

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	EPPIC scheme placement: Zooarchaeology
LOCATION:	Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth
DIVISION:	Conservation and Protection
DEPARTMENT:	Archaeological Science (Environmental Studies Team)
STATUS:	Placement
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Polydora Baker, Senior Zooarchaeologist

OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE POST:

The placement offers a training opportunity, to develop skills within this specialist area of archaeology.

This specialism involves:

- recognising, recording, investigating and interpreting zooarchaeological evidence for past social and economic activity;
- knowledge and understanding of animal bone development, including maturation, size and shape, pathologies and non-metric traits so that zooarchaeological evidence may be interpreted in a meaningful way;
- understanding of past patterns of human use of and attitudes towards animals and use these patterns/signifiers to interpret cultural and economic spatial and chronological variation in the past

The placement will produce a specialist who is familiar with:

- procedures and techniques for assessment and analysis of animal bone assemblages;
- recording and analysis of pathological features and non-metric traits;
- literature surveys and library searches for zooarchaeological data;
- computerisation of animal bone data from published sources and /grey literature;
- English Heritage standards in zooarchaeological assessment and analysis and their promotion.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

During the course of this placement the post-holder will be offered the opportunity to acquire skills in the following areas of expertise:

- **Analysis:** analysis and interpretation of species, age and metrical distributions and other relevant zooarchaeological information using the Carisbrooke Castle assemblage. Production of a report for inclusion in the Research Department report Series
- **Assessment:** recording of relevant species, age and biometrical and other information in order to determine information potential of a suitable animal bone assemblage, following English Heritage guidelines
- **Regional knowledge (Southern England Roman-Postmedieval animal bones):**
 - developing a literature survey and digital bibliography
 - undertaking library and on-line literature searches
 - extracting and logging data from published and grey literature animal bone reports.
- **Research (Sheep project):** recording and analysis of pathologies and non-metric traits in a sample of sheep skeletons. Production of a report in collaboration with English Heritage specialists.

- **Producing written reports**, to publication standard, on the work undertaken.
- **Fieldwork:** Sampling and zooarchaeological remains, through participation in field work; Post-excavation sample processing
- **Outreach:** assistance with zooarchaeology activities at Festival of British Archaeology and/or Festival of History
- **Participation in the Professional Zooarchaeology Group:** attendance at two meetings; recording of minutes
- **Health and safety procedures** in the handling and curation of zooarchaeological remains

After an introductory session, the training will be delivered on a mentoring/tutoring basis whilst working with the Zooarchaeology Team in Portsmouth. The post holder will be encouraged to attend relevant training courses, seminars and conferences, as time and resources allow.

Learning outcomes and skill levels will be defined for the activities above. The placement will provide evidence towards a Level 3 National Vocational Qualification (NVQ). The successful candidate will be registered for the Qualification as part of the placement.

SALARY

£16,049

PENSION

An employers' pension contribution of 6% of salary will be paid to the post holder. The post-holder will be eligible to join the IfA stakeholder pension scheme or may elect to have the contribution paid into a stakeholder pension of their choice.

HOLIDAY ENTITLEMENT

The post holder will receive 25 days holiday per year. In addition there are 8 public holidays. 3 days holiday must be taken over the Christmas period when the offices will be closed

SELECTION PROCEDURE

The candidates who appear from their applications to have the qualifications, experience and abilities which best match those we are looking for will be invited to an interview. It is therefore essential for your application to give a full and concise description of the nature, extent and level of the experience that you have had and any posts or responsibilities you have held.

The Selection Board will select the candidate most suitable for appointment. Their decision will be final.

All applicants should read the information in the letter to candidates carefully before making their application.

PERSON SPECIFICATION	
Professional Placement in zooarchaeology	
ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
TRAINING, EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS	
<p>MA/MSc or equivalent level of experience in zooarchaeology</p> <p>Some proven experience in the identification of vertebrate remains</p>	<p>A degree in an archaeological or environmental science, or equivalent experience</p> <p>Practitioner membership of IFA</p>
KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS	
<p>Good understanding of the principles and practices of zooarchaeological research</p> <p>Ability to write clearly and produce reports</p> <p>Good analytical and problem-solving skills</p> <p>Able to manage your own time and resources to meet assigned objectives</p> <p>Good competence in data-handling</p>	<p>Good knowledge and understanding of environmental archaeology</p> <p>Good knowledge and understanding of Romano-British and Medieval British archaeology</p> <p>Competence in word-processing</p> <p>Ability to use Access (relational database)</p>
INTERPERSONAL SKILLS	
<p>Interpersonal skills required for effective team work.</p>	
PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS OF THE POST	
<p>Some involvement with public</p> <p>Work mainly office and laboratory based; some standing and lifting necessary</p> <p>Willingness to receive training in zooarchaeological sampling and assessments</p>	