

## **Workshop 2: New directions in methods for the archaeology of the Norman Conquest**

**Monday 12th February 2018,**

**Digital Humanities Lab, University of Exeter** (No 90 on campus map), in Queens

Building (11 on campus map) <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/visit/directions/streathammap/>

**9:30 AM-4:30 PM**

**9:30** Arrival

**10:00** Introduction (Naomi and Aleks)

**10:30** Matthew Collins: *Pre- and post conquest parchment production in Canterbury: Why do we know so little?*

**10:45** Andrew Beeby: *Shining light on medieval manuscripts*

**11:00** Ben Jervis and Lizzie Craig-Atkins: *Conquest and cuisine: diet and health in early medieval Oxford*

**11:20** Oliver Creighton, Rob Liddiard, and Alan Outram: *Norman Archaeology through the horses' eye*

**11:40** Break

**12:00** Rob Webley: *Using 'binding strips' to think about metalwork*

**12:15** Vanessa Castagnino: *The elemental highs and lows of x-ray fluorescence (XRF): from material discovery and object waste*

**12:30** Gareth Dean: *Looking for Normans in the archaeological archives of York*

**12:45** Lunch

**2:00-4:00** Breakout groups: workshopping ideas for future research projects

**4:00-4:30** Roundup and close

**EVENING SCHEDULE (for those staying in Exeter overnight)**

**Laver Building** (22 on campus map)

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/visit/directions/streathammap/>

**5:30** Public lectures: *Introducing new approaches to Medieval Studies: History, meet Archaeology; Arts, meet the Sciences*  
Matthew Collins and Robin Fleming

**6:30** Wine reception

## **Aims**

The second workshop will highlight particular methodologies and techniques which have the potential to redefine the questions we are able to ask of the Norman Conquest.

When we have traditionally considered the archaeology of the 11th and 12th centuries, buildings, landscape, and artefactual data and methods have taken the lead. We will consider what these methodologies have done well and what we have learned from them. But we also want to examine where we can push them further--where have we encountered problems, or research blind spots? Are there particular classes or types of material that we are not examining sufficiently closely, or at all? How can these approaches be improved to better address the socially-informed questions we want to ask?

In addition to addressing these traditional methods, we also intend to focus on an array of scientific techniques which have been utilized and refined in other areas of archaeology, or even other disciplines, but which have not been employed to address the 11th and 12th centuries, nor questions specifically focused on the Norman Conquest and transition. The workshop also will focus on the potential for integration of scientific and humanities-focused approaches to archaeology in this period, and how we can improve communication between these arms of the discipline, and also with other disciplines (e.g. biology, chemistry) that may have useful techniques that we are not yet considering. We also want to consider the current state of field archaeology for the 11th and 12th centuries, and how those who are often responsible for generating data “at the trowel’s edge” can play a more active role in archaeological scholarship and debate on the Norman Conquest.