

Sutton Walls Conservation Group Friends Newsletter

February 2022

Eastern Entrance Project Update



The last few months have seen a lot of activity at the Eastern end of Sutton Walls. In line with our long-term conservation management plan, the work undertaken by ecological contractors to clear trees and scrub has been completed. The work has caused surprise, intrigue and occasional shock amongst many walkers using the Walls; we are grateful for all the supportive comments and want to keep our Friends bang up to date with the next stage of our planning.

For a huge proportion of their history, the Walls' ramparts would have been clear of trees (so the enemy could be spotted and to make it difficult for them to attack) and by returning the area at the eastern entrance to its 'usual' state, we are able to a) display the ramparts and gateway of these ancient earthworks in all their majesty and b) recreate a different type of habitat (grasses and wildflowers) which will benefit a whole host of birds, butterflies and other invertebrates. Our plans always look to balance the nature and history of the site and here we have been able to benefit both.

By fencing the area, we will be able to keep out burrowing animals and let controlled regrowth stabilise the surfaces of the ramparts. There are a lot of brambles, for instance, which will need regular clearing and who knows, how many species of wildflowers will grow after being shaded out for many years.

We are very grateful to Historic England for supporting us with a grant to carry out this work.

Do visit our website www.suttonwalls.co.uk where you can see more photographs of the Eastern Entrance project including a photograph of the East Entrance by Alfred Watkins taken in 1917.

Open Event Sutton Village Hall 23rd October 2021



This event was well attended and visitors were able to see our plans in detail as well as some of the early results from the geophysical surveys by TigerGeo.

In the Footsteps of King Ethelbert Sponsored Walk – Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who supported Jane Keating's walk to raise much needed funds for the Group. Jane walked from St Ethelbert's Well at St Mary's, Marden, up and around Sutton Walls twenty-five times in twenty-five days (100 miles) in August. This raised £1,784 including Gift Aid. Thank you from Jane to everyone who supported this walk.

As we head into the Spring we will be planning the next stage of the restoration project with Historic England and hopefully as we leave Covid behind we will be able to organize talks and events. As ever we are very grateful to our Friends for your support.

Sutton Walls Conservation Group