



**SAWTRY HISTORY SOCIETY (SHS)
HILL TOP EXCAVATION AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY
SEASON 3 (30 JAN - 14 MAR 20)**

1. **Venue.** Hill Top, off Vinegar Hill, Alconbury Weston. Access will be via the gate to the west of the four houses, as indicated on the map at Attachment 1, with parking on the adjacent grass verge.
2. **Participation.**
 - a. **SHS Members.** The excavation and geophysical survey will be open free to all members of SHS (as at 30 Jan 20).
 - b. **JigSaw Affiliates.** Participation is free to members of JigSaw affiliated groups/societies who have provided confirmation they are participating under their group/society insurance, otherwise they will be required to participate as SHS temporary members (see sub-para 2.c below).
 - c. **SHS Temporary Members.** Non-members of SHS or JigSaw affiliated groups/societies as at 30 Jan 20 are also welcome, but for insurance purposes, will be required to take out SHS temporary membership at a daily fee of £1.
3. **Application.** Those wishing to participate are to complete the SHS Participation Application Form. Further details are contained therein.
4. **Programme.** The programme has been planned for the following dates; 30 - 31 Jan, 22 Feb - 1 Mar and 5 - 8 Mar. Additional dates may be added as opportunity permits. Changes to published dates and inclusion of additional dates will be notified as far in advance as possible. The daily routine will loosely follow the timings below:

Times	Activity
0800-0830	Arrival
0830-0845	Site Safety Induction (for new arrivals)
0845-1015	Site Activity
1015-1045	Tea-Break
1045-1215	Site Activity
1215-1315	Lunch
1315-1530	Site Activity
1530-1600	Clear Loose & Pack-Up

5. **Visitors.** The site will be open to visitors on any day when excavation and/or geophysical survey is being undertaken.

6. **Welfare.**

a. There are no on-site toilet facilities. Public facilities can be found at Alconbury Services - off the A1307 and B1043 (see Attachment 1). There also facilities at The Cafe in Alconbury Weald and at Tesco or Costa Coffee - off the A141.

b. Participants should bring their own food and drinks, or be prepared to purchase from nearby commercial outlets (Alconbury, Alconbury Weald or Huntingdon). Participants should also bring additional water or other drinks; excavation and other archaeological field work can be physically demanding and, despite the time of year, requires regular rehydration.

c. Participants should wear sturdy and comfortable outdoor clothing and footwear (walking boots, steel capped boots, Doctor Martens boots, wellington boots, etc). Layered clothing allows for personal comfort to be maintained as weather conditions change. Waterproof jacket (with hood) and trousers should also be brought as excavation and geophysical survey will continue during showers and light rain.

d. Participants may wish to bring other items for personal comfort, such as; small camping chair to sit on during breaks and lunch, kneeler or knee pads, gloves, hat, scarf.

e. Participants are responsible for bringing any medication they will need and for having an up-to-date tetanus inoculation (refer to your doctor or surgery nurse if in any doubt).

7. **Archaeological Equipment.** All excavation, recording and finds processing equipment will be provided by SHS. However, please feel free to bring your own equipment.

8. **Insurance.** SHS insurance includes Public Liability and small personal accident cover. JIGSAW affiliates participating under their group/society insurance are to provide confirmation of the Public Liability and small personal accident cover provided. Those taking part who may wish to consider their own personal accident insurance should seek advice from an insurance company beforehand to ensure the correct type and level of insurance is purchased.

9. **Excavation Strategy.** This is the third season of archaeological investigation on Hill Top, the aim of which is to test theories developed from analysis of earlier geophysical and field walking surveys:

a. **Excavation.** A 3m x 3m evaluation trench will be opened over the south end of Trench 1 in the site grid square highlighted on Attachment 2. The purpose of this evaluation is to:

(1) Investigate the pit revealed in the south end of Trench 1 in order to:

(a) Determine its form and use(s).

(b) Excavate the fill of the pit for 100 percent environmental sampling in order to further understand the pit's use(s).

(2) Investigate the possible wall and post-hole in close proximity to the pit in order to determine whether they are indeed structural and to further determine whether the post-hole respects a supporting post or a door post.

(3) Investigate the marked differences immediately south of the pit and possible structural features; marked differences include soil type, colour and texture, and the absence of CBM, *tesserae* and other archaeological artefacts.

b. **Geophysical Survey.** Undertake both earth resistance and magnetometry geophysical survey to extend coverage from previous surveys with a view to complete 100 percent coverage.

10. **Attachments.** There are two attachments to this information leaflet:

a. Attachment 1 - Google Earth image of Hill Top and surrounding area relative to the village of Alconbury Weston, the area known as Alconbury Hill, with site entrance marked, the A1(M), and Alconbury Services.

b. Attachment 2 - Google Earth image showing Hill Top with site grid overlay and site grid square 3,-2 identified.