



Annual Conference, Norwich
Friday 4th to Wednesday 9th September 2026

ITINERARY

Friday 4th September

19:00 Two course Buffet Dinner, Presidential Suite

Talk: *An Introduction to the Industrial Archaeology of East Anglia* by John Jones,
Suffolk Industrial Archaeology Society

Saturday 5th September

09:30 Welcome by Zoe Arthurs, AIA Chair

Norfolk Mills – Drainage & Corn by Alison Yardy, Norfolk Mills Group

10:30 *The Herring Industry* by Dr Mary Fewster, Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society

11:30 Tea / Coffee

12:00 *Norwich's electricity Supply* by Philip Tolley, Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society

13:00 Sandwich Buffet Lunch

14:00 *East Anglian Maltings* by Amber Patrick

15:00 Tea / Coffee

15:30 Presentations to and by Award Winners, introduced by Dr Ian West

17:00 End of talks

18.15 Drinks reception

19:00 Annual Dinner

Sunday morning 6th September

09:45 *2027 Conference* by Zoe Arthurs

10:00 AIA Annual General Meeting

10:45 Tea / Coffee

11:15 AIA Annual Rolt Lecture

From Gasworks to Heritage: Reading, Re using and Remembering the Gas Industry
by Dr Russell Thomas FIGEM, Technical Director at WSP

12:30 Sandwich Buffet Lunch

COSTS

AIA members enjoy 10% discount on all prices shown (except Zoom only attendance which is 50% discount)

Note: ‘AIA members’ includes members of our Affiliated Societies

Friday evening:

- Friday evening 2-course buffet dinner (drinks at own expense)
- *An Introduction to the IA of East Anglia* by John Jones, Suffolk IA Society

£30 per person

Saturday and Sunday morning:

- Saturday AIA annual conference (as shown above)
- Drinks reception
- Annual dinner, 3 courses with wines
- Sunday morning (as shown above)

£205 per person

Saturday daytime and Sunday morning day rate:

- Attendance in person on the Saturday 09:30 – 17:30 and Sunday morning, includes tea/coffee and sandwich lunch

£75 per person

Saturday daytime and Sunday morning online-only option:

- Attendance via Zoom on the Saturday 09:30 – 17:30 and Sunday morning

£30 per person

Sunday afternoon & evening, Monday – Wednesday tours & evenings:

Prices shown in the descriptions below

Free places

Thanks to the Patrick Nott bursary, there will be five free places for the entire event from Friday to Wednesday, including accommodation, and up to £100 for travel expenses. The places are intended for those who feel they would otherwise be unable to attend. Please send details to the Conference Secretary at conference@industrial-archaeology.org at least 30 days in advance.

If you wish to attend only the AGM (remotely or in person) please contact the Conference Administrator confadmin@industrial-archaeology.org

TOURS

Sunday afternoon

13:45 Coaches leave from outside the hotel returning c18:00

Choose either TOUR A: *Sunday Steam*

- **Forncect Industrial Steam Museum**

We are invited to discover an award winning collection of spectacular stationary steam engines on one of their steaming days.

Price: £32

Or TOUR B: *Norfolk Wind*

- **The Wind Energy Museum**

A collection of windmills and wind pumps from across the UK, America, and Australia, spanning the 19th and early 20th centuries. The collection boasts several unique exhibits, some representing the only surviving examples of their kind.

- **Thurne Windmill**

Built in 1820 to drain the surrounding landscape, Thurne Mill was built by local millwrights England & Co. of Ludham. Following its closure in 1936, the mill was leased to the Norfolk Windmill Trust in the 1960s, and was restored to full working order in 2003.

- **Thrigby Post Mill**

Thrigby mill was originally built in the 1790s for Robert Woolmer to grind wheat for his Thrigby Hall Estate. The structure, built over a two storey brick roundhouse is powered by four common sails on an iron wind shaft.

Price: £32

19:00 Two course Buffet Dinner, Presidential Suite

Talk: *The Newmarket and Chesterford Railway including the Cambridge Connection*
by Alan Denney

Price: £30

Monday 7th September

08:30 Coaches leave from outside the hotel returning c18:00

Choose either TOUR C: *A day in Cambridge*

- **Cambridge Museum of Technology**

Built in 1894 as the Cheddars Lane Sewage Pumping Station, the museum contains two Hathorn Davey pumping engines (one operational), as well as a working steam winch, various other engines (steam and otherwise) and a print room with a large collection of old printing technology.

