

## **First hole is dug at new university and public library and history centre site**



A special project that will see members of the public being given the chance to roll up their sleeves and help unearth Worcester's past has officially got off the ground.

The ground was broken at the site of the future Worcester Library and History Centre in The Butts, Worcester on Monday.

Worcestershire County Council and the University of Worcester are inviting members of the public to visit the site from August 4 and anyone wishing to gain some digging experience can do so by booking a place on the community excavation.

A team of archaeologists from the County Council will be leading a free training excavation at the site until October 12. Learning how to dig, recording finds and recognising different finds are among the skills people will get the chance to experience during the project, which will run seven days a week for ten weeks.

Visitors will also be able to find out what happens to artefacts once they have been unearthed in the finds processing room and take a trip around an exhibition that will focus on the site's Roman and Victorian history. There will also be opportunities for under 18-year-olds, schools and other groups to visit the site and get involved.

**Archaeological project director, Simon Woodiwiss from Worcestershire County Council, said:** "We're delighted this exciting project has got off the ground and are looking forward to welcoming members of the public to the site next month when they will get the chance to play a hands-on part in the dig.

"This is a unique opportunity for residents to roll up their sleeves, get their hands dirty and help uncover Worcester's history, which will include exposing part of the medieval city wall."

Places are limited and booking is necessary. Booking forms are available by calling Mo or Carol on 01905 855455 from 9.30am until 12.30pm, Monday to Friday. People must be over the age of 18 and fit enough not to risk injury when digging.

The Worcester Library and History Centre is a joint project being delivered by the County Council, University of Worcester, Worcester City Council and regional development agency Advantage West Midlands (AWM). As well as providing a purpose-built library for the city centre, it will bring together the heritage services of the County Council, with the History Centre and Record Office on one site.

Archaeology will also be a key feature of the building, creating a reference centre that is second-to-none, while the Customer Contact Centre, Worcestershire Hub will also be located there.

Funding for the project, which is set to be completed by 2011, has come from a combination of Government Private Finance Initiative (PFI) credits, AWM grants and contributions from the university, Worcestershire County Council and Worcester City Council.

More information about the project can be found at [www.wlhc.org.uk](http://www.wlhc.org.uk)  
<<http://www.wlhc.org.uk>>