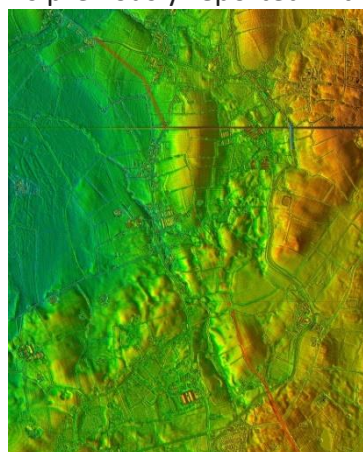


Stay in touch! If you have an interesting topic you'd like to share or a question just get in touch and we'll publish or try to answer.

We're rapidly approaching the end of dig season but maybe we can get a few more days in the field, weather and pandemic permitting. As to what field we might get into, read on to learn what was reported to members at our last WA meeting of 2021!

Dig News

As previously reported in the last newsletter,



LiDAR image of Cabus-Forton section. ©David Ratledge: twithr.co.uk

members of our Planning Group (Chris, Mike and Helen) had investigated a potential site at **Forton** (left), at the landowner's request.

Andy Jackson told our recent meeting that he had been fortunate to get

access to a field where a trench was being cut for a drain and spotted, right on the line predicted by David Ratledge, large stones highly likely to have been the foundation layer of the road. David was soon on the scene to confirm this find. (Note: a short video made by Andy can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyJM5wF9fTY>

The landowner is keen to have the site investigated so it's hoped to be able to excavate near this site before the end of this dig season.

This might be more possible with the creation of a register of volunteers. Members who have signed up to this Diggers' Register have agreed to share their email addresses with the dig planning group so that they may be contacted directly by whoever is leading the dig without having to go through the normal communication channel via the Secretary.

As well as this dig at Forton, we may still be able to get a couple of days in at **Brock**, where the cottage site is slowly once again returning to nature.

Andy told our recent meeting that his brother had done some research into the possible origins and uses of the cottage: *Bounded blue on the attached is land that Richard Kenyon rented from Lawrence Cottam in 1838/9, Richard also rented other properties in Cloughton. Our cottage is shown in solid blue.*

Richard was the Brock Bottoms Cotton Mill owner.

Area 789 is described as Bath Alley Croft. In 1851 Christopher Abbot, his wife and 2



children lived at Bath Alley. In 1841 he was (also recorded as) living at Brock Bottoms...

Around 1840 Richard Kenyon was in the process of going bankrupt. The Mill appears to be working in 1841 but was closed in 1851.

In 1841 Christopher Abbot at Bath Alley is described as a carder, so obviously working in the Mill. In 1851 he is described as a spinner, but not described as out of work. He might have been unemployed but he might have been working at home. The Cotton Mill was built c 1790. But, according to Cloughton History there was no running water and no washing and bathing facilities until 1912...

Bath Alley and other descriptions beginning with Bath.... give a clue. A basement room lined with plaster also gives another clue. A theory to be disproved is therefore that the cottage was originally the bath house to the factory after 1790, isolated to give privacy... then converted to a cottage before 1838. The cottage could have been used for home spinning or weaving, it would certainly have been damp enough.

Our own archivist, Dave Berry, suggests on our website that the area was known as 'Bathalen Holme' and that the mutation into 'Bath Alley'

was due to a misinterpretation by the census officer. See what you think at: (<http://wyresearch.org.uk/index.php/digs/brock-cottages>).

Water Find?

Some months ago, Pat Hastings, WA member and Chair of **Broughton** Parish Council had brought our attention to a United Utilities project involving the laying of a pipeline, a section of which would pass through fields east of the village and potentially cut across the line of the Walton-le-Dale to Lancaster Roman Road. The Secretary and David Ratledge contacted UU to ask if we could be informed of any relevant find, or better, if we might be allowed to observe at the point the UU trench was being excavated in the relevant area. Following further email correspondence it was agreed that WA could observe on the day and at the location suggested by David's researches. Andy was persuaded to act as our observer, others being unavailable, and was required to attend a preliminary site briefing at 8.00am on 29 September at the site office on



In our busy meeting, Chris Clayton gave an illustrated talk on his extensive researches into the potential dig site at the **harbour at Wardley's Creek, Stalmine**. Chris was pleased to learn that one of the occupants of the house on the site was a former work colleague who was enthusiastic to find out more about what lay under her garden!



Whittingham Lane. Andy duly attended but the expected couple of hours turned out to be 9 hours, during most of which the rain was constant. Andy was kitted out with appropriate safety kit (left) and was able, along with the

archaeological consultant company's (Wardle Armstrong) representative, to observe the trench excavation. Somewhat disappointingly and surprisingly, the trench didn't reveal the expected road foundations that we have encountered elsewhere, instead exposing broad scatter of smaller stones resembling surface metalling.

