



CifA

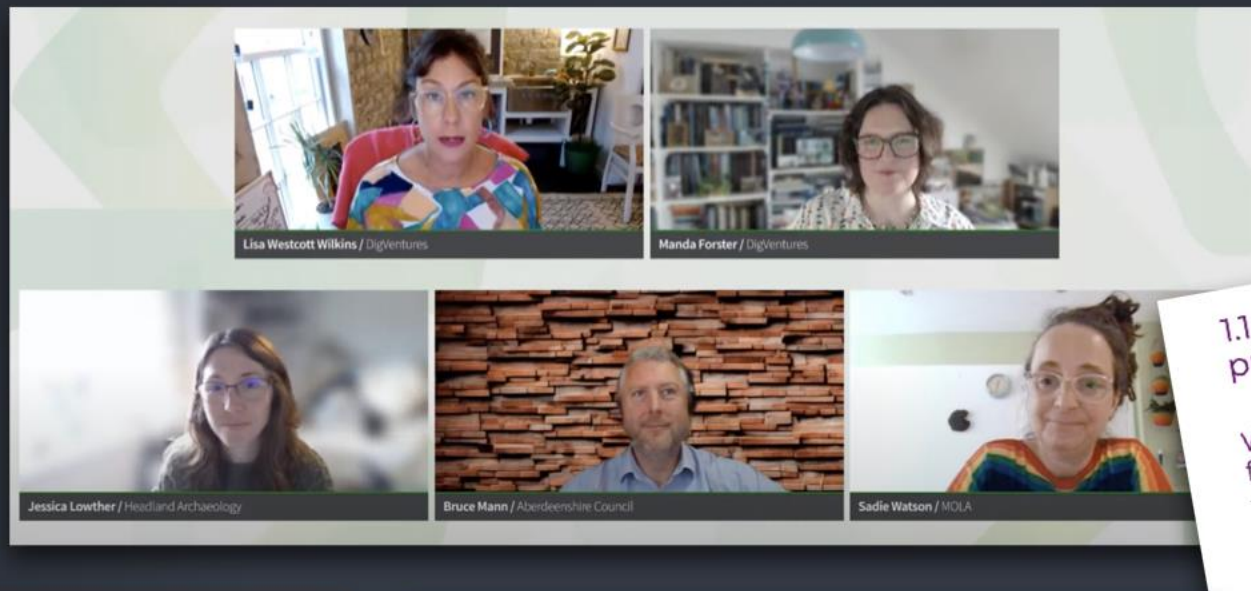
Community
Archaeology
Group

Public Engagement in Archaeology

Proportional participation

Tea Break Talk

Archaeology and public engagement Toolkit



1.1 - Archaeology and public engagement

What is this toolkit and who is it for?

This toolkit aims to embed **meaningful public engagement**¹ within archaeological projects, by identifying who can help, and when and how. It provides practical suggestions to support archaeologists at all stages of project design and delivery.

Undertaking archaeology today offers enormous potential to work beyond traditionally limited definitions of 'community archaeology'² or 'engagement'. Engaging with archaeology has transformational power in people's everyday lives and is a vector for front-line outputs including knowledge creation, protecting the historic environment, individual health and wellbeing, and community cohesion. As a sector, we should consistently maximise opportunities within archaeological projects to increase the impact and social value our work can have in people's lives.

Engagement with archaeology can bring together people from all walks of life, socio-economic backgrounds, age ranges and political leanings. How archaeologists do that, who we do it with and for, and when it happens, are all decisions that are best considered early in the project design process, where it's proportionate to the project. It is the process of detailed planning, appropriate resourcing and evidence-rich **evaluation**³ which results in meaningful engagement, and that will better cement archaeology's place and value in civic life.

Consultation has shown that most archaeologists, in all types of roles, believe that public engagement is important for our work. The content of this toolkit is designed to help embed that into all archaeological projects. It considers the political and professional frameworks we work within and

Toolkit sections

Section 1

1.1 - Archaeology and public engagement

1.2 - What is engagement?

