

Treasures in the Fenland mud

Start date	25 March 2018	Time	10:00 – 16:45
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Nicholas James	Course code	1718NDX055

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings
Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
For further information on this course, please contact clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Nicholas James is a consultant in management and interpretation of historical resources and he is Lecturer in social anthropology at Magdalene College. Amongst other research projects, he is working on the post-Medieval history of the Black Fens.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Geography as condition for history and preservation
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	The deepest layers
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Discoveries of the Roman and Medieval eras
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Archeology and history of the Modern period
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

- to introduce the archeology & history of the Black Fens
- to explain the district's conditions for preservation of archeological evidence
- to encourage further study of the Fens or comparable districts

Content:

The Fens have long been recognized as a distinctive archeological resource. Our understanding of why the Black Fens, in particular, are so unusual has grown over the past 150 years; and that understanding, in turn, has helped us to discover yet more of the district's long history.

The most striking finds have been from the prehistoric and Roman eras. The first was the recognition of whole systems of fields. That helped to prompt a new outlook on archeology throughout north-western Europe. The second revelation — less a surprise than the reward for scientific deduction — was the quality of preservation beneath the peat Fens, culminating in 2015's discovery of Britain's soggy Pompeii, the Bronze Age settlement at Must Farm.

Research on the Medieval and Modern eras has flourished by combining archeological research with reappraisal of documentary evidence. The implications for how history happens are thought-provoking. Perhaps they apply to the Roman and prehistoric periods too; but probably new to the district now is our concern with preserving finds, features and records.

Presentation of the course:

Meetings will comprise illustrated lectures followed by discussion of the issues arising.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- understand and explain the range of archeological evidence preserved in the Black Fens
- recognize the main historical and archeological phases and anticipate the kinds of evidence to be expected for them
- apply the principles to comparable landscapes elsewhere

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Coles, J, & D Hall	<i>Changing landscapes</i>	Cambridgeshire County Council 1998
Darby, HC	<i>The changing fenland</i>	CUP 1983
Godwin, H	<i>Fenland</i>	CUP 1978
Malim, T	<i>Stonea and the Roman Fens</i>	History Press 2005
Oosthuizen, S	<i>The Anglo-Saxon fenland</i>	Windgather 2017
Pryor, F	<i>Flag Fen</i>	History Press 2005

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 09 March 2018