

---

Archeological Society of Maryland  
May 2021

# Search for King St. Oswald's First Monastery on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne

Lew Toulmin, PhD, FRGS, FN '04



---

# Topics:



**Lindisfarne: History**



**Logistics**



**Methods and Finds**



**DigVentures**

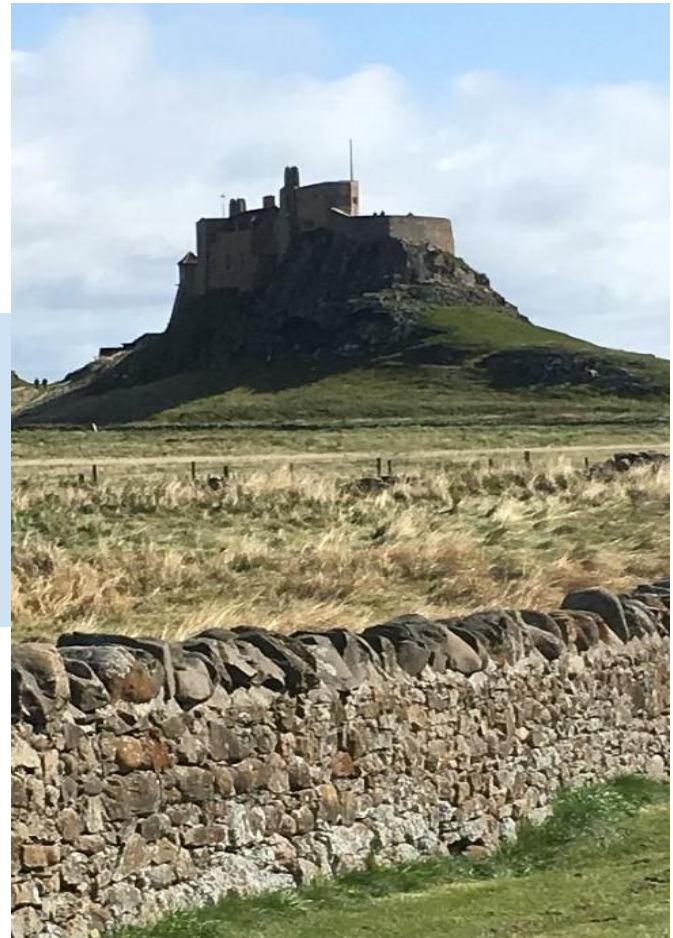


**Explorers Club Flag**



---

# Lindisfarne: History

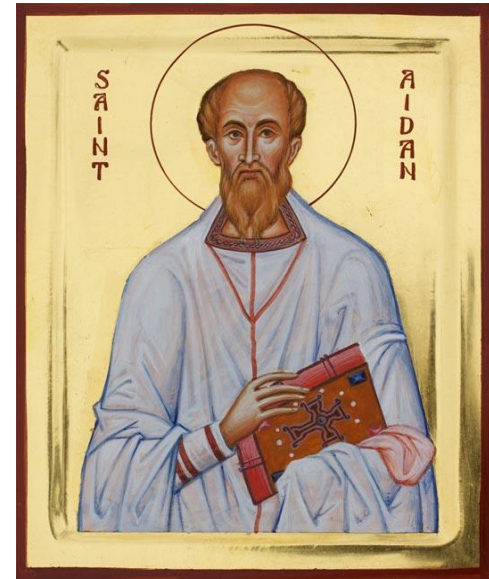


# The Holy Island of Lindisfarne





# 635 CE: King St. Oswald of Northumbria asks St. Aidan to build a monastery





**634-687 CE:  
St. Cuthbert  
