



NEWSLETTER

September 2022

Letter from the Editor

- **Hello everyone! Welcome to the September edition of the Newsletter.**
- Our Newsletter will now be one every two months.
- Our first three talks of the 2022-23 Season will be from Ian Channell of Epping Forest Museum, Martin Bates of the University of Wales on prehistoric London and Kris Lockyear of UCL on Verulamium, all via Zoom. Zoom links will be sent as usual.
- WEAG successfully ran the first Experience Weekends and Members' Digs since 2019 at Copped Hall on 23-24th and 30-31st of July. Thanks to Andrew, Tina and Lee for running the weekends. See WEAG Summer Dig below for an update on the excavations and photos
- The feature article in this edition is a review of a new website from Historic England, featuring among other things aerial photos of Copped Hall dating back to the 1930s. Thanks to Colin Mann for spotting these and Lee Joyce for the write-up. See page 5 below.
- Don't forget to check out a full list of books and DVDs, and especially Norah Carlin's book on Old Copped Hall.



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Donate to WEAG for free using Amazon, you can generate money for WEAG by putting smile.amazon.co.uk into your browser, choosing West Essex Archaeological Group as your chosen charity or just click the image to the left.



WEAG Member Profile

Would you like to be 'our profile on a member'? If so email us and we'll forward you the questions.

Stay In Touch

[weag.org.uk](https://www.weag.org.uk)
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WEAG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Lecture Program

2022-23 Details of next year's lectures will
Be available on our website soon

Non-members are welcome to attend Lectures.
A voluntary contribution of £2 would be
appreciated from guests.

For Lecture Meetings shown as 'Zoom', the Zoom
details for that meeting will be circulated to WEAG
members a few days before the meeting.
Non-members are welcome to join in the Zoom
meetings (for a £2 contribution).
Contact membership@weag.org.uk for more
details.

What's on locally?

For information on museum and local
historical societies visit.

<http://www.weag.org.uk/events/whats-on-locally/>

BOOK SALE

	RRP	Special Offer Price
The Romano-British Temple at Harlow	£ 7.00	£ 3.50
Exploration and Discovery in South West Essex	£ 7.00	£ 3.50
Archaeology – what it is and how to do it	£ 9.50	£ 8.50
Copped Hall Report 2003	£ 4.00	£ 2.50
Copped Hall Report 2004 / 5	£ 7.00	£ 2.50
Copped Hall – A Short History (Cassidy)	£ 2.50	£ 2.50
Annual Review 2008/2009	£ 0.50	£ 0.50
Annual Review 2009/2010	£ 0.50	£ 0.50
Annual Review 2010/2011	£ 0.50	£ 0.50
Annual Review 2011/2012	£ 0.50	£ 0.50
Wanstead Park – Revealed (DVD)	£ 3.00	£ 1.50
Wanstead Park – Living Park (DVD)	£ 3.00	£ 1.50
The Wanstead Archive (DVD)	£ 3.00	£ 1.50



WEAG Summer dig 2022



On 23-24th and 30-31st of July, WEAG ran the first Copped Hall Experience Weekends since 2019 with a Members' Digs run in tandem. The weekends were well attended by both students and WEAG members and although due to the hard ground the going was tough some good archaeology was done. On the first day a single trench was laid out a few meters south of the loggia pillar, it was laid across the expected line (based on the Newdigate drawing) of an external courtyard wall. On the second day the students carried out a Geo-physical survey to the south of the new trench under the instruction of John Avis and based on the results

a second trench was put in. Returning for a second weekend with a new set of students we continued with the two trenches. In the west end of the trench nearer the loggia, the base of the robber trench from the western courtyard wall was discovered a few inches below the current land surface. All traces of the wall itself had been removed and the substantial foundations encountered east of the loggia and a few meters west of the current trench in trench K were absent, indicating that the foundation here had always been much shallower.

In investigating the strong results from the Geo-physics it was found that the cause was a/or indeed many, large fires and a



look at the associated find suggests a very modern date (Less than twenty years). On the last day John again took the students and this time surveyed the area immediately north of

trench G, we are still awaiting the results of this and who knows what they may tell us. The dig was led by Tina (Holloway), Lee (Joyce), Andrew (Madeley) and the Geophysics was led by John (Avis) much of the teaching was done by Sue (Cunningham) and Grace (Jarvis).

