



Middle Nene Archaeological Group

Nassington Excavation 2019

Project Information & Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

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 e-mail agjohnston1941@hotmail.com. We want you to get the most out of this fascinating excavation.

What is the project about?

The Middle Nene Archaeology Group is conducting a research and training excavation on a Roman site in Nassington. Excavation is only part of the project which aims to put the site in its local and regional context using a variety of techniques including geophysical survey and soil sampling. The site, which began two years ago involves the excavation of a small Roman 'barn' which was rebuilt at least once. Geophysical survey has shown that this is only one element in a wider landscape of Roman and Iron Age activity which we plan to investigate.

The **Excavation** will take place from Saturday 17th August until Saturday 31st August 2019 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 e-mail your completed application form **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** to **Tim Hunt**, Volunteer Organiser at timhunt106@gmail.com.

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 Mid 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 MidNAG Membership fees?

£7 Individual fee for all ages. £10 for a family. If you come to dig as a group member of the Young Archaeologists' Club there are no membership fees. YACs have their own insurance. But if they wish to come on your 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 volunteer application form](#), which all volunteers need to complete. A form for medical details you will need to bring with you in the event of an emergency, will be sent to you when your place on the excavation has been confirmed.

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.

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. Other more specialized jobs may be available if you have specific skills.

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 application form. As the excavation is expected to be very popular, please apply early. Please e-mail your completed application form **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** to **Tim Hunt**, Volunteer Organiser at timhunt106@gmail.com.

7. Can I just come for one day?

No, it really needs two days to allow you get up to speed if you have never dug before, and get the best out of your time on the site. All the dates of the excavation are found on the application form.

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 are already members of MidNAG or live nearby. 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.

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

To provide refreshments, toilets and pay for specialist reports there is a rate of £5 per person per day. Only **when we have confirmed your place on the excavation** do you then send a cheque (NO CASH) to Tim for

- 1) excavation fees
- 2) MidNAG membership fee, if you are not already a member

Please make cheques payable to "Middle Nene Archaeological Group". A receipt will be sent to you by email.

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 need 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.

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 finds process e.g. washing the artefacts that the other volunteers have excavated, helping with pot marking, sieving. 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, etc.

11. What do I bring if I come to the Excavation?

You will need to wear old casual clothes, walking boots or stout shoes, waterproofs, 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 gardener's mat (helps to protect the knees), a notebook, pencil and a camera (to record the event). Trowels can be borrowed for a small deposit but as these are so expensive and tend to go missing it is better if you buy your own. The type needed are those with a 4 inch blade which is forged as one unit with the tang which goes into the handle. 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

12. 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.

13. Can you provide accommodation?

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

14. What happens if I cannot come one day?

If for some reason you are unable to dig 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.

15. 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.

16. 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 Gill know (contact details are below).

17. I still have some questions, what do I do?

If you still have any queries after reading the above FAQ's please contact Gill at agjohnston1941@hotmail.com or by phone (01832 273 798 mob.07913149011). 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.

18. How do I get a volunteering application form?

You can [download an application form](#) to print or contact timhunt106@gmail.com and Tim will e-mail you one. Tim will also e-mail you the membership forms for MidNAG if you are not already a member.

19. Where do I send my completed application Form?

Please e-mail your completed application form **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** to **Tim Hunt**, Volunteer Organiser at timhunt106@gmail.com.

21. What about parking on site?

There is no parking on site. Parking is free and will be in a field off 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 parking 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.

Dated: 24th February 2019