



Editors:
Elizabeth Wright & Matt Law

AP:

Online Journal in Public Archaeology

The How and Why of
Archaeology Outreach



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AP: Online Journal in Public Archaeology is edited by JAS Arqueología S.L.U.

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INTRODUCTION

Emerging approaches to public archaeology

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The papers included in this special issue were originally presented at the 2011 conference of the Theoretical Archaeology Group (TAG) which was held at the University of Birmingham, in a session entitled *The How and Why of Archaeology Outreach: case studies and reflexive approaches to public engagement*. We had an overwhelming response to our call for papers, reflecting the massive surge in public engagement programmes in recent years. Subsequent TAGs have hosted numerous other sessions on similar themes, including two sessions in 2012, which have been published in a previous special issue of *AP Journal*.

Papers and posters included in the conference session were a great reflection of the variety of public engagement activities that were taking place internationally at the time (participants came from the UK, Norway, the US, Canada and South Africa). A number of different themes were touched upon, from debates surrounding 'bottom-up' versus 'top-down' approaches, to the ways in which our public engagement programmes can work in parallel to school curriculums. The papers published here offer a taster of the kind of debates that were touched upon.

Firstly, Tom Dawson describes work being done in Scotland, involving collaborative work between community groups and heritage managers with the aim of saving archaeological sites that are threatened by coastal erosion. This paper includes two specific case studies where the community has been directly involved in rescuing coastal sites and provides a wonderful example of the

importance of local knowledge for the preservation of coastal archaeology. Law et al's paper reflects upon a public engagement project that was run at the Green Man music festival in Wales in 2011 *Back to the Future? Animals and archaeology in Einstein's Garden*. It reflects upon the use of a number of specific activities aimed at giving festival attendees an opportunity to learn more about archaeology and the relationship between people, animals and their environment in the past. Traaholt and Føntelien describe an innovative use of the sediment removed from a development site after the initial professional archaeological involvement. A certain amount of this sediment will have fallen outside of the professionally excavated sample, and working with schoolchildren offsite allows further information to be recovered in a process they term *Slow Archaeology*. The project, in Akershus County, Norway; has so far involved over 3000 schoolchildren. Finally Hughes presents a commentary on four years of community excavation and oral history in the city of Worcester, UK, demonstrating how the work was designed to be relevant to the broader educational framework of visiting school children, how it enriched the city's archive of recorded oral history, and presenting a selection of feedback comments from people involved in various aspects of the project.

Much has been written to situate a theory of public archaeology (see review in Richardson and Almansa-Sanchez 2015), with models ranging from a deficit approach which simply communicates results of archaeological research (this has been specifically excluded from the category 'public archaeology' by Richardson and Almansa-Sanchez (2015, 9); we agree and feel that the term *archaeological communication* might be more appropriate in these instances), to more democratic models, that allow broader public agency in archaeological encounters. These papers reflect the variety of approaches adopted when setting up public engagement projects, and a variety of scenarios requiring different approaches. It is our explicit view that all public engagement, whether communicating results obtained by an 'insider group' of professional archaeologists to one or more 'outsider groups'; top-down projects that mobilise volunteer involvement to an end determined by an 'insider group' or genuine co-creation of archaeological research projects, is good and to be encouraged. We believe that deeper involvement in the

creation and execution of the archaeological project will lead to deeper engagement with the historic environment in general, and needs to be more widely adopted. Part of the point, however, must also explicitly remain to ensure that archaeology exists in the wider 'public' imagination, to make archaeology as a practice and discipline appear attractive, interesting and relevant, and to ensure that anybody can access archaeological knowledge. Ultimately, there will always be an 'elite' (in the context described by Henson (2009)) carrying out archaeological research in the academic or commercial spheres, with or, more often, without, the involvement of a wider public. The results of this type of work - all of it - must be made publicly accessible, and for that to happen archaeological communication must be seen by professional archaeologists as valuable and not denigrated by those of us who write about public archaeology as the lesser cousin of democratic models of public archaeology.

The papers presented here demonstrate a spectrum of 'public' involvement, from the pure archaeological communication of Law et al. to the widespread community involvement of the Shorewatch project described by Dawson. Aside from Dawson's, where the Bressay and Baile Sear projects in particular had significant community input, none of the presented case studies presents genuine co-creation from the stage of project initiation, and there were very few examples of this in our full conference session. We suspect that this has much to do with the situation of the session in a conference more likely to be attended by professionals. Bringing more community projects that are not professional-led to TAG – and not just in sessions that are specifically about community or public archaeology – must surely be on our agenda moving forward.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There was so much passion and enthusiasm in the room during our TAG session in 2011, so thank you to all of the participants and attendees that contributed to this atmosphere. Thank you also to all of the reviewers for their useful and though provoking comments on the papers included in this volume.

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**Community Rescue:
Saving sites from the sea**

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Abstract

Erosion threatens coastal sites around the globe and Scotland has been pioneering a methodology of community action that brings local groups and professional together to work at sites before they are destroyed. This builds upon the Historic Scotland rapid coastal surveys and the follow-up analysis of collected data to prioritise action. Projects such as Shorewatch and the Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk Project (SCHARP) have seen communities update records and participate in practical work. This paper presents the background to these community initiatives, giving details of two projects; the excavation of an Iron Age Wheelhouse in the Hebrides and the relocation of Bronze Age structures in Shetland.

Keywords

SCAPE, Coastal Heritage, Community Monitoring, Archaeology

Introduction

Members of local communities can play a crucial role in the management and rescue of information from sites that are threatened with destruction. Using examples from pioneering work in Scotland, this paper discusses a very real and necessary contribution, without which much archaeological evidence would have been lost, unrecorded. Through such projects as Shorewatch and SCHARP (Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk Project), individuals and community groups have located and recorded sites; selected locally-valued places for further work; undertaken community rescue excavations; and worked on interpretive material to inform a wider audience. In some cases, groups have even moved sites in order to save them from the sea.

The problem: coastal erosion

Hundreds of unrecorded archaeological sites are being damaged or destroyed each year. Thousands more are gravely threatened; yet legal protection will not save them and they are not covered by planning guidance. These sites are on the coast, and many are in a remarkable state of preservation due to the way they were abandoned and buried. This is particularly true in areas where sand has inundated structures, leaving walls standing to almost full height. The sand has protected the remains from the elements and prevented stone robbing. However, recent sediment loss along soft coastlines means that this protective cover is being eroded, and sites that have remained hidden for hundreds or even thousands of years are being exposed. Once uncovered, they are vulnerable to damage or complete destruction.

This is a problem that affects sites around the entire world. Although climate scientists predict accelerated change at the coast due to rising sea levels and other factors (IPCC 2007), coastal erosion and accretion are natural processes, and evidence shows that there is a long history of coastal change. Famous examples of sites revealed at the coast edge include Skara Brae in Orkney, uncovered in 1850 during a storm; and Jarlshof in Shetland, exposed at the end of the 19th century.

Erosion threatens more than just archaeological sites: legions of coastal planners have devised strategies for dealing with a problem that is expected to increase as sea levels rise and storms intensify. They have prepared Shoreline Management Plans, recommending actions which range from building coastal defences to an approach of no active intervention or even managed retreat. Options are usually based on economic considerations and it is less common for a cultural heritage asset to be protected unless the site itself is a significant driver within the economy. The lack of action has left thousands of archaeological sites vulnerable, the large majority of which have unknown and untapped potential.

The problem is particularly grave in Scotland (Barclay 1997:17), which has the second longest coastline in Europe, much of which is threatened by erosion. It is in Scotland that a pioneering approach to working with threatened sites has been developed. The methodology brings community groups together with heritage managers and

archaeologists through projects such as Shorewatch and SCHARP. Local knowledge is used to enhance and update records so that management options are based upon the most recent information and the concept of public value is harnessed to make decisions about where to expend scant resources. Groups are also involved in community rescue projects, working with archaeologists at sites that are considered important locally.

Although still early days, the Scottish approach is starting to be adopted more widely: for example, the various Arfordir projects in Wales have developed from the Scottish Shorewatch model (Graham 2011; Meek 2010).

Rates of erosion

The problem of erosion can be especially severe along 'softer' coastlines, for example, areas of sand or mud. A study, undertaken on behalf of Scottish Natural Heritage, of the sand dunes of Coll and Tiree noted that some beaches, such as Traigh Thodhrasdail, had retreated by 100 metres in 100 years (Dawson 1999:5). This does not equate to a steady one metre loss per year, however, as erosion does not occur at a constant speed. The coast edge may show little change for decades and then be radically altered by a single event that causes the coast to retreat and destroys entire archaeological sites. Storms pose one of the greatest threats: strong winds blowing from a particular direction combined with high spring tides, can lead to a remarkable amount of damage. A storm that hit the Western Isles in January 2005 had a very localised effect, with some areas relatively unchanged while neighbouring stretches of coast edge retreated by up to fifty metres in a single night (as indicated by analysis of aerial photographs and fieldwork conducted by the author).

Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys

To help inform management options, Historic Scotland (HS), an agency of the Scottish Government now called Historic Environment Scotland, has been mapping the threat to cultural heritage from erosion through a programme of rapid coastal surveys. The

Scottish programme of Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys (CZAS) was originally modelled on surveys of the coast of Wales, initiated by Cadw and undertaken by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts between 1993 and 1998 (Davidson 2002). The Scottish surveys gathered data on the sites located, noted their condition and made recommendations for further work. In addition, the geology and geomorphology of the coast and the erosion class as observed on the day of survey was also recorded. The SCAPE Trust (Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion) started managing the surveys on behalf of HS in 2000, and suggested changes to survey methodology (Dawson 2008).

Each year, new surveys were completed and a growing body of data collected. The enormous length of the Scottish coast, however, meant that much remained to be recorded. There was recognition that the original surveys could become out-of-date before the survey programme was completed, and in 2010, SCAPE and St Andrews researchers analysed all records. The data from the 28 completed surveys was standardised and the subsequent analysis, using a Geographical Information System, showed that 5,000 km of the Scottish coast that had been explored (Dawson 2013; Dawson 2015). Over 12,000 sites had been plotted, more than 30% of which were previously unrecorded. Over 3,700 of these sites carried a recommendation for further work from the surveyors.

Prioritisation

The analysis showed that the majority of the recommendations presented within the CZAS had not been pursued, partly because the large number of sites outstripped the resources available. As it was not possible to work on all sites, a prioritised list was needed. SCAPE and St Andrews University worked on the prioritisation project with partners that including Historic Scotland and the Local Authority Archaeologists. Analysing each site individually, they whittled down the list so that scant resources could be targeted at the most severely threatened places which also had a high archaeological potential. The project (Dawson 2010) led to the production of a list of 1,115 priority sites, based upon the evidence contained within the original survey.