- **Prickwillow Museum**

The museum tells the story of the drainage of the Fens, the history of the local area, and the individuals who ran the drainage pumps in remote locations. The museum showcases some of the region's finest examples of restored diesel engines.

- **Lunch (at the museum)**

- **Stretham Old Engine**

The museum is home to a double-acting rotative beam engine built in 1831, which is the last complete survivor of more than a hundred similar engines that worked the drainage network all over Cambridgeshire.

Price: £60 Including lunch

Or TOUR D: *South Of Norwich*

- **Charles Burrell Museum**

The museum is housed in the former Paint Shop of Charles Burrell & Sons in Thetford. The collections tell the stories of the Charles Burrell Works, a company which at one time employed 350 people until the business closed in 1928, and the steam-powered engines they produced and which sold around the world.

- **Barnham Nuclear Bomb Store**

In the 1950s the site housed Britain's first atomic bomb, codenamed Blue Danube. The installation was top secret at the time, and went under the innocuous name of RAF Barnham Special Storage Site. It contains massive concrete buildings to store and maintain the bombs themselves with their plutonium cores stored separately in much smaller buildings. We will have a guided tour.

- **Lunch**

- **Pakenham Water Mill**

The last working watermill in Suffolk, this 18th century mill is now owned by the Suffolk Building Preservation Trust. Water from Pakenham Fen collects in the mill pond to turn the 16ft iron waterwheel. In the former miller's house next door you can see the old kitchen with its brewing vat and bread oven.

- **Bressingham Steam Museum**

Bressingham's wonderful steam collection was started by entrepreneur Alan Bloom. He opened his doors to the public more than 60 years ago to give everyone the chance to experience, enjoy and celebrate steam engineering.

Price: £60 Including lunch

19:00 Two course Buffet Dinner, Presidential Suite

Talk: *History of the Leiston Garretts, and the Works* by Fraser Hale, Long Shop Museum

Price: £30

Tuesday 8th September

08:30 Coaches leave from outside the hotel returning c18:00

Choose either TOUR E: *North Norfolk*

- **Gunton Park Sawmill**

The Gunton framesaw is probably the oldest surviving mechanical saw in Britain. Constructed in the 1820s, it is powered by water drawn from a large lake within the park of Gunton Hall. The massive framesaw can accept trees up to 2 ½ feet wide: the reciprocating action mimics that of the old two-man pit saw.

- **Letheringsett Mill**

Letheringsett Watermill, on the River Glaven is the last remaining watermill in Norfolk to produce flour. Built of brick in 1802 on the site of a previous mill, it has four storeys and four pairs of stones. While there, we will have the opportunity to view from outside the nearby malting and brewery, both now converted into housing.

- **Lunch (at the mill)**

- **Fakenham Gasworks**

The Fakenham Museum of Gas and Local History is the only surviving town gasworks in England and Wales, complete with all equipment used for the manufacture of gas from coal: retorts, condenser, washers, purifiers, meter and gasholder. The works ceased production in 1965 and because of its rarity has been designated a Scheduled Monument.

Price: £52 including lunch

Or TOUR F: *Wind, Tide & Machines*

- **Buttrum's Windmill**

When Buttrum's Mill was built in 1836, it was at the cutting edge of milling technology, a product of the famous Suffolk millwright John Whitmore. Visitors can climb the tall tower to see its elegant machinery, including four pairs of millstones.

- **Woodbridge Tidemill**

The tide mill is one of only a handful in the world still producing flour on a regular basis and among the first tide mills in the country, working on the same site for over 850 years.

- **Lunch**

- **Sutton Hoo ship recreation**

An Anglo-Saxon noble was buried within a 90 foot ship in a mound at Sutton Hoo, just across the river from Woodbridge. He was almost certainly King Raedwald, who died c.624. The ship was first discovered in 1939. The Ship's Company was formed in 2016 to create a permanent and authentic replica of the Anglo-Saxon ship. The team is made up of professionals, volunteers and enthusiasts who are working together to fully understand the dimensions and construction methods.

- **Leiston Long Shop Museum**

The Long Shop Museum was founded in 1984. It is housed in a cluster of historic buildings in the Suffolk market town of Leiston. The buildings are survivors of the original 19th century works site of Richard Garrett and Sons who were world-famous manufacturers of steam engines and other agricultural machinery. The Museum has important collections relating to farming machinery, steam traction, tools and commercial and domestic products.

