



Q&A

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What area of research do you focus on and why?

As an archaeologist, I'm interested in the physical evidence left behind by people who lived in the past giving clues about where and how they lived, what they ate, what they wore and so many other aspects of their everyday lives which we don't have written accounts of. I work for the East office of a company called Oxford Archaeology based at Bar Hill. We undertake excavations to recover archaeological evidence before construction takes place. In fact, we did an excavation before Cambourne Village College was built in 2011: <https://library.oxfordarchaeology.com/975/> It's my job as the Community Manager, to share our discoveries with local residents and other members of the public.

What book in your field should everyone read?

I'm sure everyone has a dog-eared copy of Colin Renfrew & Paul Bahn's 'Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice' somewhere on their book shelves. It's a staple textbook for archaeology students, but Brian Fagan's 'A Little History of Archaeology' is a good introduction for anyone completely new to the field.

Which book inspired you to study archaeology?

Initially, I think it was an Usborne children's book on the Vikings which I read at Primary School which got me hooked on archaeology. But, it was W. G. Hoskin's book on 'The Making of the English Landscape' which opened my eyes to how the layout of our roads, houses and fields today have been shaped by human processes over hundreds and sometimes thousands of years.

What book are you currently reading?

The historical novel 'The Dig' by John Preston, about the discovery of the Anglo-Saxon ship burial at Sutton Hoo. The book is being adapted into a Netflix film featuring Ralph Fiennes, Carey Mulligan and Lily James - and I want to make sure I've read the book first!

Which archaeologist has had the greatest influence on you?

The TV programme Time Team was on Channel 4 each Sunday evening when I was growing up, and I've been lucky enough to work with several of the people involved in the series - Carenza Lewis, Helen Geake and Paul Blinkhorn.

What is the best museum you have ever been to?

The Cambourne Village College pop-up archaeology museum, clearly! I used to work at the British Museum so that comes a close second. I recommend checking out their Museum of the World interactive timeline: <https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com/>

We loved the CamVC pop-up archaeology museum too – thank you!



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