

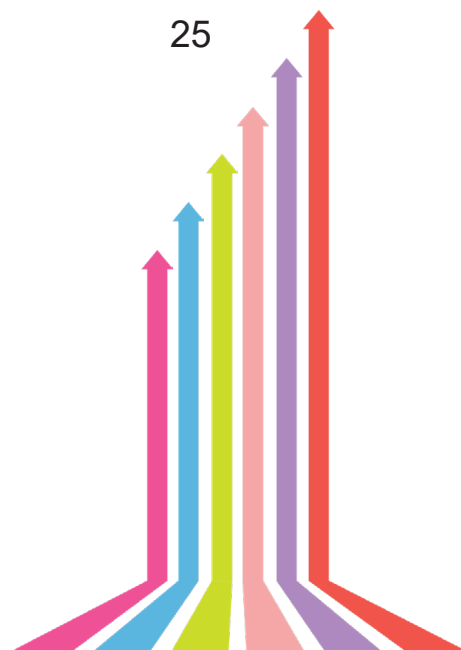
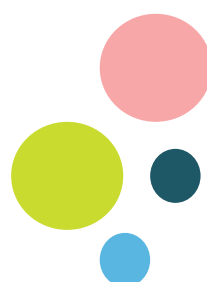
HERITAGE CAREERS WEEK

CAREER PROFILES



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Icon guide

To help you identify what areas of the sector each careers profile links to, we have icons that link to each area. Look for them at the top of each activity summary page!



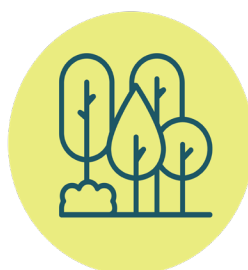
Archaeology



Heritage tourism



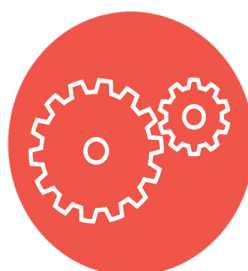
Architecture,
engineering,
planning and
surveying in a
heritage context



Historic
landscapes and
gardens



Archives and
libraries



Industrial heritage



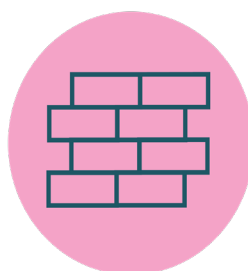
Conservation of
art and artifacts



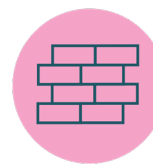
Museums and
galleries



Heritage
Science



Traditional
building skills and
materials



Kirsty Cassels

Project Coordinator, Self Employed

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Organisation, attention to detail, people skills, creative thinking, problem solving, open mindset.

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

A funded opportunity to study and practice heritage work, where I would learn more about the heritage sector and expand my skill set.



How did you get started?

I started in architecture, moved into natural building, teaching, then got into the heritage sector. I've done a variety of different roles, amassed a wide selection of skills, and every opportunity has led to the next. The construction industry opens routes for any path if you're open to it.

What are the best parts of your role?

I go wherever the project is, which could mean months at a time in a really great location, or abroad. I have the ability to decide when and where I work within reason, depending on the project.

“
Say yes to opportunities, be curious about how things go together. Don't romanticise the past.
”

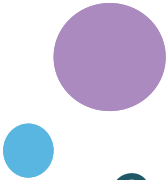
Favourite subjects in school?

Art, Biology, and English

“
I was surprised by how many skilled and trained trades there are out there that are worth their weight in gold.
”

Describe a typical day in your work

Relaying information either in drawing, verbally, or practically to multiple trades, designers, engineers and clients. Designing and problem solving built solutions, learning about new skills and from experienced trades. People skills and management. Learning new ways of doing things. Applying knowledge and skills learnt, to provide client with knowledge and insight to make informed decisions.



Calypso Finch

Learning Assistant, Archaeology Scotland

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Communication, creativity and organisation. Experience is important, not qualifications.

Favourite subjects in school?

English and French, I loved delving into lives in the past and different cultures. Also Design Technology!

How did you get started?

I volunteered at Stonehenge while studying at University, I added Archaeology to my Languages degree! I trained as a Primary Teacher and taught for 5 years, before getting back into Heritage as a Visitor and Operations Assistant at a historic property, then training as an Archaeologist!