This last point is important; by definition, the original surveys were rapid. There was recognition that the interpretation of the surveyors may have been mistaken, especially in cases where people were being sent to a remote stretch of coast for the first time. In addition, things can change rapidly at the coast. A way of collecting up-to-date and accurate information was needed and it was recognised that the use of local knowledge to update data would substantially enhance records, allowing mistakes to be corrected and new information added. Another advantage was that local group members are able to visit sites regularly, noting changes to known sites and locating new ones, especially after storms.

Shorewatch recording

The use of community groups to help gather information about coastal archaeology was already being piloted in Scotland through the Shorewatch Project. Initiated by Historic Scotland, it was originally run by the Council for Scottish Archaeology and has been coordinated by SCAPE since 2001 (Fraser, Gilmour and Dawson 2003). Shorewatch encourages communities around the Scottish coast to locate, monitor and record archaeological sites. The project is open to all, and recording forms are available from the project website, together with details of how to record sites. Local groups are asked to send in their sketch drawings and written records, but it was found that their photographs were especially useful, as these highlighted changes, especially when a series had been taken over a period of time from the same spot.

The Shorewatch project was successful in engaging communities, but one lesson learned was that groups became frustrated if simply asked to monitor a site as it decayed over the years. In some cases, there would be no difference between visits, but if there had been a change, it could be devastating, with large parts of the site damaged or destroyed. The groups would photograph the remains, draw sections and plot the position of the coast edge, but in many cases, they were basically recording the demise of the site. Some groups wanted to become more actively involved in rescuing information before it was too late.

Shorewatch practical projects

The desire to do more at severely threatened sites led to the initiation of several Shorewatch community rescue projects. In each case, it was the local group that expressed the desire to undertake a more detailed project. Although SCAPE took the lead in managing the projects, particularly the finances, the work was collaborative and inclusive and could not have started without the involvement of the local groups. If the projects had not been undertaken, the sites would have remained vulnerable to damage. This is graphically demonstrated by the destruction of one site excavated through a Shorewatch project. Before the excavation, nothing was known about the site as it was buried within a dune. Thanks to the community dig (Figure 1), the oldest surviving building in Brora was revealed, albeit briefly, and recorded before being destroyed during storms in the winter of 2012/13 (Figure 2).



Figure 1: The salt pans at Brora, revealed during a community excavation involving the Clyne Heritage Society.



Figure 2: The salt pans one year later; undercut during a storm which caused the building to collapse onto the beach.

A range of community projects have been undertaken, all involving some archaeological excavation. In order to highlight the different ambitions and desires of the groups, examples of two very different projects undertaken as part of Shorewatch are presented here.

Baile Sear, North Uist

The storm

On the night of the 11th January 2005, a severe storm associated with a deep depression passed to the north of Scotland (Wolf 2007). Winds gusting to hurricane force hit the Western Isles, claiming the lives of five people from one South Uist family. The sea was pushed far inland, damaging many roads and buildings and eroding much of the coastline. In some places, the coast edge retreated by up to

fifty metres, as happened along parts of the coast of the tidal island of Baile Sear, west of North Uist.

For weeks afterwards, the beaches were littered with prehistoric pottery and animal bone, and piles of stone indicated where prehistoric buildings had collapsed from the coast edge. A newly established heritage group in North Uist, Access Archaeology, became concerned about eroding structures at two places along Baile Sear's beaches. One site, A' Cheardach Ruadh (NF 7763 6157), had seen limited excavation in the past, although the storm had completely destroyed the structures recorded by Barber in 1984 (Barber 2003) and the site of the burials excavated subsequently (Armit 1993; MacLeod 2001).

The other site, Sloc Sàbhaidh (NF 7823 6085), had been described by the antiquarian Erskine Beveridge (1911) as a sand hill containing shells, bones, a saddle quern and pottery. In 1987, the Scottish Central Excavation Unit surveyed the area and noted midden material (Barber 2003). However, the first report of any structures was made by the members of Access Archaeology after their post-storm visit in 2005. They contacted SCAPE, sending in photographs of collapsed masonry and upright stones protruding from the beach cobbles and sand (Figure 3).

Evaluation at Baile Sear

An initial survey was carried out in January 2005 by members of the local group and the SCAPE Trust, and several follow-up surveys were conducted throughout the year. Local volunteers were taught how to draw detailed plans and sections at various scales, and used a Total Station Theodolite to plot the position of the coast edge and exposed masonry. Access Archaeology members continued to monitor and record the site after completion of the fieldwork, and photographed the site on a regular basis. They sent their records and images to St Andrews to allow assessments of change to the coast edge and archaeological remains. The photographs and recurrent surveys indicated that the site was eroding rapidly, and between August and December 2005, a four metre-wide strip of the site was lost as the coastline receded (Stentoft et al 2007).



Figure 3: Some members of Access Archaeology visiting Baile Sear after the storm.

The local group members were concerned that the site was being destroyed, and expressed the view that simply recording this process was not an adequate response. They wanted to rescue information about the site itself, not plot how much had been lost between surveys.

A project design was prepared and funding obtained to undertake an evaluation excavation. In early autumn 2006, local volunteers worked alongside professional archaeologists to characterise the eroding remains. Four evaluation trenches revealed dry stone structures buried below the beach deposits, together with extensive areas of midden containing Iron Age material. The southernmost of the four trenches was positioned adjacent to the upright stones exposed on the beach, revealing a number of walls. Excavation of a trench c. 100m to the north exposed an arc of curving dry stone wall, over one metre wide. At the end of the evaluation, the walls were protected with sandbags and the trenches backfilled, but group members reported further storm damage during the winter. The upright stones were washed away and further stretches of wall were exposed nearby.

Based on the results of the evaluation, the local group worked with SCAPE to develop plans for a larger-scale project. Over and above the specific research aims of the excavation, the project aimed to:

- rescue as much archaeological information from the most severely eroding parts of the site as possible before its destruction.
- involve local volunteers in a practical project in order to provide training and raise awareness of coastal archaeology and the problem of erosion.

A successful funding application was made to Historic Scotland to undertake the community rescue excavation and the first season of work was undertaken in 2007. This was followed by two more seasons (2008 and 2010), again with the support of Historic Scotland. An experimental model of community rescue was developed, with local group members and professional archaeologists working together to save information from the rapidly eroding site.

General considerations when excavating coastal sites

A prime consideration when planning an excavation at an eroding site is to avoid exacerbating the problem. In the Western Isles, it is not only the sea that causes damage, but the wind (Angus and Elliot 1992). Aeolian erosion, often caused by the movement of dry sand after the vegetation cover has been removed, can lead to large holes, or blowouts, being created in the dunes (Barber 2011). The west coast of much of the Outer Hebrides is formed of machair, one of the rarest habitats in Europe and found only in the north and west of Britain and Ireland. It consists of thick deposits of windblown sand covered by a rich, cultivated dune pasture (Ritchie 1976). The sand has a high shell content, allowing it to support a variety of plants and making it a favoured place for small-scale farming. From the point of view of an archaeologist, machair sands allow organic material, such as bone, to be preserved in remarkable condition.

Almost half of Scotland's machair landscapes are found in the Outer Hebrides, and on Baile Sear, crofters were growing crops on some parts and using other parts for grazing. There was a justifiable fear amongst crofters that disturbing the vegetation could lead to the formation of craters. They were also worried that excavation could destabilise the coast edge, causing an increased rate of erosion. Before the excavation started, there were discussions with the crofters (who often work together in local committees) on how best to prevent the loss of land in the vicinity of the site. It was agreed that excavation would avoid any vegetated areas and would be limited to the actively eroding foreshore.

Limiting the excavation area to the beach presented logistical problems. In Scotland, the tide not only comes in and out during the day, but the influence of the moon makes its height vary over the month. The two trenches were positioned over archaeological structures located during the evaluation that survived in the area between the Mean High Water Mark and the coast edge. This meant that the dig was beyond the reach of the sea for most of the fieldwork season. The overburden (which was several metres thick closer to the coast edge due to the steep profile of the beach) was removed by a mechanical digger and the spoil used to construct a barrier around the site to protect it from high tides.

To ensure that our excavation did not increase the risk of erosion, we sought advice from the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Co-ordinator for the Western Isles Council. We had a second aim of preserving the archaeological remains, and at the end of the season, excavated surfaces and structures were covered with a geotextile membrane and protected with sandbags. A layer of sand was then deposited over the membrane by hand, after which the beach cobbles were replaced by mechanical excavator. We attempted, as far as possible, to restore the original profile of the cobble foreshore in order to eliminate weak spots in the coast edge that could be vulnerable to the sea.

Despite our efforts, we observed that the sea often drastically altered the profile of the beach, causing damage to the archaeological deposits. For example, the outer wall stood over one metre high when initially uncovered in 2006, but was reduced to foundation level by the start of the 2007 excavation, and was totally destroyed by 2008. Of greater concern was that the sandbags and geotextile were occasionally exposed and in some cases, washed away. As we did not wish to contribute to pollution or make the beach unsightly, we decided that protecting the archaeological site with man-made material was not beneficial and the structures were not covered with geotextile membrane or sandbags after the final season of excavation in 2010.

Archaeological results of the excavation

The community rescue project revealed a site with huge archaeological value and it must be remembered that without the effort of Access Archaeology, this site would not have been excavated, but would have been destroyed unrecorded.

The two excavation areas revealed wheelhouses, large Iron Age structures found in the Western Isles and Shetland (Armit 2006). In order to overcome the problem of creating a roof in areas without much timber, a series of stone beehive roofs were supported on piers and the circular outer wall, creating a ring of corbelled cells radiating from a central space.

The excavation in Area 1 revealed part of the outer wall and five piers (MacDonald and McHardy 2008; McHardy and Rennell 2009;

Dawson 2011) and the prehistoric masonry survived to a height of 1.5m. The central area and outer cells had floor deposits consisting of layers of sand mixed with red peat ash. Below these layers were a number of pits, many containing huge amounts of animal bone, both burnt and unburned, and more pottery. At a later date, a change in the design of the structure was associated with the deposition of a rotary quern covered with cremated animal bone and a human mandible (Armit 2012). Subsequent to this, three successive hearths were built on top of each other, one of which was formed of baked clay with a cross inscribed into it. A second wheelhouse was revealed in Area 2 (MacDonald and McHardy 2008; McHardy and Rennell 2009), and although much of the structure had been damaged by erosion, evidence for piers, the outer wall, an entrance passageway and a 'guard cell' survived.

The excavation of the two areas produced over 5,000 sherds (60kg) of pottery, all dated stylistically to the Middle Iron Age (Johnson 2012) and 10,000 fragments of bone. Numerous artefacts, including bone combs, batons, pins and toggles were recovered and the assemblage was similar to that recovered from the wheelhouses of Cnip (Armit 2006) and Sollas (Campbell 1991).

Volunteer involvement

The second, and arguably more important, aim of the project of providing training and raising awareness of coastal archaeology, was met through the programme of volunteer activity. The excavation was advertised locally and was open to all, attracting a large number of volunteers. In order to provide opportunities for people who worked during the week, the site was open at weekends. Some people were only able to attend irregularly, while others came every day that the excavation was in progress. Training was given to accommodate the varying levels of archaeological expertise and the availability of the volunteers, enabling people to build upon their skills.

