

THE ASSOCIATION FOR ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY



SELF-DRIVE TOUR TO RICHBOROUGH AND RECVLVER

Wednesday 20th October 2021

Dear Members

I can now provide details of the second of our study tours this Autumn and invite bookings.

We will visit Richborough and Reculver in Kent, including tours of the forts at both locations. Our visit to Richborough will include a tour of the excavations in progress at the amphitheatre at Richborough as well as a short talk about some of the coins that have been found there.

Itinerary

We will begin at Richborough at 11 a.m. The number of people who can tour the amphitheatre together is limited, therefore we will divide into two groups of 15 people. Group A will tour the fort first, led by Paul Pattison, a senior historian at English Heritage and the curatorial lead for the project at Richborough. At the end of the tour of the fort, Sam Moorhead will give a talk about some of the coins that have been found at Richborough. Group A will then be taken for the short walk to the amphitheatre, where they will be shown the excavations in progress by the excavation lead, Tony Wilmott, known not only for his work at several sites on Hadrian's Wall, but also an expert on amphitheatres and the author of EH's guide to Richborough and Reculver.

The tour of the fort (including the coins talk) and the tour of the amphitheatre will each take roughly one hour. Group B will visit at the same time as Group A but will follow the itinerary in the opposite order: amphitheatre, coins, fort, so that the groups don't overlap at the same part of the site.

There is a shop and a very small museum at Richborough and there will be ample time for members to visit this before they drive to Reculver, which takes about 30 minutes. At Reculver, there will be time for participants to eat their packed lunch, or to buy something at the café or at the pub, both of which are adjacent to the "Reculver Towers" car park for the fort.

The tour of the fort at Reculver will begin at about 2:30 p.m. We will visit as a single combined group of 30 people and the tour leader will be Mike Stone. The tour will cover the interior of the fort, the ruins of the church built within it, and see the remains of the wall around the fort. The day will finish by 4 p.m.

Practical matters

This is a self-driving tour: members will be responsible for their own transport to and from the sites, and between Richborough and Reculver. The joining instructions for the tour will include a summary map to show the two locations and details of car parking arrangements.

The tour does not include any food or drink: participants should bring their own packed lunch, or buy something on the day: the joining instructions will give some suggestions for where to buy food. The English Heritage shop at the fort at Richborough only sells snacks, drinks from a vending machine and ice creams.

Walking around both sites is largely on level ground, but there are ditches in the fort at Richborough and there will be a short, gentle climb to the amphitheatre at Richborough and to the fort at Reculver. Most of the walking at Richborough will be on grass, which can be slippery when wet, and which may conceal uneven patches. At Richborough, the shortest routes between some parts of the fort involve a few shallow stairs. Visitors should wear clothing and footwear appropriate to the weather and the conditions.

There are toilets next to the car park at Richborough. In Reculver, they are adjacent to the café near the car park. There is no museum or shop associated with the Roman remains at Reculver.

Booking

The tour will be limited to a maximum of 30 participants and spaces will be allocated first-come-first-served. Only members of the ARA may join the tour.

As noted in the itinerary, we will be divided into two groups of 15 people for the tours of the fort and amphitheatre at Richborough. As the organiser, I will assign members to a group and I will let them know which group they are in when I send out the joining instructions. If you would like to request to be in the same group as someone else who is booking separately, please specify this and give me the name of the other person when you make your booking. Please remain within your booked group while being taken around Richborough. We will be together as a full combined group of 30 at all other times, including at Reculver.

The cost of the tour will be £36 per person. There will be no handout for this tour because the English Heritage guidebook to Richborough and Reculver – written by Tony Wilmott – is excellent. If you do not already have one, copies can be ordered at £4 each when making your booking and collected from me when you arrive at Richborough. The current version is dated 05/21. It is looking likely that any copies ordered in advance will have been signed by Tony Wilmott.

To book places on the tour, **please send an email to ARAEventsUK@outlook.com**, stating the following:

1. Your name.
2. How many places to reserve on the tour at £36 per person.
3. How many copies of the English Heritage guidebook you require at £4 each.
4. Your membership number and a contact telephone number on the day.

DO NOT send any money at this time. I will confirm your place(s) by email as quickly as I can. I will deal with bookings in the order of receipt: I expect this tour to be full as unfortunately capacity at Richborough limits the number of participants. When I send the confirmation email, I will confirm the amount that you need to pay, and you must post a cheque to me (payable to the Association for Roman Archaeology) to arrive within seven days in order to retain your reservation. Payment by bank transfer is also possible. Details of payment options – including the address to which you should post any cheque – will be in the confirmation email. I will acknowledge receipt of your cheque by email and send final joining instructions. All payments are non-refundable.

Tim Arnold, UK events organiser.