

# Historic Environment Advice Assistant

## National Higher Apprenticeship - Level 4

**Winner of the Association of Colleges Beacon Award for Excellence in Real World Learning sponsored by the Edge Foundation**



### Recruiting Apprentices - get involved now!

Developed by Strode College in partnership with Historic England, the Historic Environment Advice Assistant (HEAA) Higher Apprenticeship is the first programme of its kind aimed specifically at the heritage sector. The initial group of apprentices have enjoyed a vibrant and high quality experience and we are now actively looking for enthusiastic new recruits.

### Innovative Delivery

Based on block release workshops combined with imaginative e-learning opportunities, the programme gives apprentices the chance to engage with the past, whilst understanding the landscapes and buildings around them. By developing the knowledge and skills required to interpret the historic environment effectively, this apprenticeship can enhance existing roles and prepare for exciting future responsibilities.

### Nationwide Coverage

Welcoming applicants from anywhere in the country, the carefully scheduled workshops take place both in the heart of Somerset at one of the UK's best colleges and at Historic England's regional offices, where apprentices can benefit from particular expertise and equipment. Each inspirational workshop is delivered by heritage experts and linked by e-learning activities, such as webinars and video presentations.

### Personal Achievement

Current apprentices have appreciated the chance to work with specialists and feel that they have greatly extended their professional skills - see apprentice quotes below. With the new HEAA cohort starting in September 2021, the same life-changing experience awaits your employees. The Historic Environment Advice Assistant apprenticeship is responsive to the heritage sector as a whole and seamlessly integrates the knowledge needed to advance on many meaningful and rewarding career paths.

*"It has been great to develop my passion for archaeology, whilst learning the practicalities in the workplace."*

*"I'm not sure exactly where my career in heritage will take me, but you couldn't have a better start than this apprenticeship."*

*"Strode College staff have been marvellous - they are always ready to help!"*

**To find out more about the HEAA Higher Apprenticeship, hear more of what current apprentices have to say about the programme and express your organisation's interest in employing an apprentice from September 2021, please go to the [Strode College website](http://www.strode-college.ac.uk/he).**



**Desk-Based Assessment (DBA)**

- Report writing – aim to be concise. Summarise the data for the reader. What was already known about the site, what if anything is new that you have discovered?
- In the site covered by existing heritage legislation?
- What, in your opinion, is the archaeological potential of the site? Think in terms of risk (expense) to the developer and/or archaeological contractor.
- E.g. There is a known Roman villa on site, risk = high.
- A Roman brooch found in 1960 may indicate low.
- A single worn sherd of Roman pottery was found, risk = low.
- Caveat – remember, only excavation will definitely tell you what is beneath the ground!

## HEAA Year 1

### Professional Practice

- Communication & negotiation
- Time & workload management
- Organisational behaviour
- Personal development

### Policy, Planning & Place-making

- Introduction to the Planning System (legislation, policy, NPPF etc.)
- Key concepts (harm, public benefit)
- Conservation Principles; Place-shaping & heritage-led regeneration

### Understanding our Heritage: Historic Buildings & Designed Landscapes

- Fundamentals of architectural history and landscapes history (styles, types, features, periods); How to read a historic building; Heritage values; Significance & Setting

### Assessing the Condition of the Historic Environment

- Major sources of deterioration (buildings, landscapes & archaeology)

### Health and Safety at Work in the Historic Environment

- H&S legislation
- H&S In professional standards
- Construction site H&S

### Understanding our Heritage: Archaeology

- Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, pre-Medieval, Medieval
- Archaeological techniques, Identifying landscape features

### Researching the Historic Environment

- Digital databases, aerial photography, maps, reports, plans
- Desk Based Assessments, Accessing HERs

## HEAA Year 2

### Professional Practice

- Working in the historic environment sector (introducing the range of public bodies, charities, museums, private organisations, etc.)

### Assessing the Condition of the Historic Environment

- Independent apprentice project on real life casework  
*Completed over summer*

### Policy, Planning & Place-shaping

- Introduction to the Planning System (legislation, policy, NPPF etc.)
- Key concepts (harm, public benefit)

### Interpreting and Creating Heritage Documentation

- Identifying, creating and reviewing common types or heritage report (e.g. Heritage Statements, Conservation Management Plans)

### Making an assessment

- Techniques for giving good advice
- Monitoring non-compliance and heritage crime

### Public Engagement and the Historic Environment:

- Funding for heritage, Contested heritage
- Inclusivity and accessibility, Community Engagement

### EPA Preparation & Portfolio Development

