

Altogether Archaeology

Digging our heritage in the North Pennines

MARIE GARDIN
MARIEGARDINER.CO

ALTOGETHER ARCHAEOLOGY NEWSLETTER 2020 (Spring edition)



**DIGGING IN THE
GUESWICK HILLS ...**



**SPINDLE WHORL FROM
GUESWICK**



**CHOCOLATE
HOBNOB**



Digging our heritage in the North Pennines

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Firstly

It would be an understatement to say that 2020 has, so far, been a challenging year! Our priority must be to keep everyone safe and, in common with all community groups, we have postponed our activities in order to protect our members and comply with government guidelines.

However life, and Altogether Archaeology, carries on ... but in a different way. Although we weren't able to hold our AGM, the committee has still been active. We have welcomed two new committee members, Kay Fothergill and Gordon Thomson, and Greg Finch has been busy setting up our registration for Gift Aid following AA's successful application for charitable status.

And our members have also been busy. In this newsletter, we'll give you a taste of some alternative approaches to Archaeology; it's digging, just not as we know it! And if you are experiencing withdrawal symptoms, don't forget there is plenty of material on our website, photographs, films, reports, podcasts, to help you through.

In the meantime, stay safe. A big thank you to all members who are continuing to support us; our plans are only on hold, and we look forward to being able to meet up again soon.



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Editorial

Our year began in characteristically busy fashion. In January, Phil Bowyer and Andy Curtis of the Tynedale North of the Wall Archaeology group spoke about the rock art found at Carr Edge Farm, near Hexham, and Ravensheugh Crag. Andrew Tibbs took us on A Grand Tour of Roman Scotland in February, followed by a fascinating talk about human evolution by Adam Benton, titled Head, Shoulders Knees and Toes.

Elaine Vallack and I flew the flag for Altogether Archaeology at the Hadrian's Wall Networking day, under very windy conditions, at Carlisle Racecourse, and Elaine teamed up with Greg Finch behind the AA stand at the Hadrian's Wall Archaeology Forum at Queen's Hall, Hexham. Both events were well attended, and a good opportunity to tell the world about AA.

And then everything stopped ... you can read Elaine's entertaining account of what must have been one of the last digs to take place this year on page 6.

2020 is turning out to be the year of Alternative Archaeology. Tony Metcalfe has been keeping some of you on your toes by circulating back numbers of Martin Green's fiendish Christmas quizzes. Liz Cook has been reflecting on how everyday activities can turn into archaeology, and you can read some of her little snippets in between articles in this issue.

Stephen Brown has spent his time researching his family history; he writes about that on page 7. Kay Fothergill decided to investigate the background to an old print of her village, Dalton-on-Tees, and, like all the best research, it led her down some surprising avenues. Her account is on page 10.

If you fancy delving into the archives, take a look at Greg Finch's absorbing article about Dukesfield Documents on page 9. The documents comprise a vast, comprehensive set of records that, once you start looking into them, could have you hooked.



Fiendish quizz questions and ancestral anecdotes at the Christmas Shindig (photo: Tony Metcalfe)



Phil Bowyer & Andy Curtis (Photo Tony Metcalfe)

Processing the Gueswick dig finds (photo Tony Metcalfe)



Elaine chats to Sue Bright of the Ouseburn Trust at the Hadrian's Wall Networking day (photo: Chris Powell)

Desk Based Assessment sounds like a good idea at the moment; I went on a very timely course at the end of February and you'll find my lay person's introduction to this complex area on page 12.

Greg explains Gift Aid on page 5. If, as an AA member, you are able to help out in this way it would be very much appreciated.

There is no 'Coming Up' section in this newsletter because, simply, we don't yet know how things are going to work out. Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy reading about some of the alternative archaeology activities people have been engaged in and, remember, contributions for the next issue are always most welcome; tell us what you have been up to during lockdown (see page 14 for details).

Chris Powell

Altogether Archaeology and Gift Aid

You will have heard that our application to register as a charity was successful earlier this year, and we have now also gained approval from HM Revenue and Customs to register for Gift Aid. This is further good news for us. It means we have the opportunity to boost our funds from our subscriptions, plus any donations, at no further charge to anyone who decides to 'gift aid' their contribution. Can you help us?