What are the best parts of your role?

The people in the team and the groups we work with. Everyone brings their unique perspective to explore the past. Archaeology's wellbeing and community benefit is for all.

“
There is no one way and no wrong path, pursue what makes you happy (it is never too late).
”

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

Going to open air sites/museums, the volunteers and hands-on activities brought it all to life. My mum for taking me.

Describe a typical day in your work

“
I was elated to see how the sector is championing action towards Net Zero emissions by 2045.
”

In the morning, I could be delivering an archaeology workshop outdoors with a group with additional support for learning, and in the afternoon I could be preparing local archaeology information and an artefact loan kit booking for another school group. No day is the same, I might be attending a meeting, typing up minutes or writing copy for a blog post. I work indoors and outdoors.



Rosie Shackleton

Assistant Curator, North Lanarkshire Council

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Experience in a range of heritage settings, open to try new things and keen to develop through CPD.

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

My dad's a historian, my mum's an artist, and I spent my childhood in museums and art galleries. I grew up around heritage, so it made sense



How did you get started?

I did work experience in an art gallery for school, then volunteering during uni. On my year abroad I did unpaid internships and from those I got paid work. It grew from there. I worked in small organisations that let me work on my own projects and gave me an insight into all aspects of heritage.

What are the best parts of your role?

The main thing is working with the collection. To be cheesy, holding history will never get old and I love being able to explore so many different themes and time periods.

Favourite subjects in school?

Art, German, History, English Literature

“
**Keep at it!
There are so
many different ways
to get into heritage,
just enjoy the
process.**

”

“
I was surprised
by how many
different roles there
are in heritage. There is
genuinely something
for everyone.

”

Describe a typical day in your work

Catch up on emails and divide the day up into tasks. Each day is different but I normally split up my mornings and afternoons. I'll start with research for any exhibitions, projects or articles I'm working on. In the afternoon I'll go to one of the stores and work on the donations backlog, or reorganisation including checking condition, location and packing.



Lynn Teggart

Paper Conservator, Historic Environment Scotland

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Qualification in conservation plus hands on experience working with heritage collections.

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

After graduating from art school, I knew I wanted to work in the art industry. I gained an interest in heritage while working as a framer.

How did you get started?

While working as a picture framer I learnt more about the preservation of heritage. I started off by gaining some work experience with a local conservator. I then applied to study the Conservation of Fine Art at Northumbria University and specialised in paper conservation.

What are the best parts of your role?

I really enjoy working with the objects, it is a privilege to get to look at the wonderful collections, as well as working with my colleagues to share knowledge and experience

Favourite subjects in school?

Definitely art!

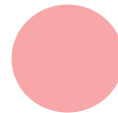
“
Conservation treatments can make such a positive difference to extremely fragile drawings.
”

Describe a typical day in your work

A typical day would include some conservation treatment of an object which might vary from a small tear repair up to a more complex treatment such as washing or lining. Other activities might include checking pest traps in our stores or mounting and framing an item going on exhibition. I also do lots of surveying of collections to assess treatment needs.



“
Arrange to visit heritage organisations and take up voluntary opportunities.
”



Michael MacKinnon

Digital Content Producer, Glasgow Life Museums

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

A passion for telling stories within digital ,adaptability, initiative, creative thinking.

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

I have always loved the museums in Glasgow and always been interested in the social history of the city, and using digital to tell stories.

How did you get started?

I got a Heritage Lottery traineeship,with Scottish Council on Archives and North Lanarkshire Archives. This gave me a year within an important heritage institution whilst getting a range of training. From there I worked with NLS at Kevin Hall, before spending 5 years at Glasgow Life Museums.

What are the best parts of your role?

It can be stimulating working within museums as the stories told within our objects cover a whole range of topics! Working within museums that are important to people. Being creative in the role.

Favourite subjects in school?

Modern Studies, Music, English, and PE.

