

Fascinating Finds In Wall Dig!

By Susan Hambly

Surprised archaeologists were in awe this week after digging up Roman leather shoes and rare pieces of pottery.

After digging at the site for more than six months, in what has been called 'the biggest dig of Hadrian's Wall', the team of eight archaeologists have shared their finds in a stunning display at one of the local museums.

The dig revealed a number of types of artefacts including the most well preserved Roman shoe ever found. The small shoe is made from one piece of leather and has been dated back to around 212 AD. Other leather items that have been found include bags, buckets and textiles.

'These finds have been incredible for us here at the dig site because it allows us to prove that our time digging new sites is worthwhile. Sometimes it is difficult to get money to dig up sites, but these finds mean that there are still artefacts left to dig up. Our work here at this site is still not done.' Dina Grey, head archaeologist reported.

'Another key find is the Roman road that was uncovered earlier on in the year. The road has been carefully dug out by our team with help from volunteers. We have found many more artefacts here too including a Roman sword!' continued Dina.

The archaeologists have learned a lot about living life as a Roman along the wall from previous digs. This dig however is one for the record books due to the amount of artefacts found.

The display of all the finds is located at the Roman Army Museum at Bardon Mill, Northumberland and will be open to the public from tomorrow. Tours can be booked to find out about the history of the dig site and allow the public to touch some of the artefacts.

Archaeology students from Newcastle University have been helping the archaeologists with their digs and helping them to log each artefact and piece of pottery found. This will help the archaeologists to piece the information together to see what they have found.

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Fascinating Finds! – Y4/P5/G3 – Text

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Malcolm Simpson, chair of the tourism trust in the area said, 'This year has been fantastic for tourists. Each time a discovery is made it brings more people to the area to see them. People remember how great our area is and come and visit more often. Our records show that this year alone over 100,000 people visited the museums and tourist centres along the wall. The wall was a boundary for 300 years and now it attracts people from all over the world. The wall has a different job now that it used to all those years ago. It is important that we all do as much as possible to promote Hadrian's wall as the visitors provide the funding to

keep digging new sections and to repair damaged parts of the wall. We need to preserve the wall for future generations.'

'Our volunteers are vital to our work,' says Dina. 'Without them we would not be able to carry out such large scale work in the amount of time we have. The volunteers are dedicated and are trained up by the archaeologists.'

To volunteer with the archaeology dig team, donate money or for further information please visit the official website; www.romanhadrianswalluk.com.

Fascinating Finds! – Comprehension

Section A

1. What type of text is this? What features are used in the five paragraphs?
2. Why has direct speech been used in the text?
3. Summarize what the article was about.
4. How many people visit Hadrian's Wall each year?

Section B

5. What feature is used in the headline and what effect does it have?
6. Where have the artefacts gone now?
7. Where can you find more information?

Section C

8. According to the first five paragraphs, what artefacts have been found?
9. What more information about the Roman road do you think should have been included in the text?
10. Does the article make you want to visit Hadrian's Wall? Discuss with a friend.
11. What word does Dina use to describe how important the volunteers are?

Section D

12. What is meant by the word 'artefact'?
13. Why do you think that volunteers are needed to help dig up the Roman road?

14. Why is this dig important?

15. What is Dina's opinion on volunteers?