



Ancrum Mantle Walls: Excavation Field School 2023



Website: <http://www.harparchaeology.co.uk/field-schools>

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HARP, in association with the Ancrum and District Heritage Society (ADHS), will be running a two-week excavation field school from Monday 4th to Friday 15th September at the site of the Mantle Walls, Ancrum in the Scottish Borders. This field school is intended for those who have no prior experience with archaeological excavations, as full training will be provided, but we also gladly welcome those who have previous archaeological experience and are looking to increase their skill set and broaden their excavation experience. As we are working in partnership with the ADHS the field school will also provide an introduction to community heritage and archaeology, and how to work with local communities to research, excavate and understand their local heritage.

The Mantle (or Malton) Walls are the site of a former Bishop's Place, likely belonging to the Bishops of Glasgow and dating back to the 12th or 13th century. Whilst no visible architecture remains, some upstanding masonry was visible on the site until the 19th century. Previous investigations, including geophysical survey and test excavation, have identified substantial built remains which led to the site

being registered as a Scheduled Monument. Ploughing in the field regularly turns up medieval pottery and fragments of architecture from the building. Further information on the previous work on the site can be found on the ADHS website: [ADHS - Mantle Walls](#)

This excavation field school intends to trace the extent of building and investigate the surrounding area through field survey and test pitting and will provide students with a hands-on experience of working on an archaeological survey and excavation. All participants will learn how to excavate to a professional archaeological standard, as well as how to record the remains by completing context sheets, technical drawing, photography and surveying. Students will also have the opportunity to work with various artefact material types uncovered during the excavations such as pottery, glass and animal bone during post-excavation. Workshops on a variety of post excavation techniques including finds photography and environmental processing will also be provided.

This course will include:

- Archaeological excavation using the single context recording system
- Site recording including technical drawing, context recording and photography
- Artefact processing including handling, cleaning and storage
- Basic site surveying, monument identification and recording
- Expert workshops by specialists
- Experience and training in Community Archaeology

Costs and Accommodation

There are two options available for this course:

- A) £800 (GBP) per person: includes full training as outlined above; accommodation at a local holiday park (see below); transfer from local train station or bus station (Tweedbank or St Boswells); transport to and from site; food for all meals on workdays (not including the weekend) *NB: Food preparation will take place at the accommodation by the participants, and dietary requirements can be accommodated.*
- B) £400 (GBP) per person: includes full training as outlined above; transport to site from local campsite (if required); lunch on workdays. Suggestions for local campsite or alternative accommodation can be provided upon request, but HARP takes no responsibility for any aspect of the accommodation or general subsistence.

Travel costs to Scotland are not included in either option. A non-refundable 25% deposit is required within two weeks of being offered a place on the field school in order to secure it. A full list of suggested items to bring will be sent out upon acceptance of a place on the course.

Options	Cost
A) Tuition; Accommodation; Transport to site; Full Board on workdays.	£800
B) Tuition; Transport from local campsite; Lunch on workdays.	£400

Accommodation

For those selecting option A, accommodation will be provided in lodges at a local holiday park where twin rooms will be provided. Full facilities are provided at the park, which also has a shop, bar/restaurant, and laundry facilities. Meals are prepared communally on all working days, by participants. The holiday park is set in the countryside of the Scottish Borders, but local towns (Jedburgh, Melrose) are easily accessible by local bus services.

A full list of suggested items to bring will be sent out upon receipt of a deposit for your place on the course.

Workbooks/Portfolios

Each participant will have the opportunity to complete a training manual and portfolio. For an extra fee of £40 (GBP), participants will be provided with a training manual and portfolio that they will fill in during the course of the field school to take away with them. Individuals completing an Archaeological Skills Passport will have relevant sections checked off.

Application

There is no application deadline. Places are limited and are given on a first come first served basis. To apply for a place please complete the attached application form and complete and return to ian@harparchaeology.co.uk

Covid-19: Safe working practices will be maintained and all local regulations and restrictions regarding Covid-19 will be followed. It is essential that all participants follow all requirements that are in place at the time of the field school regarding travel and testing (at both departure and destination points). As the field school involves communal/group living in a small village community, it is a requirement of acceptance on the field school that you are fully vaccinated against Covid-19. Proof of vaccination status may be requested. If for unforeseen reasons the field school is not able to take place as a result of Covid-19, participants will automatically be transferred onto the same field school at a later (rescheduled) date. If this is not possible, participants will have the opportunity to transfer their fees onto a different programme, or will be able to secure a 75% refund of their fees (the remaining 25% being the non-refundable deposit). Full terms and conditions for HARP field schools can be found at <https://www.harparchaeology.co.uk/field-schools/field-school-terms-and-conditions>.