

## ***History on Your Doorstep: Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service and the community of Kingsholm, Gloucester.***



Johnny's giant jaw bone – unearthed during the excavation of gardens as part of History on Your Doorstep  
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Since 2012, Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service has been working with the residents of Kingsholm, a northern suburb of Gloucester, to research the history of their community in a variety of hands-on ways. The *History on Your Doorstep* project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, has harnessed the enthusiasm of over one thousand local people, many with no previous involvement in archaeology, to build new knowledge of the area and new skills and knowledge in the community.

Residents attended a day school in March 2012 which outlined the current thinking about Roman and Anglo-Saxon Kingsholm, and went on to take part in training sessions on artefact identification, documentary research, geophysical surveying, excavation and post-excavation techniques, and report writing and archiving.

Over 190

local people were involved in resistivity and magnetometry surveys of most of the open areas of Kingsholm, hoping to identify the site of the original Roman fort and evidence of the evolution of the settlement. Whilst the location of the fort remained elusive, the project uncovered evidence from the more recent past, including a lost post-Second World War memorial garden.

The project ended in June 2013 with an exhibition at Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery. One project volunteer observed that *History on Your Doorstep* provided not only a chance for the community to come together and build new links, but 'a learning path that has both enriched my understanding of Gloucester's place in history and taught me new skills that will, I hope, be valuable in other related activities.'



Denmark Road dig  
Caption: Learning to take levels during the Denmark Road dig. Copyright: Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service.

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