



Image: Miranda Creswell

Archaeology in Wilding @ Knepp

10 - 12th September 2025

Archaeology – the material traces of past human lives – is a treasure trove for imagining other ways of living and interacting with the world. Earthworks and material vestiges all have important stories to tell, from the lumps and bumps of ancient field boundaries, to fragments of pottery, bones, plants, insects, molluscs, and soils. Archaeology often works best when it tacks backs and forth in time. And in the context of current climate change challenges, it can stitch together evidence from momentary actions and long-term processes to reveal the fragilities and strengths of relationships between people and environments. The past therefore offers fresh perspectives on landscape change now, and archaeology can play a key role in urgent efforts to involve diverse audiences in restoring nature and building biodiverse and resilient future landscapes.

The Archaeology in Wilding @ Knepp workshop marks the end of a year-long collaboration between archaeologists from Oxford Archaeology and wilding practitioners at Knepp Castle Estate, West Sussex and Hepple Wilds, Northumberland as part of the UKRI-funded 'Rewilding' later prehistory project. We are gathering together a diverse group of specialists and practitioners to share knowledge and guide future research. There will be plenty of time for conversation and for exploring Knepp's now nature intense landscape, alongside great talks showcasing exciting outcomes from archaeological work in nature recovery settings, hands on workshops, a pop-up archaeology in wilding safari, and fantastic local food. Our aim is to awaken both archaeologists and diverse nature recovery practitioners to the inspirational potential of archaeology in wilding – for people, for wildlife and for imagining change.

Archaeology in Wilding @ Knepp

10-12th September 2025

Outline programme

Wednesday 10 September

16.00

Arrive

Archaeology in Wilding @ Knepp exhibition opening with BBQ

Thursday 11 September

Session 1. FOR PEOPLE

Session 2. FOR WILDLIFE

Session 3. Practical workshops: ANTLER, EARTH, HORSE, SCRUB, LANDSCAPE- MAKING

Session 4. FOR IMAGINING CHANGE

Dinner at the Wilding Kitchen with local and organic produce and ingredients inspired by prehistoric evidence from the Knepp environs

Friday 12 September

POP-UP SAFARI: ARCHAEOLOGY IN WILDING @ KNEPP

A FUTURE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY IN WILDING BRAINSTORM

12.30

Head home