Although this was a community rescue excavation, the highest possible archaeological excavation and recording standards were adhered to. The local group worked with specialist scientists and conservators, giving the volunteers exposure to archaeological specialists from a range of disciplines. For example, volunteers

helped with the lifting of the clay hearth (Figure 4) and the collection and recording of samples for optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating, obtained and analysed by Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC, Kinnaird et al 2012; Sanderson and Kinnaird 2011).



Figure 4: Local volunteer Kirsty helps the conservator lift the clay hearth.

All new volunteers were provided with a Health and Safety induction, followed by a tour of the site. The archaeological context of the site was explained and volunteers were briefed on the principles of stratigraphic excavation. They were then put to work alongside an existing team member and were taught the basics of archaeological investigation. Volunteers were introduced to a variety of techniques, depending upon the length of time that they stayed on the site. These included trowelling, finds recovery and the identification of archaeological features. Those who were able to participate in the excavation on a regular basis were also given instruction on drawing plans and sections and the completion of context sheets. Training was combined with regular briefings on the progress of the excavation to give volunteers an overview of what was happening elsewhere.

In order to increase skills and confidence, new and inexperienced volunteers were asked either to work on discrete features with clear edges or to excavate within one meter grid squares. Grid square excavation was employed for the 'floor' layers, as these were comprised of thousands of micro layers of mixed sand and peat which were impossible to excavate individually. Areas of midden were excavated in a similar way. 50 millimetre (mm) deep spits were excavated from each square unless an identifiable change of context was observed, thus providing a level of control for inexperienced excavators. The volunteers were continually supervised and in cases where the stratigraphic relationship between features was not clear, experienced excavators would work with the volunteers to resolve issues.

Although many of the volunteers had been involved in the project since it started in 2005, there were also a number of new volunteers each year. Articles in the local press meant that people learned more about discoveries with each passing season. In addition, the site's location on a beach that was popular with both locals and tourists meant that many people visited the excavation while out for a walk. Site tours were provided for visitors, some of whom returned to participate in the work alongside the regular volunteers (Figure 5).



Figure 5: Local group members excavating at Baile Sear; only one person in this image is a professional archaeologist.

Children were actively encouraged to take part in the project and a number of families worked together in the trenches. Some of the children were inspired to extend their involvement and continued to participate in the excavation without their parents. In such cases, they worked under continual adult supervision and some of the younger excavators were assigned to areas of eroding midden adjacent to the wheelhouse, partly due to Health and Safety considerations, as it kept them away from standing masonry. Working on the midden gave them the opportunity to find pottery and bone from less-sensitive archaeological deposits, and, as they were always working with a professional archaeologist and were counted as part of the team, they did not feel excluded.

Visits were arranged for children from the two local schools at Carinish and Paible and, each season, the classes were given a tour of the site. This included an explanation of the latest discoveries, artefact handling, discussions on how life in the Iron Age compared to their modern lives and demonstrations of archaeological techniques and the equipment used.

Some members of the community did not get directly involved in the excavation, but helped in other ways. Aerial photographs of the sites were taken by Annie MacDonald using a pole-mounted camera (Figure 6) and by Jac Volbeda from a kite camera. The resulting photographs were of high quality and were very useful during post excavation work.

A large number of art students from Taigh Chearsabhaigh Museum and Arts Centre in Lochmaddy also visited, gathering inspiration from the site and recording what they saw in unique and interesting ways. Some of the students returned for follow up visits (Figure 7). Video was also taken of the site, which included interviews with participants, and this was edited by some students to make short features.

After the dig was completed, local group members worked with locally-based archaeologists to process all of the samples, including flotation sieving and the sorting of residues. The Baile Sear project combined a high level of community involvement in a conventional rescue excavation, which was carried out to high scientific standards. Assemblages from the dig have been used by a number of researchers around the country and the results are

giving new insights into wheelhouse construction, chronology and the Middle Iron Age of the Western Isles in general.



Figure 6: Local volunteer Annie taking aerial photographs of the Baile Sear excavation with her pole camera.



Figure 7: Art students and archaeologists recording the site Baile Sear.

Bronze Age Bressay

By comparison, a second Shorewatch community project had very different aims and objectives to the conventional excavation undertaken at Baile Sear. Again initiated by the local community, the Bronze Age Bressay project in Shetland looked to preserve a site rather than excavate it.

The island of Bressay is a short ferry trip across from Shetland's capital, Lerwick. On the coast edge below the Hill of Cruester, there was a large heap of fire-damaged stones, the eroding remnants of a Bronze Age burnt mound. Although such sites are relatively common throughout Britain and Ireland, the activities carried out at burnt mounds are uncertain. The mounds are often associated with a tank or trough and it is thought that stones were deliberately heated and then plunged into the water-filled tank. Theories for their use range from feasting sites, where large pieces of meat were boiled, to saunas, to places of industrial activity.

The Cruester burnt mound

The eroding mound at Cruester (HU 4815 4232) was first recorded in 1933 (RCAHMS 1946) and the surveyors noted a beehive cell associated with the mound. When the Ordnance Survey revisited the site in 1964, the cell could not be found and it had perhaps fallen victim to erosion.

The site was again revisited as part of a project to identify vulnerable burnt mounds in Shetland (Moore and Wilson 1999). This led to a rescue excavation of parts of the Cruester Burnt Mound in 2000 (Moore and Wilson 2001; 2014). The excavation revealed that the Cruester mound was part of an elite group of monuments that contained rooms in addition to a tank. A series of cells were located, connected by two corridors arranged in an 'L' shape. At the end of one of the corridors was a sunken, stone-lined tank almost two metres long (Figure 8). At the other end was a 'kiln-like' cellular structure, thought to have been used for heating stones. The passageway that connected the two was inclined downwards from hearth to tank, perhaps to aid the movement of the hot stones to the water.



Figure 8: The stone-lined tank at Cruester, on the island of Bressay in Shetland.

The excavation attracted local attention and people visited the site to see what was being uncovered. After the completion of the dig, the cells were backfilled, the turf replaced and the site was restored as a grass-covered mound. However, the site was still prone to erosion and its location at the base of a steep hill meant that it was not easily accessible. Some local people thought that more could have been made of the site and a campaign was initiated to re-expose the monument so that it could act as a tourist destination. As local heritage group member Douglas Coutts explained in an interview on BBC Radio Scotland in 2011, 'when the dig was finished, the site was to be backfilled and abandoned to the sea. This upset the Bressay History Group, to think that they should lose this beautiful monument' (BBC Radio Scotland 2011).

The Shorewatch project at Sandwick, Unst

While discussions on the fate of the Cruester mound continued, another Shorewatch project was underway on Unst, the most northerly of the Shetland Isles. The first of four annual seasons of community excavation at Sandwick started in 2004 (Dawson, Lelong and Shearer 2011). Members of the Unst Archaeology Group worked at the eroding site with SCAPE and a team from GUARD (now Northlight Archaeology) to reveal a number of cellular Pictish structures. In the penultimate year, the Unst group decided that they wanted a legacy for their hard work after the excavation had finished. Desiring more than a simple display at their Heritage Centre, discussions focussed on rebuilding the walls of the excavated building. Inspiration for the group's idea undoubtedly came from work at Scatness in the south of Shetland, where a broch and other monuments were being consolidated and reconstructed (Dockrill et al 2009). However, the Unst group decided upon a novel approach, asking that the Sandwick structures be rebuilt in their original position. Although the local group realised that the structure would eventually be lost to erosion, they wanted the site to act as both a reminder and a warning about the threat to heritage from coastal erosion.

In 2007, the final year of the Unst project, the team was joined by the Adopt-a-Monument Scheme, coordinated by the Council for Scottish Archaeology (now Archaeology Scotland). Additionally, a specialist team of dry stone masons from the Scatness project was

contracted to work with local group members to rebuild the walls. They used the original stones as far as possible and based the reconstruction on the excavation plans and photographs. After the rebuilding had finished, the structures were capped with turf in order to help consolidate and preserve them until such time as the sea washes them away. As well as reconstructing the excavated site, the team members designed and erected interpretation boards while Shetland Islands Council built a parking area and installed way markers to guide visitors to the site and the beach beyond.

Project planning on Bressay

The Unst project had featured on BBC TV's Coast programme and had received widespread local press coverage in the Shetland Times. Drawing inspiration from the project, some Bressay History Group members decided that they wanted to undertake a similar project. A site meeting was arranged between representatives of the group, the Shetland Amenity Trust, the landowner, SCAPE and Adopt-a-Monument. The visit showed that erosion was on-going and that the stone-lined tank and two corbelled cells were exposed on the beach. It was proposed that rather than leave the monument to fall victim to the sea, it should be moved to a site adjacent to the Bressay Heritage Centre, thus saving it from destruction and making it more accessible. There was much debate as to what should be saved. Some members of the local group only wanted to move the tank; others wanted the entire site to be transported. The local group included people with specialist skills, including an architect, and there was support from the local farmers, who would provide machinery. With this in mind, the group decided that the project was feasible and that the entire site should be moved.

The project required funding and a project management team was formed involving the Bressay History Group, SCAPE and Adopt-a-Monument. The SCAPE Trust took the lead on managing the reconstruction elements of the project, together with managing the budget; the Bressay History Group were responsible for organizing local input and the long term future of the site; Adopt-a-Monument managed the Education and Outreach programme.

The group drew up a detailed plan and timetable; project aims included:

- retrieving information from an archaeological site threatened with destruction and presenting the monument for display
- educating people about the importance of Shetland's past and the problem of coastal erosion
- equipping locals and volunteers with heritage and traditional skills
- increasing visitor numbers to Bressay and its Heritage Centre.

Funding and land purchase

Funding applications were made to several sources, including the Heritage Lottery Fund; Shetland Islands Council; Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE); and the Shetland Amenity Trust. Although most of the financial aspects of the project were managed by SCAPE, some of the locally-raised funding applications had to be submitted by the Bressay History Group, which meant that administration of the project finances fell to two organisations rather than one.

A plot adjacent to the Heritage Centre, which lies just by the island's pier and is a ten-minute ferry ride from Lerwick, had been identified by local group members for the reconstruction. The purchase of the land was left to the local group for two reasons; local politics and the fact that the group would ultimately own and be responsible for the reconstructed structure and so needed to own the land too. Purchasing the land proved more problematic than some group members had initially thought, but an agreement was eventually arranged and the Bressay Heritage Group paid for the land from funds raised from local funding partners.

Fieldwork

The fieldwork commenced after the purchase of the land. The project was split between two locations, the site of the excavation and the reconstruction site. EASE Archaeology won the tender to re-excavate the burnt mound (Moore and Wilson 2008), while the Shetland-based masons who had worked at Sandwick, Jim Keddie and Rick Barton, were contracted to undertake the rebuilding work.