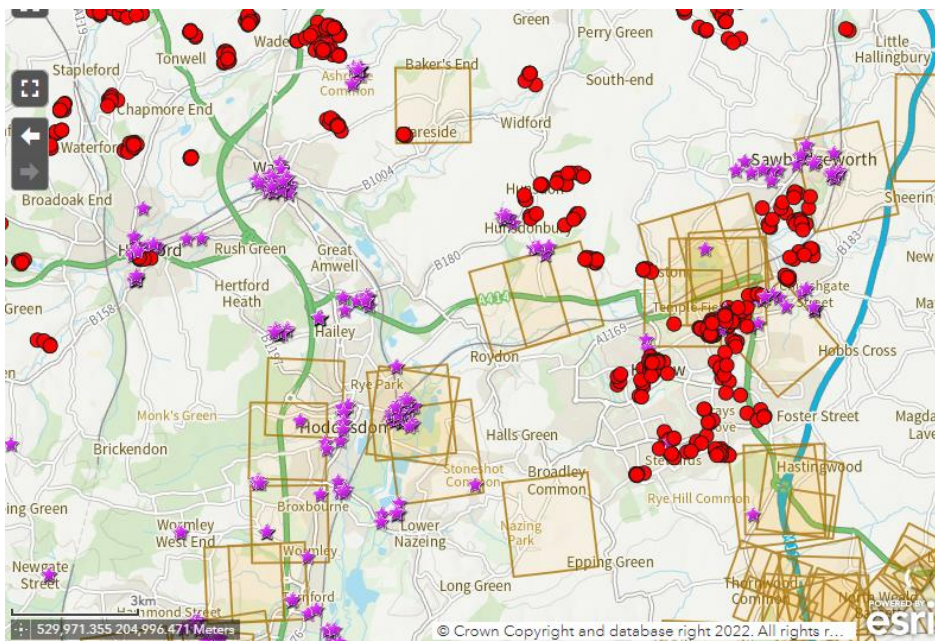


All in all our summer dig was a great success with some good archaeology found, the WEAG members' really enjoying being back in the trenches and the feedback from students was very positive.

Lee Joyce

Maps and more: Three useful websites.

Historic England has a nationally important collection of over 6 million photographs. On 22nd March this year they added 400,000 aerial photos to their website, all of which have been digitized and are now easily accessible.



The website is very user friendly. The photographs span over 100 years and have been grouped for easy searching, both by location and by subjects including the remains of ancient archaeology, Second World War anti-invasion measures, war-time adaptations to sites, bomb damage, 20th-century famous buildings and industrial sites.

Geographical searches can be made by simply zooming in on the map, when you do so icons will appear and you then simply click on the ones you want to view.

Below is an image from the website of Copped Hall taken in 1938.

The website can be found by searching Historic England aerial photographs or at

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/>



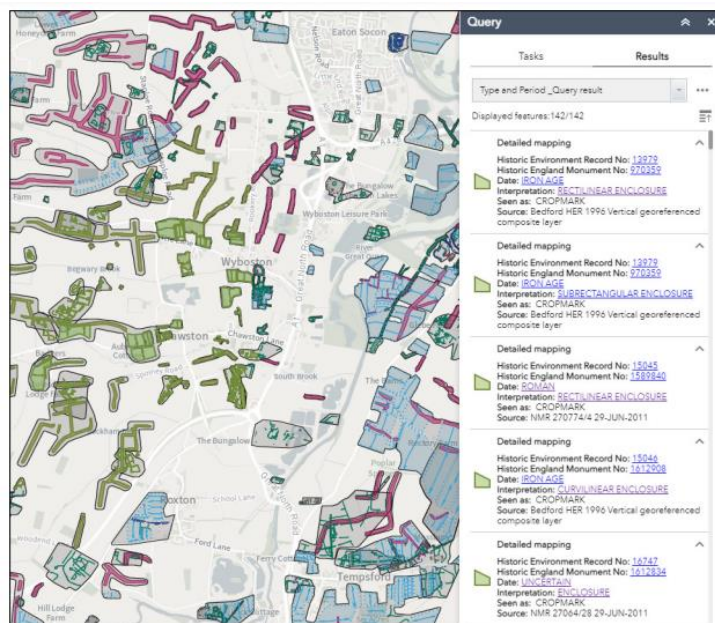
Another useful resource also from Historic England is the 'Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer' App.

This site allows access to “a compilation of archaeological mapping data collected by Historic England, and its predecessor organisations, over a period of over 30 years. The archaeological mapping has been collected from a variety of modern and historic aerial photographic sources. These have increased over time and now include airborne laser scanning (also known as LIDAR),” This site allows greater integration of the information than the Historic England aerial photographs site, this also makes it more difficult to use, this issue has been addressed and there is a fourteen page