“
I was surprised by how the use of digital to tell stories and attempt to attract new audiences plays a key role.
”

Heritage Careers Week

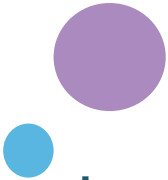


“
Try and get real life experience in sector (Volunteering), and try to make a digital showreel.
”

Describe a typical day in your work

A typical day is always varied. I could be working on- editing a video on Adobe Premiere, recording a podcast piece, hosting a meeting, writing a ‘concept’ for a short film for the museum and what it should contain), line managing a Modern Apprentice, attending museum project meetings (Meetings for specific museum projects e.g. an exhibition- in which the whole team attends).

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Louise Kelly

Sustainability Officer, Historic Environment Scotland



What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Excellent communication and organisation skills. An up to date knowledge of climate change is key.

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

A love for history and people and feeling that I wanted to do something that I really cared about so heritage was a natural fit.

How did you get started?

I studied history, worked as a seasonal guide at Edinburgh Castle and then did maternity cover in a business support/events role there. After another few months as a guide I joined the events team at the castle. After working at Edinburgh Castle for four years I applied for my current role.

Favourite subjects in school?

History, English and Chemistry.

What are the best parts of your role?

Feeling like the work is worthwhile is the best, climate action and heritage are both important to me. The flexibility that allows for a good work/life balance is also lovely.

“
Seasonal and temporary work are great ways to get started and learn what you like and are good at.
”

Describe a typical day in your work

Very varied. An office day starts with checking emails and catching up with team mates. Then meetings and the to do list. Right now I'm working on our annual sustainability reporting, developing training for staff and writing content for staff engagement. I coordinate our Green Champions Network so some days I'll be at meetings or site visits to share knowledge and work through challenges.

“
The variety of roles and people working in the sector. I've had so many unexpected opportunities.
”



Cathy Hardingham

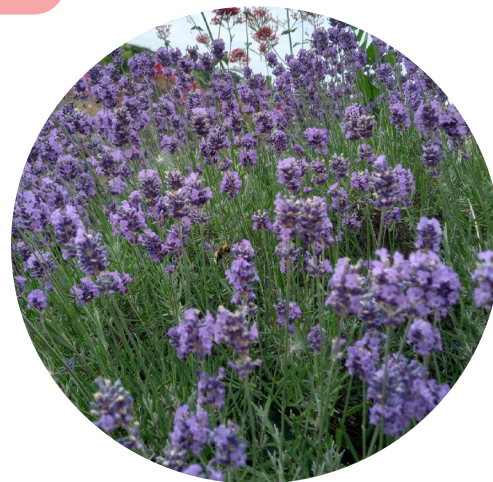
Visitor Services Officer, East Lothian Council

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Enthusiasm for making history accessible; good people skills, communication and organisation.

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

I wanted to do something different, having previously worked in the NHS. I had become interested in history.



Favourite subjects in school?

French. Certainly not history! I only got into this much later in life.

What are the best parts of your role?

I enjoy the variety of visitors, helping them with their queries and listening to their stories in connection with the site, or other industries. It's also nice to work in an outdoor site.

How did you get started?

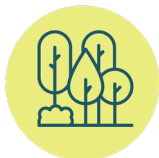
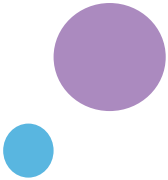
I volunteered in a number of different museums and heritage settings. I got experience of tour guiding, conservation cleaning and cataloguing. I spoke to people already working in the sector to learn about it, and looked at adverts to see the kinds of jobs available.

“
Get as much varied voluntary experience as possible. Experience working with people is invaluable.
”

“
I was surprised by how much you can learn from what visitors tell you - from their own experiences in work and industry.
”

Describe a typical day in your work

I work with one other colleague at an industrial museum. First, we open up the visitor centre and check the site outside. We lead tours and run a weekly Bookbug session. We serve visitors in the café, chat with our regulars, and welcome new visitors. I liaise with colleagues in other council sites about events or staff rotas. At the end of the day, there's a bit of cleaning and tidying up.



Nan Morris

Footpath worker, National Trust for Scotland

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Physical fitness, and the ability to cope with adverse weather and remote places. Skills in building with stone are also very useful.

Favourite subjects in school?

History and Art.

How did you get started?

A course was being run at my local college in environmental conservation just as my son became old enough for me to start working again, I was kept on by the tutor at the end in his company and never looked back.

What are the best parts of your role?

I am outside all the time, and can work pretty much at my own pace. I get to see some amazing places, away from the chaos of human civilization.

