

We Dig the Castle, Nottingham Castle's annual archaeological excavation, is now taking bookings for 2018

We Dig the Castle is open to all all members of the community who would like to gain or develop practical archaeological skills in a supportive environment.



Our five-week training excavation for 2018 brings a brand new programme of test-pitting, excavation skills, recording, auguring, finds

identification, post-excavation, historic building recording and digitisation, with trainees carrying out fieldwork not only in Nottingham Castle's Outer Bailey but also in historic Brewhouse Yard, the fortifications in the gatehouse bridge area and the cave network inside Castle Rock.

The training excavation runs on weekdays from Monday 16 July to Friday 17 August, with 10 places per day. All equipment and PPE (other than footwear) is provided.

Tuition is site-based and informal, and comprised of small group work, workshops, tutorials and individual support, delivered by Trent & Peak staff, specialists and members of partner organisations. The training and fieldwork are designed to support trainees to gain and develop practical skills, which some may like to record in the Archaeology Skills Passport (which we can assist you to obtain). You can find out more about the Passport at www.archaeologyskills.co.uk.

Nottingham Castle is situated within the Nottingham city centre, with a range of accommodation for all budgets available nearby. The Castle is easily accessible by tram, bus and park and ride, with a number of car parks also located within easy walking distance.



Quick and secure online booking is available at yat.digitickets.co.uk. We can also take telephone bookings on **01904 615505**.

For more information please get in touch with Alison at: the **We Dig the Castle** team, Trent & Peak Archaeology:

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07432 694174

**We Dig the Castle, Trent & Peak Archaeology,
1 Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB**

Training with We Dig the Castle

Our schedule will enable you to quickly gain and develop skills and confidence. A changing daily programme allows trainees attending for 2 days or more to apply and improve skills in a variety of areas, and those coming for a taster to select the day(s) most suited to their interests and training needs.

During the training you'll work with a team of experienced field archaeologists from Trent & Peak Archaeology. A variety of experts from both Trent & Peak and the wider archaeological community will also deliver tutorials and workshops.

Our Dig the Castle archaeological skills checklist will help you to record your development and some workshops will include training materials to keep after the dig.

The brand new training programme for 2018 includes:

- Survey & laser scanning
- Augering
- Principles of excavation: stratigraphy and contexts
- Excavation and test-pitting techniques: mattocking, shovelling, trowelling
- Site recording: planning, levelling, section drawing, photography and context description
- Digitisation
- Historic building recording
- Finds identification
- Post-excavation, including environmental processing

Why train with We Dig the Castle

- Find out more about your city and its history
- Fill identified skill gaps in your archaeology society/group
- Learn how archaeologists uncover and interpret the past
- Help your local history society to find out how it can use archaeological investigations and sources
- Manage your development as a current or potential archaeology volunteer
- Progress through the Archaeology Skills Passport (record the skills that you gain and identify those to work on next)
- Play a part in uncovering more of the 1,000 years of history of the Nottingham Castle site

The image shows two pages of a 'Skills Passport' for archaeological training. Page 18 (left) is titled 'CORE SKILLS' and 'Site Grid and Trench Layout'. It includes a principle: 'Appreciates concept of site/national grid systems and placement of trenches within this. Can use long-tapes to lay out trenches.' and an outcome: 'To be able to set out pegs as a fixed grid and then lay out a trench within this coordinate system.' Below this is a signature line with a date of '20/7/2014' and a checkbox. Page 19 (right) is titled 'CORE SKILLS' and 'Dumpy Level and Staff'. It includes a principle: 'Understand the concept behind level heights along with the setting out and collection of data for the purpose of survey.' and an outcome: 'Locate a benchmark, set up the dumpy level, create TBM and record readings which are then reduced to absolute heights.' Below this is a signature line with a date of '23/7/2014' and a checkbox. Both pages have a 'Skills Passport' label at the bottom.



Provisional schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.30 – 9.45am (meet outside the gatehouse)	Induction and day's schedule	Induction and day's schedule	Induction and day's schedule	Induction and day's schedule	Induction and day's schedule
9.45am – 12.30pm	Brewhouse Yard: excavation, sieving, finds-processing Stratigraphy & context sheets Flotation <i>Plus: auguring, weeks 4-5</i>	Brewhouse Yard: excavation, sieving, finds-processing Photography skills Clay pipe identification	Brewhouse Yard: excavation, sieving, finds-processing Plan & section drawings	Brewhouse Yard: excavation, sieving, finds-processing Survey skills	Brewhouse Yard: excavation, sieving, finds-processing Digitisation training
1 – 3.30pm	As above	Building Recording Outer bailey: test pitting As above	As above	Building recording Outer bailey: test pitting As above	As above
3.30 – 4.15pm (4.00pm on Fridays)	Pottery identification	As above	Bone identification	As above	As above
4.30pm –	Pub				Pub

This is a provisional schedule and may be subject to change. Please check the website or get in touch for up-to-date news. We may also need to make changes at short notice as a result of poor weather or other unforeseen circumstances.