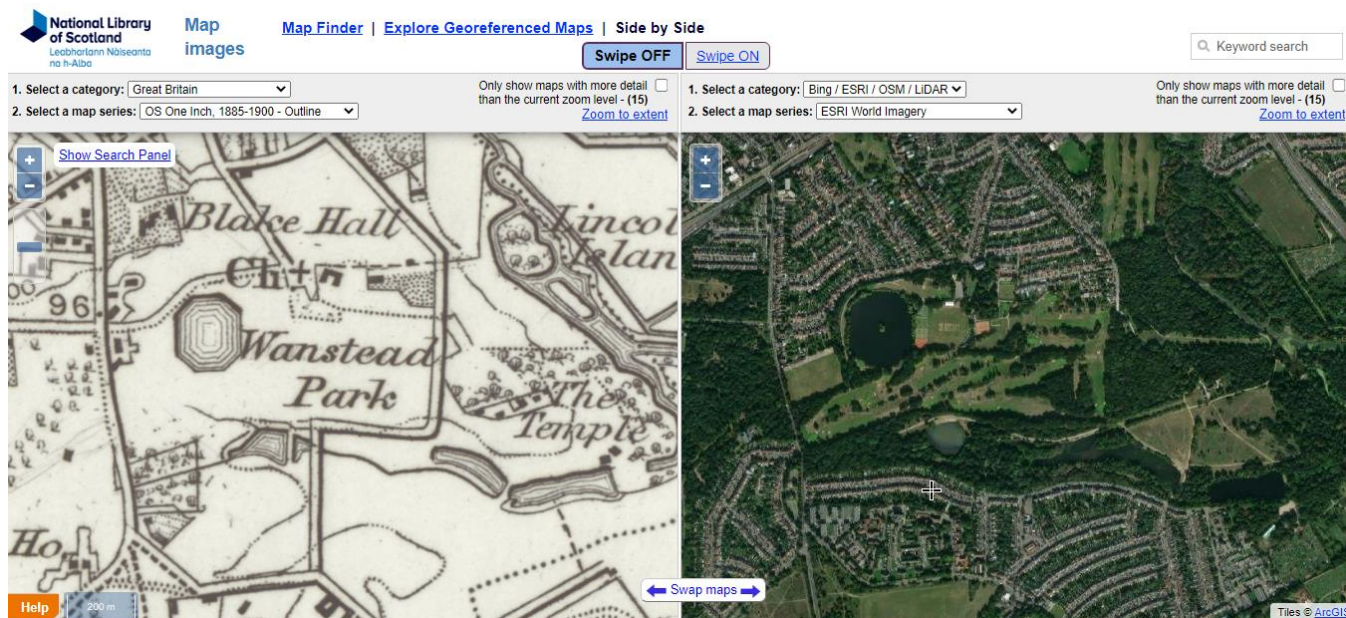
user guide available on the site. As with the previous site you start with a map on which you zoom in, with features becoming clearer.

You can search by name, grid reference, postcode, historic date or monument type etc. The other key features allows different layers of information to be overlaid, such as aerial photographs, hand drawn mapping and lidar and several sources of information can be viewed at once. The list of features are far to numerous to list or explain here and the website is far from simple to use but is undoubtedly a valuable asset if you take the time to do so.

The website is available at:
<https://historicengland.maps.arcgis.com>



A third useful website is the National Library of Scotland's collection of old maps. On this site you can access and view over a quarter of a million maps as high-resolution, colour, zoomable images. You can search for and view maps in various ways, side by side, overlaid etc. and view other maps of the same location from various historic dates. Both the side by side and overlay facility make this a fast, simple and valuable tool. Unlike the previous site this one is far more self-explanatory and simple to use and most people should be up and running within a few minutes. This site can be found at <https://maps.nls.uk>



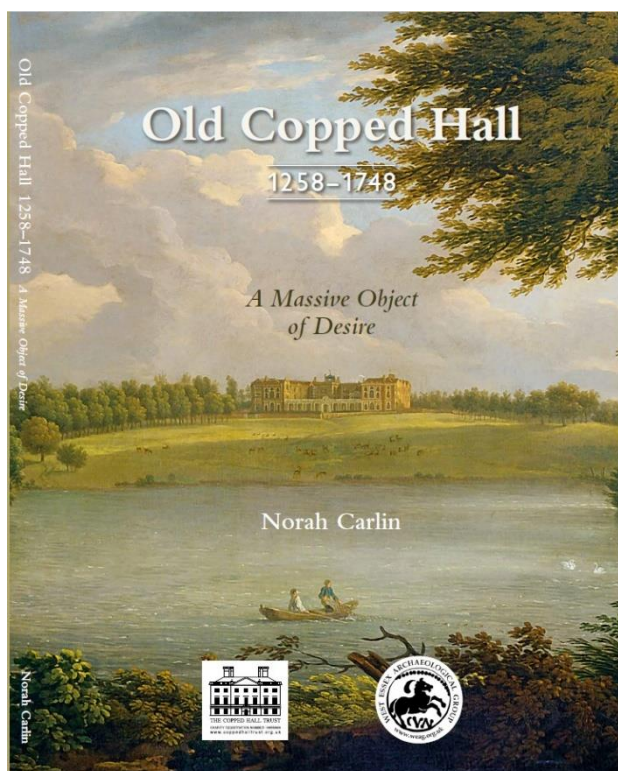
Taken together these three sites provide an almost inexhaustible sources of information without leaving the comfort of your armchair.

