

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

We Dig the Castle is open to all students, and members of the wider community, seeking to develop their practical skills in a supportive training environment.

Our five-week training excavation for 2018 brings a brand new programme of test-pitting, excavation skills, site recording, augering, finds identification, post-excavation, historic building recording and digitisation, with trainees carrying out training and site work not only in Nottingham Castle's Outer Bailey but also in Brewhouse Yard, at the fortifications around the gatehouse and in the cave system inside Castle Rock (subject to confirmation).



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

Tuition is site-based and is comprised of small group work, workshops, tutorials and individual support, delivered by Trent & Peak staff, invited specialists and members of partner organisations. We Dig the Castle is designed specifically to support trainees to progress through both our own Skills Checklist and 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 Nottingham city centre, with evening leisure options and 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 at Trent & Peak Archaeology:

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



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	Building recording Outer bailey: test pitting	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.

Training with We Dig the Castle

Our schedule will enable you to quickly gain and evidence field skills. A changing daily programme allows trainees attending for 2 days or more (up to 2 weeks maximum) 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 Archaeology and the wider archaeological community will also deliver tutorials and workshops.

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
- Post-excavation, including identification and finds and environmental processing

Our staff are experienced in completing the risk assessments and placement journals or reports that may be required by your university. We have an established reputation and strong working relationships with a number of archaeology departments.

Trainees who would like to progress through the Archaeology Skills Passport

We Dig the Castle is carefully designed to help you to develop and practice the key Core and Secondary skills of the Archaeology Skills Passport. This makes it a great option for students looking to evidence their skills and experience. We can help you to obtain a Skills Passport, and assist you in evidencing your abilities onsite.

The image shows two pages of the Archaeology Skills Passport. Page 18 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.' There is a signature and date '20/7/2014' and a section for 'Signature' and 'DATE' with a 'level of competence' scale (none, competent, proficient). Page 19 is also titled 'CORE SKILLS' and 'Dumpy Level and Staff'. It includes a principle: 'Understand the concept of dumpy 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.' There is a signature and date '23/7/2014' and a section for 'Signature' and 'DATE' with a 'level of competence' scale (none, competent, proficient).

The Skills Passport is a useful way of recording practical training that you have received, and skills that you have gained and used, during your development as an archaeology student. It can also be used to identify areas on which to focus next.

For students considering a career in archaeology, or associated professions, it's a useful way of charting your skillset, projects and CPD, demonstrating a commitment to personal development, providing evidence in applications and interviews, and planning your future direction.