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

I have always loved being outdoors so I wanted a job that would keep me outside and physically active.



“
I never thought I could actually make a living doing something I enjoyed.
”

“
Education will only get you so far, forget about school and just persue what makes you happy.
”

Describe a typical day in your work

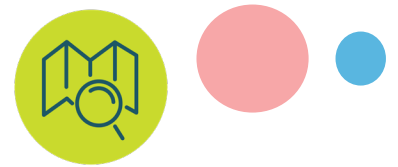
I normally carry tools to site which can be up to 2 hours walking. Afterwards, I look for materials, dig pits for surfacing, and dig large boulders from the ground to use as steps and drainage features.

Much of the day is spent manhandling the stones into position - sometimes from some distance away. Large boulders may take more than one of us working together to move uphill or over steep loose ground.



Paula Whitelaw

Head of Heritage Planning, National Trust for Scotland



What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Absolutely key is being able to absorb and analyse lots of different information.

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

I always loved the outdoor spaces of Scotland and spent lots of very happy childhood holidays exploring parts of Scotland.



How did you get started?

I studied Geography at university and really enjoyed the subjects which looked at how we undertook conservation and managed the impacts on humans on those places. That led me to my post graduate degree in Rural Planning and then to volunteering with a range of conservation charities.

Favourite subjects in school?

Geography.

What are the best parts of your role?

National Trust for Scotland look after the most amazing places in Scotland - I get to play a part in that working alongside some of the most knowledgeable people.

I learn something new every day!

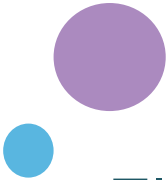
“
I was surprised by how many different roles are available in heritage.
”

Describe a typical day in your work

No one day is the same which I love. I cover all the properties own and managed by National Trust of Scotland so one day can be dealing with a remote island and the next a property in the middle of a city. Through this I work with staff right across the Trust and speak to different disciplines each day.

You need to be flexible and creative and not be thrown when you plans for the day change.

“
I'd like my 15-year-old self to know that the heritage sector is an option for everyone.
”



Eleanor Harrison

Project Assistant, Archaeology Scotland

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Flexibility, good communication and willingness to keep learning every day.

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

I volunteered on an archaeological dig as a teenager and I was hooked!



How did you get started?

I came into the sector through university. My Archaeology degree helped me have a strong base of knowledge about archaeology and I went on to a PhD which built my transferable skills and made me more adaptable and resilient. Voluntary experience in fieldwork and outreach also taught me a lot.

What are the best parts of your role?

The best part is the enthusiasm of the people we work with. I especially love seeing the work groups have put in to complete our Heritage Hero Awards and chatting to volunteers on fieldwork projects.

“
Just worry about the next step because you don't know what opportunity could be around the corner!
”

Favourite subjects in school?

History and English, no doubt.

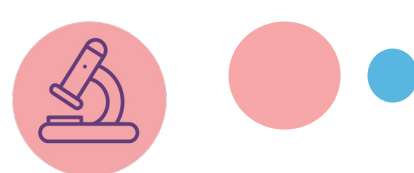
Describe a typical day in your work

“
The sector can be very competitive- I had a lot of rejections before being offered my current job.
”

Every day is different in my role, which I love. I really enjoy working outside and with lots of different people when on-site or delivering workshops. I also appreciate days at my desk where I might be preparing resources, discussing potential projects with schools and community groups, or working on data entry tasks. There is always something new going on and no day is the same!



Jasper Croser



Heritage Science Laboratory Assistant (Modern Apprentice), Historic Environment Scotland

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Science at Higher level, self-motivation, dedication to continue learning, problem solving, and organisation.

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

I didn't really know what it would entail other than that history and science would be involved and that made me curious to explore this.



How did you get started?

At high school I did volunteering and played the cello. It was my ambition to be a vet however I didn't achieve the required grades. Although disheartened by this I knew I wanted a career in science as this is what I love to study so I applied for my apprenticeship to take this a step forward.

Favourite subjects in school?

Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Music

What are the best parts of your role?

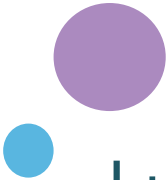
There are so many opportunities for gaining skills and experiences! I've also been able to further my education while having a salary and recognised position in my team.