Work on the burnt mound started in June 2008. The initial focus was to uncover the structures at the excavation site and undertake

an electronic survey before the archaeological team arrived. Bressay History Group members worked with Adopt-a-Monument and SCAPE to clear spoil from the corridors, cells and tank. At the end of the 2000 excavation, geotextile membrane had been placed over walls and floors before the site was backfilled, meaning that it was relatively easy to remove spoil from the site, leaving unexcavated deposits unharmed. A mechanical digger was used where possible, but the small size of the cells and corridors meant that much of the backfill had to be cleared by hand and the digger was mainly used for transporting spoil away from the excavation. Once the site had been cleared, an electronic theodolite was used to create a digital plan of the structures which provided the data for marking out the area of the reconstruction.

Once the excavation proper started, some local group members worked with the archaeologists on the dig while others helped to prepare the reconstruction site. The structures within the burnt mound were not originally free standing, but had been built into the mound of stones. This gave the reconstruction team two choices, either move the mound of burnt stones to the reconstruction site and rebuild the structures within it; or dig a hole into a natural hillock on the plot next to the Heritage Centre. It was decided to excavate into the hillock and the irregular shape of the outer edge of the building was marked onto the ground using the electronic theodolite. Local Bressay contractors dug a precise hole within the painted lines, piling the freshly excavated bedrock to the side (Figure 9). The original structure was not only of irregular shape, but it was also built at varying levels, and this had to be taken into account when digging the hole. As the site was going to be built below ground level, a drainage channel was cut from the site to the sea.

At the excavation site, all walls were planned and photographed and every stone was numbered by members of the reconstruction team. The site was dismantled in two phases, with the simpler structures associated with the eastern corridor removed first. This left the hearth cell, tank and corbelled cells in place, giving the team a chance to familiarise themselves with new techniques before moving on to the more complicated elements of the site. The dismantling of the site was overseen by the reconstruction team and the three partner organisations and involved many local

volunteers, tractors, trailers and hoists (Figure 10). Neighbouring farmers helped lift the numbered stones, placing them on trailers so that they could be transported two km by road to the new location.



Figure 9: Precision digging within the painted lines at the reconstruction site, Cruester



Figure 10: Local volunteers helping to move stone from the original site, Cruester

At the Heritage Centre, the stones were placed number-side up so that the reconstruction team could locate them. The electronic theodolite was used to mark the position of the larger orthostats on the ground and sockets were drilled into the bedrock to accommodate the stones. The orthostats were then machine-lifted into position by the local contractor (Figure 11); and once they had been made secure, the stonemasons referred to elevations and photographs to rebuild the stretches of wall between them.



Figure 11: Volunteers work with contractors to place the orthostats in position.

When the eastern half of the monument had been rebuilt stone by stone, the remaining half was dismantled. This was a more challenging task, involving the dismantling of the tank, hearth cell and corbelled structures. A large number of volunteers helped to shift the stones, with volunteer numbers increasing because of growing awareness of the project. This was partly due to the weekly press releases, but also to the high visibility of the reconstruction work, located next to the ferry terminal car park. The reconstruction work was open to the public, and large numbers of people visited as the project progressed.

In just eight weeks, all elements of the original structure had been moved and rebuilt. In addition to reconstructing the site, another aim of the project had been to equip people with heritage and traditional skills. One way that this was achieved was through training sessions in dry stone wall building, with the masons using the stone that had been excavated when digging the hole to teach people building techniques. The lessons focussed on building a replica of the hearth cell, passageway and tank at the same size as the original structure. This replica of the structure was built on the same plot of land as the reconstruction.

Presentation of the reconstruction

The area around the finished reconstruction resembled a building site (Figure 12) and turf was placed over exposed bedrock and on the tops of walls to landscape the site. An area of land was levelled and prepared so that it could be used for Living History events and a gently-sloping path, wide enough for disabled access, was laid, stretching around the reconstruction from the car park (Figure 13). The site was launched in August 2008 by local MSP Tavish Scott, accompanied by experimental archaeology sessions within the replica; Bronze Age pottery classes; weaving and spinning demonstrations; and the making of prehistoric artefacts. The event received national press coverage, including a live interview on BBC Radio 4's Today Programme.



Figure 12: The reconstruction site during the project.



Figure 13: A similar view, less than one month later, showing the site after rebuilding was finished.

A report was written about the excavation (Moore and Wilson, 2014) and the information was used in interpretive material to inform people about the monument and about the problems of coastal erosion more generally. Members of the Bressay History Group were involved in the design of a leaflet, an outdoor display panel and several indoor panels within the Heritage Centre. Help was given by the Shetland Amenity Trust to ensure that the interpretation boards conformed to the local 'house' style adopted in the rest of Shetland. A project website widened access to information (<http://www.shorewatch.co.uk/cruester/>) and group members successfully applied for funding to produce an education pack for distribution to schools (Renwick, 2010). The site has also featured in public lectures, and on the television and radio, increasing awareness of both the project and of problems associated with coastal erosion. This included public talks given about the project by Douglas Coutts of the Bressay History Group, who has spoken at local and national conferences and has featured in TV and radio interviews.

The Bressay History Group, now custodian of the reconstruction and the replica, cares for their upkeep. A series of Open Days have featured Living History re-enactments and experimental archaeology sessions and a PhD candidate has been using the site to test theories on the activities undertaken at burnt mounds. Although the Bressay Heritage Centre is closed during the winter, the reconstruction is open all year round, allowing visitors to learn about the past and adding a visitor attraction to both Bressay and to Shetland as a whole.

Lessons learned

Bronze Age Bressay was a relatively complex community heritage project. It was conducted by three organizations, each assigned different roles and responsibilities. Having several organizations working together meant that there was greater stability and each partner brought complementary skills. It also meant that if one member was struggling to fulfill elements of their assigned role, the other members of the team could step in. This happened in the latter stages of the project, after completion of the reconstruction work. The downside was that a heavier workload was placed on the other two partners than initially envisaged. However, the mix of

partners ensured that the project was completed according to plan and budget. In future projects, a more formal contract between partners would help ensure that each group has the capability to undertake the tasks assigned to it, and that resources are not diverted before the project ends.

Perhaps surprisingly, the single most expensive element of the entire project was the archaeological excavation. As the site had already been excavated, it could be argued that a detailed watching brief was all that was required and that resources could have been diverted elsewhere. However, the excavation was included in the project design in order to give local people the chance to participate in an archaeological dig. As it turned out, helping with the dismantling of the site attracted the most interest. This experience strongly suggests that with future projects of this sort, the desire for a community excavation should be fully evaluated.

Some Bressay History Group members noted that the project took much more effort and dedication than had been expected. They found that much tact and diplomacy was required within the local community in order to achieve goals and it was not always easy to coordinate tasks with volunteer availability. They also found that it was difficult to delegate some of the less interesting voluntary aspects of the project work. The group was able to attract a substantial level of local support, although it sometimes took a lot more organising than they had expected.

Bressay History Group members also noted that fund-raising was hard work, but in the final evaluation report, they commented that they had saved an important monument from the sea and had reconstructed and interpreted the site for future generations to enjoy. They also noted that the reconstructed mound had added an enhanced visitor experience to the Bressay Heritage Centre and that the monument and its interpretation inspired people to think about heritage.

The group saw the project as a success, despite the hard work. The project aimed to raise awareness of the problem of erosion and to rescue an archaeological site by working in partnership with a local community. Group members were involved in all aspects of the project, from the initial planning through to the launch of

the completed reconstruction and subsequent Open Days. The challenge of transporting the monument's large stones from the excavation area to the Heritage Centre was solved by the local group members, working in collaboration with heritage specialists. Using their own tractors and other machinery, the group members worked as a team to move the Bronze Age structure and help rebuild it. From being an eroding site with no future, the Cruester Burnt Mound is now a visitor attraction and vibrant educational resource.

The way forward – The Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk Project

As shown above, Shorewatch projects have successfully engaged groups in recording sites at the coast, and have helped develop a model for community rescue. There have been lessons learned from both Shorewatch recording and practical projects, and these have been applied when developing SCAPE's latest initiative, the Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk Project (SCHARP). The project is a development of Shorewatch, and is taking as its basis the 12,000 sites recorded during the Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys and analysed during the prioritisation project. SCHARP has two elements, ShoreUpdate and ShoreDig.

ShoreUpdate - asking the public to edit and enhance coastal survey data

ShoreUpdate has evolved from Shorewatch recording. Participating local communities are being expressly asked to update the information already recorded. All sites recorded in the CZAS have been placed onto an interactive '*Sites at Risk*' map on the SCHARP project website (<http://www.scharp.co.uk/>). The map is available in both Bing and Google versions, which often allow different satellite views to be observed for the same area, which can be especially important for intertidal sites when a view at low tide is required.

The main focus of ShoreUpdate is to update information on the c. 1,000 priority sites, although information on all 12,000 sites is welcome. Users can zoom to an area and click on a dot (colour-coded according to priority) in order to bring up the original site record, together with links to other national on-line records (National

Monument Record of Scotland and local Sites and Monuments Record where available). Registration is free and is only required to prevent spam and to allow the project team to clarify ambiguous entries. Once registered, users have the option of editing the record. All fields can be altered, including the site name, type and description. The position of the site can be updated, and a cross-hair tool allows users to click the correct location on the map or satellite image in order to move a site. Once an entry has been altered, the user submits changes and the project team validates the information before making it live on the website. Some heritage professionals have voiced concern that the system will allow bogus records to be submitted, but the registration and validation process will make this very unlikely. In addition, changes made by the public do not alter the original record, but enhance it, so if bogus entries are detected, they can be removed.

ShoreUpdate field surveys

In addition to desk-top edits by the public, ShoreUpdate asks people to visit sites to report on their current condition. This information will help to redefine priorities, while giving an up-to-date picture of the coastal heritage resource. The original coastal surveys date back to the 1990s and much may have changed since then. In order to update the database and to reassign priority scores for destroyed sites, surveys that are unable to find anything can be as important as those that locate sites.

A recording form with site information and a map and satellite view can be downloaded from the website. The form has several basic questions, the majority of which are multiple choice to ease completion in the field. The form asks people to describe the condition of the monument, to say whether the recorder considers any further work to be necessary and asks whether the site is valued locally. The form prompts users to take several photographs of the site, as images are very helpful to assess the present condition and vulnerability of the site.

After a fieldtrip, the information can be quickly transferred to a digital mirror of the form, accessible on the website. Again, submissions are validated and then added to the existing site record, including images that have been sent in.

ShoreUpdate mobile apps

In order to simplify field recording, Android and iOS apps have been developed that work on phones and tablets (Figure 14). Training videos showing the functionality of the apps can be accessed from the project website (<http://www.ssharp.co.uk/guidance/>). It has been found that some group members prefer to use tablets, as the typeface and size of the form is larger and easier to use. The mobile recording form contains buttons and drop-down lists to aid selection in the field and people can use their device's camera to take photographs and GPS to record location. Once the mobile version has been completed, it can either be uploaded immediately or saved for uploading when connected to wi-fi.

