

# PIECING TOGETHER OUR PAST IN POST- EXCAVATION

[July 29, 2011](#)[Cosmeston](#)[Day of Archaeology](#), [Day of Archaeology 2011](#), [Excavation](#),[Finds](#), [Medieval](#), [Post Medieval](#)[Access to Humanities](#), [Archaeology](#), [Bristol](#), [Cardiff University](#),[care assistant and pharmacy technician](#), [careers adviser](#), [Cosmeston Medieval Village](#), [Excavation](#),[experimental archaeology](#), [fabric](#), [Kyle](#), [medieval](#), [Medieval reenactment](#), [Neath Port Talbot College](#),[petrography](#), [Post-excavation](#), [pottery](#)

Hiya everyone, Louise writing here.

Archaeology and medieval history is something I've been interested in for years, but never really knew how to get involved with any projects and I was put off applying for a history degree by my careers adviser when I was in college. 'Why do you want to do a history degree when your A level subjects are sociology, law and English? Best you apply for an English degree somewhere'. Rather disheartened by this negative response I decided that education wasn't for me and I joined the world of full time employment. I tried my hand at many different careers, from care assistant and pharmacy technician to burger van and mushroom picker, but I never felt satisfied with the work, so as my 30<sup>th</sup> birthday was fast approaching I took the plunge and enrolled at [Neath Port Talbot college](#) to do an [Access to Humanities course](#). It was brilliant. The lecturers were all very supportive and encouraged us all to go down which ever route we felt was right for ourselves.



*Is it local or from Bristol?*

As a result of going back to college I have ended up studying [Archaeology and Medieval History](#) at Cardiff University. Part of the course requires you to undertake work placement in an archaeological environment. I chose to do post excavation as it's what I would love to do with my degree eventually, I find it fascinating how small fragments of pottery or bone can be dated and analysed to give us a better understanding of how our ancestors lived. I think that in post excavation more time can be taken to look at the finds and details from site that may have been missed in the field.



*Kyle checking his fabrics*

This week we have been labelling pottery, a very tedious but vital task and one which provides the opportunity to cross fit pottery from different contexts to try and piece together complete vessels. Each tiny sherd of pottery must be labelled with the site code and context number just in case a little bit gets misplaced. It was pretty dull but then [Alice](#) (Cardiff PhD student and Cosmeston finds co-ordinator) did a workshop on how to identify the pieces that we were labelling. Suddenly the bits of pottery began to mean something more to me. I can now tell the region that each piece would have been made in and how the complete item may have looked, which is making the essential job much more interesting. Post excavation is a long meticulous process but very rewarding as I know I am helping to preserve the archaeology for future generations to appreciate.