

The history beneath our school!

When they re-built our school in 2005 archaeologists discovered some very interesting things indeed.

The very spot our school is built on has seen people working, sharing, hunting, farming and living their lives for 1000s of years.

They clearly thought it was a special place to be – and we think it still is!

To celebrate this we'll be bringing some remote-sensing archaeology equipment (just like off of Time Team!) to demonstrate in the school playing field with other activities and along with a pizza tea for all – on Friday 8th September 2023 in the afternoon. We've arranged it around pick up time so that you can come join the fun! Pop it in your diary and we'll send more detail at the beginning of term. We'd love to see you there.

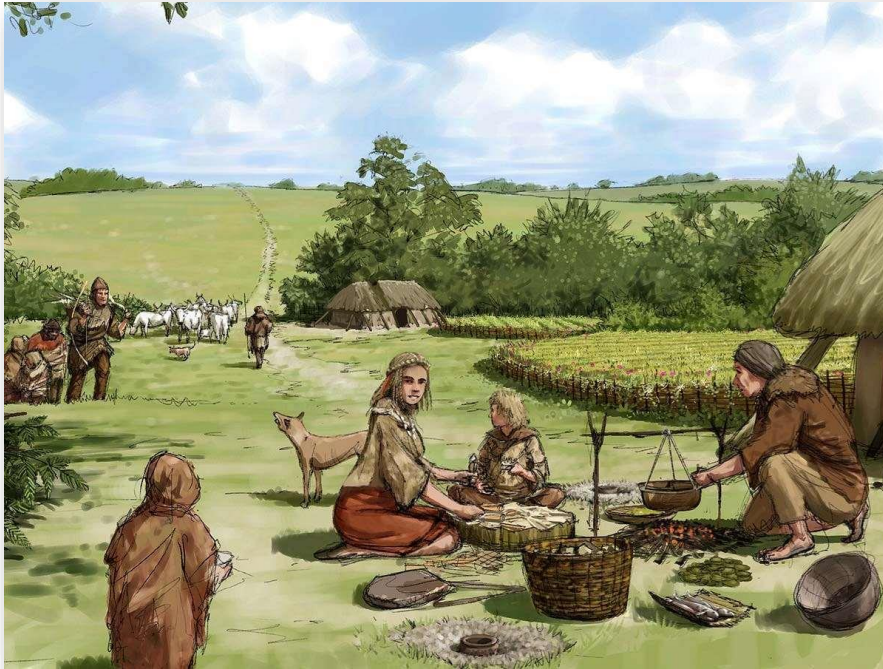
This is part of [British Science Festival Week](#) and has been enabled by a small grant facilitated by the [Exeter Science Centre](#).

There's more! The [Burnthouse Lane Squilometre](#) will be uncovering more hidden histories of the east side of the estate in the [East Side Poets, resident-led project](#). That will go wherever the people who live there want it to – we can't wait to see what you come up with – and you're welcome to come on board wherever you live on the estate.

Here a couple of things for you to investigate over the summer

1) **The Bronze Age**

They found a ditch at the top of the slope of the school site that was dug back in the Early Bronze Age. **How long ago was that?**



<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/teaching-resources/teaching-history/teaching-prehistory/>

100 years ago?

1000 years ago?

Actually, it's more like **4000 years ago!** Four thousand years ago people were digging into the ground beneath our feet on this very spot.

How do we know the ditch was Bronze Age?

Well, they found an Early Bronze Age knife in the soil that was filling up the ditch again after it was dug.

Here's a good image of what that kind of knife looks like.

<https://cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/museum/plano-convex-knife/>

Take a really good look. What do you notice about it?

What is it made of? Metal? Stone? Glass?

What shape is it? Square? Round? Leaf-shaped?

How do you think it would be to cut meat or hide with?

How is it different from the knives we use today?

Here's another example from Somerset



Why not visit the [RAMM](#) this summer and see if you can find more plano-convex, Early Bronze Age flint knives just like the one found at our school?

2) Rich goings on in Tudor times!

Archaeologists also found evidence that whatever was going on at our school site in Tudor times, they were rich and very well connected.

How long ago were Tudor times?

100 years?

200 years?

Well, more like 500 years ago. King Henry VIII is one of our famous Tudor Kings.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_VIII

So, what was happening at our school in Tudor times?

Well, the truth is we don't know the whole answer but archaeologists did find some fascinating things:-

A piece of decorated tile that came all the way from Seville in Spain! Seville tiles would only have come from the wealthiest of households.

A piece of stoneware pottery from the far east, possibly Burma, connected to this place through Tudor overseas trading.