

MULTI-TASKING ARCHAEOLOGY! TEACHING, FIELDWORK AND MEDIEVAL POOP

July 11, 2014 castlesandcoprolites Day of Archaeology 2014, Environmental Archaeology archaeological science, Environmental Archaeology, University of Bristol, University of Edinburgh

I am pleased to be taking part in my third Day of Archaeology – see here for my previous posts on work for the [Feeding Stonehenge](#) and [Paisley Caves](#) projects in 2012 and 2013. This year I am working on a whole range of things simultaneously, illustrated nicely in the cluttered picture of my desk below. I am starting my third year working at the University of Edinburgh, and have a lot more teaching responsibilities that I have ever had before. I am in the middle of preparing undergraduate lectures for the second year course, Scotland Before History, which covers Scottish archaeology from early prehistory right up to the medieval period, and making sure all the lab facilities are in place for my third/fourth year option course in Environmental Archaeology, where students get to do a lot of hands on work with environmental remains under the microscope. Alongside teaching prep, I am also putting together my schedule for a brief fieldwork session up at the [Ness of Brodgar](#) – [I started working there last year](#), and have been [applying analytical chemistry and microscopy to midden deposits](#) to investigate fuel resource use and the types of activities that people were carrying out in different parts of the site. Under the microscope you can see the micromorphology slides I am currently working on for the [Ecology of Crusading](#) conference in Riga in September – [I've been blogging](#) about these slides for the past year if anyone would like to know more about them! And finally, I am getting all my samples and paperwork together for a visit to the Organic Geochemistry Unit at the University of Bristol at the end of this month. I have collaborated with Bristol since my PhD, as they have the best facilities in the UK for archaeological chemistry. During this visit I will be working on a wide range of samples from my own research and in my role as research associate for the [Ecology of Crusading project](#) – identifying the species and dietary signals of medieval poop!

