

Wings to the Past



Archaeological Field School Bursaries

Location: Near Lincoln

12 – 23 June and 26 June – 7 Jul 2023

Information and FAQ's



BISHOP
GROSSETESTE
UNIVERSITY



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Introduction

Wings to the Past started in 2019 and uses archaeology and heritage to promote personal resilience in RAF Service personnel and their families. Offering individuals, the chance to spend 'quality time' together as a family or part of a group of personnel. Archaeology has been shown to support resilience amongst veterans and Wings to the Past builds on this by seeking to support RAF families and personnel by offering them an opportunity to work together on exciting archaeological and heritage projects.

The participants at Wings to the Past previous projects have feedback that the projects had been a great success, not only in the fact that they had been able to learn about history but also that they had proved the presence of significant archaeological remains. More importantly, the projects had been an overriding success in getting RAF personal and their families to simply spend time together.

Wings to the Past could not operate without our amazing partners. Dr Derwin Gregory and Bishop Grosseteste University have been working with us for 3 years now and most recently in February 2023 we undertook Operation Bishops Challenge, fieldwalking a site near RAF Waddington. 20 RAF personnel and their families found a wealth of artefacts and were able to add a huge amount to our knowledge of the site.

We are now delighted that Dr Derwin Gregory, archaeological lead at Bishop Grosseteste University, has offered Wings to the Past 2 bursaries for RAF personnel and their families to attend the universities archaeological field school in June / July 2023. This is an amazing opportunity for personnel to be part of a professional archaeological field school, to work on an amazing multiperiod site and also to meet students and staff and learn more about archaeology.

**Suzy Watts MA BA Chartered MCIPD RAF
Programme Director and Co-Founder**

Aim

Wings to the Past uses archaeology and heritage to promote personal resilience in RAF Service personnel and their families. Offering individuals, the chance to spend 'quality time' together as a family or part of a group of personnel. Archaeology has been shown to support resilience amongst veterans and Wings to the Past builds on this by seeking to support RAF families and personnel by offering them an opportunity to work together on exciting archaeological and heritage projects.

Mission

Wings to the Past aims to build personal and family resilience among RAF personnel and their wider family through archaeology, heritage and similar events. Through these projects Wings to the Past also hopes to develop links with the wider community through community engagement.

Vision

Wings to the Past hopes to give RAF personnel and their families a chance to develop personal and family resilience through new activities and challenges whilst meeting new people. Wings to the past also hopes to develop a better understanding of the link between resilience and involvement in archaeology and heritage projects.



Wings to the Past are also pleased to announce that James, the inspiration for Wings to the Past and Digital Manager at only 15 has been selected to be one of the finalists in the 'Young People's Award: Giving Back to the Armed Forces Community' category at this year's Celebrating Forces Families (CFF) awards. He will attend the Awards Evening at the Victory Services Club (VSC) in London in April.

Wings to the Past is a Community Interest Company, that operates as a not-for-profit organisation, and needs funding to help continue to run activities to benefit more RAF personnel and their families, donations can be made at our website.

Information for Applicants

Wings to the Past and Bishop Grosseteste University are delighted to offer 2, 2-week bursaries for RAF personnel and their families to attend the universities summer 2023 archaeological field school in June / July.

For an individual to attend this would normally cost approx. £1400 and for a family of 4 £5000. We are able to offer these opportunities for free thanks to the generosity of the university.

The site near Lincoln is multi-period, and archaeological deposits are expected from a wide range of periods, from prehistory to post medieval. The site has not previously had any archaeological excavation.

The field school will run for 4 weeks and will incorporate students from the university, people who have paid to attend, visiting community groups, staff and other visitors.

Archaeological field schools are designed to teach those that attend the basics of archaeology and to help them build their skills over the time on site, they will also be aiming to answer an academic question about the site and what is excavated will be determined by this.

Many archaeological practices will be available to try including, surveying, marking out trenches, excavating, recording trenches and finds and other skills dependent on what is identified.

Applications are open to RAF personnel and their families, from anywhere, you don't need to be based in Lincolnshire (but you will need to arrange accommodation if you are not local).

Each 2-week period has a place for an individual or a family (up to 4 people).

The bursary covers all the field school costs. Personnel will just need to provide food and drink, suitable clothing, transport to and from the site and accommodation (if needed). More details will be provided to successful applicants.

The site will be near the city of Lincoln, but we cannot reveal the exact location just yet.

Dates:

- 1st bursary session - 12 to 23 June 2023.
- 2nd bursary session - 26 June to 7 July 2023.

Each bursary is for up to 2 weeks, the successful applicants must commit to the whole of the 1st week starting on the Monday (12th or 26th) but can still apply if unable to make 2nd week. We will give priority to applicants who are able to attend both weeks and encourage all applicants to attend for 2 weeks to get the full benefit of the field school. If no applicant can make the full 2 weeks, then applications for the 1st weeks only will be considered.

The bursary can be for 1 individual RAF Service person or the RAF Service person and up to 3 members of their family (i.e. maximum 4 people)¹. Exceptional applications will be considered for family members of RAF personnel where the RAF service person is deployed or detached at the time of the bursary.