At present, not all tablets are able to work with a mobile signal (3G or 4G), and some remote coastal areas do not currently have mobile coverage. This situation will improve in the future, but in the meantime, the app allows forms and maps to be downloaded in advance for use in the field.

ShoreDig – practical projects at threatened sites

The ShoreDig phase of SCHARP has been developed after working with community groups on other practical projects at eroding sites. Twelve sites highlighted by community groups as a result of the ShoreUpdate surveys will be selected for a range of follow-up work. The projects will take place at locally-valued places that have been put forward by the public. As seen from the two Shorewatch projects above, different communities have different desires for their threatened heritage. Some may want to excavate, others to protect or undertake interpretation projects. ShoreDig wants to embrace a range of different project types. In addition to the examples of projects presented above, projects could include a geophysical survey, the design of interpretation boards and trails or the creation of 3D digital reconstructions that users can explore by controlling avatars.

In order to inform communities about the range of archaeological and interpretive projects possible, and to help groups decide what they would like to do, a series of training events are being held around the country. A conference is also planned that will bring



Figure 14: Using the ShoreUpdate app to record coastal sites.

heritage professionals together with local groups so that new ideas can be explored.

SCHARP has funding for three years and twelve projects will be initiated. However, it is expected that other potential projects will be identified, and that SCHARP will be the seed that starts a wave of community rescue projects around Scotland and beyond.

Conclusion

The challenges presented by coastal erosion are great, but the rewards can be greater. Many nationally important archaeological sites are vulnerable, sites that under normal circumstances would be legally protected and would very rarely present an opportunity for excavation. However, the imminent demise of some of these sites means that there is a chance to rescue information, but only if action is taken quickly. The public can act as the eyes and ears of heritage managers at the coast, informing heritage managers of sudden change, and highlighting sites which are about to be lost. They can also speak about sites that are relevant to them, about questions that they think are important. Working with community groups, archaeologists can refine priorities and take action at threatened sites, answering research questions at locations that would otherwise be destroyed. More importantly, they can work with communities, undertaking joint action that increases the relevance of archaeology within society and promotes awareness of threats to our built and cultural heritage.

We need to use our threatened sites or we will lose them; instead of being pessimistic about the loss of archaeological remains to coastal erosion, we should work together to make the most of the opportunities presented.

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**Public Archaeology and Memory at The Hive,
Worcester 2008 to 2012:
*A case study of reflexive approaches to
community engagement***

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Abstract

The construction of the Hive, a new library in Worcester, unearthed Roman remains that led to a community excavation in 2008. This article will delve into the process, including an extensive oral history programme conducting during 2011 and 2012.

Keywords

The Hive, Worcester, Community Engagement

Introduction

The following report describes Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service's commissioned community excavation between August and October 2008 and a subsequent oral history programme from June 2011 to March 2012.



Figure 1: The Hive from the train



Figure 2: The Roman site looking towards the city of Worcester

The public programme included a high level marketing policy, not seen in Worcester since the Deansway excavations of the late 1980s. The following audiences were contacted: passers-by, walkers, drivers, train and bus passengers; the general population of Worcester, the wider population of the county and the Midlands region, tourists and visitors to the city, people with an interest in archaeology and local history; the local press, county and city councillors, local community and adult learning groups, schools and colleges, and finally, city and county council staff, encouraged to keep track of progress via a 'Butts Dig Champion scheme' hosted by three staff members.

The marketing campaign promoted three key areas; one, the notion of history on the doorstep explored through objects and stories, two, the excitement of first hand discovery through digging and three, the idea of continuity with a new public building taking the city into a vibrant future. To maximise engagement the site opened to the public seven days a week, with a guide on site at the weekends, and enhanced by weekly tours by archaeology staff.

The marketing strategy included provision for a 'visitor experience' on site to ensure the same standard of experience was offered to all who visited the site and to ensure positive word-of-mouth marketing.

To enhance the experience, tours of the excavation were supplemented with an on-site exhibition focussing on the history of the site which was refreshed frequently with displays of retrieved artefacts and with textual and graphic summaries of the latest archaeological discoveries. The exhibition also showed the full archaeological process including some of the more unusual tools of the trade.

It was assumed that visitors to the dig would also want to know about the Hive (Worcestershire's Library & History Centre, which opened in July 2012) so staff were equipped to talk about this with some level of knowledge about the services going into the new building and how it is being funded.

As a result of this marketing programme the following data were collected:

Type of attendance	Number
Weekday casual visitor	30* per day
Weekend casual visitor	50-60* per day
Total casual visitors	2,000
Tour attendees	100 (10 per week)
City council tour attendees	50
School party visitors	600 (20 parties)
Organised party visitors	200 (two parties per week)
Open Day visitors	900
Total visitors	3,000

*these numbers are approximate, and numbers tailed off in the final month - partly due to return to school and cooler weather.

Newspaper	Column centimetres
Worcester News	1399
Berrow's Journal	277
Worcester Standard	195
Express and star	38
Total	1909
Equivalent advertising value*	£13,363

*total column centimetres multiplied by 7.

Archaeological staff were interviewed for a weekly five minute slot. This was determined to have a total equivalent advertising value for this coverage equal to £12,500* plus VAT.

From anecdotal evidence, a number of volunteers said they joined after hearing the live BBC Hereford and Worcester radio broadcast. Many people also repeatedly came to the site to see the physical changes from when they either worked or (in one case) had relatives who lived in one of the nine almshouses built on the site in the late 1830s and demolished in the mid-1970s.

A visitors' book in the exhibition collected people's comments on the dig. This was full of praise for the archaeology staff and the visitor experience, particularly the Open Day. It also provided the project leader with a continuous public commentary on the archaeological experience.

These included the following samples of remarks:

"This was where my mother, father, sister and me lived upstairs in the flat. My father (Alf Wright) was the storekeeper for the council depot. We were here from 1947 till 1965. What a surprise to see what was beneath our feet".

"My dad...born here. I worked here 30yrs...really interesting...I will be back" (Eric Butt)

"It was infuseyastic.....". (sic)

"Brilliant. We should continue to explore our history. It has lots to offer us for future understanding. Keep it up".

"Fascinating site. Excellent that members of the public encouraged to look around and be given a guided tour".

"Fascinating insight into how archaeology works and a very informed guide to explain to us".

"Well done to everyone working on site...good to find out about where we live".

"Good to see public money spent on something worthwhile".

"Best place I've ever been".

"I wish I could help dig".

The public programme

Volunteers were recruited from the general public, the Service mailing list, universities (targeting undergraduates studying archaeology courses and requiring field work experience). Groups who use/potentially use City and County Adult and Community Services were also targeted. A number of volunteers who joined the programme have been involved with community projects also recently run by the Service – for example, with the Worcester Commandery Project in 2005/6 and at Stourport Basins in 2005.

Specific activities for visiting groups and volunteers not participating in the excavation included finds processing, environmental sampling and sieving. Volunteers were also given the opportunity to conduct site tours.

The activities provided for visiting schools and colleges are described below:

- Site tours were conducted for pre-booked visitor groups, with informal daily tours and with a weekly fuller and more formal tour.

- An excavation open day offered tours led by Service staff and volunteers, with handling sessions and displays of artefacts from excavation with interpretation by archaeologists, a mock excavation area, activities for people to take part in, including creating artworks based on objects seen or reconstructions of the archaeological site, and re-enactment displays with Roman, medieval and Victorian themes.

The schools education programme

The archaeological team and voluntary staff provided a schools' programme designed to link with identified, relevant areas of the primary and secondary curricula. The drawing up of a basic education pack is proposed in order to give pupils and students relevant follow up work in the classroom.

Schools programme during archaeological excavations

The main aims were to enable pupils to study the history of The Butts in the context of Roman and medieval Worcester (Key Stage 2 – the Romans and the Victorians, and Key Stage 3 – the growth of towns), to provide pupils with the opportunity to be actively involved with on-site activities, to enable pupils to prepare and produce their own project work, and to be assessed by their teachers as part of the curriculum.

The specific activity took the form of a site tour to give pupils an introduction to the archaeology and history of the area. During the excavations pupils participated in selected archaeological processes, to learn basic archaeological skills, and to demonstrate related skills in their study of their school history syllabus.

This was followed by an investigative element where groups of pupils undertook six tasks: excavation, finds washing, classification of artefacts, animal bone identification, and sorting environmental residues.

General pupil targets

In their study of history, high school pupils are expected to acquire 'knowledge, skills and understanding' in six areas: chronological

events, study of people and changes in the past, historical interpretation, historical enquiry, organisation and communication, and breadth of study, for example, the way of life of people in the past who lived in the area.

Specific pupil targets of the schools programme were:

- to produce topic work relating to the Key Stage 2 history teaching units – Romans and Victorians, which includes the study of political, religious and social changes affecting people in the local area;
- to produce topic work relating to the key stage geography teaching units – ‘Rivers and Settlements’ which includes themes such as the physical evidence for choice of settlement and links to later modules (*cf.* history) which include the study of medieval boroughs, town planning and urbanisation;
- to demonstrate an understanding of ‘key elements’ of the geography and history curriculum; namely: how to find out about (and communicate to others) aspects of the past from ‘a range of sources of information, including artefacts, pictures and photographs...written sources, buildings and sites’;
- to demonstrate and communicate knowledge of how the physical environment changes through time.

Two important aims of primary and secondary school education are to encourage pupils to learn independently, and to form their own studied interpretations of people and environments of the past in order to come to value their place in the present. The schools programme therefore gave a unique opportunity to pupils, in their quest to appreciate our rich local heritage and link it directly with their studies.

For the specific activities the school groups were introduced to the excavations and then split into two groups so that all pupils were able to excavate in mock pits and to follow the process of archaeology through to an understanding of the discoveries being made. The pits had structures and artefacts within, so that children could learn basic excavation techniques, an understanding of stratigraphy and begin to speculate about what they were exposing.

For the indoor activity pupils were told that they were to excavate and record the site of an ancient house. In order to find out about the people who may have lived in this building, the children had to excavate and record the artefacts and environmental samples which archaeologists retrieve. The indoor activity room was therefore prepared with: a soil/sandpit with pottery and other objects, but chiefly pottery sherds, including Severn Valley ware, Greyware, Black Burnished Ware and Samian.

Bowls and brushes were placed next to the pit for washing artefacts so that the pottery could be identified, dated, measured and weighed. Rim fragments were placed on a rim chart in order to establish the form and function of the original vessel.

Trays were used with animal bones from sheep, pig, cattle and dog with illustrations of the skeletal characteristics of each. Identifying labels were also used, for pupils to place against the appropriate animal. Individual bones were then selected for recording by identification of the specific anatomical character, by measuring, weighing and drawing. Pupils also looked for signs of disease and butchery.