(patron saint of  
Northumberland)**



Saint Cuthbert's body  
discovered uncorrupted



from: Bede's Life of Cuthbert  
12th century



720 CE: St. Eadfrith creates Lindisfarne Gospels





# 793 CE: Vikings attack! Start of the Age of Vikings



Vikings head to Lindisfarne

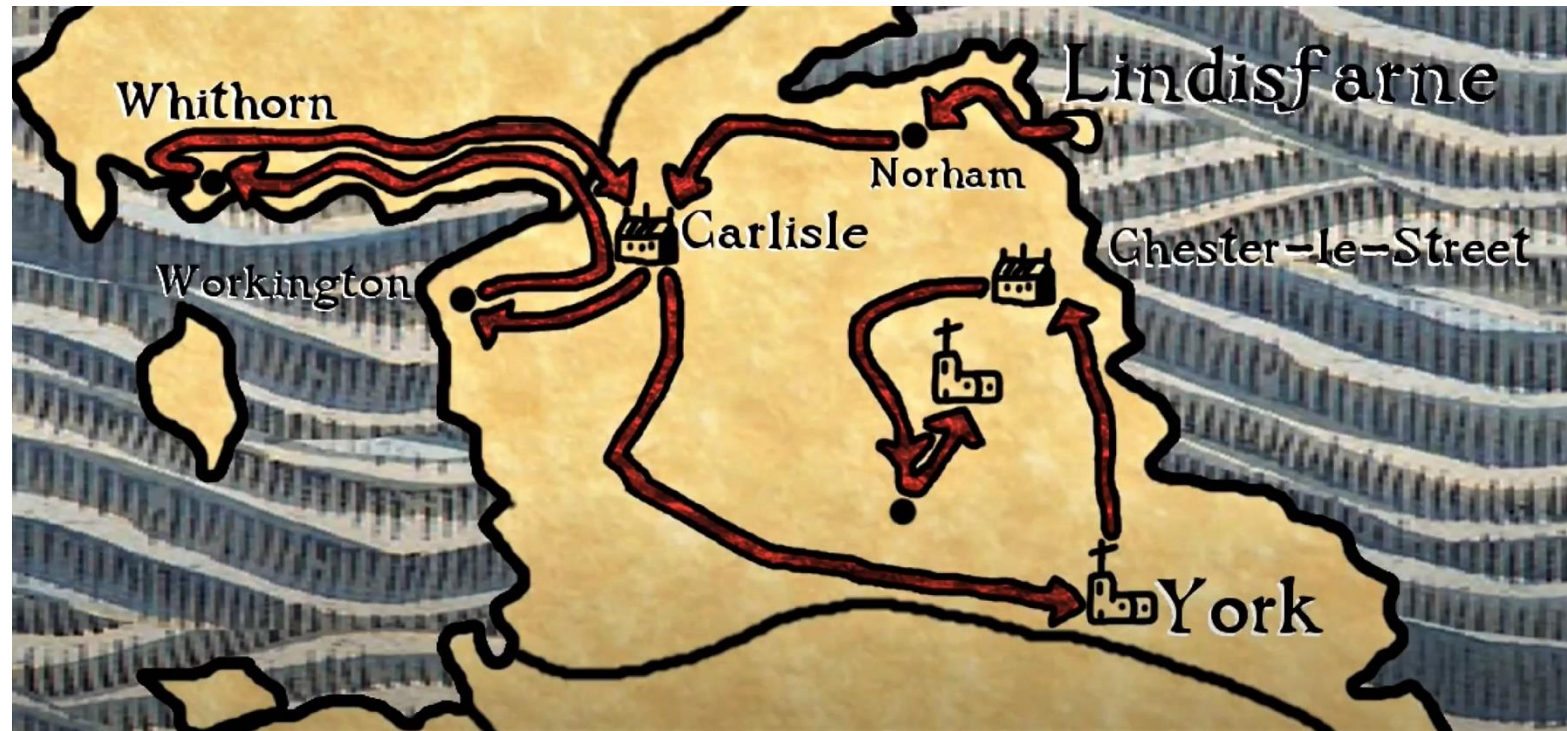


Vikings Attack, AD793





850 CE:  
Move inland?







- 1200 CE: 2<sup>nd</sup> monastery built
- 1539 CE: 2<sup>nd</sup> monastery ruined by Henry VIII
- 1550 CE: Lindisfarne Castle built