Your subscription as a member of AA counts as a donation for Gift Aid purposes. Its value can be boosted by 25p for every £1 you give. This means that 'gift aiding' a single member's subscription of £25 brings us an extra £6.25, and a joint membership of £35 an extra £8.75. You need to be a UK taxpayer who has paid at least the amount of the Gift Aid sum in income tax or capital gains tax in the year you made your subscription or donation, that is, £6.25 or £8.75 in tax.

The good news is that AA can claim Gift Aid on all subscriptions and donations made over the last four years (including this April's membership fee). In other words, you can 'gift aid' both retrospectively and in the future for as long as you wish to leave your declaration in force.

If you can, please help AA boost our funds in this way. You would need to complete a Gift Aid Declaration and send this to our Membership Secretary, Carol. A simple standard form for this, which covers the HMRC's requirements, is now available on the AA website via [this link](#) (or you can find it by clicking on the Membership link on the AA website's home page, and then clicking on the link in the Gift Aid section). There you will find details for either completing a form online, or completing one on paper and returning it by post. Thanks for your help.

Greg Finch,
Treasurer, Altogether Archaeology



Snippet 1: Front garden - kneeling on kneeler, getting weeds out of block-paving with trowel - feels like a dig ...

Phil's Bootcamp

Phil's Bootcamp - a day in the life of an archaeologist

Howden Hill/Greyside Farmstead, early March 2020 ... definitely not for the faint-hearted!

Finding the site was a bit of a challenge to start with. From the Newbrough exit off the A69, you pass the Boathouse Inn and the paper mill, cross over the Newcastle to Carlisle railway line and locate a landmark tree opposite the cricket club. This was our meeting place. From there, we car-shared and drove up a narrow lane to a farm, whose owner is clearly something of a hoarder.

We then had to negotiate an extremely boggy field entrance; this necessitated precise foot placement on the one and only stone showing above the mud, followed by a swift pivot around the gate post and into the field before the gate swung back and hit you. The next challenge was a twenty-five minute hike over rough pasture to the tent. We collected all the usual essential dig paraphernalia and proceeded to the excavation site. With typical enthusiasm, I chose to push a wheelbarrow containing spades and buckets across a burn. What looked like a straightforward crossing turned into a complete nightmare! My left leg and half the wheelbarrow ended up thigh deep in water. I nearly lost a spade and ended up throwing buckets on to the other side of the bank to lighten the load. Once across, I huddled behind some rushes to remove my drenched clothing. Wearing no knickers or shorts, and with only waterproof trousers on my lower half, I made my way to the excavation site. Phil Bowyer and the rest of the group were already there and, disconcertingly, nobody was aware I had fallen into the burn.

The wind was howling as we started de-turfing, but I was glad of the activity as it kept me warm. Then it was time to start trowelling. I picked up a bucket and discovered it had a hole in it, so decided to return to the tent and seek a bucket without a hole, taking extra



So ... what happened to the tent?

care when fording the burn. When I reached the tent, I found it on its last legs. Although the pegs were still intact, the tent was displaying major wafting and was pretty much at the end of its useful life. I collected a couple of buckets and hand shovels, walked back up to the windiest location in the field and started digging. At lunchtime Phil suggested we take



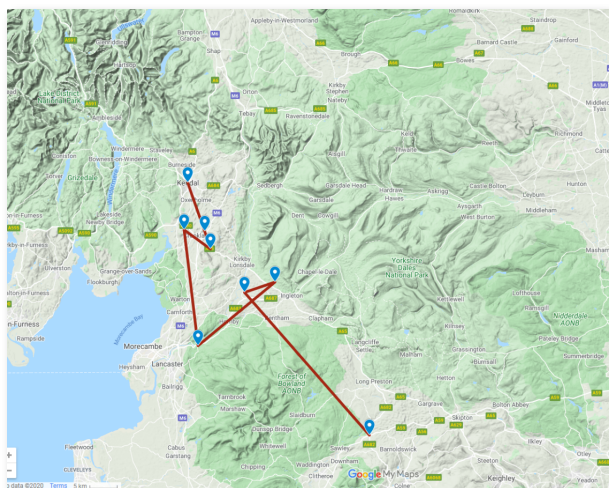
Still smiling!

a break. We found a secure spot, hidden downwind, next to a rocky outcrop and, after some discussion, decided to dismantle the tent - so that meant another lengthy trek. Once that task was completed, we returned to the dig site.