A smaller box with environmental samples for sieving was used by pupils who placed residues under a microscope in order to identify grape, fig and blackberry seeds and charred wheat remains, using tweezers to place them into individual containers and write out a label and put it on the pots.

Finally, pro forma sheets were used to record all this information with a series of exploratory questions.

Feedback from schools

These are just a sample of the comments from visiting teachers:

"Thank you for the excellent morning we spent at The Butts. I have only had positive feedback from students directly and positive comments from other staff".

"Thank you very much for our visit to the Community Dig today. All the pupils really enjoyed it and most came back with a much better understanding of the archaeological process.

There was a good range of activities and just the right amount of time to undertake them".

"A huge thank you to all involved in our day today. It was superb. The children loved it and were really excited by everything they saw. They said the best bit was having a go rather than just having to watch".

Volunteer programme

In the summers of 2005 and 2006 the Service ran a successful community excavation for Worcester City Council as part of a Heritage Lottery programme at the Commandery Museum. Recruitment of volunteers and school activities were integral to this programme and provided a good launching pad for the Butts Dig.

Roughly a quarter of the 90 volunteers who registered for the Butts had gained experience at the Commandery excavations and the remainder comprised a similar array of local 'recruits', students and people working part or full time, and retired people. As a training programme was deemed desirable volunteers and the Service signed up to a formal agreement stating the following commitments:

From the Service: an induction to the Service, an outline of roles and tasks, training and support in basic on-site excavation, recording and post-excavation techniques, opportunities to help you to develop skills and experience, specific training and support on health and safety matters.

From the volunteer: working with soils - trowelling, cleaning, and excavating features recording archaeological deposits - written descriptions, photographs, scale drawings, plotting three-dimensional coordinates of features and artefacts caring for the excavated artefacts, explaining evidence to visitors and site tours.

Feedback from volunteers

"I loved it all. The thrill of finding and handling Roman pots. I have a much better understanding now of all the processes used in recording. The archaeologists gave such clear

explanations and were very patient. The team spirit was really good....don't change anything - it was really perfect. I would like to do more and look forward to the next time".

"I would like to thank you now for yet another fantastic opportunity to experience what it is like to be involved on a 'dig'. I had a great time and learnt still more about the processes involved and met some really nice people along the way. Thanks also for your kindness and patience during what was surely a very busy and exciting time at The Butts".

Public involvement

Groups who actively took part in, or visited the dig included: Primary, Secondary and Special Schools and Local Children's Clubs, Lifestyles, Worcester Task Force, MotoV8, University of Worcester undergraduate archaeology students, the Young Archaeologists Club, the University of the Third Age, Natural England Staff, Worcester Archaeology Society and many more casual visitors who were given informal and formal tours of the excavations and exhibition rooms.

For the first 6 weeks of the dig there was an average of 30 casual visitors per weekday and 50/60 on Saturdays and Sundays. Numbers tailed off in the final month, partly due to a return to school and the weather cooling, but over the ten weeks around 2,000 people visited the site. This does not include the formal tours which were conducted for the volunteers each Friday and were joined by an average of 10 per week over a period of 15 weeks.

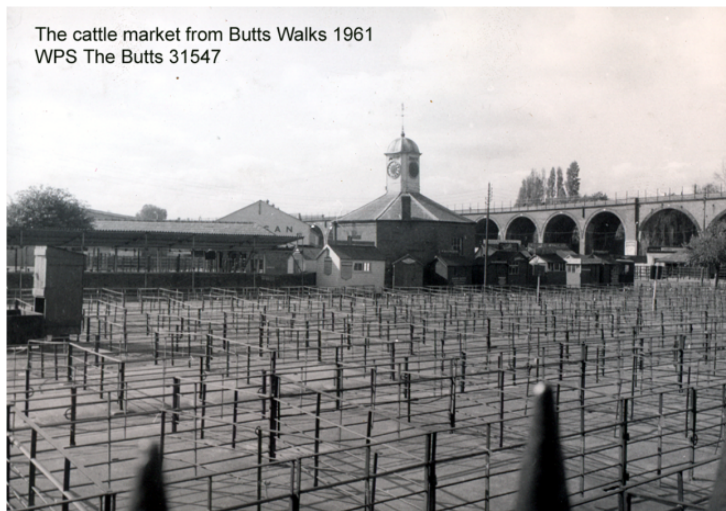
From August to October there was an average of two organised party visits per week from various sources, from library staff to undergraduate students, from special needs groups to historical and archaeological societies – with a total estimate of around 200 people.

20 schools and up to 30 parties of pupils joined formal activity programmes, to have a hands-on introduction to archaeological processes (excavation, artefacts and environmental) including interpretation. Some schools booked double sessions and pupil

ages varied from 5 to 14 years. The number of pupils including a weekend 'club' numbered around 600.

900 people came to the open day on 20th September, so that the total figure of visits during the 10 week period was 3,000.

The oral history programme



Alongside the archaeological programme several people came forward to give testament to their memories of living or working in The Butts, just outside the northern defence wall of the city. Cyril Cale and Heather Jones shared memories of how the cattle market (which operated here from 1838 to 1983) was physically organized; Barrie Smith and Ken Jenkins described the almshouses as they looked in the 1950s; Janet Draper, Jill Jacobs, Alf Wright & John Sutherland gave their accounts of how the city corporation operated from here with its refuse and cleansing service from the 1950s to the 1990s, and Elsie Brookes-McCully and Josie Jones (twins), meticulously described the communities living in The Butts and Netherton Lane between the two world wars.

As a result, Worcestershire's City Archive Collection now holds 15 hours of recorded oral history relating to the site's use from the 1920s to date. The Collection also has filmed footage of the

people interviewed, sharing further stories of the Hive space and of a dramatized story of the cattle market performed by a local theatre group (VAMOS).



Figure 3: Cyril Cale in 1930 & 2011

Conclusion

The community programmes described here form a blend of activities which were, on the one hand carefully planned for the archaeological work, and on the other, opportunistically carried out when it was recognised that local people were keen to share their memories of the physical space now occupied by the Hive. For such large scale developments it has taught professionals, volunteers, special interest groups in research and education, and the general public, much about how cultural heritage is thoroughly enriched by mutual discovery and exploration.

In a world of mixed economic fortune archaeology as a discipline, in the UK and beyond, will prosper if community engagement is, whenever possible or appropriate, considered integral to project design plans. Archaeology will be enriched further by creative opportunism during the lifetime of specific community programmes.

The coming together of business and culture is vital to this process of breaking down the perceived conflicts between economic necessity and cultural nourishment.

Acknowledgements

The following organisations and individuals have helped these community programmes in no short measure:

For the community archaeology element

The Joint Project Team of Worcestershire County Council and the University of Worcester, Iain Paul, James Dinn, Ian Pithouse and Helen Large, Libraries and Museum's staff, and The Butts Champions (Suz Winspear, Teresa Jones and Felicity Knox). For insightful management thanks are also due to Simon Woodiwiss.

All the schools who came to get a serious taste of archaeology and all visitor groups and casual visitors.

Special thanks are due to Mark Harding for on-site assistance beyond the call of duty. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who, not only took part, but were an asset to the community project.

The author is also grateful to Chantel Summerfield who presented testament to the TAG Conference relating to her experience as a volunteer during the public programme of archaeological excavation.

For the oral history programme

Beth Roper, Adrian Gregson, Paul Hudson, Lisa Snook, Victoria Bryant, all Record Office and Hive staff, Mike Pryce, Julia Leonard, Rachael Savage, Mike Jackson, Bill Bevan and his team at In-Heritage and, finally, Julia Letts for editing the audio interviews.

Personnel (Excavations)

Angus Crawford, Darren Miller, Simon Sworn, Tegan Cole, Tim Cornah, Alessandra Parsons, Des O'Donoghue, Marge Feryok, Deborah Overton, Ruth Humphries, Hal Dalwood, Tom Vaughan, Steve Woodhouse, Richard Shakles, Dennis Williams, Chris Gibbs, Emma Hancox, Shona Robson-Glyde, Claire Smith, Laura Templeton, Carolyn Hunt and Justin Hughes.

Back to the Future?

Presenting archaeology at the Green Man Festival

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Abstract

In the summer of 2011, Cardiff Osteoarchaeology Research Group was invited to present a number of archaeological engagement activities at the Green Man music festival as part of the Einstein's Garden science learning area. The project, called Back to the Future?: Animals and archaeology in Einstein's Garden comprised a number of activities, designed to cater for a wide range of ages as the festival audience typically includes young people and families. Over four days more than 2000 people visited the stall. This paper will briefly outline the activities presented, and will reflect on the challenges posed by outreach at a music festival, in particular how to hook the main festival demographic, and how to evaluate success.

Keywords

Outreach, Public Osteoarchaeology, Cardiff, Music Festivals

Introduction

Heritage public engagement often takes the form of living history events and re-enactment with costumed interpreters offering an immersive experience (e.g. Corbishley 2011, 29-37), or museum education programmes, although archaeologists themselves tend to shy away from participating in this kind of event. *Back to the Future?* used archaeologists with a scientific background and those with more

theoretical research interests as well as artists to create unexpected and provocative engagement in the context of a music festival.

This creative public engagement provides an opportunity to demonstrate how archaeology is relevant to modern lives, and how archaeological thought can bring clarity to modern issues. Much of our research work has been concerned with the past relationships between people and animals - as food, as sources of raw materials, and as visible components of the human environment. Exploring the ways in which people used and interacted with animals in the past provides a medium to discuss the ethics and sustainability of modern-day resource exploitation, without privileging the Western worldview over all others. Using this approach the engagement activities link science with art and religion, maximising their potential accessibility.

In the summer of 2011, Cardiff Osteoarchaeology Research Group (CORG) participated in the Einstein's Garden science learning area at the Green Man Festival, a medium-sized music festival held at Glanusk Park close to the town of Crickhowell in south-east Wales. CORG's participation was part of Art and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)-funded Student Led Initiative called PEACE (Postgraduate Environmental Archaeology and Community Engagement), and was preceded by a day of training and activity development at Cardiff University (see below). Some of these activities were then trialled at the festival, along with the *Future Animals* workshop, which was developed by JM and artist Paul Evans with funding from Beacons for Wales. This looked at how humans have changed animals for particular purposes through selective breeding, inviting participants to design future useful animals and debate the ethics of selective breeding.

Background

On December 1st, 2010 a workshop on community engagement for postgraduates studying environmental archaeology, called PEACE, was held at Cardiff University. The workshop was established using funding awarded to ML from the AHRC as part of the Student-Led Initiatives in public engagement scheme, and offered students a chance to learn about heritage science communication and an

opportunity to unpick some of their own research and present it in a style suitable for non-specialists. At the event, speakers from the National Museum of Wales, Techniquest, Cardiff University, and Bristol Young Archaeologists Club spoke about how they have taken their research outside of the academic realm, outlining key learning outcomes from the experience, and offering practical advice on identifying and engaging with new audiences. In the afternoon, and with help from the speakers, participants worked in groups to design outreach activities based on aspects of their research and targeted at specific age groups. These were subsequently compiled as a Creative Commons-licensed online resource (Mulville & Law 2013).