1.3 - What type of engagement – and for whom?

1.4 - Public benefit and social value from archaeology

1.5 - Roles and responsibilities

Section 2

2.1 - Making public engagement happen

2.2 - Commissioning

This toolkit aims to embed meaningful public engagement within archaeological projects, by identifying who can help, and when and how. It provides practical suggestions to support archaeologists at all stages of project design and delivery.

It is primarily focused on two groups, described as project commissioners and advisors, and the archaeology design and delivery team.

Project commissioners and advisors include those who identify the requirements of an archaeological project (such as the local authority archaeologist), and those who procure the services of archaeologists (such as project consultants).

Archaeology design and delivery team covers a broad range of roles within the archaeological team, including those writing initial project tenders and design documents/WSI, and all roles within delivery teams.

More generally, this toolkit is relevant to anyone interested in public engagement in archaeology. The content should be seen as a *curated resource*, providing background information and signposts to useful online content, as well as specific resources designed to help archaeologists in their everyday work. The toolkit primarily discusses processes in England, but colleagues in Scotland and Wales may also find much of the content useful, and the context of the wider UK is examined in parts.

The Public Engagement and Archaeology Toolkit resource was funded by Historic England. The resource has been developed by DigVentures for CIfA and the Community Archaeology Special Interest Group and can be found online.

archaeologists.net/engagement

Public engagement A toolkit for archaeologists. Directory and link to resources

Public engagement in archaeology

Making public engagement happen

Designing public engagement

archaeologists.net/engagement

Public engagement in archaeology

Understanding why public engagement is important for archaeology is a vital step in delivering public benefit and social value.

This section introduces key themes and ideas, exploring engagement is, how we can achieve public benefit and the different roles archaeologists have in making it happen.

- What is engagement?
- What type of engagement?
- Public benefit and social value
- Roles and responsibilities

Additional tools and resources

- **Public engagement in archaeology** - Providing the background to the CIfA toolkit, this infosheet collates data gathered through consultation and survey, including two which have been undertaken as part of the project development in 2021 and 2023.
- **Public engagement and legislation across the UK** - How archaeology is delivered within development-led projects across the UK is driven by national planning legislation, which differs within each of the UK's four nations. This infosheet provides a quick guide to each.
- **Evaluating and understanding impact** - This infosheet describes how to start the process of planning change and understanding impact using a simple Theory of Change to consider how activities may create impact.
- **Creating a public engagement plan** - Meaningful public engagement needs to be planned alongside other project management activities, rather than become an afterthought. A public engagement plan can adapt to each project - this infosheet runs through some key ingredients.

Making public engagement happen

The historic environment sector is complex and, through our work, archaeologists are connected to politics and civil society.

This section considers how the process of commissioning archaeological work, or procuring teams to deliver archaeology, can facilitate meaningful public engagement.

- Public engagement & development
- Commissioning public engagement
- Procuring public engagement
- Planning for public engagement

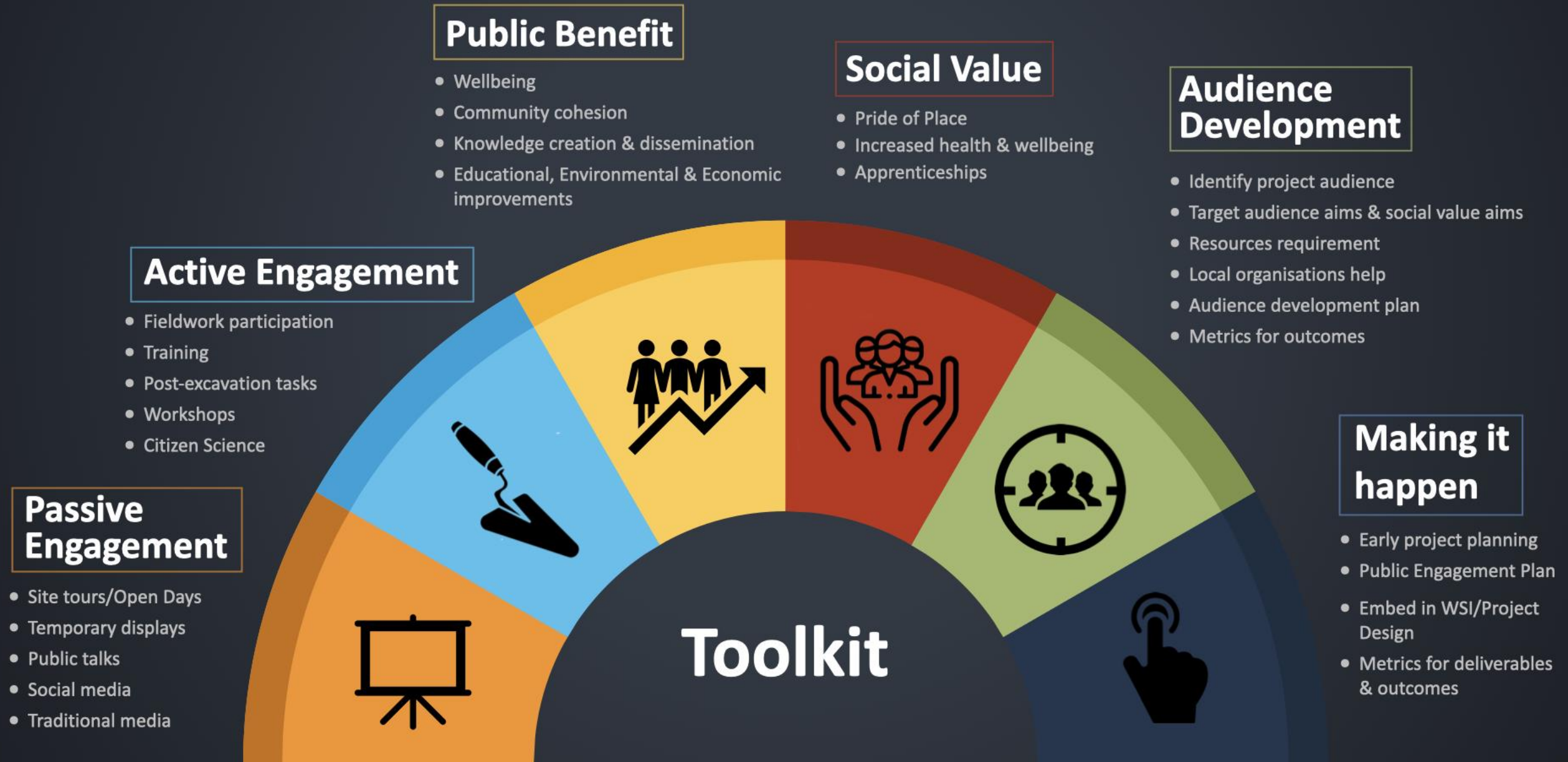
What does engagement look like?

The nature of a public engagement programme will depend on the need that has been identified, as well as scale.

This section provides a 'look up' for how different activities can achieve different types of impact, and what resources are available to help build a public engagement plan.