I lasted till half past two. My backside was freezing. The prevailing wind, inadequate clothing and trowelling had taken their toll. I decided to make an early exit, thinking that a long walk back to the car would warm me up, but it turned into another nightmare! I arrived at the boggy gate and all of a sudden at least a hundred sheep spotted me and started running in my direction. I got scared and decided to find another route, which meant clambering over stone walls and ducking under barbed wire fences to avoid the flock. What a wimp I am!

Elaine Vallack
(photos: Elaine Vallack)

On the trail of the Browns, 1969 - 1558



'What did you do during the great lockdown of 2020?' is a question that will, no doubt, be asked for decades to come. I wondered if similar questions were asked by my ancestors as they sat around open fires, telling stories of their own grandparents who worked the land in the wake of plagues and diseases throughout history, dodging all manner of witches and beasts. So, with time on my hands, I embarked on my lockdown mission: to trace my ancestors through the centuries.

My own story begins just over the hills from the Altogether Archaeology area. I was born in Kendal, Cumbria, in 1969; my father was a government accountant and my mother ushered eager picture-goers to their seats in a small Kendal cinema.

The two world wars are a major factor in any family tree and I found that the Brown family fulfilled the role of 'key workers' in those turbulent times, working as (primarily dairy) farmers around the Milnthorpe and Preston Patrick areas of Westmorland, 'feeding the nation'.

Further back, the census of 1881 showed that my great grandfather Edward was living with his grandfather (my 3rd great grandfather William). Why was this? After a bit of digging, I discovered that Edward was the illegitimate son of William's daughter, Dorothy. For the boy's sake, William and his wife, Isabella, took young Edward in as their own, while Dorothy went off to Dalton in Furness to start a new life. So with my true great, great grandfather's surname not recorded on Edward's birth

certificate, I discovered that the surname my family has used in recent generations shouldn't really be Brown after all.

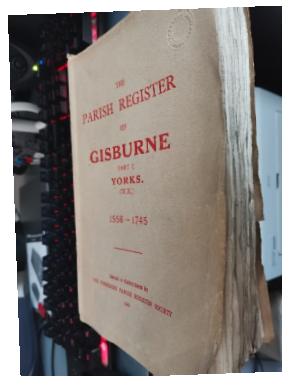
William seems to have done alright for himself. He had met and married Isabella while he was working as a farm hand for the Bennett family, and in 1851 he was running the 126-acre farm at Well Heads, Hincaster (see note below), and employing four farm hands.

Further back, we find William's mother, Ellenor, my 4th great grandmother, born in Thornton in Lonsdale in 1789. Ellenor was another woman in the family saddled with the 'greatest shame' as William, baptised in Caton, Lancashire in 1814, was also illegitimate. By 1841 Ellenor had gone east to Ripon and settled there with a family, while young William stayed in the area.

Now we come to three ancestors in a row who didn't move very far. Yet another William, this time my 5th great grandfather, was born 1759 in Masongill. In 1732, William the 6th great grandfather was also born in Masongill, and, finally, Richard, born in Tunstall, who brought the family to Masongill in 1702.

There's also documentation showing that some members of the Brown family were still resident in Masongill in 1842, at a time when my direct ancestors were just up the road at Hincaster. Masongill has links with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and was the focus of an excavation by the Ingleborough Archaeology group in 2007/08. (See website links below)

Finally, the last four generations in my search all come from Gisburn parish near Clitheroe, just down the A65.



Henry Browne (the e didn't disappear until around 1650) was born in 1631, Richard in 1598, Edmund in 1563 and Jonis, my 12th great grandfather who, in 1589, lived in Rimmington, in the shadow of Pendle Hill. They would have

been well aware of the Pendle witch trials in

1612, which saw the hanging of Jennet Preston, also born in the parish of Gisburn, who was tried and hanged at York as one of the infamous Pendle Witches. No doubt if they had suffered from Covid-19 in 1612 that too would have been blamed on witchcraft.... 'Burn them ... Burn them all!'

There we have it: 1563 – 1969, 406 years for the Brown family to travel a mere forty miles up the A65 from Gisburn to Kendal. That puts social distancing in a new perspective!

