

## IFA Workplace Learning Bursaries Case Studies – Working with Finds



- (1) Name? Julie Lochrie
- (2) Placement? Finds assistant with specialist interest in prehistoric finds and pottery with Headland Archaeology
- (3) Education/ previous roles? After receiving my single honours in Archaeology (University of Glasgow) I worked for Falkirk Council Museums and was a site assistant for the Irish branch of Headland Archaeology Ltd for six months. I then completed an MLitt in Material Culture and Artefact studies (University of Glasgow).
- (4) Hobbies? Eh....the usual really...dinner, reading, travel, film, drinks, perfecting eBay buying strategy...and archaeologists are usually so passionate about their work that the lines between career and hobby become very blurred!!! :D
- (5) Favourite archaeological person, book, site or object? There's a pictish stone (Clach an Tiompain) in a wee Scottish town called Strathpeffer which has always been a favourite place of mine
- (6) Where did you see the placement advertised and what inspired you to apply? I saw the job advertised in a few different places and although it sounded like my dream job, I didn't think it was open to me as my course wouldn't be finished for a few months. I decided to send an email to see if the start date was negotiable and was delighted to hear there was some flexibility.
- (7) How did you feel when you were offered the post? Ecstatic!! I was in a meeting at the time but couldn't stop watching my phone. I had missed the phone call the Friday before and was paranoid that any offer would be retracted!!!!
- (8) Best/worst thing about the placement? The best thing about the placement is that it offers assisted practical experience with training from some of the leading professionals in Scotland. I don't really have anything bad to say about the placement, as such, obviously parts of the job are more interesting than others...washing slag's never been very high on my list!
- (9) Biggest achievement/biggest challenge? My biggest challenge was finishing up my MLitt dissertation, starting the bursary and flat hunting for a place in Edinburgh all at the same time. I'd probably consider landing a job so quickly a fairly big achievement! ☺
- (10) What have you learnt so far? Everything from excavating finds to writing specialist reports!
- (11) Future plans/future ambitions? I'm currently drafting my PhD proposal and hope to undertake this part time whilst still working with prehistoric finds.
- (12) What advice would you give to other people wanting to apply for a training placement? Make sure this is something you really want to do. These are great opportunities for people who are finding it difficult to move into a specialism and those who apply should be keen and dedicated to the subject. Don't be worried that you are over/under qualified as the IFA bursaries are designed for people at different stages of their career, considering both achievements and potential.
- Any other comments? I'd like to thank all those at the IFA involved with the Workplace Learning Bursaries. I'd also like to thank my placement hosts Headland Archaeology Ltd. particularly Julie Franklin and Mike Middleton