NHAS: 2017 FIELD EXCURSION Sunday, July 16th, 8.00am – c.6.30pm

GRIME’S GRAVES, and WEST STOW, both near to Thetford, Norfolk.

Grime’s Graves is an area of c. 400 prehistoric flint mines, in heathland. The filled in shallow mine shafts give a ‘lunar landscape’ of humps and hollows. The early Anglo-Saxon Village at West Stow has 7 timber and thatched buildings, all reconstructed on the original excavated site, in the valley of the River Lark.

Programme for the day

8.00am: Pick up point in St. Mary’s Square, Hitchin

8.20am: Pick up point outside Letchworth Library, Broadway, Letchworth. 8.30am: Leave Letchworth

10.30am – 12 noon: Arrive at Grime’s Graves, c. 7 miles NW of Thetford. Options: Walk around the 96 acre heathland SSI, descend on a 30’ ladder down an excavated shaft, the ‘Public Pit’, into a mine gallery, or visit the small Visitor Centre with exhibition, shop, vending machine and two portaloos.

12 noon – 1.00pm: Drive, c. 25 miles, to West Stow Anglo Saxon Village, set within its Country Park.

1.00pm – 4.00pm: Arrive at West Stow, SW of Thetford. The Visitor Centre has the Museum, the 72 seater Angles Café, and the shop. Meals MUST be booked in advance in the Café; benches outside are available for those of us with our own picnic lunches.

2.00pm – 3.00pm: Guided Site Tour: a 6 minute DVD and then a guided walk through the Village, its 7 buildings, all with replica artefacts, and some with costumed ‘interpreters’.

3.00pm - 4.00pm: Options: Visit the Museum, explore the 125 acre Country Park with woodland and heathland trails, enjoy your own picnic tea or buy refreshments in the Café.

4.00pm: Leave West Stow

6.00pm: Drop off point outside Letchworth Library, Broadway, Letchworth

6.30pm: Drop off point in St. Mary’s Square, Hitchin

NB: GRIME’S GRAVES: a. For the normal entry fee, members are permitted to descend into a mineshaft, the ‘Public Pit’, down a 30’ ladder, with hard hats on. b. If we have a group of 10 people wanting to descend into the newly opened Greenwell Pit, this is possible, at a cost of 20.00 per person; only 5 to descend at any one time, with hard hats and harness. ‘Underground tours’ last for c. 30/40 minutes.

Our CLOSING DATE for booking for this excursion will be THURSDAY, 29th JUNE

NHAS: BOOKING FORM for the visits to Grime’s Graves and to West Stow, on Sunday, July 16th, 2017.

Your name………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Your address…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Your phone number……………………………………………………………………………………

Your choice of Pick up Point……………………………………………………………………….

Have you paid your 2017/18 subscription to NHAS? …………………..

Subscription are due on June 1st 2017 for 2017/8: Adults: 19.00, Family: 24.00, Concessions ( i.e.over 65 years and under 16 years): 10.00. All payable to NHAS, c/o Mrs. Diane Burleigh, 10 Cromwell Way, Pirton, Hitchin SG5 3RD.)

English Heritage gives free entry to Grime’s Graves, on production of a current valid EH membership card. If applicable, do please BRING YOURS WITH YOU, on 16th July!

PRICE: Coach cost and entry to both sites: 30.00 per person.

English Heritage member…………………………. (Please tick)

Optional descent into the Public Pit, at no extra charge……………………………. (Please tick)

Optional descent into the Greenwell Pit, at an extra charge of 20.00 per person……………… (Please tick)

TOTAL number of tickets…………………. TOTAL amount of your cheque…………………………………………………..

Cheques payable to North Herts Archaeology Society. Please send this form and your cheque, WITH an SAE, to Liz Hunter, Rose Cottage, Chequers Lane, Preston, Hitchin SG4 7TX. (telephone 01462-433859) as soon as possible, and certainly before THURSDAY, June 29th.

REFRESHMENTS: A small vending machine at Grime’s Graves, and a busy Café at West Stow: I advise you to bring your own Picnic Lunch and Tea! Adam Brough manages The Angles Café: request a Menu from him at adam@churchillcatering.co.uk and then book and pay for your own meal.

SOCIETY FINANCES: Your Committee would very much like to fill all the 48 seats on the coach, and thus earn some income for the Society. Thus, do all please come on this excursion! Seriously, do please ask your family, friends and neighbours to join us. The East Anglia heathlands can be cool and windy: please wear appropriate clothing and footwear, especially if you are intending to descend one of the shafts at Grime’s Graves. Our coach will have a toilet on board.