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# News #3

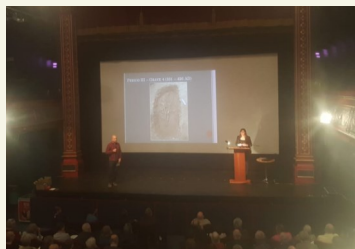
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## The Archaeology of Derbyshire

On Saturday 11th January members of our team presented findings from two of our most exciting projects of 2019 at the annual Derbyshire Archaeology Day.



*Presenting on Prehistoric and Romano-British activity in Bolsover*



*Roman Ballista Shot*

Our excavations at Oxcroft Lane in Bolsover and the ***vicus of Navio Roman Fort*** at Brough revealed significant Romano-British activity and settlement on site.

## In the News

The January edition of Current Archaeology features an article on our recent excavations on the external settlement remains at the Navio Roman fort in the Peak District. [Click on this link](#) to read more about our incredible on site discoveries.

The 17th issue of Archaeology and Conservation in Derbyshire and the Peak District (ACID) features an article on the often overlooked aspect of great estates– the stables. Focusing on two of our recent building recordings at Oaklands, Derby and Castern Hall, Ilam.

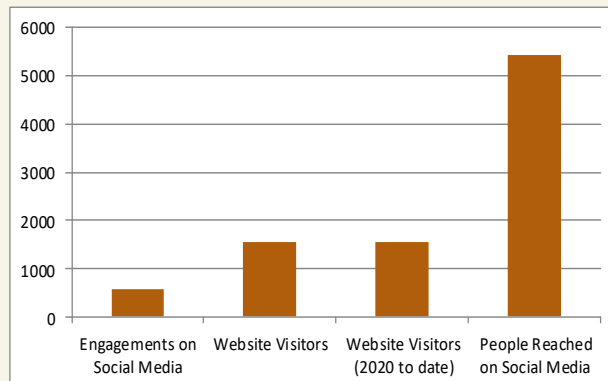


*Current Archaeology 359 and ACID 17*



*Interior of Castern Hall stable block, Ilam*

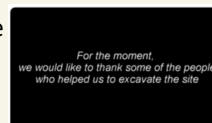
## January/February at a glance:



In January, our video thanking volunteers for their help during our excavations on the Roman *vicus of Navio* reached

**147,000** people on Social Media!

Click on the image on the right to see it.



*Thanking our volunteers*

## Forthcoming dates for your diary:

**Monday 16th March: The Archaeology of Attenborough and the Trent Valley** 19:30, Beeston Wildlife Group, NG9 1LN

**Saturday 21st March 2020: A Day of Gloucester Archaeology** 10:00-17:00, University of Gloucester, GL2 9HW

**Monday 20th April: Cambridgeshire Industrial Archaeology University and Town Gas Works Talk** 19:30-21:00, The Old Pumping Station, Cambridge, CB5 8LD

**Now Open:** Head to Weston Park Museum in Sheffield to visit their incredible new archaeology gallery to learn about life and the afterlife during Ancient Egypt. Click on the image to find out more.



## Recent Excavations in Bedfordshire

On 6th February, a member of our team gave the Roxton & District Local History Group a talk on our most recent excavations in Bedfordshire. Our most recent excavations revealed an abundance of features and material culture spanning the Neolithic to late Medieval period. Four pits containing 'Mortlake bowl' and 'Grooved Ware' pottery were discovered, along with a range of flint artefacts from the late Neolithic period. A late Iron Age/ Romano-British enclosure was found on the site, with evidence to suggest that the area was used for some time. Anglo-Saxon activity on site is indicated by a single pit containing 6th century pottery. The pit may be the remnants of a sunken featured workshop, similar to one found during our earlier investigations nearby.



*Grooved Ware Pottery Sherd*

## Witches in Lincolnshire

Early this year, a series of 'daisy wheel' protective marks (also referred to as witches marks, or **apotropaic** marks) were found during a historic building recording in an early 19<sup>th</sup> century barn in Lincolnshire. Such marks were used to protect a building from evil spirits and witches. Doorways, windows and fireplaces were areas of concern and it is here that these marks are typically found. In this case, they have been etched into the render adjacent to the doorway of this early 19<sup>th</sup> century threshing barn.



*'Daisy Wheel' Witch Mark*

## From the Finds Tray

This month, our Post-Excavation team has been reconstructing this Beaker pot which was uncovered during recent excavations in Northumberland.

The fragmentary Beaker vessel was found in a pit, cut into a circular ditch of a funerary monument.

Due to the pot's fragile nature, it was cleaned using cotton swabs and a 50/50 mixture of acetone and pure alcohol. Acetone is used for its strong cleaning power and alcohol for its quick drying properties, meaning the pot is unlikely to become more fragile during the process.

After cleaning, the task of reconstructing the 36 sherds of pottery began. Using a mixture of Paraloid B72 restoration glue and acetone, the pieces were gradually reconstructed, piece by piece.

The final reconstruction (bottom right image) consists of roughly three quarters of the rim and the whole base. Unfortunately, too few sherds between the rim and base were missing to reconstruct the whole pot, but the level of reconstruction achieved allows the shape of the rest of the pot to be projected from this.



*Cleaning the pot*



*Fitting pieces together*



*Reconstructing the pot*



*Final reconstruction*