



meeting with Burgh
Castle Beat Manager
and Councillor Carl Smith

Changing faces at Norfolk Archaeological Trust

In January, Caroline Davison, Director of NAT for over 6 years stood down to concentrate on her writing career. Caroline's connection with NAT began in 2012 when she project managed the community engagement strand of the 2-year lottery-funded St Benet's Abbey Conservation, Access and Community project, and she went on to become Director in 2014.

Speaking about her time with NAT Caroline said 'I've found the role very rewarding and I'll be really sad to say goodbye to everyone who's supported me in my work over the years'. Caroline will be greatly missed by all the NAT team, we thank her for all her hard work and we wish her well with her writing career - 'The Captain's Apprentice': Biography of a song - www.carolinedavison.co.uk



Stepping into Caroline's shoes, is NAT's former Volunteer Co-ordinator – Natalie Butler. Natalie has over 17 years' experience working in the heritage sector in East Anglia. Having previously worked for the National Trust, Norfolk Museums & Archaeological Service and as a freelance

Heritage Professional, Natalie brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the role. Natalie studied at the UEA gaining a BA in History and History of Art, and an MA in Landscape History. 'I feel privileged to be NAT's new Director – we are lucky to have such a diverse range of sites across Norfolk and I am excited to be implementing the Trust's new strategic goals and objectives.



Replacing Natalie as NAT's Volunteer Co-ordinator is Jules Armour. Jules undertook a heritage management degree at Writtle College in Essex and over the last decade has worked for organisations including World Monuments Fund, National Trust and English Heritage.

Conservation works: St Benet's Abbey



Those of you who have visited St Benet's Abbey recently will have noticed works being undertaken to the abbey ruins. A condition survey in 2020 identified a package of works required to consolidate the flint walls to stabilise and protect the masonry.

Most concerning was that there was a risk of losing the surviving 15th century flushwork on the north exterior wall. The damage to low lying walls had largely been caused by visitors climbing on them and we are working with Historic England to find a solution which

prevents this happening again in the future. We were luckily enough to be awarded an Historic England Grant - Covid-19 Emergency Heritage at Risk Response Fund. For which we are very grateful, the project should be completed by the Summer.

Dogs on Leads

Our sites are sanctuaries for a wide range of wildlife, including wildflowers and ground-nesting birds. All of these are very sensitive to disturbance by dogs.

To maintain our sites, we are reliant on controlling the grass through grazing by sheep and cattle (and the income from farmers contributes to our charitable funds).

Unfortunately, this year we have had reports of dogs worrying sheep, and visitors being alarmed by dogs running free.

Therefore, we now ask our visitors to keep their dog on a lead at all times, all year to protect their dog as well as visitors, livestock and wildlife whilst visiting our sites. This is in line with other organisations in Norfolk.



Heritage Crime Awareness event

Sadly, this year we have experienced some Heritage Crime at a few of our sites. The donation post was vandalised, and the contents stolen at Caistor Roman Town, there was a small fire near the river at St Benet's Abbey and we have suffered from a criminal damage at Burgh Castle Fort along with anti-social behaviour and fly tipping.

Working with the Norfolk Constabulary Rural Crime Team and Historic England we are hoping to raise awareness of these issues and encourage local community support.

We will be holding a Heritage Crime Awareness event on 4th September, 10-3pm at Caistor Roman Town with the Norfolk Constabulary and Historic England – more details, and a date to be confirmed. We are also recruiting a new Meet and Greet volunteer team at Caistor Roman Town, St Benet's Abbey and Burgh Castle. To meet our visitors, give them some history of our sites, and also be our eyes and ears on the ground.

Find out more about Heritage Crime at:
historicengland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/heritage-crime/



Above: A vandalised donation post at Caistor Roman Town where donations were stolen.

Background picture: Site of a small fire at St Benet's Abbey which threaten wildlife and the environment.

Guided walks 2021



School group led by
volunteers at Burgh
Castle Fort

During the pandemic, our guided tours were suspended for the safety of both our visitors and volunteers, but we are delighted to report that they have recently resumed at **St Benet's Abbey** and **Caistor Roman Town** with restricted numbers in line with current covid guidelines. We successfully gained the "We're Good to Go" industry standard and consumer mark to reassure our visitors that we are adhering to Government and public health guidance. Guided tours are bookable through the Eventbrite website whilst government restrictions continue: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/norfolk-archaeological-trust-33216465969>

Thanks, as always, goes to Caistor Roman Project and our local volunteers for organising these tours!

Find us on
Eventbrite



Keeping in touch

We will always be pleased to hear from members about any aspect of the Trust's work, especially if you are interested in volunteering at one of our sites.

Email: info@norfarchtrust.org.uk

You can also follow us on Twitter @NorfArchTrust, Facebook and Instagram (norfolkarchaeologytrust). We also regularly update the website news and events pages www.norfarchtrust.org.uk.

Text and photographs by Natalie Butler unless otherwise stated.

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