Stephen Brown

(Photos & diagrams: Stephen Brown)

<http://www.ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk/masongill.htm>

http://www.ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk/Masongill_History.html

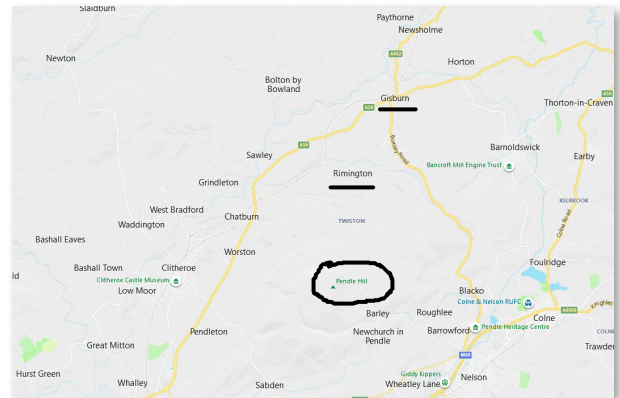
<https://www.ingleton.co.uk/about-ingleton/who-was-sherlock-2/>

Note:

*Well Heads Farmhouse II (from the Historic England website)
Farmhouse. C17 with later alterations.*

Central studded 6-panelled door, top 3 panels glazed, under later lean-to porch with slate roof. Interior has flagged floors and roughly cut chamfered beams in kitchen and living room. Listed partly for 4-bay roof with central transverse wall, 2 angled upper cruck trusses with tie beams at floor level and 2 levels of trenched purlins.

That sounds familiar; well head, flagged floor, central transverse wall, central door, cruck trusses... it could just as easily be Holwick!



Snippet 2: Back garden – actually digging – my finds tray now has pottery, glass, clay pipes pieces and a Dinky toy car

Dukesfield Documents

If you're looking for a new diversion while locked down, you might be interested to hear about [Dukesfield Documents](#). It's a free online collection of transcripts of letters, reports, probate material and other documents held in various regional and national archives and is loosely centred on the lead industry in the north-east of England between the mid-17 and mid-19 centuries. You can download full transcripts of each source document, most comprising many individual letters or other items; each item is also held separately within the online database. This means that, for example, letters which have ended up in different archival collections, whether in Newcastle, Durham, Birmingham, Manchester, London or elsewhere, can now be reunited in the chain of correspondence that they were part of 250 years ago. There are over 10,000 separate items and 2.4 million words of searchable content.

Dukesfield Documents started during 2012-15 as part of the Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers Project, which was funded by the National Lottery (Heritage). Its team of volunteers, including some AA members, continues to add new material.

Some of the content overlaps with our archaeological interest in the post-medieval period in the North Pennines. In particular, anyone interested in the evolution of the upland landscape in recent centuries, especially in relation to lead mining and the enclosure of the upland fells, will find a great deal of material. From the 1730s, there is much from Sir Walter Blackett's chief agent, Joseph Richmond, on negotiating with the bishop of Durham for the renewal of mining rights in Weardale. The bishop's side of this negotiation is illustrated by transcripts of letters from his agent now held in Durham University Library, and the database allows both sides of the correspondence to be read in sequence. There is also a correspondence transcribed from the bishop's papers on the enclosure of Weardale later in the 18 century.

The same goes for the drawn-out process of enclosing the Hexhamshire and Allendale Commons in the 1790s. Here, letters from at

least five different archival sources are available in date sequence, from which a fairly complete picture of the process, the opinions, and negotiations between landowners and their agents can be picked out – and written up if someone wishes to have a go!

An increasing amount of material is being added to the archive from the papers of Greenwich Hospital which are held in the National Archives at Kew. The Hospital was given the estates of the earls of Derwentwater in 1735, following their forfeiture because of the third earl's involvement in the 1715 Jacobite Rising. The Dukesfield collection holds many letters from the agents (receivers) appointed by Greenwich Hospital to survey and then manage its extensive Alston Moor Estates. You can find vivid accounts of upland life in the North Pennines in the Georgian period alongside the impact of lead mining, ore and lead carrying, smelting and refining, and peat and coal resources. This is material which can give some 'desk-based' background to our work in the landscape.

