**A Neolithic Salt Production Site at Street House, Loftus, North East Yorkshire**

**Royal Archaeological Institute and Tees Heritage Trust Joint Conference:**

**13–15 September 2024**

A conference will be held in the autumn 2024 to present the evidence for the Early Neolithic salt production site at Street House, near Loftus. The site was discovered in 2014 during a programme of excavations. It is the only currently known salt ‘factory’ in Britain and the earliest known saltern in Western Europe. This is the first presentation of detailed information on the site including an Early Neolithic pottery type-series and the largest assemblage of Carinated Bowls found in the north of England.

The conference begins on Friday evening with an opening lecture by Dr Alison Sheridan. A day of lectures will be held on the Saturday presenting the material evidence from the site at Street House. The second day will be held in East Cleveland. Starting in the Town Hall, Loftus, there will be an exhibition of site images, a poster session about Street House in the Neolithic, a representative display of the finds including briquetage, pottery, flint and worked stones, and three seminars. The day will include a demonstration of the technique proposed for salt production, a presentation by the Whitby Sea Salt Co. which produces an artisan salt by solar and wind power, a site tour of the 2024 excavations at Street House and a short circular walking tour of the prehistoric sites in the immediate area.

**Conference fee:** **January–28 June 2024, early bird bookings £65.00 per person; 29 June–23 August £80.00 per person**. The conference fee includes Friday and Sunday evening meals, Saturday and Sunday buffet lunch; return transport between Middlesbrough and Loftus on Sunday.

**Registration form and further details** are available from Tees Heritage Trust website teesheritage.org.uk or email wsherlock285@gmail.com

**Speakers:**

Prof Anthony Harding (University of Exeter)

Tom Lane (field archaeologist; member of ECOSAL-UK: group interested in the heritage and culture of traditional salt making in the UK)

Yvette Marks (Senior Lab Technician, Sheffield University)

Dr Laurent Olivier (CNRS – The French National Centre for Scientific Research, France)

Dr Patrick Quinn (University College London)

Dr Alison Sheridan (formerly National Museums of Scotland)

Dr Stephen Sherlock (Street House site director; Co-Investigator, University of Waterloo, Canada)

Dr Blaise Vyner (former Cleveland County Archaeologist)

Dr Isabel Wiltshire (Bristol University)

Dr Rob Young (formerly Lampeter University and English Heritage)

**Programme**:

**Friday, 13 September 2024**

17:30–18:30 Evening wine reception and buffet at The Trinity Centre, Main Hall, North Ormesby, Middlesbrough TS3 6LD

18:30–19:30 Lecture by Dr Alison Sheridan, ‘Street House in the Context of Early Neolithic Britain’.

20:00 Disperse

**Saturday, 14 September 2024**

Lectures in The Trinity Centre, Main Hall, North Ormesby, Middlesbrough TS3 6LD

9:00-9:15 Welcome and coffee/tea

Chairman (morning session): Dr Blaise Vyner

9.15–9:30 – Introductions and setting the scene for Street House

9.35–10:25 Dr Steve Sherlock: The Neolithic Saltern: Discovery, Features and Function. (*questions*)

10.30–10:50 Coffee/tea and biscuits

10.55–11:25 Yvette Marks: Reconstructing the Salt Process – Experimental Archaeology

11.30–12:00 Dr Rob Young: Mesolithic and Neolithic Flints from Street House

12.00–12:30 Tom Lane: Briquetage Vessels in Prehistory

Questions (20 mins)

12.50–14:00 Lunch (buffet)

Chairman (afternoon session) Dr Rob Young

14.00–15:00 Dr Alison Sheridan: The Neolithic Pottery from Street House with contributions by Dr Patrick Quinn on the Thin Section Analysis and Dr Isabel Wiltshire on the Lipid Analysis

15:00–15:30 Dr Laurent Olivier: The Evidence for Prehistoric Salt Production in Europe

15.30–15:50 Coffee/tea and biscuits

15:55–16:30 Prof Anthony Harding: A Continental Perspective on Salt from Poland and Romania

16:30–17:00 Questions and Discussion

17.00 Disperse

**Sunday, 15 September 2024**

10:00–12:00 Morning session at Loftus Town Hall TS13 4HG

* Exhibition of images (photographic and reconstructions) of Street House
* Display of selected finds from the excavation
* Poster session and interactive computer images by students from Waterloo University, Canada
* Seminars discussing the flints, ceramics and experimental reconstruction of the salt production process

Lunch: provided at the Town Hall

13:30–16:30 Afternoon session on site at Street House TS13 4UX

* Reconstruction of the Neolithic salt making process by evaporation
* Whitby Sea Salt Co. presents local artisan salt production techniques
* site visit, excavations 2024
* circular walk to prehistoric sites in the immediate area

17:00 Closing Conference Dinner (venue tbc)