



Join the  
**BACK  
GARDEN  
DIG**

## Shoulder shovels

and join the great Kirkby Stephen back garden dig!

Following the example of our friends in Appleby and Ravenstonedale, Kirkby Stephen's **new** community interest company, **Encounter Eden CIC\***, is promoting a deeper understanding of our local history via **hands-on archaeology**.





Front and back photos credit: Appleby Archaeology Group: Dig Appleby

The Back Garden Dig will be advised professionally by Martin Railton of **Eden Heritage Ltd** and kindly supported by the **Appleby Archaeology Group**. We initiated the dig with a first test pit in the back garden of the King's Arms hotel in Kirkby Stephen last October. A second will be dug during the Loki Festival over the week-end of the 9th and 10th May 2026.

Over the coming seasons for digging, we would like to cover the historical areas of Kirkby Stephen with the inclusion of up to forty back gardens.

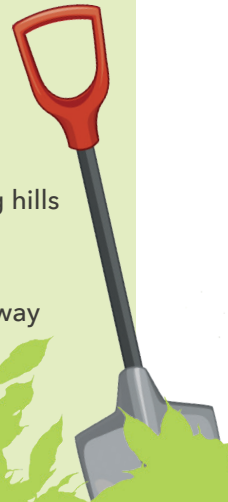
## What's next?

If you'd like to get involved in any way, either by joining our working group or by putting forward your own garden to be a part of the project, please contact Adrian Waite by email at: [amhwaite@outlook.com](mailto:amhwaite@outlook.com)

### Encounter Eden CIC\*

As well as the Back Garden Dig, **Encounter Eden CIC\*** is developing these other strands of community activity:

- local oral/aural history
- a celebration of upland sheep farming and the changing hills
- the Upper Eden Outdoor Learning Centre
- a hotel kitchen garden at Hills Bottom
- a model of the South Durham and Lancashire Union railway
- a dark skies programme at Bowber Head
- an interactive visitor map



\*The purpose of Encounter Eden CIC is to benefit the community in Kirkby Stephen and Upper Eden. For information, please contact Paul Askew, Project Co-ordinator.  
[paul@encounteredencic.org](mailto:paul@encounteredencic.org).