The forth article in our monthly heritage series focuses on archaeology, the work of an archaeologist and how archaeological research informs us about our past

W hat image springs to mind when you think of the word archaeologist? Are you picturing Lara Croft searching for a magical crystal deep in the ruins of an ancient civilization? Or people in thigh-high leather and chainmail, digging through ancient tombs in search of the ultimate treasure? If so, you may be surprised to learn that modern archaeology involves much more than searching for buried treasure.

Archaeology is the study of past cultures and societies through the examination of the material remains they have left behind. This includes the study of our landscape and the artifacts associated with it. If you look at the buildings in your town, or the monuments in the local park, you may notice that they are built from stone or brick. These are all remains from past cultures and societies. Some monuments survive because they are built on ground that is not likely to be disturbed by future generations. Others survive because they are built in a way that allows them to be preserved for future generations.

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