

The Work of the County Archaeologist

The speaker at the Historians' meeting for the evening of 27 February 2026 was Shane Kelleher, who is the County Archaeologist for Staffordshire.

This was a very interesting and informative talk on the work of the County Archaeologist, with Shane explaining the many different roles and responsibilities of the job and giving details of archaeological work around this area. It is a very small team, who work mainly on planning applications e.g. for housing developments, solar farms, ensuring that the ground is checked for historical importance before work can start and that any development work is done properly. If a site is found to have archaeological remains from the initial trenches dug, a private team of archaeologists will be employed by the developers to carry out a dig. Local examples of digs included the sites of John Taylor Free School, Dovecliff Weir and housing developments at Watery Lane Curborough, Uttoxeter, Lichfield and Tamworth; it was fascinating to hear of the artefacts found at these sites and the history of the original buildings. There are many Roman and medieval sites in this area, with the land near the River Trent being particularly favourable for agriculture.

Everyone enjoyed listening to Shane's enthusiasm for his work and his passion for archaeology.