Price: £52 including lunch

19:00 Two course Buffet Dinner, Presidential Suite

Film Night - *Historic films of Industrial life in East Anglia*

Price: £30

Wednesday 9th September

08:30 Coach leaves from outside the hotel returning c14:30

TOUR G: *Norwich City*

- **Norwich City Walk** led by Dr Mary Fewster
- **New Mills, Norwich**
The purpose of the New Mills compressor station was to produce compressed air for moving sewage. This was achieved by holding sewage in 500 gallon tanks inside which were bell floats that lifted as sewage entered and compressed air from New Mills was then injected at 30psi to force the sewage to a higher point that enabled it to free run out to the Trowse works. The two Shone Ejector pumps, still in place, were the last working in the country apart from the pair under the Houses of Parliament.
- **Lunch**
- **Coach drops at Railway Station then returns to hotel**

Price: £35 including lunch

A full set of tour notes will be available at the registration desk at Conference.

Some visits are not yet confirmed so there may be changes to the itineraries and order of visits. We will keep those who make bookings informed of any changes.

ACCOMMODATION

The 2026 Annual Conference will be held at:

The Mercure Hotel, 121 - 131 Boundary Rd, Norwich NR3 2BA

Tel: 01603 294330

Website: <https://all.accor.com/booking/en/mercure/hotels/norwich-uk>

Overnight accommodation is not included in any of the costs above, but rooms have been reserved at the Conference hotel on a first-come first-served basis at a discounted rate of:

£100.00 double room, single occupancy, per night, bed & breakfast

£110.00 double or twin room, double occupancy, per night, bed & breakfast

Contact the hotel directly to make your reservations as follows:

Call 01603 294330 OPTION 1 and quote 'AIA Conference' to make your reservation.

Reservations Hours 9am - 5pm (Monday - Friday)

If you are told there is no space or that twin rooms are not available repeat that it is for the 'AIA Conference' which is presently holding rooms. Call Jo-Anne Brown, Meetings Sales Office Tel: 01603 294330 Option 3, Mon - Fri 8am – 6pm or email:

Events@mercurenorwich.co.uk if you still have problems.

Prepayment required by credit card, bedrooms are non-cancellable and non-refundable.

BOOKING

If you have access to an internet connected computer and use email please make your booking online via <https://industrial-archaeology.org/Conference>

If you give an email address on your application then confirmation and all subsequent communications with you will be by email. In the event that you are unable to use a computer then please fill in the attached form and post it to us at the address shown.

Bookings for attendance in person and for the tours will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to space availability. Book as soon as possible and by **24th July 2026** to ensure a place but please feel free to enquire after that date if a place is still available.

Please reserve your accommodation, if required, at the Conference hotel **by the same date** to be eligible for the discounted Conference Rate.

For online-only attendance booking may be made up to **1st September 2026**

Bookings can be made definite only when the booking information and payment are received and accepted in writing/email by the secretary. The AIA's standard terms and conditions apply.

All monies will be held in a customer protection account until the conference is complete so that your money is safe no matter what happens.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

Details of how to pay will be shown on your invoice.

This year Conference has been organised by the sub-committee: Bill Barksfield (Conference secretary), Kieran Gleave and John Jones (AIA Treasurer).

Enquiries about Conference should be directed to the Conference Secretary:
conference@industrial-archaeology.org



Annual Conference

Terms and conditions of booking

1. The AIA undertakes tours on the basis of these terms and conditions, which, read with the booking form and the tour descriptions above, set out the full terms of your agreement with the AIA. No variation can be accepted unless made in writing and signed by the Secretary.
2. Should there be before or during the Conference any significant increases in or extensions to the scope of VAT or other new taxation or increases in coach costs due to increases in the cost of fuel, taxes imposed by the government, or other causes, the organisers reserve the right to increase the fees payable to cover the extra cost.
3. No contract shall exist between the applicant and the AIA until the issue of an acceptance letter/email by the Conference Administrator.
4. An invoice for payment in full will be issued by the Conference Administrator as soon as possible after receipt of your booking form (electronic or on paper).
5. Acceptance of applications after 24th July 2026 is at the discretion of the Conference Secretary.
6. No refunds can be made for cancellations received after 24th July 2026. For cancellations made in writing prior to that date there will be a sliding scale of refunds based on any charges made by the host establishment. Delegates are strongly recommended to take out holiday cancellation insurance cover. The Secretary may waive or vary these conditions and may make refunds at his discretion provided written notice of cancellation has been received.
7. The published programme is subject to alteration. Should it prove necessary to change or cancel all or part of the conference the liability of the AIA is limited to returning any monies paid for the affected events or visits if any offered alternative is unacceptable.
8. All bookings will be on a first come first served basis.
9. Please note that it is the responsibility of all delegates to satisfy themselves that they are physically capable of undertaking the visits they select and to wear suitable clothing and footwear. The organisers reserve the right to exclude from any event or visit any delegate either who is not considered capable of safely completing any visit, or whose clothing or footwear is judged inadequate or unsuitable for the activities planned.
10. A separate booking form must be completed by each applicant. The completion of the booking form implies assent to these terms and conditions.
11. All monies received in advance of the conference will be held in a separate bank account under the control of an independent trustee who will not release the funds to the AIA until the conference has been successfully concluded.
12. Should there be any complaint against the AIA for failure to provide the conference as described then such complaint must be made to the secretary of the AIA within 14 (fourteen) days of the end of the conference. Any complaint or claim made thereafter may not be covered by the security of payment provisions.
13. These terms together with the booking form, and the itinerary above, comprise the package being offered by the AIA.