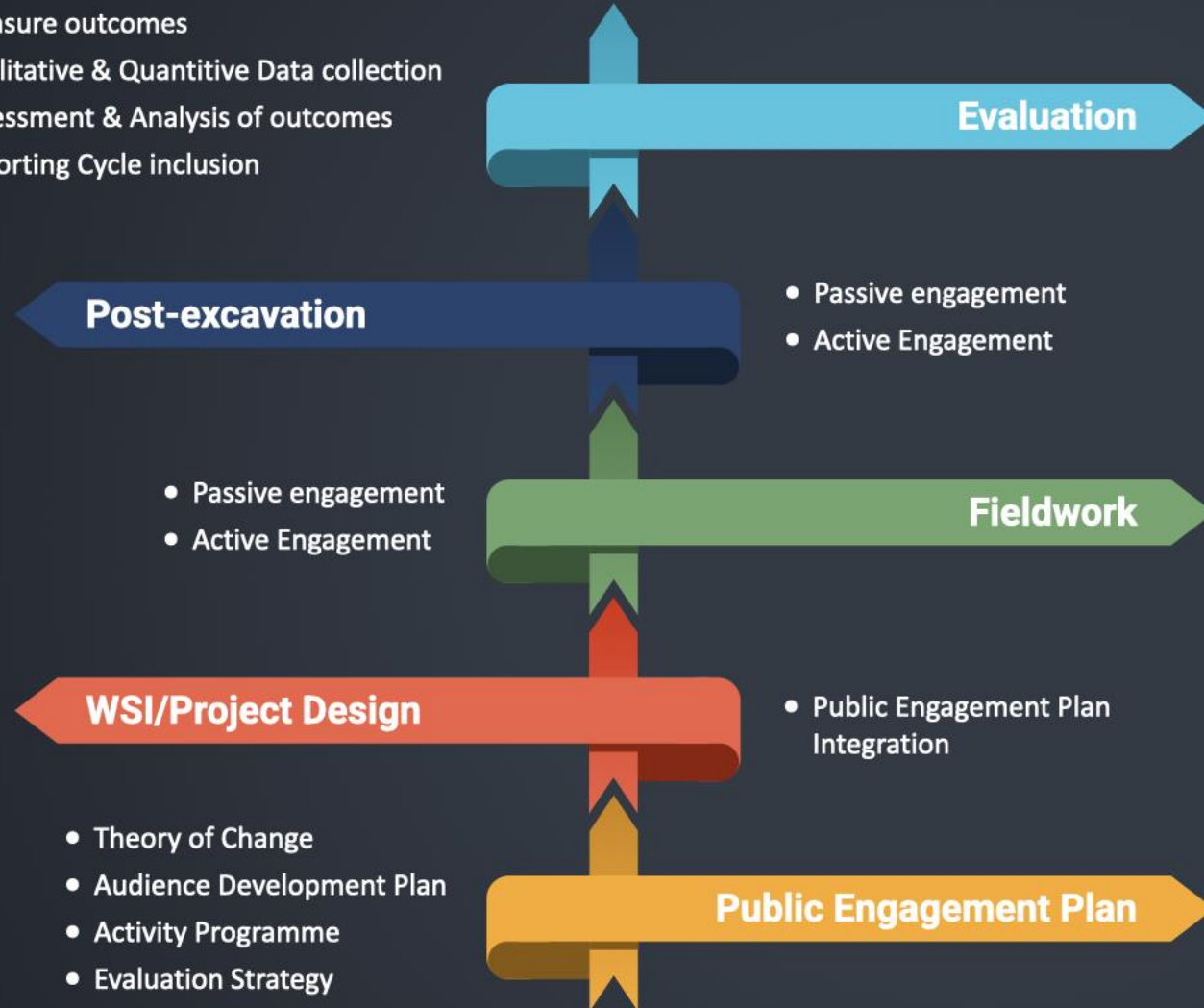
- Planning your engagement
- Non-participatory dissemination
- Active participation
- Collaborative to co-designed

Toolkit core components



Public benefit & Social Value

- Measure outcomes
- Qualitative & Quantitative Data collection
- Assessment & Analysis of outcomes
- Reporting Cycle inclusion



Project Brief/Commission

"Contractors are expected to include public engagement and social value opportunities, as appropriate, in each of their developments where archaeological work to mitigate and offset harm to heritage assets is required. The emphasis is to be proportionate and reasonable at all times, balancing the scale of the development against the scale and significance of the archaeological works and what is found. These public activities should not be seen as an additional burden, but rather as a mechanism for maximising the positive contribution the development is making to local communities."

(ALGAO Scotland 2023, para 1.4, p4)

Engagement workflow

Proportional? Active and Passive participation

“CIfA recommends that on every occasion on which volunteers or students are to be used, and especially when competitive tenders are sought for a commercial contract, the full extent of their activities in respect of the services offered must be declared and included in the submitted written project proposals. The implications (for example financial, timetable, insurance, competence etc) must be fully explained so that both the client and curator can satisfy themselves that requirements can be discharged satisfactorily.”