“
The work you put in now opens doors for your future self to walk through.
”

“
I have been surprised by how many roles, activities and disciplines fall under heritage.
”

Describe a typical day in your work

In the lab I clean; log, photograph and organise samples; maintain inventory; produce documents and procedural guidelines and analytical techniques on stone mortar and other materials. Otherwise, I'm working towards qualifications, studying for college and completing SVQ assignments. I also provide support based on the team's requirements like site-work and projects.



Lucie McIlroy Miller

Head of Buying,
National Museums Scotland Enterprises

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Creative thinking, confidence with numbers, an eye for detail and an interest in the heritage sector.

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

I had always enjoyed visiting Museums and Galleries throughout my childhood, especially the gift shops!

How did you get started?

I had worked retail jobs throughout school and university, from Harvey Nichols to Charity Shops and lots in between. My degree was in a creative subject so initially I was interested in the visual merchandising aspect of retail, but as my experience broadened I found I had a knack for the data and numbers.

What are the best parts of your role?

Career development - Within 6 years I have progressed from part time buying assistant, to Head Buyer. I'm very motivated by the fact that our profits go directly back to the Museum.

Favourite subjects in school?

English, Music and PE.



“
The experience gained on the shop floor is as important as any training course you could ever go on
”

Describe a typical day in your work

I look at sales reports for an overview on the previous day. My team and I will place orders based on stock needs at all of our sites. I'll communicate with suppliers to source the best products and negotiate terms. I'll often meet with teams within the Museum to ensure that our offering reflects museum collections/exhibitions. I'll scour sales reports looking for any opportunity for improvement.

“
The humble gift shop has a big part to play in engaging the general public with the Heritage sector!
”



Jarvis Gray

Digital Archivist, Historic Environment Scotland

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Good IT and problem solving skills. Good attention to detail is very helpful too.

Favourite subjects in school?

Modern Studies

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

I have always had an interest in heritage. Traveling to visit heritage sites created experiences that made me want to work in heritage.

How did you get started?

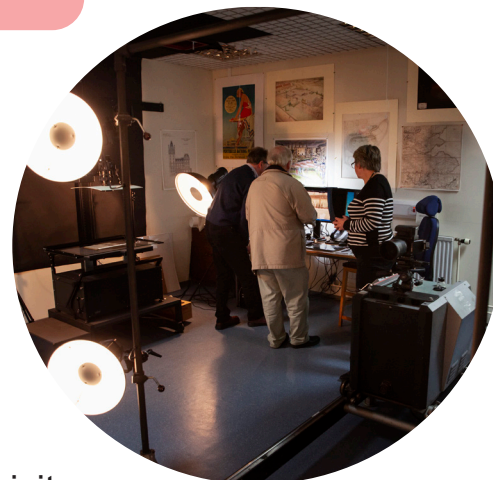
I worked as a filmmaker for 7 years after graduation from a BA at Edinburgh Napier University. As someone with a chronic illness it was not possible for me to continue to work as a freelancer. I then did a traineeship at the NLS moving Image archive and found a love for working in archives.

What are the best parts of your role?

My current role is extremely flexible which gives me a good work life balance. I am constantly having to learn new skills. The digital archiving in a young field with lots of exciting opportunities.

Describe a typical day in your work

I work closely with architects and archeologist to prepare their data and reports for deposit to the archive. I research obsolete file formats and computer technology trying to find ways of preserving the data. Oversee the cataloguing of digital material in the archive. Help develop new tools to streamline work for staff.



“
Things take time and don't always go the way you want but it will work out.
”



Elle Haswell

Civic Curator, Edinburgh Art Festival

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

An interest into decolonising curriculum, objects and spaces - I want to break down barriers to access arts and heritage across Scotland!

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Great communication - patience, time, empathy and trust built into every partnership.



How did you get started?

I took risks to get to my role today, working from the ground up with no easy 'in'. I moved cities, roles and sectors to establish and stand by the work I do supporting people and lived experience at its centre. Importantly, my manager has full trust in my work as a young curator to do this.

What are the best parts of your role?

Meeting wonderful people all of the time; Flexible hours; Amazing progression; A team supportive of intersectional & accessible programming, who are not afraid to take risks for artist development.

