



**MINUTES FROM THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PROJECT BOARD FOR THE
GREATER YORK COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT
Friday 21st November 2008, 12pm
YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST'S OFFICES, 47 ALDWARK, YORK**

PRESENT Catrina Appleby (CA), Community Representative & CBA
Richard Hall (RH), York Archaeological Trust (YAT)
Janet Hopton (JH), