

What's going on?...



As part of funding awarded from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, over the coming months we will be planning and building a replica Saxon House. This exciting project will bring together staff, volunteers, contractors and the community, in order to create a fantastic addition to the Cogges historical story. The build stage will provide opportunities for the community to get hands-on experience of historic building techniques, developing skills and a better understanding. Once built, the house will function as an indoor and outdoor learning space for schools, events and craft activities. Its educational purpose is to give greater insight into the 1000 years of history at Cogges and our Anglo-Saxon past. Visitors and school children will have the chance to connect with how people have lived on the site through experiencing the structure and participating in Anglo-Saxon activities.



These are the initial plans created in order for the project to be put out to tender. Following a period of research from our Cogges volunteer research team, alongside our chosen contractors, more accurate plans will be drawn up.

Why a Saxon House?...



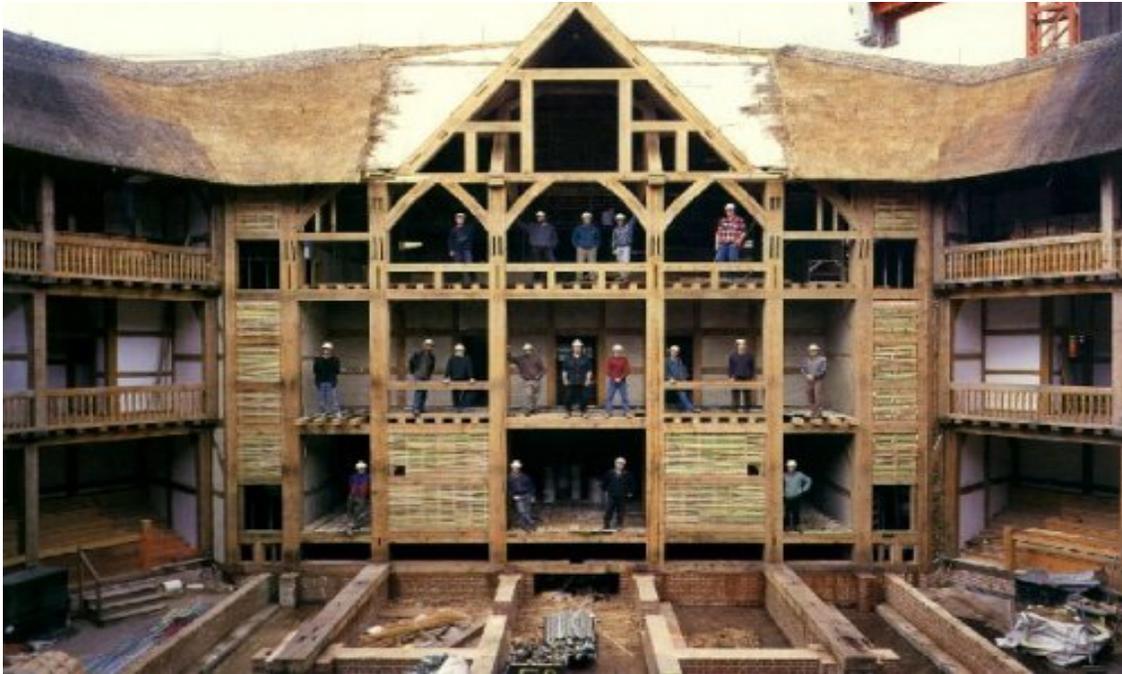
West Stow Saxon Village

According to an Archaeological Evaluation completed on behalf of Oxfordshire County Museum, excavations beneath the Manor House discovered a sunken-featured building of early Anglo-Saxon date. Anglo-Saxon pottery has also been found in the orchard and the site of the priory, and the place name Cogges means 'hill' in old English. This evidence suggests the presence of an Anglo-Saxon settlement at some point.

This isn't a stage in our history that we currently have much information on. The purpose of this project is to learn more about our colourful past and to share it with our visitors and community.

Reference: Thames Valley Archaeological Services

So who are we working with?...



McCurdy & Co at The Globe

We have the privilege of working with McCurdy & Co on this project. Their reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, in London, has established them as leaders in the field of authentic reconstruction of historic timber frame buildings. Using their specialist conservation skills and understanding of historic timber structures, McCurdy & Co are able to undertake the research, design, fabrication and erection of our Saxon House. Along with their prestigious reputation, we were particularly keen to work with them due to their willingness and experience of working with volunteers, as this is at the heart of this project.

Where will it be located?...



The building will sit in the area of woodland adjacent to the main Cogges car park. This will make a great feature of this disused space. It will also be very accessible to the community and give visitors a really exciting welcome when they first arrive.

How can you get involved?...



Volunteers at West Stow Saxon Village

Over the coming months there will be a number of opportunities for volunteer involvement in many different aspects of the project. Many of these will involve working alongside skilled craftsmen and learning traditional building techniques, so a fantastic opportunity for personal development. Along with the added gratification of working as part of a team to create something that will be part of Cogges for years to come.

Below are some ideas of the kind of practical tasks we will need volunteer support with during the build –

- Indicative framing
- Peg making
- Cleaving timber
- Tying log timbers
- Walling
- Wattle & daub
- Thatching

Please register your interest by emailing volunteering@cogges.org.uk