A health warning is necessary in conclusion: only enter something in that simple little 'search the archive' box (all 2.4 million words are fully searchable) if you have plenty of time. Users have been known to suddenly lose a whole day in pursuing the stories buried in this extensive digital resource!

Greg Finch



Enclosed land and the open fells in the West Allen valley. First-hand accounts and disputes of the enclosure process are included, amongst much else, in the Dukesfield Documents archive.

Investigating a Print



It was in an antique shop in Whitby that I came across an old print of the village where I live.

Dalton-on-Tees is on the A167 between Darlington and Northallerton, and although Dalton was recently found to have a rich archaeological heritage (some AA members took part in the excavations in 2016 and 2017), the village is not well known and so is a surprising subject for an artist. The print and the photograph below show the village from the same viewpoint (the photo was taken in March 2020).



The print was labelled 1900 and had a signature in the left-hand corner. The Chequers pub (painted grey in the print but now white) and the tiny spindly tree, now much larger, are present in both the print and the photograph. The artist has captured the way the village green curves round the tree, and the main road (which would have been

the Great North Road in 1900) is painted the same colour as the dirt track in the bottom left of the print, which leads down to my house.

The track has never had a tarmac surface, which makes me wonder whether the Great North Road at that time was only roughly surfaced. The two cottages adjoining the pub in the print were demolished in the 1960s; the small building behind the signpost was the village smithy, which was demolished in the 1970s.

The print seems to show a telegraph pole on the green, which made our local historian query the accuracy of the date on the print as she did not think the village would have been connected to the telegraph system at that time. However, I discovered that the Electric Telegraph Company (ETC) was founded by Sir William Fothergill Cooke and John Lewis Ricardo in 1846. Telegraph companies were closely linked to the expansion of the railways, and by 1860, there were five companies; in 1870 the ETC, in common with other telegraph companies, was nationalised and put under the control of the General Post Office. Dalton is only a quarter of a mile from the railway line from London to Edinburgh. This makes it quite possible that the village pub was connected to the telegraph system, especially as it was situated on the Great North Road.

I found two more prints by the same artist on eBay, one of Stokesley and the other of the village green at Eppleby. Signatures on these were clearer and could be read as Allan Barraud. This turned out to be Allan Frederick Barraud, who was born in 1847 in Croydon, Surrey, and died in 1912.

On investigating further, I discovered that all three prints had been published in a book titled *A Picturesque History of Yorkshire* by J.S. Fletcher. It is described as '*an Account of the History, Topography, and Antiquities of the Cities, Towns and Villages of the County of York, founded on Personal Observations made during many Journeys through the Three Ridings*'. <https://archive.org/details/picturesquehist01fletgoog/page/n260/mode/2up>

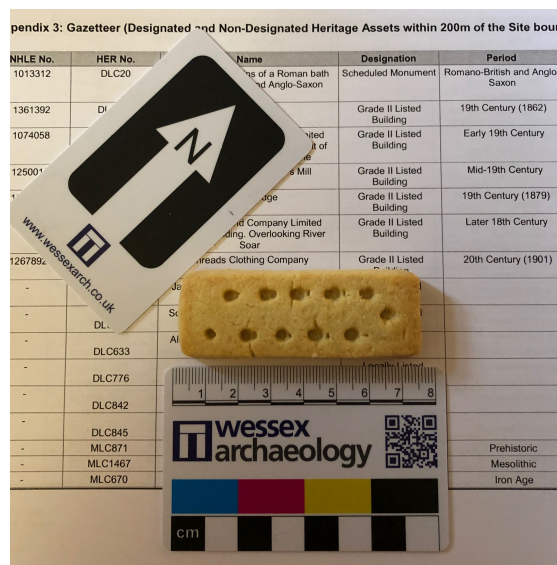
Kay Fothergill

(photos: Kay Fothergill)

Snippet 3: Exercise walks have evolved into walkover surveys & landscape archaeology, not to mention examining molehills & looking for Celtic heads in dry stone

Snippet 4: Indoors online - pursuing random themes on Google to my heart's content.
Indoors offline - sitting dipping into second hand volumes of archaeological journals I've picked up over the years

Desk Based Assessment



Desk based assessment is a 'low cost means of study for community groups and makes heritage accessible to those who may be unable to visit archaeological sites'. That was the publicity blurb for a course, organised by the Revitalising Redesdale Landscape Partnership scheme, at the end of February this year; a piece of planning that now seems remarkably prescient!