The minimum age of applicants is 13 (year 9) and where an application is made that includes a child under 18 their legal parent or guardian must apply and also be able to attend with them and supervise them throughout. Although the field school is in term time, schools may consider this an exceptional educational activity and may allow pupils to attend if parents/guardians request approval. No under 18 should attend if they do not have permission to be absent from their educational establishment.

The field school will run daily from 0830 (arrival on site) to 1600 with an hour for lunch (eaten on site). There will be a 10 – 15 minutes' walk from parking to the site. The terrain may be uneven, and archaeology can involve strenuous and repetitive physical activity so all applicants should consider their physical fitness and that of their other applicants at the time of applying and seek medical advice as required.

This is not a duty activity and RAF personnel will not be on duty and therefore should arrange appropriate authorised absence from the RAF to attend.

All those attending should ensure they have appropriate and adequate health and personal injury cover. The university will have public indemnity insurance, carryout full risk assessments and ensure safety on site but personnel should consider their own circumstances.

There will be basic facilities on site, toilets may be portaloos and seating cannot be guaranteed so you may wish to bring camping chairs.

Applications will open on 10th April 2023 and close at 2359 1 May 2023. A selection panel will then be held during the week of 8 May. This will consist of the Wings to the Past Programme Manager, Dr Derwin Gregory of Bishop Grosseteste University, and a Senior RAF Officer from the People Operation profession – name TBC. The successful applicants will be informed on 10 May 23 with a reserve for each period also being informed.

[Application Form Link](#)

¹ Wings to the Past consider family as, spouse, long term partner (see LTR definition as a guide), dependent child (can be above 18 if still in full time education or has an exceptional reason), parents or siblings of a Service person.

Frequently Asked Questions?

How do I apply?

- Use this [form to apply](#). The information will be stored securely by Wings to the Past and only seen by those conducting the selection process and not shared outside Wings to the Past. Only successful applications will be retained for records.

What is an archaeology field school?

- Archaeological field schools are designed to teach those that attend the basics of archaeology and to help them build their skills over the time on site, they will also be aiming to answer an academic question about the site and what is excavated will be determined by this.
- We would suggest having a look at [Dig School](#) to get a basic insight to what happens on an archaeology dig and perhaps watch episodes of Time Team or Digging for Britain to get an understanding of what it is like on a site.

Is it really free?

- Yes – all you will need to supply is your food and drink daily, provide suitable clothing (for all weathers) get yourself to and from site and arrange and pay for accommodation if you don't live locally.

Do I have to come every day or for the full 2 weeks?

- Successful applicants will be expected to attend every day that they have applied for.
- Each bursary is for up to 2 weeks, the successful applicants must commit to the whole of the 1st week starting on the Monday (12th or 26th) but can still apply if unable to make 2nd week. We will give priority to applicants who are able to attend both weeks but will consider all application on a case-by-case basis. We encourage all applicants to attend for 2 weeks to get the full benefit of the field school. If no applicant can make the full 2 weeks, then applications for the 1st weeks only will be considered.
- The field school will run Monday to Friday with an 0830 arrival at site for a 0850 briefing and 0900 start, an hour will be given for lunch on site and the day will finish at 1600.
- Attendance at the 0850 briefing is required to ensure all are briefed and safe for the day.

I am RAF can I be considered on duty whilst on the field school?

- No - this is not a duty activity and RAF personnel will not be on duty and therefore should arrange appropriate absence from the RAF to attend.

Can I apply for my children, stepchildren, or the children of friends?

- Yes, for dependent children.
- No for children of friends.
- The minimum age of applicants is 13 (year 9) and where an application is made that

includes a child under 18 their legal parent or legal guardian must apply also and be able to attend with them and supervise them throughout.

As it's during the school term how can I bring my children?

- Although the field school is in term time, schools may consider this an exceptional educational activity and may allow pupils to attend if parents request approval. No under 18 should attend if they do not have permission to be absent from their educational establishment.

My RAF spouse / partner is deployed can I apply?

- Yes - exceptional applications will be considered for family members of RAF personnel where the RAF service person is deployed or detached at the time of the bursary. See the application form for more details.

Who is considered family?

- It all depends on the individual application but Wings to the Past considers family as, spouse, long term partner (see LTR definition as a guide but we won't seek proof), dependent child (can be above 18 if still in full time education or they have a reason to attend with their parents), parents or siblings of a Service person.

I have an injury or illness can I apply?

- Yes, but please be aware the terrain may be uneven, and archaeology can involve strenuous and repetitive physical activity so all applicants should consider their physical fitness and that of other applicants at the time of applying and seek medical advice as required.
- Any RAF personnel with medical limitations that could affect them or be aggravated by attending should seek guidance from their medical officer before applying and or attending.
- All those attending should ensure they have appropriate and adequate health and personal injury cover. The university will have public indemnity insurance, carryout full risk assessments and ensure safety on site but personnel should consider their own cover and circumstances.

I don't live near Lincoln can I apply?

- Yes - Anyone meeting the criteria can apply but any accommodation and travel costs must be met by the applicant. As RAF personnel are not on duty, they would not be able to stay in mess accommodation at duty rates, claim for travel or use MT.

I am Army, Navy or Civil Service can I apply?

- Not at this time – at the time we are unable to open applications from our sister services, should we receive less applications than anticipated we will open applications wider.