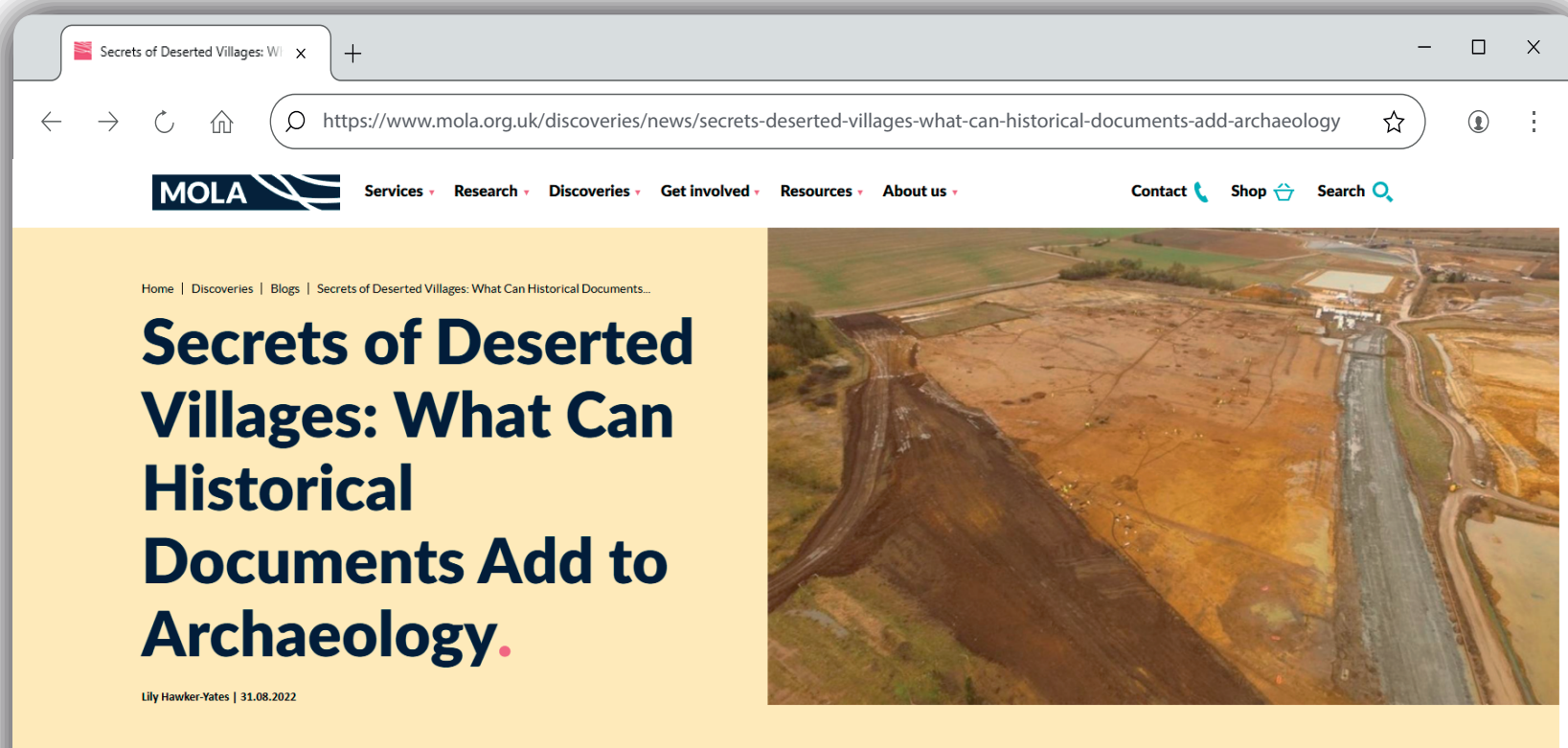


The great debate: modern documents



During this time, people in England lived under the feudal system. This meant that ordinary people (peasants) had to pay rent to the lord of the manor. Many had to work on their lord's land at least 2 days a week and could be called up to fight in his army. The lord could even decide which people were allowed to marry! However, in the Hundred Rolls from 1279 the villagers of Houghton are recorded as 'sokeman'. This means they were "free" peasants and didn't have to work on the lord's land, although they did have to pay him rent and taxes."