---

# Lindsfarne Timeline

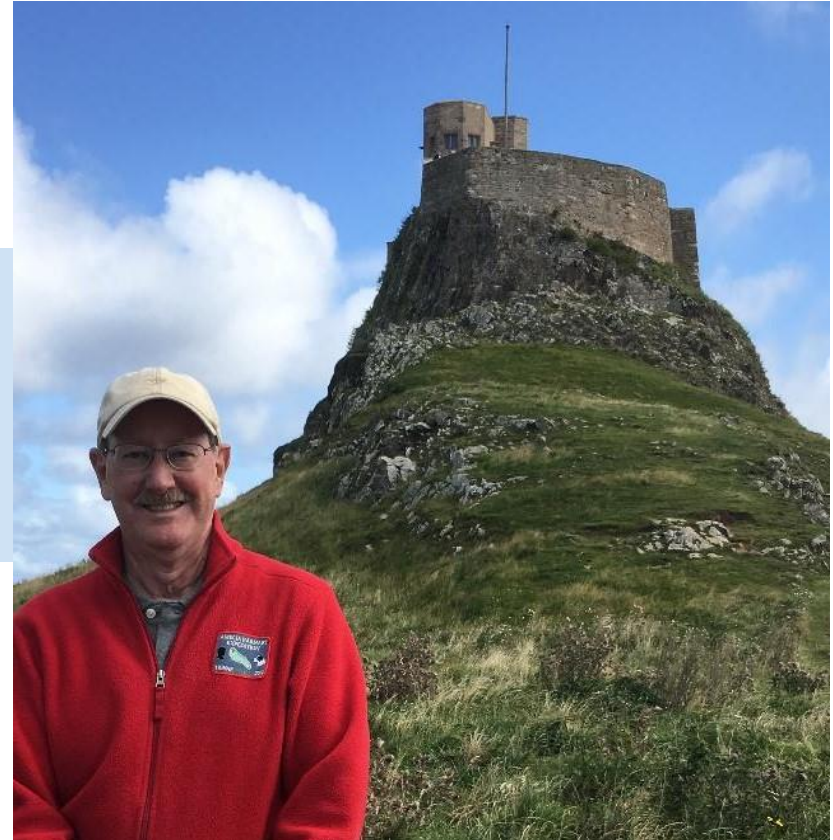


- Early 500s: Angles win 3-day battle
- 635 CE: King St. Oswald asks St. Aidan to build a monastery
- 634-687 CE: St. Cuthbert (patron saint of Northumbria)
- 720 CE: St. Eadfrith creates Lindisfarne Gospels
- 793 CE: Vikings attack! Start of the Age of Vikings
- 850 CE: Move inland?
- 1200 CE: 2<sup>nd</sup> monastery built
- 1539 CE: 2<sup>nd</sup> monastery ruined by Henry VIII
- 1550 CE: Lindisfarne Castle built



---

# Logistics





# Getting onto the island is a challenge





# Accommodations in B&Bs and small hotels





---

## Methods and Finds

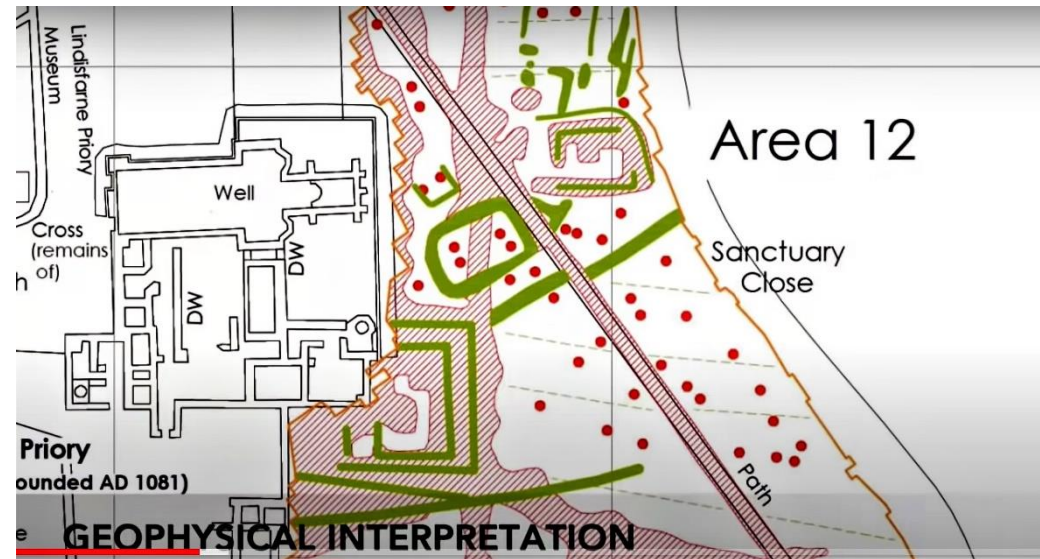
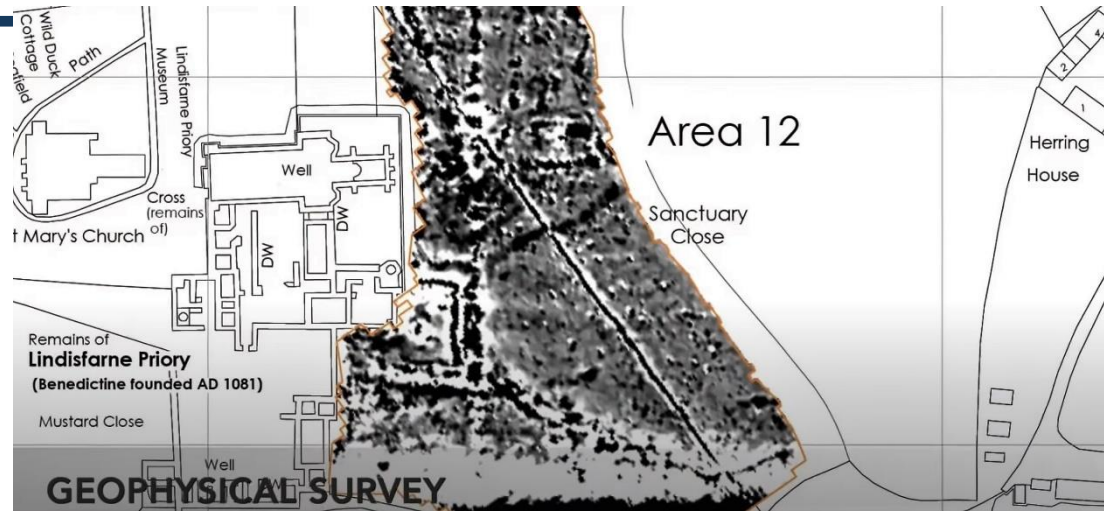