But be warned it is easy to become addicted!

Lee Joyce

Old Copped Hall 1258-1748

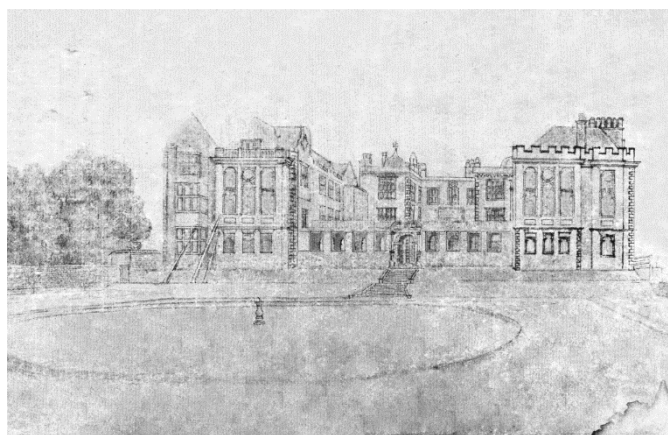
A new book about the history of the Old Copped Hall from 1258 to 1748 has been written by Norah Carlin has been published by WEAG, on behalf of the Copped Hall Trust Archaeological Project, in collaboration with the Copped Hall Trust.



The front cover: *View of Copped Hall in Essex, from across the lake*, by George Lambert & Francis Hayman, 1746. Photo © Tate T07556

Copped Hall Trust.

The book covers the history of Copped Hall from 1258, when the first surviving documents describing it were written, through to its demolition in the 1750s. This is the building that came into the ownership of King Henry VIII a few years before the dissolution of Waltham Abbey, and was then passed to his daughters Queen Mary I and Queen Elizabeth I. Its last owner, John Conyers, had it demolished, to be replaced on a nearby site by the Georgian mansion that we see under restoration today. But the former mansion was every bit as grand. Over 500 years, perhaps longer, it had grown from a simple manor house to the magnificent building in the illustration on the book's cover, and in a drawing shown below, made just before demolition.



Reproduced by courtesy of the Essex Record Office, reference D/DW E27/2. Digitally retouched by Peter Gamble

The book's author is Norah Carlin, a retired history lecturer and WEAG member. Norah's previously published works are highly regarded accounts of social change in England from the 17th onwards. The book grew out of the documentary research that WEAG undertook as part of the excavation of the site over the past 20 years. It goes a lot further and deeper than previous histories of the site. Norah has examined many documents (some in Latin) in national and regional record offices and archives. But while the book is a treat for professional researchers with its detailed sources and footnotes, it is no dry history. Norah has brought the building to life by describing its owners and their colourful lives, and she has brought together, for the first time, many delightful colour illustrations from national art galleries, museums and private collections. Amongst other things the book contains contemporary portraits of all but one of the owners of Old Copped Hall from King Henry VIII onwards (there seem to be no extant portraits of the "missing" owner!).

Norah discusses the evidence for several of the stories that have grown up about Old Copped Hall. For example, did King Henry VIII pace the gardens at Copped Hall waiting for confirmation of Anne Boleyn's execution, and was Shakespeare's *"A Midsummer Night's Dream"* first performed there? You will have to buy the book to find out what evidence Norah has found for and against these stories!

The book has 160 pages in paperback form, with 60 illustrations, three quarters in full colour. It has been created to exacting standards by professional designer/printers. For early purchasers (over the next few months) the selling price is £17.99, with a further charge of £5 for postage and packing if needed. A number of local collection points will be arranged for those who wish to collect in person. The book has been published by WEAG, on behalf of the Copped Hall Trust Archaeological Project, in collaboration with the Copped Hall Trust. Its publication is not a fund-raising exercise, and to make it widely accessible it is being priced "at cost"

This is a limited edition, so "*buy now while stocks last*". It would make an excellent Christmas present. **To buy a copy, and for further information, email weagbook@outlook.com** , and you will be sent details of collection or post and methods of payment.

Contacts

General Contact: enquiries@weag.org.uk

Chairman: chairman@weag.org.uk

Membership Contact: membership@weag.org.uk

Taster Weekends and Field Schools Information: coppedhalldigs@weag.org.uk

Treasurer: treasurer@weag.org.uk

Webmaster: webmaster@weag.org.uk

Emergency Phone Number: 07802 711 703