PEACE built on JM's experiences from a project called '*Future Animals: friend or food?*' which was supported by funding from Beacons for Wales and which ran from 2009 to 2010. This gave young people an insight into artificial selection - a key aspect of Charles Darwin's research into the origin of species by natural selection (a Charles Darwin exhibition was on display at National Museum of Wales at the same time as the project). Working with the artist Paul Evans and geneticist Professor Mike Bruford as well as the National Museum of Wales and Techniquest, workshops were held with local schools. At these, students learned about selective breeding before being invited to imagine (and draw) future improvements to animals. In addition to offering hands-on creative challenges and experience, the workshops provided a forum for ethical debate about our past, present and future relationship with animals, and the responsibilities that humans face as agents of biological change. Young people were also offered the chance to participate directly in the process of designing a museum exhibition, which was hosted at National Museum of Wales in Cardiff.

The Festival

The Green Man Festival took place in Glanusk Park near Crickhowell in Powys (south-east Wales) across 19th – 21st August 2011. It is an annual, independent festival which has run since 2003, with a capacity of 20 000, hosting music stages, a cinema, a literature tent, as well as a healing area and the Einstein's Garden science

learning area. The festival abounds with references to prehistoric ritual – it is opened with a ceremony by druids, and climaxes with the burning of the Green Man, a giant antlered wooden effigy. Although festival attendees tend to age from mid teens to early forties, with an anecdotal modal age around late twenties to mid thirties, it is a very family-friendly festival, with a quiet family camping area and childrens' activity area.

Einstein's Garden is a science exploration and learning area which uses art, entertainment and participation to explore science and nature in ways that are unexpected and fun. It is set within the walled garden of the Glanusk Park estate, adjacent to the main festival stage, the Mountain Stage. It is curated by Ellen Dowell, and in 2011 featured science-themed music and comedy on a small solar-powered stage, as well as science busking and 14 science-themed stalls, each managed independently, generally by universities. These included the Egg and Sperm Race (about reproductive biology) and a knitted Periodic Table. Einstein's Garden is open from 10am to 8pm on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the festival.

The Festival takes place in a scenic and archaeologically-rich landscape. Einstein's Garden itself is sited within the gardens of the former stately home at Glanusk Park, which was demolished following a fire in the 1950s. Elsewhere on the park, sadly inaccessible to festival visitors, stands the 4.5 m high Fish Stone, a Bronze Age standing stone dressed to look like a fish. To the north and east of Glanusk Park the view is dominated by hills carved by a cirque basin and the distinctive Crug Hywel hillfort. Within a few miles of the Park are the remains of Gwernvale Neolithic chambered tomb in front of the Manor Hotel on the A40 towards Crickhowell (Britnell 1984), as well as another, Garn Coch Cairn near Llangattock to the south-east of Glanusk park. There is a less visible hillfort called Penmyarth camp in the woods above the fish stone, and a Roman camp north of that at Pen y Gaer. There are also a number of round barrows and cairns in the local landscape, and remains of motte and bailey castles in Crickhowell and at Maes Celyn (Law & Lane 2011). This wealth of archaeological monuments visible in the landscape provided a context for broader discussion about life in the past.

The Activities

Einstein's Garden places a great deal of emphasis on sustainable practices, and so we decided to mirror this in our activities, especially in light of CORG's interests in relationships between humans and animals in the past. The case that archaeology can inform future sustainable practice is being increasingly developed (Cooper and Isandahl 2014; Guttman-Bond 2010), and we believe that public engagement events provide important opportunities to explore this. *Back to the Future?* was designed to give Green Man festival attendees an opportunity to learn about archaeology and the relationship between people, animals and their environment in the past.

The message of the *Back to the Future?* was that archaeology is both interesting and relevant to our lives; the way we lived in the past effects and informs how we live today and can stimulate thought about our potential futures. We presented a range of scripted archaeological themed science, art and nature based activities – which included '*Future Animals*'. Whereas all of our other activities ran as drop-in activities, Future Animals was only run at set times. This allowed a slightly more structured approach to be taken. JM began each session with a discussion of selective breeding, contrasting casts of the skulls of various dog breeds ranging from labradors and poodles to French bulldogs and Pekingese with those of their ancestor, a wolf, and a domestic cat (an animal whose skull is little changed by human selection). As the activity proceeded, discussion ensued about the ethics of this selective breeding, in particular how it might disadvantage the animal.

Another activity, 'How old are your teeth?', asked archaeologists to guess the age of visiting children using the eruption of their permanent teeth (e.g. Hillson 1996, Table 5.1), while 'Boys vs. Girls' demonstrated how archaeologists can tell whether a human skeleton is male or female (e.g. White & Folkens 2005, 385-98). For 'Who am I Wearing?', visitors and archaeologists were dressed in typical clothes of different periods, and the visitors were asked to guess which animals were used in the costumes (Best *et al.* 2013) (Fig 1). Pictures of Ötzi the ice man were also used to demonstrate how useful animal skins have been for clothing (Best 2013). Our emphasis through this activity was showing that past societies have tended to maximise their use of available resources, minimising waste.



Figure 1: 'Who am I wearing?' An example of the costumes.

Visitors also had the opportunity to practice excavating finds from a sandpit while stall staff explained how archaeologists work (Jones 2013). Over the four days our team of twelve, comprising postgraduate students and academic staff, archaeologists from the National Museum Wales and Cadw, and the artist Paul Evans, spoke to hundreds of people in depth each day.

People pegged key events, cultural ('when was the first music festival?') and technological (the first sword?), onto the 'Washing Line of Time' (Fig 2), and visitors discussed domestication, zooarchaeology and the ethics of animal breeding and numerous participants created 'future animals', which we then displayed (Fig 3). As part of our discussion of the use and reuse of animal materials over time, we led workshops recycling the festival waste Tetra Paks into attractive 'future' purses.



Figure 2. The 'Washing line of time'.



Figure 3. 'Future Animals' drawn by participants.

The archaeologically rich landscape setting of the site was explored in resources to help festival attendees learn about the archaeology of the festival site and local area, both in the form of posters at our stall and an online page (Law & Lane 2011) as well as an augmented reality resource for smartphone users created within the application Layar (<http://www.layar.com/layers/greenmanarchaeology/>). Finally, we established a Twitter account to support our work at the festival.

Challenges

One of the first challenges we faced was finding activities which would appeal to a wide range of potential visitors, from children through teenagers to adults. The Future Animals activity worked well with family groups, as it was a managed workshop led by Paul Evans and JM which was scheduled to run in nine hour-long sessions over three days. Our sandpit-based *What is an archaeologist?* activity was withdrawn after the first day, however, as it appeared to have become an unofficial crèche facility (it is also worth noting that sandpits are very heavy things to carry to and from an event!). The high number of visitors, and our decision not to assign evaluation and responsibilities to a dedicated individual meant that it was not possible to collect detailed visitor feedback.

Technology proved to be another issue. The lack of mains electricity meant that keeping phones charged to engage via social media was difficult (although another tent at Einstein's Garden offered the chance to charge phones using pedal power). More seriously, mobile phone signal was patchy at the festival site, with visitors reporting that they couldn't access the Layar app. In practice, the Twitter account was little used during the festival

Moving on – Guerilla Archaeology

Our experiences at Green Man inspired us to develop our festival engagement programme further, launching a larger collective called Guerilla Archaeology, which travelled to four music festivals in 2012 (Reynolds *et al.* in prep), as well as taking activities to the

Queen's Arcade shopping centre in Cardiff as part of the Made in Roath festival. The name Guerilla Archaeology was chosen to be more provocative, and to encourage more visitors to come to the tent. It was also intended to give an improved sense of identity to the collective. The group's festival work is now supported with enhanced social media in the form of linked posts to particular events, guest posts on thematic subjects, and weekly updates which do not directly relate to engagement events to keep audiences engaged digitally. Photographs from events are also posted to a flickr account and cards passed out at events to encourage digital engagement. A fresh theme is introduced on a yearly basis to encourage continued interest (for 2012 the theme of shamanism was explored under the heading *Shamanic Street Preachers*, and for 2013 archaeoastronomy under the heading *Lunatics and Sun Worshippers*).

Conclusions

Back to the Future? provided a means for creative archaeological engagement with an audience who were not anticipating learning about the past, and some of whom may not have been reached by traditional modes of engagement. A drawback is that the activities took place during a ticketed event – however, the same mode of engagement can be applied to free music festivals and other public arenas such as Queen's Arcade in Cardiff.

Merriman (2004, 85) described museums as "mass media of the long term", while they don't have the large simultaneous audience of television or radio, they do have large numbers of visitors over longer periods of time. Heritage engagement at events like music festivals could be described as mass media of the medium term. Over 2000 people visited the stall, and in the two successive years, the programme has been developed to travel to other festivals and events. By encouraging archaeologists to don costumes and engage in entertaining ways, the project provokes conversations not only about the past, but how the past can inform humanity's role in the modern world.

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Can 3000 schoolchildren make history?

How to involve a community in exploring its late medieval roots; field report from an ongoing slow archaeology project

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Abstract

Many archaeological excavations leave behind great amounts of unresearched cultural layers ready to be cleared when the bulldozers move in to start new construction at the site. This can be due to parts of site falling outside the main scientific focus or soil removed due to development without any prior proper excavation taking place. These soils, often rich in artefacts are later lost when new area use takes place. The project presented here shows how such cultural layers can provide valuable teaching grounds for young people even when they have been removed from the site. By creating a program where large numbers of schoolchildren from the region near to a particular site annually participate in excavations of a cultural layers rescued after the scientific researchers have left the site, we have put local history on the agenda. The children come with their teachers to a local museum and they all become 'archaeologist for a day' by participating in sifting through the soil, catalog the artefacts and add their understanding of their region's history. All guided by archaeologists on the spot.

Involving schoolchildren in a long lasting excavation project gives a rare opportunity to develop a constructive relationship with a community.

Keywords

Labo-project, Community Archaeology, Schoolchildren, Norway

The Labo-project is an ongoing outreach-program that started in 2007 and has so far included 130 cubic metres of soil, several thousand schoolchildren, a local population with serious interest in the history of their region, the local municipality administration,

a large number of eager volunteers, national, regional and local press and some enthusiastic local politicians, a small regional eco-museum, large amounts of water, patient teachers, and a handful of archaeologists from the Archaeological Field Unit in Akershus County Council, Norway. This is a field report from a *slow archaeology* community project. By using this term we suggest a quite different work method that we usually associate with archaeological excavations, where budget and time are limited. In this project, time is not a driving force. On the contrary we see the value of things moving slowly, and in that way adding little bits and pieces of new knowledge created by the children to the region's inhabitants' self understanding.

