

Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire

Train an archaeologist, upskill a community

A bursary scheme offered by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) benefits not only the budding archaeologists themselves, but also the hundreds of people they work with during their placement. Tom Whitfield's year as a community archaeologist trainee with the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire shows how big the impact can be.

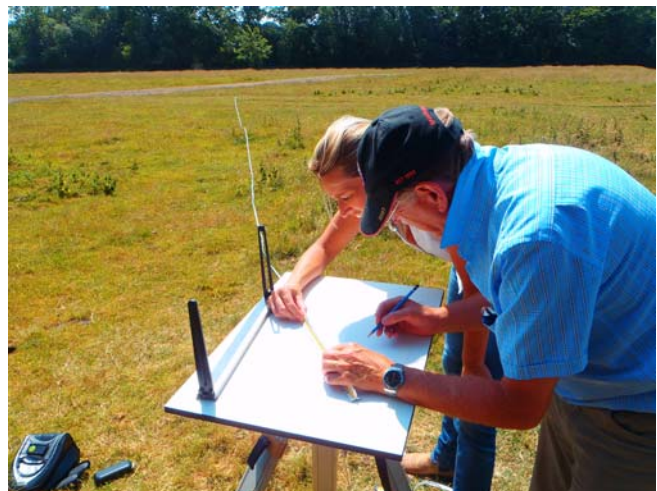
The bursary scheme is managed by CBA with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (with additional support from English Heritage, Cadw and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts) under its Skills for the Future Programme.

The placement provided by Heritage Lincolnshire was designed to equip Tom with the skills, experience and confidence to work with voluntary groups and communities, together with the opportunity to undertake the Level 3 NVQ in Archaeological Practice.

As well as benefiting from the experience of colleagues at Heritage Lincolnshire in archaeological fieldwork and research, Tom has been developing skills in helping communities around the county to explore and learn about archaeological sites. Tom has also had the opportunity to work on partnership projects, with organisations such as the National Trust, to offer hands-on activities so that volunteers can develop their own skills.

The National Trust hosted a four-day event at a deserted medieval village in the parkland of Gunby Hall near Spilsby, giving Tom the experience of supervising and training 21 local volunteers to survey the earthworks.

Volunteers from several established community groups - including Brinkhill, Navenby and the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology - attended the training and will be able to pass their training on to other members in their respective groups. Nearly a sixth of the attendees were young people



© Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire

As part of his bursary Tom has been leading the National Trust's Belton Archaeology Club over the past year. The club attracts an average of 15 young people aged between 7 and 12 years to its monthly meetings. It offers a programme of archaeology and heritage topics and hands-on activities which will help develop a lifelong interest in and appreciation of archaeology.

Tom's bursary itself may just have been for a single year, but it has left Lincolnshire's archaeology in more skilled hands for the longer term. Volunteers attending the training quickly developed the basic skills and felt that they had developed confidence to carry out basic surveys with minimal support and guidance.

If you require an alternative accessible version of this document (for instance in audio, Braille or large print) please contact our Customer

Services Department:

Telephone: 0870 333 1181

Fax: 01793 414926

Textphone: 0800 015 0516

E-mail: customers@english-heritage.org.uk