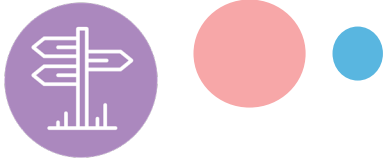
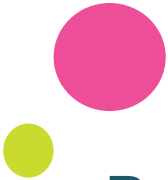
What has surprised you about working in the heritage sector?

It can be challenging. Many folk are not quite on board with these ways of working and there can be barriers.

“
Focus on what you love - you'll know the right people to support your work as and when they come along
”

Describe a typical day in your work

Chatting & developing with artists (local & national). Working with communities across Edinburgh, focused on sharing skills & capacity building, and supporting wellbeing and creative opportunities. Developing a festival-lead programme for August each year. Working to set a standard for our sector of representation of folk from Queer/feminist, d/Deaf and disabled and Global Majority backgrounds.



Douglas Kyle

Visitor Service Manager, National Trust for Scotland

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

You definitely need to be friendly, approachable, engaging, willing to learn, and willing to listen.

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

I love preserving history and story telling. It's also a creative and fun sector!

How did you get started?

I studied film making at College, before moving into Retails. I was also a Fire Fighter, then a Supervisor at a Museum. This allowed me to use my creative energy to tell stories and develop events, while also be grounded and engaging due to my retail / emergency services experience.

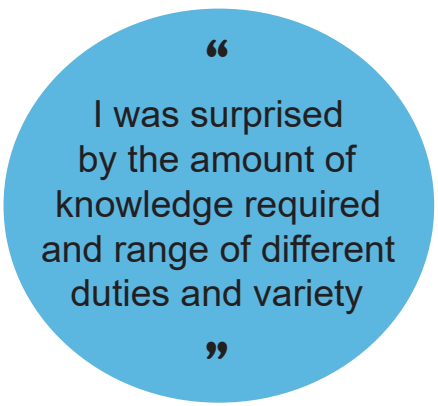
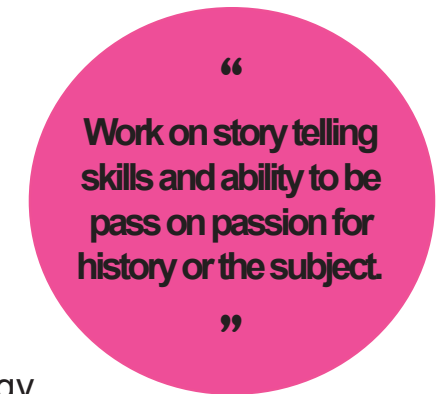
Favourite subjects in school?

History.

What are the best parts of your role?

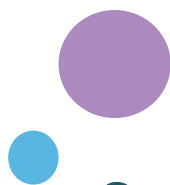
The variety. One day I can be doing a talk on The Ecology of the Estate, the next day talking about Ghosts, and the day after I'll be moving collection items.

Being able to have a fun and working in an engaging environment are the best!



Describe a typical day in your work

Very varied. I'll normally do admin and visitor service which includes welcoming visitors and giving tours. I also do huddles with staff and engage with all departments. I like to try motivating staff and creating a "one team" approach.



Sarah Hamilton

Conservation Scientist, Historic Environment Scotland

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

A materials or science background, logical thinking, good communication skills, and an interest in the historic environment.

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

Spending lots of time visiting conservation projects with my Dad who was a blacksmith and worked on a whole range of historic buildings over the years.

How did you get started?

I studied geology at university and years later did a Master's in Architectural Conservation. This led me to an internship with the conservation science team at Historic Environment Scotland followed by a full-time job. I've also worked as an engineering geologist and was a teacher for over 15 years.

What are the best parts of your role?

Getting access-all-areas entry to our properties when carrying out our work is quite a privilege. I also enjoy working with other teams and learning about their skills.

Describe a typical day in your work

This might involve a site visit to undertake survey work, analysis, collect samples or download data from equipment that's monitoring over a period of time.

Office days are often computer-based, responding to emails, processing data, writing reports and planning projects or site work. There will also be analytical or sample prep work to do in the lab, or learning about new equipment or software.

What is something that surprised you about working in the heritage sector?