# British vs. US methods





# Major discoveries

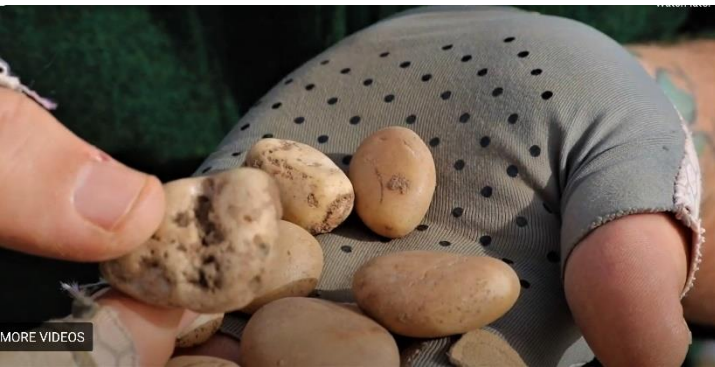
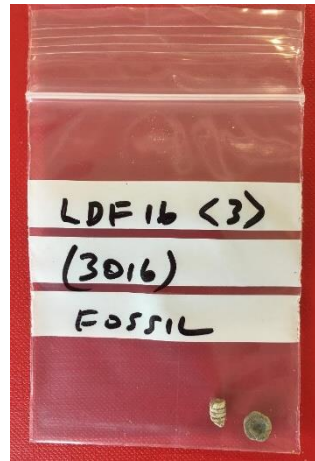