CIfA Policy Statements, 2014 (revised)

PREPARATION

- Volunteer training
- Research
- Social media
- HER entry

MONITORING & RECORDING

- Sign boards
- Social media
- Blog post summary

EVALUATION

- Sign boards
- Social media
- Blog post summary
- ‘Tea Break’ tours

EXCAVATION

- Sign boards
- Social media
- Site blog/vlog/podcast
- Site tours
- Open Day(s)
- Hands-on workshops
- Volunteer training
- Skills Passport
- Work Experience
- Experimental archaeology

POST-EXCAVATION

- Social media
- Web platforms
- Public talks
- Finds processing
- Volunteer training
- Workshops
- Research
- Local exhibitions
- Popular publication
- School resource packs
- Interpretation panels
- Heritage trails



context one
HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological Excavation Back Lane, Middlezoy

We are currently excavating a prehistoric settlement site in Back Lane and will be holding a 'tea-break tour' every Friday throughout the summer between 10.30am & 11.00am for anyone interested in what we're finding.

So why not pop along, meet the team, and ask any questions.



context one
HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological dig open afternoon Back Lane, Middlezoy Sunday 15th September 1pm-4pm

Our excavation of a Bronze Age enclosure is drawing to a close so come along and find out what we've discovered.

*Guided site tours
*Finds display
*Ask the Archaeologists

Middlezoy parish church will also be open from 2pm for lower tours and refreshments so why not make an afternoon of it!

This is a FREE event although donations towards church repairs would be most welcome. Please note, there is NO parking on the site except for those with restricted mobility.



MOMSS MAGAZINE

This edition of the MOMSS magazine has been sponsored anonymously so that it can continue to be delivered free of charge to each home in our villages. We are very grateful to our sponsors.

Resting on the Ebb Tide
Drawing by Anne Farmer
(1944 - 2024)

OCTOBER 2024

News & Views for our MOMSS villages of
Middlezoy, Othery, Moorlinch, Stawell,
Sutton Mallet and Greinton

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Middlezoy, Somerset



Cambridge pub regulars enjoy mini-museum of dig finds

3 November 2022



ANASTASIA CASTIGLIONE

The labelled finds are put on a shelf behind an acrylic viewing panel cut into the site's hoardings.



2 of 7

Items found are put on display at viewing windows at the Maypole Pub

At this site we were undertaking work next to a pub which was heavily affected by the works with scaffolding, hoarding etc. A Perspex window in the hoarding afforded views into the site from the pub and a shelf was added to allow us to exhibit some of the finds during the day when the archaeologists were present as a mini-museum.

Photos: Cambridge's hidden past unveiled at dig site near pub

Archaeologists have found remains of a Roman road and evidence of a Medieval town boundary

SHARE f t i

2


By Becca Field
06:00, 10 NOV 2022

Bookmark




Items found in Archaeology digs at the site of the old Park Street car park (Image: Cambridge News)


Archaeologists have been uncovering some amazing finds just next door to a pub in Cambridge that has created a mini-museum for customers. In Park Street Car Par next to The Maypole, Headland Archaeology has discovered a Roman road surface and evidence of a medieval town boundary called the Viney Ditch.

 headlandarch Excavations at Jefferey St, Edinburgh in 2008 revealed an archaeological sequence from medieval burgage plots to a 19th/20thC tannery. However, the western edge of the site was not able to be safely excavated at the time. We are excited to be back to see what this area reveals!



 headlandarch Another update from Jefferey St. This time from the Northern end where three phases of building were evident. Earliest is the brick floor in the bottom left, then the cellar on the right and then to the upper concrete and paving! What a beautiful sight!



 headlandarch Last archaeology update from Jefferey St. This is the Northern area of the site again but with the later additions removed! Under all that rebuilding there was a brick hearth which had been partially demolished when the later cellar was built.



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