The vast range of heritage roles we work with, from craft trades to architecture to digital documentation to collections management and more!



“
Look at
volunteer roles
and follow heritage
organisations online to
learn more about them
and the opportunities
and roles that exist.
”



Chris Wardle

Gardens and Designed Landscape Manager,
National Trust for Scotland

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

I started looking for work outside, as a horticulturist in some way. I thought I'd be a tree surgeon or a countryside ranger but when I started and realised that horticulture, history and science all come together in our historic sites. It was a revelation.

How did you get started?

I started my career as a soldier but retrained by going to college. After an entry level course I realised that I wanted to get into amenity horticulture with a specialism in trees. I always loved trees! I didn't want a degree and chose an HND. After that course I got my first role and I learned quickly, asked questions and worked hard. I proved myself through hard work, talking to people and getting as much knowledge as possible. I feel blessed.



What are the best parts of your role?

The variety! As my career grows and expands I feel that I am able to reinvent myself every few years. My interests have grown and changed and at each stage I have found a new challenge at every stage. In recent years my career has moved into management and all of its complexity.

“
Find your passion or something that excites you! If it's interesting, it never feels like work.
”

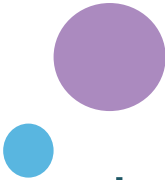
Favourite subjects in school?

I was good at English and science and the science element is what I have used the most during my career. Especially biology.

Describe a typical day in your work

When I was a working gardener, each day could be very different. You have to work with the weather and seasons. Sometimes the work is repetitive, but I always manage to find a way to be competitive against myself.

“
History is endlessly fascinating and especially the connections across regions / families and through time, how our history is a web.
”



Lucy Neville

Climate Officer, Museums Galleries Scotland



What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Listening, building relationships, passion for the natural world and the belief that we make a difference.

Favourite subjects in school?

History and drama!

How did you get started?

I started working in a museum shop part time and volunteering in a museum learning team part time. Eventually I moved to the learning team (paid role) where I began to focus on mixing history, biodiversity and storytelling - now I'm helping others do the same. It was a long but rewarding journey.

What are the best parts of your role?

Getting to visit museums across Scotland is great. We do hybrid working so I can work from home when I need to. The best is doing something I care about!

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

My grandparents used to take me to museums and I was always amazed and excited by seeing the whole world, especially natural, in one place.

Describe a typical day in your work

Visiting museums, meetings, emails, report writing, researching projects, delivering training, attending training, talking at events and conferences.

What is something that surprised you about working in the heritage sector?

How many museums there are in Scotland (453!) and every single one has a climate story to tell.

“
Follow what you care about, don't be afraid to shift if you find something new that fascinates you.
”



Iain Turnbull

Property Manager at Balmacara Estate,
National Trust for Scotland

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

An open mind, communication skills, determination, and passion for our natural and cultural heritage

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

I always loved the wonderful cultural landscapes and wildlife of the North West Highlands and always knew I wanted to live and work there.



How did you get started?

I chose to study for a degree in Ecology at Edinburgh University and was fortunate to get a seasonal Ranger job at Inverewe Gardens & Estate on graduating. Followed by working in community planning on Skye which taught me the importance of people in the ecosystems of the Highlands & Islands.

What are the best parts of your role?

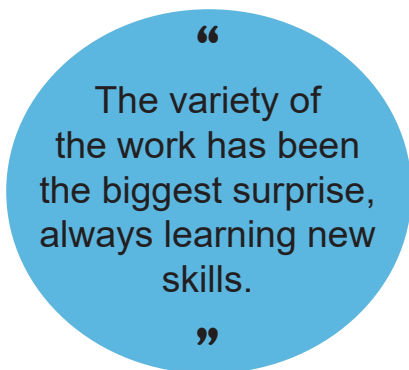
The workplace is by far the best part of my job. I have a very flexible work pattern, by choice and by necessity. The best bits are working with our Shetland cows and the early morning breeding bird surveys!



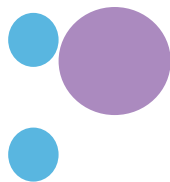
Favourite subjects in school?

