



Case Study

Julie Curl

“TCHC has turned my redundancy into a very positive experience that has opened up exciting opportunities for me. It was only after I spent some time with a skills adviser from TCHC that I realised quite how many transferable skills I have. We quickly established what options I have for work after redundancy, and identified the most effective training solution to get me back in the workplace as quickly as possible.”

Julie Curl

Project: Response to Redundancy

Business Sector: Archaeological, Natural History & Illustration

Location: Norwich

Julie Curl had spent much of her career working in the field of archaeology but when her former employer asked for voluntary redundancies she saw it as a golden opportunity to start her own business.

Julie explains. “Typically, I would be responsible for assessing and producing detailed reports on the origin of bones for archaeological companies, and, on occasion, I’ve done reports for the public and the police. I’ve also been able to bring my other skills – graphic design and technical illustration – to bear on creating archaeological reconstructions and site plans.”

Julie wasn’t sure exactly what direction to take when launching her own business. Fortunately, she had heard about the support that might be available from the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) and the European Social Funded (ESF) funded Response to Redundancy programme.

“I first attended a presentation from a TCHC skills adviser at my ex-employer’s. The adviser detailed how we can identify transferable skills that could be applied in other roles,” continues Julie. “Then, and this was incredibly useful, I had a one-to-one session with the skills adviser. She thoroughly assessed my background and identified a huge range of business, administration and technical skills that I use every day and could be applied in any number of other careers. Some were skills I was hardly aware I had, but have proved to be essential for successfully starting my own business.

Julie set up Sylvanus to offer specialist bones identification and natural history skills, supported by her report writing, design and illustration services.

With TCHC’s support, Julie has also applied for and gained a £500 grant from the EEDA and ESF funded programme to put towards the cost of an Adobe Photoshop course, to bring her computer skills up-to-date. With the funds from her redundancy payment, Julie has invested in the latest computer hardware and software needed to run her consulting business.

“My skills adviser has referred me to Business Link, which can provide me with the business support I require,” says Julie. “Response to Redundancy has turned what could otherwise have been a very traumatic and worrying time into a very positive experience.

She concludes: “I would strongly recommend TCHC to anyone unsure about their next steps in life after redundancy – because there certainly is one!”



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