

Clay Willow Fire ~ 2026

A YEAR LONG RESEARCH COURSE dedicated to the investigation of **traditional processes** found in crafts relating to land management by the Norfolk Broads Authority, the consideration of **sustainable making** and local **material production**. This experimental course will focus on creative explorations of ecology through clay, willow weaving and wood firing, with most of the sessions taking place outside, this course aims to provide a new and critical approach to how we currently make and live. Set in Norwich and Norfolk, and in conversation with the Norfolk Broads Authority.

The structure of the course follows 10 weekends from January to November, with time for participants to continue exploring independent avenues of practise between sessions. This course is designed for anyone who is interested in reconnecting with the natural environment, community and making sustainably. Over 10 intensive weekends, we will gather materials, make collectively through explorations of traditional process, produce new works for two wood firings in Spring and Autumn, learn basic willow harvesting & weaving techniques and fire wood kilns together.



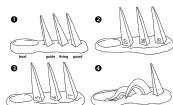
2026 Weekend dates: *Firing weekends include camping facilities

January 17, 18	Material gathering with Norfolk Broads Authority
February 14, 15	Material production in Norwich
March 21,22	Collective making in Norwich
April 11,12*	Spring wood firing near Bungay
May 9, 10	Kiln unloading, cooking and evaluation. Willow harvesting
June 13, 14	Willow weaving and basketry
July 11, 12	Site visit and material production
September 12, 13*	Autumn wood firing
October 10, 11	Kiln unloading, cooking and evaluation, NBA visit
November 7, 8	Basket making and evaluative celebration



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Led by Rachel Kurdynowska, Artist and ceramicist. Rachel has been forming and facilitating Clay Research Groups since 2023, having taught ceramics for 10+ years and seeking to offer an alternative form of ceramic education. She is highly experienced in ceramics, material production, kiln building & wood firing, ceramic materials local to East Anglia and traditional processes of building conservation. Her practise of ceramic research is explored through creating and facilitating democratic peer led teaching that explores Communities of Practise. Her courses are usually laid out in a cyclical manner that explore elements of nature and the poetics of material, process and making. This course has been written as a development of the highly regarded Clay Research Group curriculum, a material research course that currently runs at Helgate Pottery. The success of building community through these year long courses has seen alumni collaborate on funded site specific projects, whilst new courses continue to feed into this special group of critical thinkers.



Course fees for the year: £1,800

Can be paid over 12 instalments of £150, please message to set up a payment plan - eastonpottery@icloud.com

January	Saturday 17th	Visit to the Norfolk Broads with NBA for ecology exchange and material gathering	10:30-3:30pm	Location TBC
	Sunday 18th	Material processing	12-3pm	9 Trory Street, Norwich
February	Saturday 14th	Willow harvesting at kiln site Wood chopping and stacking Material gathering	10:30-3:30pm	Kiln Site, Topcroft, Bungay
	Sunday 15th	Material processing and shared making	12-3pm	9 Trory Street, Norwich
March	Saturday 21st	Introduction to willow and basketry Clay making in response	10:30-3:30pm	9 Trory Street, Norwich
	Sunday 22nd	Visit to local museum to look at archival baskets	10:30-1:30pm	Location TBC
April *FIRING*	Saturday 11th	Kiln packing	9-6pm	Kiln Site, Topcroft, Bungay
	Sunday 12th	Kiln firing	7am-9:30pm	Kiln Site, Topcroft, Bungay
May	Saturday 9th	Kiln unloading, cooking and evaluation	10:30-3:30pm	Kiln Site, Topcroft, Bungay
	Sunday 10th	Shared making in immediate response to kiln unloading	12-3pm	9 Trory Street, Norwich

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June	Saturday 13th	Summer visit to NBA boat trip	10:30-3:30pm	Location TBC
	Sunday 14th	Weaving with green willow and rush Wood stacking	10:30-3:30pm	Kiln Site, Topcroft, Bungay
July	Saturday 11th	Collective making of tests	10:30-1:30pm	9 Trory Street, Norwich
	Sunday 12th	Collective making	12-3pm	9 Trory Street, Norwich
August TERM BREAK				
September *FIRING*	Saturday 12th	Kiln packing	9-6pm	Kiln Site, Topcroft, Bungay
	Sunday 13th	Kiln firing	7am-9:30pm	Kiln Site, Topcroft, Bungay
October	Saturday 10th	Kiln unloading, cooking and evaluation	10:30-4pm	Kiln Site, Topcroft, Bungay
	Sunday 11th	Autumn visit to NBA	10:30-3:30pm	Location TBC
November	Saturday 7th	Basket weaving base	10:30-3:30pm	9 Trory Street, Norwich
	Sunday 8th	Handle basket Tea and cake Year overview and evaluation	10:30-3:30pm	9 Trory Street, Norwich
			110 hours	

OUTCOMES:

- Gathering & collating a material library of locally sourced ingredients for independent research
- Material processing techniques
- Testing of materials in wood fired reduction
- Willow harvesting
- Woven explorations of basketry
- New work made from exploration of process
- Community of thinkers
- New perspectives on making
- Shared research

INCLUDED:

- Materials
- 2 field trips to Norfolk Broads
- Summer boat trip on the Norfolk Broads
- 2 bisque firings
- 2 wood firings
- Wood firing camping facilities
- Car sharing where possible

