СКРИПТ

*You will hear an archaeology student called Gina Burbage talking about how she first became interested in the subject as a teenager.*

*Complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.*

*You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 2*.

Hi. My name’s Gina Burbage. I’m studying archaeology at university. I’m here today to tell you what it’s like to be an archaeology student. But first, I’d like to tell you how I got interested in the subject as a teenager at school. The village where I live was chosen to take part in something called ‘the Timescale Project’. This involved digging a series of small, but quite deep holes in various places to look for evidence of life in the past. A team of archaeologists was in charge of the work, but local volunteers were needed to do the actual digging. My parents weren’t really interested, but as most of my friends were away on holiday, I let my little brother talk me into putting our names forward. Holes were going to be dug in various places, like around the old marketplace, and close to the oldest farmhouses. Surprisingly, our back garden was chosen even though we live in a modern house. Apparently, we live close to the site of a castle, although nothing remains of it today. That made me want to know more about the history of the village. I looked on the Internet, but couldn’t really find much – only some old photos that could’ve been taken anywhere. Then my mum came across a book of old maps. That was really interesting because you could see how much the place had changed since the early nineteenth century when the first ones were drawn.

On the day of the dig, a team of scientists came to do what’s called a geophysical survey – this is a bit like an X-ray picture, and it showed us what was under the ground in our garden, and whether there’d ever been any buildings there. In fact, it showed very little – though you could see that there had once been a well over towards where the shed is now. The scientists told us where to dig our hole and we began work. At first we only found modern stuff – like some bits of broken bottle, an old comb. We were told to look out for the clay pipes that people used to smoke in the nineteenth century, because they’re very common, but what we actually found was a button from that period. It made me wonder who’d lost it and how long they’d spent looking for it!

The thing we found most of was pottery. In past centuries, plates and cups and things were made of material that broke really easily – and people just used to use them a few times then throw them away. We didn’t find any for ages, but I was thrilled when I found my first piece and was told it was made in the sixteenth century. Our neighbours had found lots of seventeenth-century pottery in their hole, because their house was built at that time. As the day went on, we found lots more pieces of pot which got older and older the deeper we dug – some going back a thousand years. I thought this was wonderful, but other people were hoping for treasure – like a gold ring or something – and they thought broken pottery was boring!

So you can imagine how excited I was when we unearthed a coin. It was even more exciting to hear that it came from the ancient Roman period – which meant it was two thousand years old! They found the largest amount of pottery in the holes near the old farmhouses – nearly five-hundred pieces in one hole – and that showed people had been living on that site for a very long time. In our hole, we found one hundred and fifty pieces, which is still an incredible amount in one day.

At the end of the day’s digging, I looked around at all the stuff that’d been found and realized what fascinating subject archaeology must be to study. I came away from that project feeling inspired – it’s the only way I can describe it – and I’ve been mad keen on archaeology ever since.