forms for MidNAG.

### **20. Where do I send my completed application Form?**

You send your completed forms (Volunteer Application Form & MidNAG Membership Form (plus joining fee)) by **POST** to Gill Johnston, MidNAG, Volunteer Organiser, Stone Walls, Glapthorn, PE8 5BQ. Please do not email your application.

### **21. What about parking on site?**

There is no parking on site. Parking is free and will be along the verge of a country lane. Then there is a short walk to the site. MidNAG cannot be held responsible for any damage or theft to your vehicle. To reduce the number of cars parked on the side of the road if you have room in your car for someone else please say so on your volunteer application form. We will then let others know and you can arrange to share the driving etc ..

### **22. What else would be useful to know?**

During the excavation there will be a range of tool box talks on a variety of archaeology / heritage subjects.

**NOTE:** If you want an acknowledgement that we have received your application form, please include a SAE. Thank you.

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