

The Big Dig

Changing Chalk
connecting nature, people and heritage



Safe Digging Practices

In order to dig safely please follow these simple rules

- Work carefully.
- Wear protective clothing, i.e gloves, sturdy footwear (steel toe-capped boots if you have them) etc.
- Don't dig your hole along the line of a path or other walkway.
- Don't dig your hole too deep (no more than 1m) and if you are leaving it unattended remember to tell anyone who may enter the garden about the hole you are digging! If necessary the hole can be fenced off using garden chairs, boxes or garden canes and some string.
- Don't work too closely together - there are lots of different tasks to be done (e.g. digging, sieving, recording) so it should be possible to avoid getting in each other's way.
- Be aware of where people are so that you don't accidentally hit them with a spade or mattock.
- Don't raise tools above your shoulder height.
- Don't over do it. It's important to work at your own pace, at a speed you're comfortable with. It doesn't matter if, by the end of the project you haven't quite finished the pit and above all it's not a race. If anything is too heavy to lift get someone to help share the load. Take regular breaks/breathers.
- Pay careful regard to the weather, i.e suncream, a hat and plenty to drink or wrap up warm depending on conditions.
- Be aware that flints can be sharp and that there may be glass in the soil, wear gloves while digging and sieving.

STOP digging if you find anything that looks like a service pipe, a cable or old munitions (bullets etc)

STOP digging if you find heavily contaminated ground, i.e dumps of asbestos, oil etc.