

Dear GLHS Members,

At the last GLHS meeting, I mentioned the archaeological dig on the Old Man's Field site (access via Shepherd's Lane) prior to the building of houses. Here is an update. They should be on the site for a few more days, I don't know if they are there over the weekend.

Please see attached report by the excavation team of their previous excavations in Old Man's Field, upon which the current activity is based.

I visited again on Friday, and if you haven't seen it yourself, they have indeed cleared a substantial area behind Schoolfield and parallel to Shepherd's Lane.

They have identified a 'drovers way' running parallel to Shepherds Lane with attendant ditches each side from which they have retrieved Roman pottery (rather surprisingly I thought, *early* Roman pottery)

They have also found a neolithic arrow head...!

At the end furthest from the School they think they have an enclosure with gate posts (or at least the pits thereof)

Next steps are..

- to finish by early next week
- to leave the area fenced but still open until instruction received from the builder and/or site owner about whether to back fill
- they will retire to write a report for Babergh, of which I have requested a copy
- the pottery and arrowhead etc would by default be sent to Ipswich Museum (and thence into a box in the basement) unless representations are made. I thought perhaps to alert the School that they might themselves like to have a small exhibit as presumably the drovers way itself extended backwards to where the School itself now stands.
- when all complete, Martin (as below) says he would be happy to come to a GLHS meeting to make a short presentation of what he has done and found.

However, it would also seem that nothing exceptional has been found that might interrupt the eventual development of the site as previously intended.