



IFA Workplace Learning Bursaries Case Studies – Digital Survey and Archaeological Field Recording



- (1) Name? Gemma Hudson
- (2) Placement? Digital Imagery Techniques at AOC Archaeology.
- (3) Education/ previous roles? I have a BA (Jt Hons) in Archaeology and Geography and before my placement I had a number of short contracts with archaeology firms for a range of jobs including fieldwork, post-excavation and HBR.
- (4) Hobbies? Cookery, running, socialising, dancing and computer gaming.
- (5) Favourite archaeological person, book, site or object? Ian Armit because of his published work about brochs. My undergraduate dissertation investigated how brochs were built and I have worked on experimental archaeology projects with AOC Archaeology involving the construction of half-scale brochs.
- (6) Where did you see the placement advertised and what inspired you to apply? I saw the placement advertised on the BAJR website. As I was at the beginning of my archaeology career I thought specialising in one particular area would give me a greater chance of gaining a secure position in the future as opposed to the series of short-term contracts which seem common in archaeology for workers just starting out. I had experience with a number of CAD packages and GPS from my archaeology work and also the geography I studied at university so I thought I stood a chance of getting the placement and knew I would enjoy it.
- (7) How did you feel when you were offered the post? Really excited and eager to start.
- (8) Best/worst thing about the placement?
Best: The great variety I get in my work with different sites, types of survey and range of computer software I use.
Worst: The fact that the new survey equipment is completely waterproof so I have to continue working in torrential rain.
- (9) Biggest achievement/biggest challenge?
Biggest achievement: Running the experimental archaeology project in Caithness this year including carrying out a survey of over 3500 points with a brand new total station.
Biggest challenge: Sticking together nearly 200 rock art scans using ScanStudio, the most uncooperative software ever.
- (10) What have you learnt so far? How to use two types of laser scanners, a total station, GPS and other survey equipment along with the related computer software packages including RealWorks, AutoCAD, ArcGIS and ScanStudio. I have also picked up a number of new fieldwork skills.
- (11) Future plans/future ambitions? To stay in archaeology doing more of the things I have been trained to do. Perhaps to continue my broch research in a PhD specifically using the survey skills I have obtained.
- (12) What advice would you give to other people wanting to apply for a training placement? Definitely apply if you think you would enjoy the training and also the opportunities of working in that field at the end of the placement. There is such a variety of placements coming up that there is something to suit everyone.