



IFA Workplace Learning Bursaries Bursary Holder Case Studies – Historic Buildings Survey, Research and Archaeology



- (1) Name? Sarah Botfield
- (2) Placement? Historic Buildings Survey, Research and Archaeology at Peterborough Cathedral.
- (3) Education/ previous roles? I graduated in 2007 with a BA (Hons) in Archaeology and Landscape History. Prior to this, I was involved with various archaeological organisations in a voluntary capacity.
- (4) Hobbies? A strange mixture! Motorsport, WW2 aviation, reading, and visiting historic sites.
- (5) Favourite archaeological person, book, site or object? The passage tombs at Knowth, Co Meath, Southern Ireland. Truly inspirational and so much more impressive than Newgrange.
- (6) Where did you see the placement advertised and what inspired you to apply? I saw the placement advertised on the BAJR website. It was an opportunity to experience a variety of archaeological practices and techniques within one position and to contribute to a project working with professionals from various sectors of the archaeological profession.
- (7) How did you feel when you were offered the post? Over the moon! And lost for words (a very unusual state for me!)
- (8) Best/worst thing about the placement? The Best: Working within an environment as beautiful as Peterborough Cathedral and with such lovely people.
The Worst: An encounter with a frog whilst surveying in undergrowth (I have an irrational fear of frogs!)
- (9) Biggest achievement/biggest challenge? Surveying the precincts, especially considering I had only the briefest experience of surveying before starting.
- (10) What have you learnt so far? Metric surveying techniques including setting up of survey control and Total Station survey; Building recording; Compiling a building survey report
Research techniques including analysis of archaeological and documentary data (grey literature, primary and secondary documentation); Creating data records for the Geographical Information System.
- (11) Future plans/future ambitions? To have a career within archaeology using the skills I have gained throughout the placement and to carry on with my studies, hopefully progressing to a PhD.
- (12) What advice would you give to other people wanting to apply for a training placement? Never think you are too old or too inexperienced to apply. A training placement means just that. Enthusiasm and passion speak volumes about a person.
- Any other comments? Thank you for this wonderful opportunity. The placement is so enjoyable and the support has been excellent. My confidence has soared and I am looking forward to the next six months.