Geography, Geology and Biology

Describe a typical day in your work



Typically I may deal with buildings and estate maintenance issues; tenancy matters, especially relating to crofts; habitat and species conservation work, e.g. conservation grazing, Invasive Non-Native Species control; footpaths and access issues and visitor management related work. I am also involved in wider partnerships such as Wester Ross Biosphere and the Alliance for Scotland's Rainforests.



Sarahjayne Clements

Community Heritage Officer at a local authority, and PhD candidate researching disability inclusion in archaeology

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Good communication and organisational skills and building a network.

Favourite subjects in school?

Music, History and R.E.

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

I always wanted to be an archaeologist since I was little. Disability has influenced the path I have taken.

How did you get started?

Work experience and voluntary work in the heritage sector, a degree in Ancient History and Egyptology and a Masters in Archaeology. My first paid role was as a community archaeologist, then commercial archaeology and heritage management. I left due to lack of opportunities for career progression.

What are the best parts of your role?

I love my job and my colleagues. My employer offers flexible working as well as working from home. I feel valued and am offered training opportunities.

I particularly like how varied the role is!

Describe a typical day in your work

My job is really varied. A typical day for me might be assisting heritage groups to write grant applications, training heritage groups, creating social media content, attending meetings and events but there is much more! I might be writing a press release, arranging scheduled monument consent or organising events.



“
Do what you love but put your health and wellbeing first.
Don't be afraid to stand up for yourself.
”



Joe Waterfield

Archivist, Historic Environment Scotland



What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Attention to detail, desire to help, communication skills, degree in a relevant subject.

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

Interest in history from a young age, read Arthurian legends and Asterix comics as a child.

How did you get started?

Studied History at University, then tried to find work in the heritage sector. One of my first jobs was working at a Historic Scotland Castle, which was great, but seasonal, which was not. I also volunteered at a museum, and someone there suggested I apply for a job at RCAHMS (predecessor to HES).

What are the best parts of your role?

Flexible working hours, home-working, supportive colleagues, free entry to Historic Scotland sites, interesting work and opportunities

Favourite subjects in school?

History, English Literature.



“
**Volunteer, tell people what you want to do, and ask questions.
Be open-minded.
It's never too late to start!**
”

“
The breadth and depth of skills and knowledge across Historic Environment Scotland really surprised me.
”

Describe a typical day in your work

A lot of my work involves responding to enquiries from members of the public, I also supply images for use in books, exhibitions, and other formats. I help to organise events at the archives, and arrange for talks to be recorded and uploaded to YouTube. I also help to promote the archive by writing articles and delivering illustrated talks.



Justin Parkes

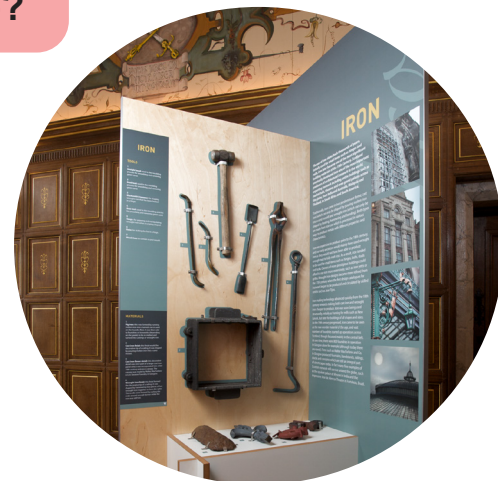
Industrial History Curator, North Lanarkshire Council

What skills and experience are needed for your role?

Flexibility, accuracy (particularly in documentation), and ethics.

What made you decide that you wanted to work in the heritage sector?

I had an interest in history from childhood. I loved maritime history and built a radio-controlled boat with my dad. I also loved trains.



How did you get started?

I did a History degree with no idea what I wanted to do so volunteered at a museum. 30 years later I am still in museums. I did an MA in Museum Studies & found a part-time job as an Assistant Curator. Just as my contract ended I got my 1st job as a curator. I was lucky that I could move for work.

What are the best parts of your role?

I like that I am not stuck behind a desk all day, which keeps me active. I enjoy working with a wide range of people and being able to share the stories of people's working lives.

Favourite subjects in school?

They were definitely history and art.

Describe a typical day in your work

I don't really have a typical day...

It can involve work in the museum stores, research, creating content for our website, working with volunteers, interviewing people about their lives for our oral history collection and giving talks to external organisations.