The two-day course was held at The Bay Horse Inn in West Woodburn and, just to ramp up the nostalgia for pubs and all things associated, the pub served excellent buns and chips. The course was led by Ruth Humphreys, Senior Heritage Consultant at Wessex Archaeology, who introduced us to digital research methods, archive resources and historic maps and showed us how to produce a desk-based assessment (DBA) of a particular site. All without leaving the comfort of The Bay Horse Inn.

Why is DBA important? The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) has produced essential planning guidelines to understanding the character of an area or a heritage asset, much of which can be best achieved by studying historical resources and, for an organisation such as Wessex Archaeology, it is part of the process of commercial tendering. Prior to visiting a site earmarked for re-development, the organisation needs to gather the relevant

historical environment data. For Ruth and her colleagues, assessing the impact of a new development is not just about what it might destroy; they also have to think about how it might enhance the environment and serve the community. In other words, there is a need to record the archaeology, but not always to conserve it.

Finding out about the commercial aspects of DBA was fascinating, but I was really interested in learning of the different ways in which documentation can be interpreted to gain an insight into a location - who may have lived there, and why? Using a combination of LIDAR, historical maps and other archive material we were shown how to assess the evidence.

When you look at a heritage asset, there are five key values to consider: evidential, historical (both illustrative and associative), aesthetic and communal. The evidential value of any asset lies in its potential to yield evidence of human activity and help understand the area's past; we were encouraged to explore this by focusing on local landmarks, as, for example, The Bay Horse Inn! It is an eighteenth century coaching inn, situated by the road, so has clear illustrative historical and aesthetic value but also an important associative value because of its context and original function. This links to the communal value, its place in the fabric of the village both in the past and now, as a venue for social gatherings, hunt meets etc. and because, just by existing, it connects people with their heritage. So, it is a building of considerable significance in that area. As an experiment, you can try this kind of assessment out using your own house. Not all historical assets make it into the records!

The course covered aspects of DBA in great detail and this has been a really brief account of a complex, absorbing methodology. To focus on a feature spotted on a map or in the field and search for clues to its past in the archives is incredibly satisfying. It can provide some unexpected insights, and is a different way to fulfil the need to carry on digging.

Chris Powell

Resources:

A mass of information is available online for anyone who wants to research a location for their own interest. This is just a selection:

historicengland.org.uk
oldmaps.co.uk

National Library of Scotland
<https://www.nls.co.uk>

Ordnance Survey osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

National Heritage List for England - official list of buildings, monuments, parks, gardens, battlefields etc. historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/heritage-assets/nhle

It is also worth looking up county archive and national parks websites.



Preparing a hole for the new rotary dryer; years of de-turfing and digging test pits put to good use!

(Photos: Chris Powell)

We hope to be able to resume activities soon, so keep checking our website for a revised programme.

All events in the programme are free to members of AA unless otherwise stated. For insurance reasons you must be a member to excavate otherwise non-members are welcome to join us at all other events, subject to the availability of places.

Please check in advance by emailing:
info@altogetherarchaeology.org

Charges for non-members are: talks £3, walks £5; fees for workshops & other events vary, so please check on the website

Join us

You will find information about how to become a member of AA, including membership fees, on our website:

www.altogetherarchaeology.org

Contribute to the newsletter ...

We normally produce two newsletters each year: a shorter Spring edition with news and updates after the AGM and another, longer issue at the end of the year. The winter edition is a celebration of the year's events with contributions from members about activities, their particular archaeological obsessions, or interesting sites they have visited. We are always on the lookout for contributions, and welcome submissions of general archaeological interest - especially at the moment, so please let us know what you have been up to!

If you would like to contribute an article or photographs for the next edition, contact the Newsletter Editor, Chris Powell
chrispowl@me.com.

We ask that submissions should be a maximum of 500 words.

Contact us

For more information about AA, please get in touch.

Email address:

info@altogetherarchaeology.org

Postal address:

Altogether Archaeology
1 Badminton Grove
Newton Aycliffe
DL5 4TN

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and finally ...

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