Annual Conference, Norwich, 4th - 9th September 2026

Booking Form

To make a booking please read the Conference Offer document and complete the form below and send it to the Conference Administrator at the address shown at the bottom of the page

All delegates must register individually. **This booking does not include accommodation.**

Details of how to book accommodation at the Conference Hotel are given in the Conference Offer document.

Paid-up members of the AIA or its Affiliated Societies at the time of Conference and attending in person receive a 10% discount. Paid-up members attending the Zoom sessions only, receive a 50% discount.

Conference bookings and reservations at the Hotel should be made by 24th July 2026 otherwise there may not be space.

If you only wish to attend via Zoom complete Sections 1 and 3

If you wish to attend only the AGM (remotely or in person) please contact the Conference Administrator.

Items marked with a **red asterisk *** are mandatory.

1. Personal Details

Forename (not just initials) *:		Surname *:	
Address Line 1 *:			
Address Line 2 :			
Town / City *:		County / State :	
Post / Zip code *:		Country :	
Email address *:			
Phone (Day) :		Phone (Eve) :	
Mobile / Cell :			
Emergency Contact name :		Emergency Phone (Day)	
Emergency Phone (Eve) :			
Any medical condition, or physical or other requirements which might necessitate special arrangements or facilities ? Any dietary requirements ?			

If not already on the AIA emailing list, please add me: { Yes / No }

I would like my email address to be added to the delegate list: { Yes / No }

I am a paid-up AIA member: { Yes / No }

I am a member of an Affiliated Society: { Yes / No } If Yes, which one:

This is my first time at conference: { Yes / No }

Continue overleaf...

I would like to book :

Read the Offer document before making your choices. Where spaces are limited, visits will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

For Choices, select 1 or 2 for first or second choice, 0 = I don't want to go on that tour at all

2. Friday evening:

{ Yes / No }	Dinner & talk	£
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3. Saturday & Sunday morning:

	Options – select one	Price
{ Yes / No }	In person – all talks, reception, and dinner	£
{ Yes / No }	In person – Saturday 09:30 – 17:30 & Sunday morning	£
{ Yes / No }	Zoom only – Saturday 09:30 – 17:30 & Sunday morning	£

4. Visits, evening dinners & talks: { Delete as required }

Choice	Visit	Price
{ 0, 1, 2 }	Tour A – <i>Sunday Steam</i>	£
{ 0, 1, 2 }	Tour B – <i>Norfolk Wind</i>	£
{ Yes / No }	Sunday evening dinner & talk	£
{ 0, 1, 2 }	Tour C – <i>A day in Cambridge</i>	£
{ 0, 1, 2 }	Tour D – <i>South of Norwich</i>	£
{ Yes / No }	Monday evening dinner & talk	£
{ 0, 1, 2 }	Tour E – <i>North Norfolk</i>	£
{ 0, 1, 2 }	Tour F – <i>Wind, Tide & Machines</i>	£
{ Yes / No }	Tuesday evening dinner & talk	£
{ 0, 1, 2 }	Tour G – <i>Norwich City</i>	£

AIA members enjoy 10% discount on all prices shown

Total	
Less AIA member discount 10%	
Less AIA member Zoom only discount 50%	
Final total	

5. Payment

Please send your signed and dated booking form to the Conference Administrator:

AIA Conference Admin, Hines Farm, Forward Green, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5HQ

The administrator will issue an invoice as soon as possible.

Methods of payment are shown on the invoice.

Your Signature:

Date: