

SUMMER 2026 FIELD SCHOOL

Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands



The Virgin Islands National Parks Trust in partnership with the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester England, would like to invite you to participate in the 2026 Virgin Islands Archaeology Field School focusing on three protected national parks, each of which presents exciting and unique archaeological opportunities.

Site 1. The Copper Mine

During the 1840's and 1860's, a copper mine identical to those operating along the Cornish coastline of England (made famous by the television series 'Poldark') was constructed on the south-east tip of Virgin Gorda.

Site 2. Fort George

During the eighteenth and early nineteenth-century European conflicts that spilled into the Caribbean, a network of fortifications was erected in the BVI designed to protect the colony from invasion.

Site 3. Prickly Pear Cotton Plantation

This virgin site has never been disturbed apart from the occasional adventurous hiker and presents a unique opportunity to study a small island marginal plantation producing cotton and provision crops.

Field School Techniques Employed

- Drone mapping
- GIS surveying
- Shovel and test pitting
- Archaeological excavation
- Artifact mapping and recovery
- Pollen Sampling
- Non-intrusive metal detecting

Lab Work Techniques Employed

- GIS data processing and interpretation
- Drone map survey data processing and interpretation
- Artefact cleaning, recording, cataloguing, and identification

Room and Board

·Accommodation will be located at the spectacular Guavaberry Spring Bay Resort on Virgin Gorda, nestled among huge granite boulders just minutes away from Spring Bay beach.

·Cost: The cost of the 2026 field school is \$5000. This includes. travel connections to and from Virgin Gorda, accommodation, transport to and from the sites, breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, equipment, tuition, and an excursion to 'The Baths.' A deposit of \$500 required to secure participation, due by March 30th.

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