First a little background to Norwegian heritage management and its legal framework:

All archaeological and architectural monuments and sites that predate 1537 are automatically protected by the Cultural Heritage Act. Buildings predating 1649 are also protected by this Act. Anyone who intends to initiate measures which may affect an automatically protected monument or site must notify the competent authority. It will make a decision about what kind of measures may be carried out. Costs for surveys, excavations or protective measures will in general be met by the initiator of the project. When less extensive private projects are involved all or parts of the costs are met by the State. In our case, at Labo, the costs for the survey and the following excavation were paid by the State as it involved a private person planning to build a single house for his family. The county council is in charge of the surveys and smaller excavations whereas the larger and more complex excavations are being carried out by the regional archaeological museums.

The site at Labo, in Son, Akershus County, Norway

The site at Labo was discovered during a survey carried out by archaeologists from our field unit in 2005, excavated a year later by Museum of Cultural History in Oslo. The site was found at the farm Labo, just outside the small town Son. It consisted of a great number of artefacts dating back to 12th century, various traces

from buildings and even a few surviving wooden house-remains. In many ways this was a typical material culture found in cultural layers in medieval towns like Oslo and Bergen, but rarely found at a place considered 'countryside'.

During the winter of 2007, metal detectors and hobby archaeologists raided the leftovers from the excavation. They made several interesting finds, weights and coins – artefacts that pointed to a late medieval trading activity at the site. To save what was left, Akershus County *rescued* some 130 cubic metres of soil from the site just before the planned construction of a new building began. But for what kind of use? An unexploited resource?! What about involving schoolchildren in a project and let them help do the rest of the *job*?

The tiny seaside town of Son where the site of Labo is located, is situated 50 km south of Oslo, at the east side of the Oslo fjord. A trading port that came in to being in late medieval time, that is about 15th century in a Scandinavian context.

Son is one of several small trading-ports along the Norwegian coast. The ports exported timber, fish, soapstone, iron-bars, meat, and antlers. For Son, it was the timber export that made its base – Norway was at the time a poor nation, with a tiny elite. Landownership was concentrated in a few hands. As the economic situation was poor, there were also few buyers for imported goods. The boats that shipped the timber, returned with more ballast soil than goods for sale. Several ballast sites are found around Son, underwater and in the fields.

In some rare events luxury items like decorated pottery and glasswares were brought back home. The Labo-project has discovered remnants of luxury artefacts more commonly found in our medieval towns.

This project's little marketplace, Son is by some believed to be mentioned by *Arab Al Idrisi*, (<http://www.henry-davis.com/MAPS/EMwebpages/219mono.html>) in a map drawn at the Court of King Roger the second of Sicily. This is a debated document, but an interpretation much favored by the local community.

Other written sources are more trustworthy; in the year 1316, there is a notice about storehouses at the farm Labo, written down on parchment, and now part of the collection called *Diplomatarium Norwegicum*, a series of books containing the texts of documents and letters from Norway older than 1590, verbatim and in the original language, containing the texts of approximately 20,000 documents. Searches can be made via this address: http://www.dokpro.uio.no/dipl_norv/diplom_field_eng.html

Iceland has a similar collection, where Son is mentioned as *Sona-kaupangen* – the marketplace at Son, later in 1357 there is a new reference to the storehouses at Labo, and in 1390, the farm Labo was referred to in the book called *Bishop Eysteins Red book* - This is a register of what the church and church-institution owned by the Oslo-diocese at the time (1388-1401) information was first collected by the Bishop Eystein, and over the years updated information was added. In 1548 King Frederic II' mentions the market in Son, as it should no longer be held as it is harmful to the crown's interests (http://www.dokpro.uio.no/perl/middelalder/diplom_vise_tekst.prl?b=3465&s=n&str=).

In 1604, Son was granted trade privileges under the city of Oslo.

The cultural rucksack – filled with cultural heritage curiosity

Having *rescued* the 130 cubic metres of cultural layers from Labo and agreed with the local museum director, it took 13 truck loads to bring it all to Follo Museum. As an important contributor to teaching children about local history this eco museum already had several programs running to meet the schools' demands. Since the soil brought from Labo was so very rich in artefacts, the hope was that it could compensate for not being *in situ* – when we were to use this for educational purpose.

Over some months a new program was developed that could be integrated in *the cultural rucksack*. This a national program for art and culture provided by professionals in Norwegian schools, and in this case archaeologists from the county's field unit. The program helps school pupils to become acquainted with all kinds

of professional art and cultural expressions. The objectives of the program are to enable children and young people in primary and secondary school to enjoy artistic and cultural productions provided by professionals. To facilitate the pupils' access to a wide range of cultural expressions, so that they can become acquainted with and develop an understanding of culture in all its forms. To assist schools in integrating different forms of cultural expression with their own efforts to attain learning goals.

Cultural Rucksack has been part of the government's cultural policy for primary and lower secondary schools since 2001, and has recently been extended to upper secondary school. This means that all pupils from the ages of 6 to 19 will be able to benefit from the program. The Cultural Rucksack will offer cultural opportunities representing a wide variety of cultural expressions, such as the performing arts, visual arts, film, music, literature and *cultural heritage*. The Cultural Rucksack is a joint venture between the educational and cultural sectors at the national and local level. The county cultural and education departments are responsible for coordinating the program in their own regions, and individual program are also designed by the municipalities. This assignment of responsibility to local authorities promotes enthusiasm and a sense of ownership among all parties and provides room for local variation. The Cultural Rucksack is mainly funded by the surplus from the National lottery (Norsk Tipping) but the regional authorities and many local authorities contribute substantial sums from their own budgets.

Our project let the schoolchildren participate in excavating real cultural layers, with real finds. So far, more than 3000 children have taken part. Everyone finds something, artifacts like pottery, silver coins, shoes, flint, weights, drinking glass, window glass, parts from buildings, everything that belongs to a marketplace with medieval roots.

School excavation gets assistance from the County's archaeologists. As part of the program they are also introduced to the subject of archaeology, to different methods in use, the history of the region where they live, learn more about the origin of the finds, in what cultural context they came to this place, about how particular artefacts give significant new knowledge that helps

understand the history of Labo and the contemporary society. And not least, the children are invited to tell their own story about the objects they have found, placing it in their own context. They are in this way included in the shaping of the understanding of our past, based on their own preconditions.

What the children have learned, they take home as knowledge and enthusiasm. Together with wide press coverage and other media attention this fuels and contributes to engage the population in the region, make them take initiatives to cooperation over projects within the broad field of cultural history. Up until now that has resulted in exhibitions, a number of lectures for the interested public and politicians, and even a theater production.



Figure 1: Children sifting soil at Follo Museum.

An important artifact becomes a lucky charm and exhibitions on demand

In the spring 2011 an exhibition opened in Son, displaying the children's finds – placed in a context of cultural history. The exhibit tells the story about the Labo-project, stories of the artefacts

excavated by the children, and of the trading place where King Haakon V's brass horse was discovered. This was one of the metal detector finds that fortunately was handed over to the cultural heritage authorities, and has become an important clue to the understanding of Labo/Son. The little brass horse, only 4 cm tall and just less than 100 grams is a weight dated to King Haakon V's reign 1299-1319.



Figure 2: Brass horse found during the works.

There are less than a hundred of them known in Scandinavia, one in UK and one in Greenland. They all look different. The weight is either about 50,100 or 200 grams. Our brass horse weight has been copied by a silversmith working in the region. In a short while it has become very popular as a gift – and it comes with a story – the story of Labo.

It plays an important role in a children's theatre. Copies are now owned by ministers, politicians and the Mayor of Berlin. The owner of such an object is in possession of a luck-bringing charm!!

A new exhibition in 2012 – *Son a small town in Europe* - exhibited more of all the children's excavated materials from Labo relating them to development of Son. Showing the pottery, coins, glass and other artifacts connections to the world outside our local waters. Placing Son on the European map, with a large network based on the great variety of the archaeological artifacts excavated.

Media interest

Interest from the media has been big, both in regard to the way the children are involved and about the new knowledge that has come out of it. Wide coverage in national media, numerous articles in local and regional papers, even one episode about national history, made by national broadcasting at the Follo Museum with the schoolchildren playing important roles.

The Labo-project has shown that it is possible to be part of a very interesting knowledge-production process – with simple means! We had, as in very many post-excavation situations a lot of *leftovers* which is in most cases a very under-utilised resource.

At the same time it was the golden combination of this rich material with eager children, (and teachers) who are always keen on 'hands-on' experience in their studies (our many, many schoolchildren felt so sad when the day was over – and the bus came to pick them up).

As the news of all the finds have spread in the local community and the region – this has given rise to a great interest in many other questions concerning Son and the wider region as well. The re-claimed past stories about Son and the trading port are now also helping in other projects where surveys are ongoing in Son and its surroundings. Recently there has been an excavation in the harbour-area, that has discovered important part of the seafront. There is an ongoing excavation of the town square in Son that has brought an unforeseen amount of new knowledge about its layout in the 16-18th centuries. This new data will also result in a rehabilitation of the square that will make it appear more like what it was during the seventeenth-eighteenth century, than the very modern expression that was first planned by the council.

The attention about the Labo-projects have opened doors for further surveys in cases where new area consumption is being planned – surveys that often were criticized and administratively and politically obstructed earlier.

Even if it is early to say, the positive attitude to Son's historic roots, proved by our Labo excavations has contributed to positive development of property value, local identity, local and regional ownership as well as political engagement to how future development must safeguard important traces of cultural heritage.

Slow archaeology – when time matters

There are many important lessons to be learned from community archaeology – our experience is that it is to a great extent a two way process – and that it is of vital importance that this aspect is kept in mind at all times. If one does not give room for the participating public's curiosity, (children and adults alike), their contribution and critic, the results will be more limited and the joint ownership will not be experienced to the same extent.

Archaeologists as a lot of other professionals tend to be just that, often too professional to be considered relevant when we meet the public. In our Labo-project the aim is not to recruit as many future archaeologists as possible, but rather we hope for a variety of 'effects' this can have in the children: fuel their curiosity about past, present and future, making them questioning how knowledge production happens, extending the understanding of the history of the place where they live, adding value to local identity. As well as bringing it all home, to their parents, siblings, grandparents and friends. A result we already have seen, as many of the children bring their family back to Follo Museum's activity days – so they too can get the hands-on experience with the Labo site material.

The ultimate goal of the Labo schoolchildren project has not even been to carry out an effective excavation, fast and within budget and publishing the results in advanced academic journals but rather – a sort of *slow archaeology*, that takes the time it needs

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to become an integrated part of the regions youngsters education, a contributor to a small towns identity development and a lot of things that only the future will show.

See also:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Arkeologi-i-Akershus/293438470701801>

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If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the editor at: jasarqueologia@gmail.com

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Cover Image: *'Future Animals' drawn by participants* (Law et al.)

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ISSN: 2171-6315

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