

HERITAGE  
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## Presenting the Past

A 3 year archaeological project  
delivered as part of the 5 year NLHF  
Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase  
Landscape Partnership programme



The Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase Landscape Partnership consists of 5 organisations, which successfully applied for just under £2 million in grants with the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver a diverse range of different projects over four years. The aim of the programme is to reconnect local people with their landscape and cultural heritage across the historic Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase, in North Lincolnshire.



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As part of this work, Heritage Lincolnshire delivered a 3-year community archaeology programme (working in close partnership with Archaeological Project Services), entitled 'Presenting the Past.' Work has centred on three villages within the area, Belton, Haxey and Owston Ferry and has seen a wide range of engagement in each of the settlements. A varied range of events and activities has taken place for the local community to get involved with including learning to fieldwalk and use geophysical equipment, finds processing and taking part in a two week excavation programme. In one of the villages, residents were able to undertake their own excavation in the form of their very own test-pit in their back garden. For those wishing to undertake more detailed study, a variety of courses have run at community centres within the area including sessions on undertaking historic research, understanding the archaeology of the Isle and historic farming practises. This has also extended to understand how archaeologists record historic buildings, with sessions held looking at different types of buildings common to the Isle including windmills, farming complexes and religious structures.

One of the most successful aspects of delivery was the whole school event run at Belton Primary School which saw a variety of carefully tailored workshops delivered to each of the year groups and the opportunity to undertake some fieldwork in the school grounds, with two test-pits dug at the front and rear of the building. As the project drew to a close, over 100 local residents were on the mailing list, with nearly 300 volunteer days recorded over the 3-year period. Whilst annual celebration events were held for the end of project work for the first two years, the final year will see the production of a 'Presenting the Past' booklet of the history and archaeology of all three villages, using the work that has taken place and showcasing the achievements of the volunteers.



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