

Council for British Archaeology

CBA Factsheet 8: Fieldwork and Volunteering

There are many different ways you can volunteer in archaeology, both in the UK and elsewhere. To begin, there are lots of ideas in the [Get Involved](#) section of our website, which also contains links to our Volunteering and FAQ pages.

The CBA provides many services, and we list all UK fieldwork opportunities ('digs') we are aware of in the **Briefing** section of our bimonthly [British Archaeology](#) magazine. They are also [available online](#) with current dates and contact details. This is updated whenever we are sent new listings and we have a wide variety from the Spring onwards. There is usually 'down-time' in the Autumn. You will need to contact the each of the organisers individually for anything you are interested in and they may have approximate dates and prices for the next season.

British Archaeology magazine is available to buy in larger WH Smith shops, by subscription, and as part of our [membership package](#), which includes an annual [Festival of British Archaeology](#) event booklet highlighting local events taking place across the UK in the last two weeks of July. Please note that we are not a fieldwork unit and do not undertake any excavations ourselves.

Some excavations are unable to accept those under 16 or sometimes 18 due to insurance issues. This will usually be made clear in the description text, but if in doubt contact the organisers directly. Our website has many other [ideas for young people](#), including our [Young Archaeologists' Club](#) (YAC) specifically for those up to the age of 17.

Individual Membership of YAC costs just £15 per year and members receive:

- A welcome letter signed by YAC's president [Tony Robinson](#)
- Four copies a year of the fantastic and exclusive [Young Archaeologist](#) magazine packed with quizzes, competitions, activities to try, a behind-the-scenes [Time Team](#) page and the latest archaeological news and stories.
- A [YAC Pass](#) booklet which members can use to gain free or discounted entry into some of the top historic attractions

throughout the UK as well as offering special deals with a range of organisations

- A membership card, certificate and pin badge

You will also receive the annual [Festival of British Archaeology](#) booklet with local events across the UK at the end of July and details of [Scottish Archaeology Month](#) held every September. You can [join online](#) or contact us by [email](#) or telephone.

If you are aged over 18 and interested in volunteering for YAC at one of our [Branches](#) across the UK, please [contact us](#) for further details.

In your local area, our network of [CBA Groups](#) may know of additional activities in their regions. You can find all their contact details on our website. You may also wish to make contact with some of the local archaeology societies, special interest groups or museums in your area. Contacts are available via the [Training Online Resource Centre](#) for archaeology (TORC), through which you can also filter by region. Another list can be found through the [Archaeology Online](#) section of the CBA website. There may also be community archaeology projects running in your area. Have a look at our [Community Archaeology Forum](#) (CAF) for this. For more specific requests or queries, please feel free to contact our [Community Archaeology Support Officer](#).

Occasionally, professional field units may be able to offer some field experience via training digs and open days. The Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) has a database of [Registered Archaeological Organisations](#) (RAOs). You can also search for Units at TORC and ArchOnline as above.

You could also try departments at individual universities, in the UK and elsewhere, most of which should run training digs and some of these will be open to others, or even abroad! You can find their details through [Archaeology Online](#), the [TORC Organisation Search](#) or our [Education section](#). The [UCAS](#) (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) may also be a useful source for universities running undergraduate archaeology degrees, and therefore training digs as part of students' courses.

The [Field Studies Council](#) are a nationwide and multidisciplinary organisation offering Archaeology, History and other Heritage-based courses at a selection of its various field centres. Contact Head Office, Preston Montford, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 1HW, tel 0845 3454071 or 01743 852100, email [Enquiries](#). Please change the year in the web address to reflect to current year.

If you are looking to dig outside the UK, [Archaeology Abroad](#) specifically provides information about archaeological excavation and field school opportunities outside the UK suitable for all pockets and levels of experience. The Archaeology Abroad bulletin is published annually in spring on CD-ROM, an interactive format which enables readers to access additional information about projects and other information listed via live email and web links. The annual bulletin is supplemented throughout the year by email updates, keeping subscribers fully up to date with all the latest opportunities. An annual subscription can be obtained from the [Honorary Secretary](#), Archaeology Abroad, c/o UCL Institute of Archaeology, 31–34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY, fax 020 7383 2572, or from the [CBA Online Shop](#).

There is the annual Archaeological Fieldwork Opportunities Bulletin: The Archaeological Institute of America publishes an annual bulletin of worldwide archaeological fieldwork opportunities, which is also [searchable online](#). Issues of 'AFOB' are priced around £15, from [Oxbow Books](#), 10 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford, OX1 2EW, tel 01865 241249, email [Oxbow](#) or [Orders](#). In North America, the distributor is [David Brown](#) books.

[Current Archaeology](#) magazine provide a listings service for organisations and fieldwork which can be found through their own website. They also list opportunities outside the UK via [I Love the Past](#). Additionally, [BAJR](#) (British Archaeological Jobs and Resources) host [Past Horizons](#), an e-magazine featuring paid and voluntary placements worldwide. The popular web resource 'About' has an [archaeology section](#) with a worldwide fieldwork listing, as does the European-based [ShovelBums](#).

Always check with the organisers directly for the latest information.

For further information, please contact:

Council for British Archaeology, Beatrice De Cardi House, 66 Bootham, York, YO30 7BZ , tel 01904 671417, visit www.britarch.ac.uk or email info@britarch.ac.uk

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