

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AWARDS

Celebrating the best in British archaeology



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SHORTLISTS FOR 2016 BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AWARDS REVEAL NEW AND EXCITING STORIES OF BRITAIN AND ITS PEOPLE

Judges have today released the shortlist for this year's British Archaeological Awards showcasing professional and community-led archaeology projects up and down the country that reveal the story of Britain and its people in exciting, innovative and engaging ways.

Shortlisted projects from across the UK range from large development-led excavations in our cities – such as Oxford Archaeology South's **Westgate project** and **London's Lost Graveyard**, the Crossrail discovery featured in True North Production's Secret History programme for Channel 4 – and long-term university-based research projects such as the **Silchester 'Town Life' project** and **Dig Greater Manchester**, to community projects such as **The Whithorn Trust's Hearth, Home and Farm** project in Dumfries & Galloway, and the **Battles, Bricks and Bridges** project in Co. Fermanagh. Finalists also included cross-community partnership projects producing new teaching resources such as Forestry Commission Scotland's **The Picts: a learning resource** and the **Ulster Scots Archaeological Services Project** in Northern Ireland.

All the finalists have a common theme – involving and enthusing young people and the public in Britain's archaeology.

Shortlisted books tell the story of the **Welsh slate** industry, explore the rich remains on the Outer Hebridean island of **St Kilda**, and help us make sense of the theories surrounding **Stonehenge**, Britain's ultimate archaeological mystery.

Archaeology is celebrated for harnessing and pushing forward technological innovation, and **DigVentures' Digital Dig Team** recording app shares excavation 'finds' instantly online and on social media, while the **National Geographic Under London** feature was accompanied by a paper stop-animation to help readers understand the timeline of archaeology under the city.

Finalists such as the journal **Internet Archaeology** and the **Postglacial Project** at the University of York have used Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI), 3D modelling and embedded multimedia to help fellow researchers and the public to interpret new findings for themselves and understand what they tell us about the past and the world around us.

Deborah Williams, Chair of the British Archaeological Awards commented,

“The entries this year reflect the incredible wealth and range of archaeology that is going on across the UK, the quality and expertise of our world-leading archaeologists, and the ever increasing fascination of the British public with the history and archaeology of their local area.

“Increasingly archaeologists are responding to this interest by developing new ways to help people to take part in research and excavations, start up community projects, and share and understand new discoveries - and this shines through in our shortlisted entries.”

The winners of this year’s Awards will be announced at the 2016 British Archaeological Awards ceremony, compèred by ‘Meet the Ancestors’ archaeologist and TV presenter Julian Richards at the **British Museum on 11 July** and showcasing the very latest discoveries and innovations in British archaeology.

This year, the judges will also announce discretionary Awards for **Outstanding Achievement** and **Best Archaeological Discovery** at the ceremony, which also marks the launch of the Council for British Archaeology’s annual **Festival of Archaeology** from 16 to 31 July with over 1000 public hands-on events, many free, on offer to the public across the UK.

The British Archaeological Awards entries are judged by independent panels made up of leading experts from across the archaeology field in the UK, including both professional and voluntary sectors.

The shortlisted entries are:

BEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

- Silchester ‘Town Life’ Project
University of Reading
- Ulster Scots Archaeological Services Project
AECOM/The Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd
- Westgate Oxford
Oxford Archaeology South

BEST COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

- Battles, Bricks and Bridges
Cleenish Community Association and Killesher Community Development Association
- Dig Greater Manchester
Centre for Applied Archaeology, University of Salford
- Whithorn: Hearth, Home and Farm, with Dig TV
The Whithorn Trust

BEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL BOOK

- St Kilda: The Last and Outmost Isle
Angela Gannon and George Geddes, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland
- Stonehenge: Making sense of a prehistoric mystery
Mike Parker Pearson with Joshua Pollard, Colin Richards, Julian Thomas and Kate Welham, Council for British Archaeology
- Welsh Slate – Archaeology and History of an Industry
David Gwyn, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

BEST PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGY

- The Picts: a learning resource
Forestry Commission Scotland
- Secret History, London's Lost Graveyard: The Crossrail Discovery
True North Productions for Channel 4
- Under London
National Geographic magazine

BEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL INNOVATION

- DigVentures
Digital Dig Team
- Internet Archaeology
University of York
- POSTGLACIAL Project
University of York

See the shortlisted projects at www.archaeologicalawards.com and follow the Awards on twitter @BAAWARDSUK and Facebook/British Archaeological Awards

Notes for editors:

1. The **British Archaeological Awards** take place every two years and are managed by an independent charity, chaired by Deborah Williams of Historic England, and trustees from across the archaeology profession. The 2016 Awards are sponsored by the Robert Kiln Trust, The Society of Antiquaries of London, The British Museum, Portable Antiquities Scheme, Historic England, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Archaeology Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland, and Cadw. For trustees and sponsors see: www.archaeologicalawards.org.uk

Established in 1976 and now in their 38th year, the Awards encompass five categories and a discretionary awards for Outstanding Achievement and Best Discovery. Their aim is to advance public education in the study and practice of archaeology in all its aspects in the United Kingdom and in particular the granting of awards for excellence or other appropriate reasons.

The **Awards' mission** to be recognised and valued by archaeologists, those they work with and the wider public to facilitate and celebrate good practice in archaeology, raise the profile of the discipline and contribute to a greater recognition of the academic, social, environmental and public relations value of archaeology.

2 The Awards are given to recognise aspects of archaeology from the last two years which have been nominated by the archaeological community, and have been independently judged by panels of experts from across the archaeology sector:

Chairs of Judging Panels for the 2016 entries were:

- Best Archaeological Project: John Lewis
- Best Community Engagement Archaeology Project: Eila Macqueen
- Best Archaeological Book: Paul Stamper
- Best Public Presentation of Archaeology: Louise Ennis
- Best Archaeological Innovation: Andrew Davidson

3 **Winners** will be announced on the website of the British Archaeological Awards following the ceremony on 11 July: www.archaeologicalawards.org.uk

4 **Images** of the shortlisted entries are available.

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A representative of the British Archaeological Awards or shortlisted projects are available for **interview** on request.

www.archaeologicalawards.org.uk

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