



# Project Newsletter

## Issue 1

### October 2020

Welcome to the Lossenham Project newsletter. Once a month we will be keeping you up to date with the latest news and any events you can get involved in.

In this issue we will be introducing you to the project, the core team, and the planned upcoming events for October.

#### Introduction to the project

The Lossenham Project is a four year community heritage and research project that will investigate the archaeology, history, and landscape of Lossenham, in the parish of Newenden, in the county of Kent. It will focus on the lands of Lossenham Farm but will also include consideration of the wider setting of the farm, including the parish of Newenden, as well as the River Rother, Hexden Channel, Rother Levels, and neighbouring parishes. Lossenham, and indeed the entire parish of Newenden, is situated within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural beauty (AONB).

The Project will be a jointly undertaken by Canterbury Archaeological Trust on behalf of Lossenham Farm. CAT will deploy its own staff to the project as required and will also develop a wider project partnership, drawing upon its wide and established network of heritage and community contacts. These will likely include organisations such as the Kent Archaeological Society and the Centre for Kent History and Heritage at Canterbury Christ Church University, as well as relevant subject specialists. A key partner will be the Carmelite Order, enabling both a wider perspective on the history of the Order in England, but also a direct link to a living Faith community who are the direct spiritual descendants of the medieval Carmelites at Lossenham.

Initially we will start this winter with historical research, metal detecting, geophysical surveys, and a borehole survey. We have plans to run excavations each spring/summer from 2021-2024 and invite local residents to take part.

Future plans include local school involvement, community events, alongside talks, walks, and lectures.



#### The project and Covid

We welcome volunteers to sign up to the project but in light of the current government guidelines we are having to restrict the numbers of people on site at a time and we are unlikely to be able to hold any indoor lectures, talks, meetings, or events until the restrictions are lifted. Some very limited volunteering opportunities may be available in 2020, but the main focus of the volunteer effort will be in 2021.

Priority for volunteering spaces will be given to residents in the local area.

If you would like to express interest in taking part in the project please e-mail Annie Partridge at [annie.partridge@canterburytrust.co.uk](mailto:annie.partridge@canterburytrust.co.uk)



## Introduction to the project team

The core project team will be made up of archaeologists from Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Russell Burden as artist in residence, and the residents of Lossenham Farm, Julie and Zachery Kenward. Here we will give you a brief introduction to who they are and what they look like—do say hello if you see us around!

Over the upcoming newsletters we will introduce you to other key people and organisations involved in the project.

### Dr Andrew Richardson - CAT Outreach and Archive Manager

Andrew will be managing the project at Lossenham. He was born in Folkestone but in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries his ancestors lived in Wittersham, Rolvenden, and Tenterden.

Andrew was the Finds Liaison Officer for Kent from 2002 to 2008 when he joined CAT. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and wrote his PhD on the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries of Kent.



### Annie Partridge - CAT Community Archaeologist and Education Officer

Hello! I'm Annie and I will be the community archaeologist for the project. My background is in field archaeology but for the past five years I have been the community archaeologist for CAT, and I took on the Education Officer role two years ago. I am a member of the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists. I have a particular interest in training people in archaeological skills, and providing career advice to young people and early career archaeologists.

I currently live in Canterbury, but originally come from Herefordshire, and I am looking forward to exploring a new area of Kent.

### Russell Burden—Artist in Residence

As 'Artist in Residence' for the duration of The Lossenham Project, Russell Burden has been commissioned to produce personal artistic responses to the landscape.

Inspired by his interests in scientific, philosophical and poetic thought, Russell's practice has been a life long exploration.

His work subtly blends imagination and inner experience with the material world to produce outcomes over a broad range of media.







## Julie and Zachery Kenward - Lossenham Farm

Welcome all to The Lossenham Project! We'd love to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves: Zac & Julie Kenward & our two young daughters Isla & Piper.

We've only been living at Lossenham Farm for short time, but Zac has been working from the farm for the past year. Whilst we are both complete novices when it comes to history and archaeology, what we lack in knowledge we hope to make up in enthusiasm! We are all very excited to see what you are able to discover and will offer help and support in any way we can.

With the children and our two dogs, you'll often hear us before you see us but please do come and say hello and if you need any help at all, just ask. We look forward to hearing your progress and welcoming you all to the Farm.



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## Upcoming Activities

October will be a very busy month for the project as we try to get the initial surveys completed before the weather turns too wintry. Planned activities this month include a metal detecting survey in conjunction with KAMSU (Kent Archaeological Metal detector Support Group), a geophysical survey by the Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group (HAARG), and a borehole survey.

The results of the metal detecting and geophysical surveys will help us decide on where to target our trenches for the 2021 season (and beyond). These surveys will continue over the winter months, weather permitting.

The borehole survey will be undertaken over two days. It will allow us to build a detailed picture of what the climate was like in the Hexden Channel throughout history—possibly even back to the Ice Ages! Cores are taken of the soil and our specialist, Simon Pratt, will analyse the soil layers to determine what was happening in the channel over time. There might be an opportunity to analyse the pollen in the soil too, which will tell us what the land was being used for, what the temperature was like, whether the land was waterlogged or dry, and a whole host of other information.



We are unfortunately unable to offer any volunteer places on the geophysical survey or the borehole survey but we will be letting you know the results through the newsletter in the coming months.

Out of the field historical research begins headed by Helen Clarke, Ake Nilson, Sheila Sweetinburgh (from the Centre for Kent History and Heritage based at Christchurch University, Canterbury), and Richard Copsey (from the Carmelite Order). Once this group is established fully they will be looking for volunteers to assist them in their research.