

Compulsory Fieldwork Assessment for students taking “CAHE20501 Doing Archaeology 2” in 25/26

Assessing your fieldwork

In the summer at the end of your first year you will undertake at least two weeks of fieldwork. This may be on an excavation, or you may instead work on a project with a different focus, such as survey work or experimental archaeology (if you do not go on a field project – e.g. if you work in a museum - please contact Hannah Cobb for alternative assessment Hannah.Cobb@Manchester.ac.uk).

Whatever you do, if you take the course *CAHE20501 Doing Archaeology II* in your second year you will be required to write a **2000 word** reflective analysis of your experiences, to be submitted as the first piece of assessment for the course. This work will make up **40% of your final grade for the course** and as result ***it is important to prepare well and collect evidence of the methods you undertake whilst in the field.*** You can watch a short recording about the assessment using [this link](#) or the QR code to the right, or feel free to read on for more info!



The deadline for submission of the reflective fieldwork analysis is usually Week 4 or 5 of Semester 1, so you will need to have the work completed by then. You will be given more details about the analysis (including the deadline for submission) in Week 1 of Semester 1, but it is strongly advised that you **prepare for your analysis over the summer** by making a record of your fieldwork in photos and notes, and completing a skills passport in the field. You might also find it helpful to reflect upon your experiences as soon as you return from your excavation to ensure key details are fresh in your mind.

What to include and what to consider:

Your analysis will need to demonstrate

1. **An understanding of the project itself:** where was it? What kind of archaeology is represented at the site – i.e. tomb, settlement, midden, pit, lithic scatter etc.? What periods does it cover? What are the aims of the project? If it is an ongoing project, how do previous year's results fit in the wider archaeological context of that area/period?).
2. **An understanding of the methods being used on the site and evidence of the methods you used yourself:** This is why taking photos, keeping a journal and using a skills passport will be particularly useful. You will need to provide details and evidence of all the different methods you personally used by including samples of your work (e.g. photographs of context sheets that you completed, or drawings that you did).
3. **An understanding of the outcomes of the project:** what was found this summer? What questions did this answer? What will happen next?
4. **An understanding of the wider debates the project might fit into: e.g. *Debates about period:*** How does this site contribute towards or challenge arguments about Neolithic funerary sites in Herefordshire/prehistory in Scotland/Romano/British interactions in the Scottish Borders? How does this site contribute to or challenge existing understandings of the life and death in prehistoric or Romano-British Scotland/prehistoric use of landscape in Herefordshire?. ***E.g. debates about methods:*** was there a phenomenological/landscape element to the project? Or perhaps a community focus? Or was experimental archaeology used? How successful was the methodology? And how reliable were the results? Did

contradictions exist between an interpretive or post-processual ethos and a processual method? ***E.g. debates about the socio-political context of the project:*** did it aim to enrich the local community? Did it succeed? Did it aim to challenge traditional hierarchical approaches to fieldwork? Did it/ succeed in these aims or did you feel like you were an “invisible digger” (Everill 2009)?

Images:

Your work should include formal, scale photographs, working shots, and any other illustrations (such as maps and copies of context sheets) that are deemed relevant, ***so make sure you take lots of pictures of the methods you use and the paperwork you produce (e.g. drawings, context sheets) whilst you are in the field.***

References/bibliography

Throughout the work you will be expected to refer to relevant academic literature including the Project Design and interim reports related to the specific site/project you are working on so ***please ask dig directors for copies of these.*** Also relevant broader literature related to the period in question and the methods that you have employed should be referred to, so make sure you ask dig directors and supervisors for recommended reading.

Any questions? Feel free to drop me a line at Hannah.Cobb@Manchester.ac.uk but meanwhile wishing you a summer of happy digging!