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Achieving Versatility, Range and Scale.

Meeting the Challenge of Large-Scale Infrastructure Projects

The development of the new Aukera-owned Kybo Solar Farm at Edenbridge is an important step forward to prioritise renewable energy on a large scale; the project is set to cover just under twelve and a half hectares and is expected to provide energy for many households for decades to come.

Such an enormous undertaking comes with its own unique challenges and planning conditions for the client, including those related to heritage. Our experienced team at Canterbury Archaeological Trust are well prepared to tackle these specific requirements for Aukera.

For the past four weeks, CAT has conducted a major strip, map, and sample operation at the site, a process which involves machine-stripping the land with care to expose any ancient ditches, pits, or structures in the natural soil. A map is then created using surveying equipment, planning in each feature to create a full image of the site and its archaeological significance.

After hand-excavation and recording by our team of field experts, soil samples and finds are collected and sent back to our in-house laboratory to be analysed.

We at CAT are excited to be involved in the process of developing this site with Aukera, helping to further the pursuit of green energy in Britain for generations to come.

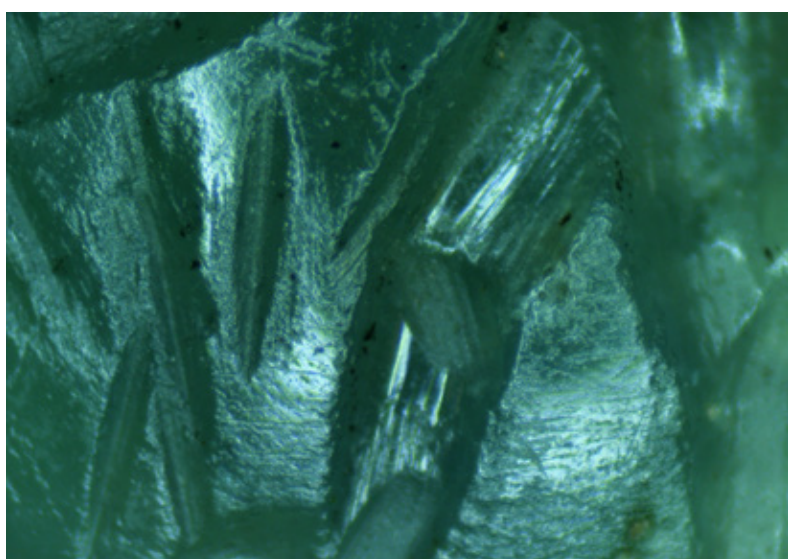


Magnifying the Past

Our specialist team at CAT are now even better equipped to analyse all the complex finds work we are offered.

Our new SM-4T stereo microscope magnifies the smallest details up to 180 times, and a fully rotatable trinocular photo-port enables a camera to be mounted in place for stability. This means that we can capture clear and crisp publication-quality images like this one of a Roman period intaglio; at 84x magnification, we are able to reveal the grooves in the stone made by the shape of the carver's tools, marks which would be invisible to the naked eye.

This new equipment has become an invaluable addition to our lab and our dedicated experts in the finds department, as well as to our publication team.



A Roman period chalcedony intaglio at 84x magnification



Always Thinking of the Bigger Picture

An important part of archaeological excavation is the collecting and processing of bulk environmental samples.

The team in the field takes samples of soil from various features on site, which are then brought back to CAT's in-house environmental archaeology lab to be wet-sieved. Our dedicated environmental archaeologists pass each sample through a sequence of smaller sieves to separate objects such as animal bone, pollen, cereal grains, or shell fragments from the sediment; once everything is clean and dry, all these minute objects are identified, sorted, weighed, and analysed.

Undertaking this specialist process in-house enables greater efficiency, continuity, and communication between members of the team at all stages of each site, from initial assessment, through excavation, to report publication, helping our clients to achieve their objectives more effectively.

Creating Global Reach with Local Finds

CAT's community archaeology project at East Wear Bay is a fantastic way for the public to get involved personally and gain hands-on experience with the past, at all stages of the process.

The latest developments in our volunteer programme include the use of our new 3D scanner to create a digital museum, allowing volunteers and the public to "keep in touch" with the fascinating objects that they have found in the field. With excavations at the site beginning in 1920, there is a lot of material to scan and prepare for digital display.

This process can be easily adapted to fulfil public engagement aspects of planning conditions for commercial development projects. A digital museum is a fantastic way to create a globally accessible resource that adds amazing social benefit to any project.

We at CAT look forward to the launch of these 3D models on the new digital museum website, and the blueprint it provides for future public outreach projects in the sphere of commercial development.



Our 3D scanner in action

Remember to follow us on social media for all our latest messages, campaigns, on-site and in-office news.