# Individual finds



archaeological discoveries from Lindisfarne



MORE VIDEOS



Our favourite archaeological discoveries from Lindisfarne

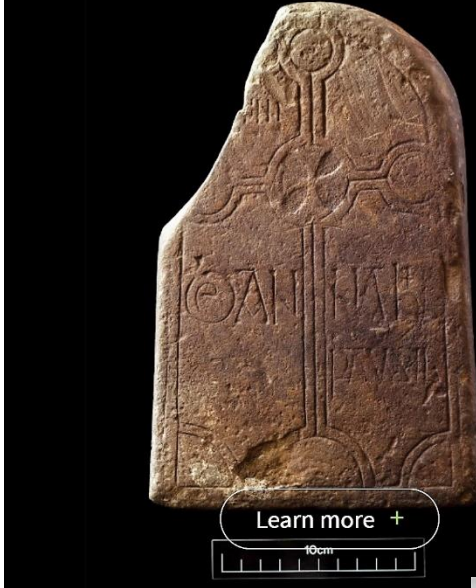


# Namestones and burials

Osgyth's namestone (Lindisfarne, AD 650-750) Belonged to a woman



Beannah's namestone (Lindisfarne, AD 650-750)  
Painted in bright colours



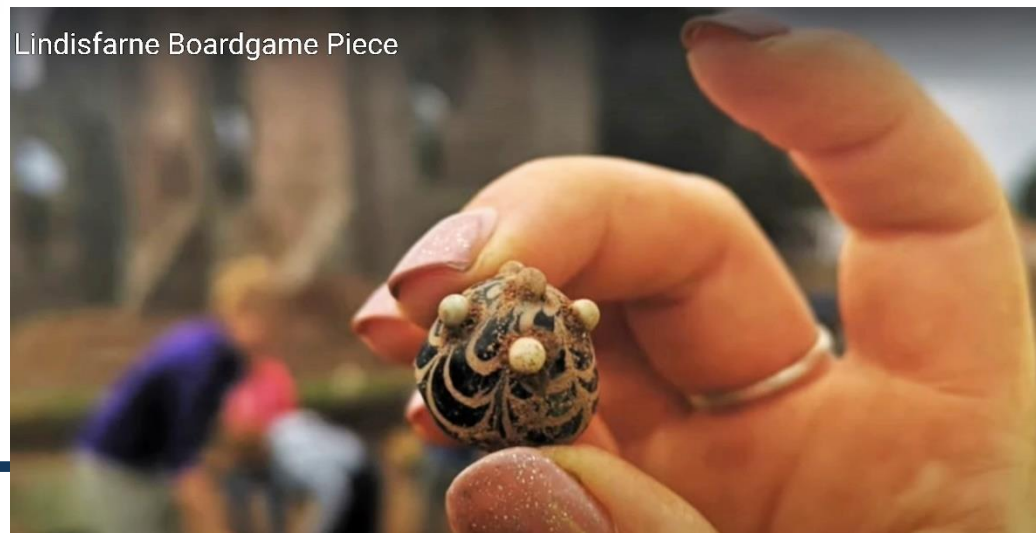


---

# Hnefatafl Viking King piece

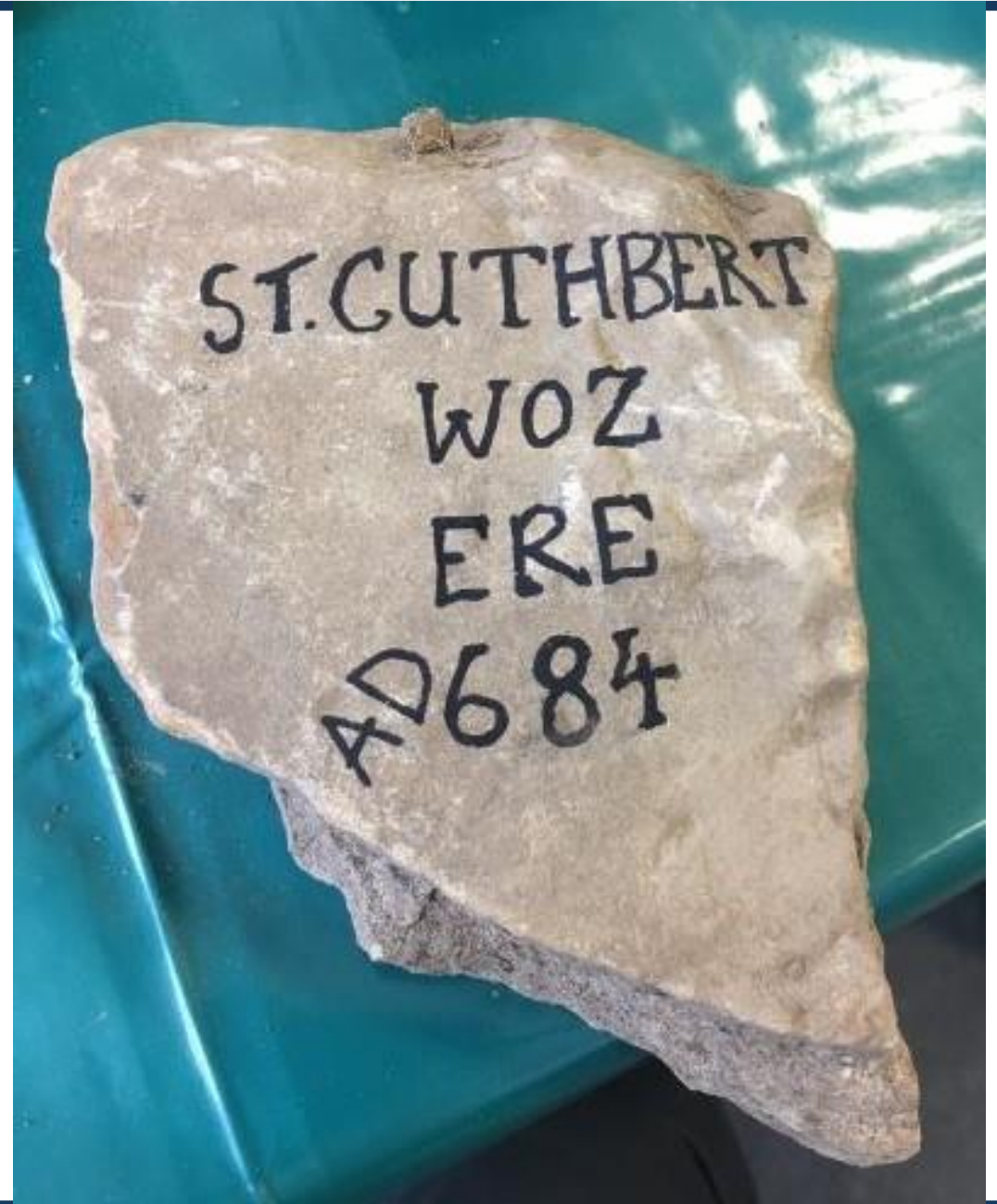


Lindisfarne Boardgame Piece

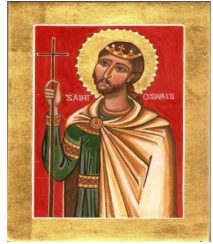




**Most  
Amazing  
Find!!!**



Genealogical research re lines to Lindisfarne & Viking raiders



King St. Oswald



King Aelfrith



Ragnar Lothbrok  
Viking Chief



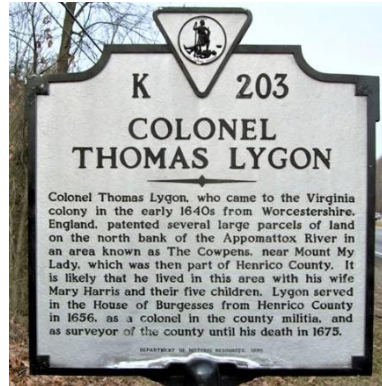
Kenneth MacAlpin,  
King of the Scots



Sigurd Snake-in-the-Eye



Ivar the Boneless



Present





---

# DigVentures





- ❖ Since 2012, crowd-funded, 11 full-time archaeologists
- ❖ Six 3-wk. projects per year; 50-60 volunteers/project
- ❖ Anglo-American founders, HQ in Durham, UK
- ❖ Certified by UK Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- ❖ Dig costs of ~\$240/day or \$1750/2 weeks; sells out v. fast
- ❖ On-line courses in Arch. 101 and Photogrammetry; \$70



