

Crimdon skeleton gives up its secrets

Regular readers might recall that a human skeleton was reported as a chance find from Crimdon Dunes in the Autumn of 2012 (see [Newsletter #05](#)). The skeleton was found by a group of school children who had been digging a hole in the cliff face.

Parts of the skeleton were recovered by the police but the site was too unstable for a proper archaeological excavation. The skeleton was that of a teenage boy. His body had been sealed beneath several metres of sand dune that had formed since his death.



The burial was mysterious - no other archaeological sites are known in the area that would explain its presence. There were no documented settlements close by and any thoughts on the date of the grave were purely speculative. Was it prehistoric, part of a lost Anglo-Saxon cemetery or perhaps a more recent victim of a Victorian shipwreck?

In order to gain a better understanding of the remains a radiocarbon date was obtained from one of the bones. The result was something of a surprise. The young boy had been buried in the early to mid 13th century AD, probably at around 1250 AD. This is quite unusual as it is presumed that most burials would have taken place in a Christian cemetery at that time.

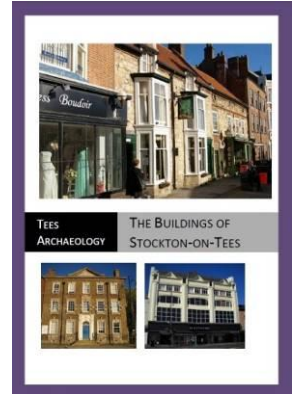
It is still difficult to interpret the remains. Perhaps this young man was accidentally buried by a collapsing dune, or he had drowned and was buried in the place he had washed ashore.

Tees Archaeology continue to monitor the site but it is still too dangerous to access.

The Buildings of Stockton-on-Tees

We are pleased to announce the publication of a new booklet. It takes the reader on a tour of the rich architectural heritage of Stockton-on-Tees.

The booklet is the product of a five year project, which was completed last year. A team of eager volunteers recorded over 400 buildings in the town centre, covering every style of architecture from the last 300 years.



The booklet can be downloaded from our [website](#). Free printed copies are available at all Stockton Borough Libraries and from the Rediscover Stockton Shop on the High Street.

The Medieval origins of Fairy Dell, Middlesbrough

Tees Archaeology are currently working with the Friends of Fairy Dell in Middlesbrough to identify and record its medieval heritage.



A number of workshops were held this spring to identify archaeological features within the Dell, but particularly focusing on the sunken lanes which are present.

By looking at old maps and aerial photographs it became apparent that the lost medieval village of Newham lay on the western side of the dell until it was built over in the early 1970s. One of the sunken lanes that led from the village green to the beck at the base of the dell is still visible, as is one of the back lanes of the village. The old course of Gunnergate Lane is also still visible on either side of a ford.

A week of archaeological excavation will take place this summer to learn more about these ancient trackways, followed by a medieval festival to be held at the Dell on Sunday 20th July.