



# Between the Lines

Land of Oak & Iron Mapping Project Newsletter



December 2020

We wish all our volunteers a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year, with a hope that 2021 turns out to be much better for us all. In our review of the year there is a good deal of positive news for us to share; both development in our mapping project and how we as an organisation have evolved. To test your brain we have included a quiz about the Land of Oak & Iron on the following page. An index of the contents of this years issues is also included. All editions can be found on the website at [Between the Lines Newsletter Archive - Land of Oak & Iron](#)

## Mapping meetings

Only one meeting was planned for December, which was again held using the Teams platform, and went very well. We have rolled the MS Teams platform out, as part of our M365 package, to our topic leaders and they will be able to arrange meetings with members of the topic groups from 2021. This opens up the possibility of file sharing, more informal meetings, one-to-one meetings, and text chats within topic groups. The facility is there to be used and we encourage everybody who has joined us, as a Land of Oak & Iron Trust volunteer, to make use of it to the full.

To be included please ensure that you complete and return the LOIT volunteer application form, which you will find [here](#), and [e-mail it back to us](#) if you have not already done so.

## Review of the Year

At the beginning of 2020 few of us could have imagined how the year would develop; a new and hopefully unique experience. The lockdowns and other restrictions lead us to suspend all physical meetings until further notice and, unfortunately, it looks very much as if this may continue well into of 2021.

Mapping group core team members have joined with mapping topic leaders, and some individuals who were investigating topics alone, using video conferencing from the beginning of June. Using this medium we have maintained regular contact through these difficult times.

We also saw the Land of Oak & Iron Landscape Partnership project formally come to an end; with the activities which were under the Legacy Group transferring to a newly set-up charity, the Land of Oak & Iron Trust, (LOIT). Having charity status (which took several months to achieve) allowed us to pursue a number of new opportunities.

LOIT was established with three distinct areas of activity; mapping, publications and young persons, with overall aims of promoting, and educating the general public about, the natural, industrial and cultural heritage of the Land of Oak & Iron.

To this end a website ([www.loit.org.uk](http://www.loit.org.uk)) was established and continues to be developed. Here information about the Land of Oak & Iron, in each of the project areas, can be found along with details of the Trust and how to take part by volunteering. We have also established the "Trust Shop", within the web-site, where we offer our books and a locally designed

and made keyring. Information specific to the mapping project can be found using the menu dropdowns at the top of the page (projects/mapping). Please take a little time to explore other pages of the site. You will find we still have several pages under development and we need people like you, who have knowledge of the area and a passion to share with others, to help us develop those pages. One area we would particularly like your help with is preparation of walking and cycling routes; which we can publish to help people explore the area and discover some of the features and history that could easily be overlooked.

With the creation of our own website we have been able to publish the results of all the effort put in by the mapping volunteers. We currently have zoomable maps for mills, waggonways and township boundaries available to the public. There are a number of further enhancements to these maps; maps for additional topics, and detailed topic information, that will be released in the coming year.

We are very pleased to have a leader for the coal industry mapping team who joined us late in the year. We are looking for more volunteers to join this team. It is a huge topic and there are numerous areas to be explored and shared. Anybody who would like to find out more should get in touch using the usual e-mail address shown below.

Our ability to hold video meetings has recently been expanded with a donation of a business software package from Microsoft Philanthropies. This is being rolled out through the end of 2020 and early 2021. It allows us, amongst other things, to run the MS Teams service with large reserves of storage space for sharing files. Each of the activity areas will have the ability to organise meetings using a high quality, secure and virtually unlimited service.

Whilst 2020 has certainly been a very difficult year for many people, we have been able to establish and grow the Land of Oak & Iron Trust; with sound technological foundations that will allow us to continue in the coming and future years. We invite those volunteers who have not been in touch for a while to reconnect with us and make 2021 a year to remember for all the right reasons.

## Contact:

Email: [volunteering@loit.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@loit.org.uk)

Website: [www.loit.org.uk](http://www.loit.org.uk)

## End of Year Quiz

### Where, around the Land of Oak & Iron, can you .....?

1. find a maze?
2. drive through the site of a Roman Fort?
3. find the start of the River Derwent?
4. see valleys carved out by the hammer of mythical giants?
5. walk across the oldest surviving railway bridge in the world?
6. look up to a Liberty Statue?
7. visit the earliest and most complete steel-making furnace in Britain?

8. find a stretch of water where a popular amateur rowing club thrived for almost 100 years?
9. visit the site of a 1640 battle?
10. find chalk grassland fauna and flora typical of southern England?

If you could answer all of the questions without difficulty, well done, you really know the Land of Oak & Iron. However, we hope that many of you will have been able to win the valuable prize of taking part in this quiz: discovering a little more about the Land of Oak & Iron.

Answers will be included in the January 2021 edition of Between the Lines.

## Index for Between the Lines 2020

Keywords	Title	No.	Date
Iron, steel, history	Early Iron and Steel Industry of the Derwent Valley	17	Feb-20
Mapping	Digital Map - Update	23	Aug-20
Mapping	Digital Map - Update	26	Nov-20
Mapping, 3D model	History of Consett Steelworks - 3D Site-mapping project	26	Nov-20
Mapping, waggonways	Waggonways (a review of the methodology)	16	Jan-20
Maps, sources	British Library Maps - Topographical Collection	26	Nov-20
Maps, sources	Exploring the real world	20	May-20
Maps, sources	For the armchair explorer	20	May-20
Places, mapping	A-mazing what you don't find (easily) on maps (artworks on the C2C route)	26	Nov-20
Places, history	Iron and Steel Manufacturing in Consett	18	Mar-20
Places, history	Spotlight on Ebchester	22	July-20
Places, history	Spotlight on Swalwell	24	Sept-20
Project, Guild	Land of Oak & Iron Secure Messaging Service -Guild	18	Mar-20
Project	Vision 2020	17	Feb-20
Project, Bridges	Building bridges – Part I – Derwent Valley and west	19	Apr-20
Project, Bridges	Bridges and River features - Part II - The east of the area; catchment of the Team valley and tributaries.	23	Aug-20
Project, LOIT	Land of Oak & Iron Trust (establishment and website)	21	June-20
Project	Mapping Group meetings - update	22	July-20
Project, Mills	In search of old mills - A field trip up the Blaydon Burn	25	Oct-20
Waggonways	A Brief History of Waggonways	16	Jan-20



### Coming up:

Physical meetings are suspended until further notice.

Get in touch with us at [volunteering@loit.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@loit.org.uk) if you would like to join us in a virtual meeting.