york-museums-trust (Small)

Volunteer Project Brief

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| Project title | Archaeology volunteer: Coppergate’s animal bone archive |
| Project leaders | Lucy Creighton, Curator of Archaeology – Yorkshire Museum  Emily Tilley, Curatorial Assistant – Yorkshire Museum |
| Summary of project | The ground-breaking excavation at Coppergate in the heart of York revealed the city’s fantastically preserved Viking streets. It also uncovered more than 1000 boxes of archaeological animal bone!  We are looking for a number of enthusiastic volunteers to assist in repacking and auditing this large collection which is now in the Yorkshire Museum’s collection.  Through undertaking collections management processes you’ll be helping to improve archival standards and increase access to this important collection… whilst getting hands on with York’s history.  Working closely with the project leaders volunteers will work in teams to gain experience of:   * Moving, handling, and packing objects * Marking and labelling bags and boxes * Auditing material and creating paper and digital lists.   Full training in order to carry out the task in hand, including an introduction to collections management and archaeological recording systems. |
| Other key staff | YMT Volunteers Team |
| YMT site | Museum off-site store near Huntington, York |
| Start date  The date you expect the volunteer to start | Friday 2 August |
| Frequency of attendance | Volunteers will be asked to commit (as far as possible) to one full day per week on Fridays for 9 weeks. Full days run from 10am – 4pm and include a lunch break. |
| End date | End of September 2019 |
| Project outcome | Every box of animal bone from Coppergate will be repacked and labelled using new, archival quality materials. The material will be organised, ordered, and listed so it can be easily accessed and studied. |
| What we want from you | * Ability to undertake manual handling, especially lifting and moving heavy boxes. * A willingness and enthusiasm to work with and handle archaeological animal bone. * Enthusiastic, self-motivated, and having excellent interpersonal skills, being able both to work as part of team and with limited supervision. * Ability to maintain attention to detail and accuracy alongside carrying out repetitive tasks. |
| Any other relevant info | Volunteers must be prepared to wear personal protective equipment including nitrile gloves. |