

**Jul 5 2019 - 9:00 AM**

**It's a Nene Valley Hunter Cup!**

The team has found some truly wonderful pieces of pottery, decorated with animals. First this piece, which looks like the body of a dog...



Then we found a few more pieces. If you look closely, you can see a dog's head...



If you pieced them all back together, you'd get something that looks like this:



Cups like this one from Corinium Museum often showed a dog chasing a hare, and were made in the Nene Valley (near Peterborough) between AD 200-300. They were very expensive and fashionable tablewares, suggesting someone in this Roman town had some serious cash to splash!

**Jul 3 2019 - 10:00 AM**

**A Roman key!**

A large Roman key has been unearthed, but where is the lock...



Romans simplified and improved pre-existing lock and key systems, making them useable by individuals. It could even be an early example of technology taking human jobs – locks instead of 24h guards! These are some examples of other Roman keys found at similar sites on the continent...



**Jun 27 2019 - 3:20 PM**

**What did the Romans ever do for us?**

The team has been investigating a Roman road, but new evidence raises new questions about the exact date of origin...



**Jun 20 2019 - 3:00 PM**

**More amphorae!**

Our newest Junior Archaeologist Holly has unearthed the handle of an impressive Roman vessel.



But that's not all...



**Jul 5 2019 - 4:00 PM**

**End of dig summary:**

The team have been excavating for three weeks, to re-open an investigation first started by Time Team in 2003. A Roman town on the outskirts of Sedgefield.

Unlike most Roman towns in the area, this one is unusual because there's no fort and nothing to suggest it was ever associated with any military activity. Instead, the team believes that it's a settlement where everyday Romano-British people would have lived. It's surrounded by a large boundary ditch, with a road passing by. Detailed excavation has revealed that at one point, the town was cut off from the road, only to be reconnected sometime later.

Over the three weeks, the team has also uncovered lots of pottery, including Samian ware, Roman Grey Ware, amphorae handles, and even parts of a Nene Valley Hunting Cup depicting a hound chasing a hare.

Thanks to everyone who joined the dig team and helped to collect all this new evidence. The team will now take it all back to the lab for analysis and will share more details about the discoveries as soon as they're ready. Watch this space...

**Jul 4 2019 - 12:34 PM**

**We ♥ ditches**

Archaeological lore always says that the best discoveries are often made at the bottom of ditches, and we don't just say that to keep people digging all the way to the bottom! It really is where artefacts tend to congregate, as the team are starting to realise...



With a little bit more excavation, the team reveals that their last-minute discovery is another cache of Roman pottery, including roof tile and amphorae.



**Jul 3 2019 - 10:51 AM**

**Hats**

Top tip: always remember to bring a hat



**Jul 2 2019 - 11:09 AM**

**Rachael's first find**

Rachael wants to be an archaeologist when she grows up, and the team was delighted to help her on her way.



**Jun 22 2019 - 3:00 PM**

**First time family**



Ellen, Sherri and John have joined the team at East Park. It's their first ever time doing archaeology, but they've already helped discover new evidence from the Roman settlement, including pottery, bone and nails.



Archaeology is clearly a great family activity. Archie, Hannah and Ruth have already joined the DigVentures team on several excavations around the county before, and are putting their archaeological experience into practice and have retrieved an ancient piece of flint.

**Jun 19 2019 - 3:00 PM**

**A little Samian squatter**



Now THIS is the kind of discovery we love... Yesterday, we found a tiny piece of shiny red Samian ware. The only piece that survives is this little fragment showing someone squatting on a box (or bucket?!) The question is, what it is s/he actually doing? Playing the drums, milking a cow, doing a poo, making pottery, or something else...??



Huge thanks to Kira for finding the DigVentures 'Potty Man'! The site is already yielding its secrets and we can't wait to see what else we will reveal over the next few weeks...

In July 2019 we literally unlocked the secrets of Sedgefield when we discovered a 1800 year old iron key, not to mention lots of pottery, including Samian ware, Roman Grey Ware and, amphorae handles!!!

Dig a little deeper.....read our site diary below to see how we uncovered the mysteries of the Roman sandal wearers of Sedgefield.

Due to the current situation we unfortunately have had to delay our revisit to the site this April, but don't hang up your trowel just yet! As soon as the dust settles we'll be in touch with a revised date.

**Jul 5 2019 - 3:00 PM**

**Recording**

On the last day of the dig, the team have ditched the trowels and grabbed measuring tapes. It's time to make sure everything has been drawn, mapped, plotted and recorded so that specialists can pore over the details back in the lab.



**Jul 3 2019 - 1:15 PM**

**Road-ditch-road**

This Roman town grew up next to a Roman road, but then something strange happened; someone dug a massive ditch cutting the town off from the road. And then something even stranger happened...



A few decades later, someone else resurfaced the ditch, reconnecting the town to the road. It's quite an amazing discovery, but leaves us with some huge questions about what exactly was going on in this town!

**Jul 2 2019 - 1:00 PM**

**Silly times are good times!**

We asked the team if they could find us some evidence of Roman baths and THIS is what they came up with 😊



**Jul 1 2019 - 3:13 PM**

**Schools out for summer!**

Lots of schools have come to visit the excavation, to see history being unearthed right in front of them.



**Jun 26 2019 - 12:00 PM**

**Rainy days**

The second week of the dig has been pretty soggy as rain sweeps across the country, but a little bit of mud never dampened an archaeologist's spirit and the team have continued to excavate.



**Jun 17 2019 - 3:00 PM**

**The excavation begins!**

In 2003, Time Team (Season 10, Episode 12) started unearthing the remains of a strange Roman town on the outskirts of Sedgefield.

Now, we've assembled a team of archaeology-lovers from all over the country to continue the investigation on behalf of Discover Brightwater.

Over the next three weeks, nearly 300 people will be helping us to question the evidence that can help us answer questions about who built it, and why...

