

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A FLO (AND HER HELPERS)

June 29, 2012 Wendy Scott Community Archaeology, Day of Archaeology 2012, Finds, Museum Archaeology Archaeology, Britain, Burrough Hill, Burrough Hill fort, Florida, Harborough Museum, Hoard, Iron Age fort, ITV, James Kirton, Kirby Muxloe Castle, local journalist, manager, Oakham castle, Oakham Museum, Phil Harding, Rebecca Czechowicz, Rutland, Treasure trove, University of Leicester, Wendy Scott

A week in the life of a FLO – Wendy Scott, Leicestershire and Rutland FLO and Rebecca Czechowicz, FLA.

MONDAY

I added records to the database from an elderly long-term finder. We visited him at home last week and recorded objects found many years ago, before the scheme started here. We obtained accurate locations using maps and had a chat about his best find, a small but significant Viking coin hoard –The Thurstaston Hoard.

TUESDAY

More inputting (it never stops!). In the run up to the Festival of Archaeology, myself and my manager have a meeting with our press office to plan our press releases. This year we have 73 festival events to promote, including a launch event at Kirby Muxloe Castle with EH (14th July), an event to promote a new Iron age coin hoard going into Harborough museum with coin striking activities (17th July).

We are also plugging two Leicestershire objects being in the final 10 of Britain's Secret Treasures, an ITV programme highlighting the 50 most important finds made by the public (16th-22nd July).

We have help from a volunteer today. James Kirton is helping us to get all the amazing Bosworth Roman objects onto the database. Amongst hundreds of brooches, we have 99 horse and rider brooches! Along with coins and other objects; all found as part of the Bosworth battlefield survey.

WEDNESDAY

We have an appointment at Oakham Museum to meet a finder to record her many objects. Rebecca measures and weighs whilst I photograph and identify all the objects. Handily this coincides with an invitation to visit Time Team filming at Oakham castle. We met up with Danni, FLO for Devon who works for Time Team, and local detectorist Dr Phil Harding who was detecting the spoil for them, to see what they'd found. A local journalist asked the other Dr Phil Harding if he actually did the digging! He was posing for a photo with a spade at the time, so he replied "What do you think I do with this?"



Our Dr Phil detects the spoil whilst the other one supervises his trench.

THURSDAY

Downloading and editing photos and researching objects from our recording yesterday, ready to add them to the database. I have spoken to the finder of the IA hoard. We are arranging a photo opportunity for the press next week, prior to the event and I needed a quote for the press release. I also spoke to colleagues about one of our museums purchasing a treasure case, a medieval finger ring, for their collection. In the afternoon we were all distracted from work by a violent thunderstorm, with flash flooding and hail the size of golfballs!

FRIDAY

Day of Archaeology! Today I am getting on with recording the objects we identified yesterday. I am also preparing leaflets and flyers for the Festival. Before I leave I will be gathering material for a weekend event. Sunday is the annual open day at Burrough Hill fort, Leicestershire's best Iron Age fort. The University of Leicester are conducting a five year research project there. We will have the latest finds along with other Iron Age and Roman objects from the area found by detecting and field-walking. We have Iron age Warriors, coin making and I will be on hand to record anything that people bring along.

With the exception of Time Team being in my area, this is a pretty average summer week. There are always more objects to record and input, events to organise and promote and people to see. . .

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