



**SAWTRY HISTORY SOCIETY (SHS)  
SAFEFIELD FARM, EVALUATION EXCAVATION  
SEASON 4, SESSION 1 (21 - 24 FEBRUARY 2026)**

1. **Site.**
  - a. **Post Code.** PE28 4JW.
  - b. **National Grid Reference.** TL 19519 77933.
  - c. **What Three Words.** trickles.perfume.twitches.
  
2. **Parking.**
  - a. **Post Code.** PE28 4JW.
  - b. **National Grid Reference.** TL 19490 78255 / TL 19477 78209.
  - c. **What Three Words.** native.lengthen.taxed / ambushes.drill.gaps.
  
3. **Participation.** Participation is open to all on submission of a completed application form. No experience is necessary as basic excavation instruction will be provided. Numbers may be curtailed in order to ensure full days of activity for participants, insurance purposes and to minimize periods of standing around.
  
4. **Application.** Anyone wishing to participate should complete the SHS Participation Application Form. Further details are contained therein.
  
5. **Programme.** The programme has been planned for the period 21-24 Feb 26. Changes to published dates and inclusion of additional dates will be notified as far in advance as possible. The daily routine will loosely follow the timings below:

<b>Day &amp; Date</b>	<b>Times</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Day #1 21 Feb 26	0815-0830	Arrival
	0830-0845	Site Safety Induction
	0845-1015	Site Activity
	1015-1045	Tea-Break
	1045-1200	Site Activity
	1200-1300	Lunch
	1300-1430	Site Activity
	1430-1500	Tea-Break
	1500-1600	Site Activity
	1600-1615	Clear Loose & Pack-Up
Day #2 22 Feb 26	0815-0830	Arrival
	0830-0845	Site Safety Induction
	0845-1015	Site Activity

	1015-1045	Tea-Break
	1045-1200	Site Activity
	1200-1300	Lunch
	1300-1430	Site Activity
	1430-1500	Tea-Break
	1500-1600	Site Activity
	1600-1615	Clear Loose & Pack-Up
Day #3	0815-0830	Arrival
23 Feb 26	0830-0845	Site Safety Induction
	0845-1015	Site Activity
	1015-1045	Tea-Break
	1045-1200	Site Activity
	1200-1300	Lunch
	1300-1430	Site Activity
	1430-1500	Tea-Break
	1500-1600	Site Activity
	1600-1615	Clear Loose & Pack-Up
Day #4	0815-0830	Arrival
24 Feb 26	0830-0845	Site Safety Induction
	0845-1015	Site Activity
	1015-1045	Tea-Break
	1045-1200	Site Activity
	1200-1300	Lunch
	1300-1430	Site Activity
	1430-1500	Tea-Break
	1500-1600	Site Activity
	1600-1615	Clear Loose & Pack-Up

6. **Safefield Farm.** Safefield farm is a working farm with residential properties adjacent to the complex. Please be aware and respectful of any farming activity that is being undertaken when entering, moving around and departing the farm. Please also be respectful of residents and their properties. The farm access road is single track, please do not exceed 20 mph. When walking to/from the excavation location, please keep to the edge of the field.

7. **Visitors.** The site will be open to visitors on an *ad hoc* basis.

8. **Welfare.**

a. Toilet facilities are available in the barn complex (see Attachment 2).

b. Participants should bring their own food and drinks or be prepared to purchase from nearby commercial outlets in Alconbury Weald (Co-op) or Tesco (Huntingdon). Participants should also bring additional water or other drinks; excavation can be physically demanding, particularly at this time of year, and requires regular rehydration.

c. Participants should wear sturdy and comfortable outdoor clothing and footwear (walking boots, steel capped boots, Doctor Martens boots, wellington boots, etc). Layered clothing allows for personal comfort to be maintained as weather conditions change. Waterproof jacket (with hood) and trousers should also be brought as excavation will continue during showers and light rain.

d. Participants may wish to bring other items for personal comfort, such as; small camping chair to sit on during breaks and lunch, kneeler or knee pads, gloves, hat, scarf.

e. Participants are responsible for bringing any medication they will need and for having an up-to-date tetanus inoculation (refer to your doctor or surgery nurse if in any doubt).

9. **Archaeological Equipment.** All relevant equipment will be provided by SHS. However, please feel free to bring your own equipment.

10. **Insurance.** Volunteers will be covered by SHS insurance, which includes both Public and Employer's Liability. Those taking part may, however, wish to consider their own personal accident insurance and should seek advice from an insurance company beforehand to ensure the correct type and level of insurance is purchased.

11. **Evaluation Excavation Aims.**

a. **Strategy.** This is the first session of the fourth season of archaeological investigation on Safefield Farm, which is a continuation of the desktop survey (Season 1) and an earlier evaluation excavation undertaken in Oct 22 (Season 2) and throughout 2025 (Season 3). The purpose of this session is to complete the recording of Trench 1, continue the excavations in both Trench 2 and Test Pit 2, and identify the optimal location for an evaluation trench across the ridge and furrow within Hermitage Wood. It will also continue to locate the accumulated Roman/Romano-British pottery assemblage discovered by Landowners Historical Research Group (LHRG) detectorists.

b. **Development.** This excavation will give volunteers with excavation experience the opportunity to develop their excavation skills and techniques.

c. **Training.** This excavation will give volunteers with no excavation experience the opportunity to learn the principles of archaeological excavation, and basic skills and techniques.

12. **Attachments.** There are two attachments to this information leaflet:

a. Attachment 1 - Google Earth image of the excavation location relative to the A1(M), B1043, Alconbury Hill, and Alconbury Household Recycling Centre.

b. Attachment 2 - Google Earth image of the excavation location.