

Archaeology graduate development at the National Trust for Scotland



Alice Connelly with Daniel Rhodes MCIQA (5924) and Steven Reid, National Trust for Scotland

A variety of employers in the heritage sector have benefited from using NVQs to train and accredit their workforce, as have individuals who wanted to have a formal, recognised qualification. Alice Connelly joined the NTS Archaeology team earlier this year as a graduate trainee, a role developed in collaboration with CifA, who are supporting her through an NVQ in Archaeological Practice. This article provides some insights into this experience from all those involved.

I was drawn to this role as I'd been on a slightly convoluted path towards a career in archaeology, completing an MA in archaeology at Edinburgh University, then spending 300 days fastpacking the coast of Britain, followed by a season of guiding at Edinburgh Castle. Working with the Trust and doing the NVQ with CifA is giving me a sense of direction and the chance to get stuck into loads of different aspects of archaeology. It's been a great way to figure out what I enjoy and think about where I want to go next. By the end of my traineeship, I'll be in a strong position to champion archaeological conservation and carry the Trust's values of conservation, engagement and sustainability into whatever comes next in my career.

Alice Connelly, NTS Graduate Archaeologist

We are delighted to have created our first Archaeology Traineeship as part of our work to increase our career pathways into the National Trust for Scotland. It has been great to work with CifA to create this role and see it come to life! This opportunity allows a recent graduate the opportunity to gain hands-on practical experience while working alongside industry experts and gaining an NVQ in Archaeological Practice.

Steven Reid, NTS Lead Consultant for Career Programmes and Pathways

We wanted to create the traineeship because archaeology is key to the conservation mission of not only the National Trust for Scotland but a changing land management sector more widely. Although universities sometimes teach landscape-scale approaches to archaeology, they rarely link this to conservation practice or public engagement. We feel that as Scotland's largest conservation charity we can help early-career archaeologists transition into the conservation sector through experiencing how their core archaeological skills can be applied to integrated landscape management, onsite interpretation and public outreach.

Daniel Rhodes, NTS Senior Archaeologist

Alice is a perfect candidate for the NVQ, with an academic grounding in archaeology and additional workplace skills such as public-facing engagement work. When the NVQ is provided by an organisation such as the NTS it provides the structural support for further career development, a wide range of relevant experience, and importantly, the time needed for early-career colleagues to come to decisions about their next steps while gaining crucial occupational skills and knowledge. I am also pretty envious of the range of projects Alice is going to work on, and the places she will go!

Sadie Watson, NVQ Assessor



Alice drawing a wall section under guidance of Derek Alexander, NTS Head of Archaeology. Credit: Jim Shearer

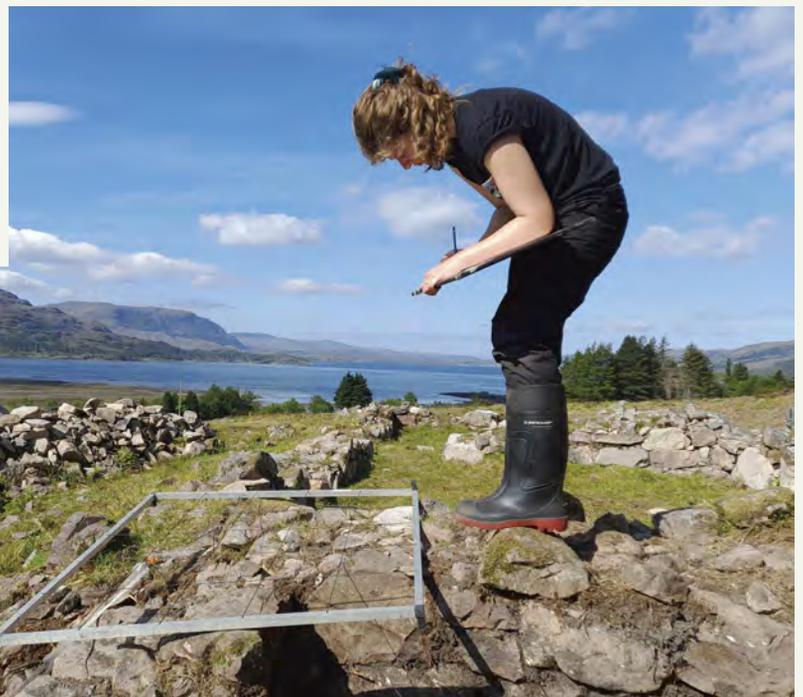


Alice excavating a 19th-century ruined house at Doire nam Fuaran, Torridon. Credit: Derek Alexander



Alice pictured with glass sherds from an excavation in Torridon. Credit: Derek Alexander

Alice drawing a plan of an excavated structure in Torridon. Credit: Derek Alexander



Alice Connelly

Alice works for the National Trust for Scotland Archaeology team as a graduate trainee and is currently undertaking an NVQ in Archaeological Practice supported by ClfA.