## Key Personnel

**David Petts, BA, PhD, MCifA**

**Associate Professor, Durham U. Dept. of Archaeology**  
**Focus on social archaeology of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium AD**

**Lisa Westcott Wilkins, BA, MA, MCifA, FRSA, FSA**  
**Co-founder, Managing Director**  
**Former Editor, *Current Archaeology* magazine**



**Brendon Wilkins, BSc, MA, MCifA, MIAI, FSA**  
**Co-founder, Projects Director**  
**20 years in large archaeological projects**



---

# DigVentures projects



## Recent:

- ❖ Search for Missing Coldinham Abbey of St. Aebbe
- ❖ Costa dos Castros Iron Age Fort, Galicia, Spain
- ❖ Flag Fen Bronze Age wetlands
- ❖ Digging Darrow Shaker Settlement, New York State
- ❖ Bronze Age Village on Bodmin Moor, Cornwall
- ❖ Search for the Missing Banqueting Hall of Queen Eliz. I

## Planned:

- ❖ The First Roman Settlement in Yorkshire (Aug. 2021)
- ❖ Return to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne (Sept. 2021)



---

# Explorers Club Flag



# Explorers Club Flag #50:

- ❖ "Lucy" Site Expedition, Ethiopia
- ❖ Easter Island Archaeology
- ❖ Robotic Surgery in Zero-Gravity Flight
- ❖ Archaeology of the River Kwai, Thailand
- ❖ First Round-the-World Solar Flight
- ❖ Virgin Galactic Space Flight





---

# THANKS!!!!



# QUESTIONS???

---

**For more info:**

[www.digventures.com](http://www.digventures.com)

[www.themosttraveled.com](http://www.themosttraveled.com)

[LewToulmin@aol.com](mailto:LewToulmin@aol.com)

[www.explorers.org](http://www.explorers.org)

