

SOUTHWELL HERITAGE TRUST
Registered Charity No: 1135591

1 Vicars Court
Southwell
NG25 0HP

5th March 2024

The Town Clerk
Southwell Town Council
Old Court House
The Burgage
Southwell

Dear Mrs Wright,

Interpreting The Burgage

At a recent meeting of representatives from Southwell Heritage Trust (SHT) and Southwell Community Archaeology Group (SCAG) I, as Secretary of SHT, have been asked to write to you on behalf of both groups, in relation to the following proposal.

Very briefly, SHT and SCAG are proposing to work in partnership, and maybe in time, with other community groups, to develop the work previously undertaken by SCAG on The Burgage. For a brief history of SCAG's work on The Burgage please refer to Appendix 1. Simply, the proposal envisages the use of cutting-edge digital applications, including augmented reality (for example using tablets/mobile phones) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) created maps. This will bring the now hidden landscape under The Burgage alive and tell its story 'Through the Ages' in a wholly new and accessible way. The project will also enable recovered artefacts to be viewed, and for people to learn about the stories that the archaeology provides in a virtual format.

To progress this proposal, SHT and SCAG are asking the Town Council, as custodian of The Burgage, for permission to map and photograph The Burgage, so it and the hidden artefacts can be rendered in augmented reality. If permission is granted, the next stage is to prepare costings by drawing upon the expertise of RIVR (rivr.uk), a company that are world leading experts in digital storytelling using such techniques as virtual reality, photogrammetry (the use of photography in surveying) and 3D model creation. SHT and SCAG will need to seek funding from various heritage sources. For an example of the possibilities this technology can bring, please click on the link below, which shows a piece of pottery extracted from The Burgage:

drive.google.com/file/d/1KfGxSxQhq_ICGE1wi9kQUaXqMrAsAwWt/view?pli=1

If appropriate and helpful, representatives from SHT and SCAG would be delighted to attend the Full Town Council meeting on 17th April 2024 to provide a presentation on the proposal and answer any questions Members may have.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Westwood
Secretary

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APPENDIX 1

Southwell Community Archaeology Group

Southwell Community Archaeology Group, formed in 2008, is a well-established Charitable Incorporated Organisation with a proven track record of undertaking archaeological activities in the community to a professional standard. Projects have included, but are not limited to: landscape survey and fieldwalking; establishment of a Young Archaeology Group; excavations and post excavation activity and report in multiple locations. Particularly worthy of note is that undertaken at the Dean's Residence, Vicars Court, and The Burgage.

In respect of The Burgage, significant Heritage Lottery funding was received to facilitate two separate pieces of professionally led work, including exploratory activity in 2013, being extensively developed in the second from 2015 with a full professional report, publication of two books, and a significant amount of public engagement.

The focus was on the history and archaeology of The Burgage Green. The land is owned by Southwell Town Council, being a Partner in the project. The Group's 2013 'All Our Stories Project' revealed the possible existence of a hitherto unknown mediaeval township, which was confirmed in the second and more extensive investigation.

There were many positive and significant outcomes to these pieces of professionally led work including: better identification and recording of archaeological heritage for the Historic Environment Record and preservation; a wider and more holistic appreciation and interest in the town's history; support more interest in preserving heritage in the town; promote interest in archaeology – for all ages.

John Lock

Chair - Southwell Community Archaeology Group
March 2024