Beth, Wardle Armstrong's archaeologist who was assigned the watching brief reported later that no further evidence was uncovered. However, with the aid of the 'What Three Words' app, Andy was able to confirm the line of the road to David Ratledge's satisfaction.

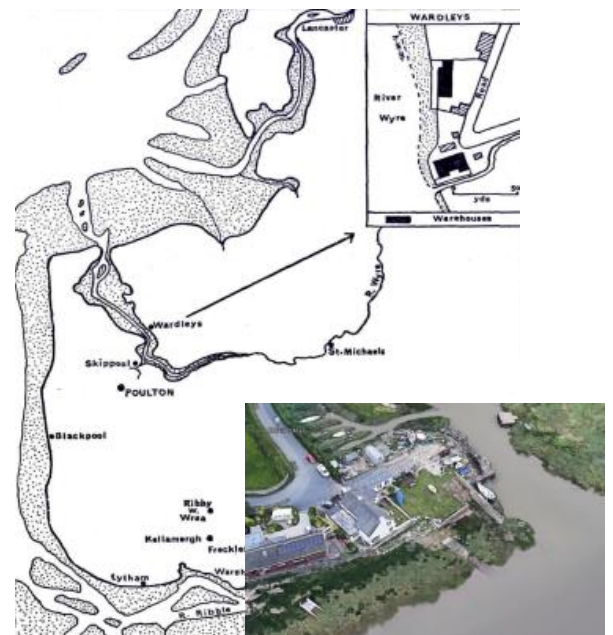


Figure 1 THE WYRE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY
Based on Maps of Feuron & Eyes 1736 and Yates 1796

The history of Wardley's Quay possibly goes as far back as Roman times but it was the 18th and 19th

Centuries that saw the high point of its development with substantial warehouses and an inn, which is the cottage where our prospective hosts live. Two questions stand out; firstly was the original name 'Wardless' and secondly why did the principal business of flax processing,



PLATE 1. WAREHOUSE AND QUAY AT WARDLEYS (from an oil painting). A photograph of the other warehouse appears in Owen Adams' Industrial Archaeology of Lancashire, p. 149. Both warehouses are now demolished.

based in Kirkham use Wardleys rather than Skippool, the other key quay on the Kirkham side of the River Wyre? Chris's researches are continuing and

may lead to a dig next season (at low tide).

Diggers' Register

In the last issue we announced the idea of creating a 'register' of members who are willing to take part in digs and who would agree to the Planning Group having their email addresses. Over 20 members have signed up already and dig leaders will be able to contact them directly when organising a dig.

Christmas Meeting?

Traditionally we've had a meal of some kind and a guest speaker at Christmas. We'd like to know the level of support for this idea before making plans. Please email secwya@gmail.com if you'd be interested.

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

Lancashire's Roman Roads (David Ratledge): www.twithr.co.uk

Roman Roads Research Association: <http://www.romanroads.org>

Lancashire Archaeological Society: <https://lancsarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com>

Wigan Archaeology Society: www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk

University of the 3rd Age: <https://u3asites.org.uk/lytham-st-annes>, <https://u3asites.org.uk/wyre-lancs>, <https://u3asites.org.uk/preston>

Membership Benefits: Full Membership: 10 meetings with voting rights, group membership of Council for British Archaeology and CBA(NW) and Lancashire Local History Federation, free training, participation in digs, basic kit loan, personal dig insurance, WA Newsletter, Wigan AS and Lancashire Local History Federation newsletters, Lancaster Uni's Centre for Regional Studies circulars. (£12 individuals, £18 two family members at same address, full-time students up to age 21 free). **Associate Members:** participation in digs, basic dig training, loan of kit, dig insurance, newsletter and circulars as above (£5).

All classes of paid membership in 2021 - £5 per person

WYRE ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Chair	Brian Rigby
Vice Chair	Dave Berry
Immediate Past Chair	Chris Clayton
Treasurer	Simon Millward-Hopkins
Secretary	Dave Hampson
Committee Members	Mike Edwards, Peter Scott, Helen Coulthard.
	Two Vacancies.

CONTACTS

WEB www.wyresearchology.org.uk

EMAIL secwya@gmail.com

Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/1091772967850657

Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested.

FoodFriends is a fundraising scheme run by LESS Lancaster to support regenerative local food projects and the training of small-scale farmers in North Lancashire. In the next eleven weeks they are looking for the remaining 400 FoodFriend members to take part in their small society lottery and be in with six chance of winning amazing prizes from local businesses every month whilst strengthening the local food system and offering tangible solutions to the climate crisis!

For more information on the scheme and the link to sign up follow the link to their website: <https://foodfutures.org.uk/case-studies/food-friends>

THIS INFORMATION IS NOT ENDORSED BY WYRE ARCHAEOLOGY BUT HAS BEEN INSERTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE SCHEME

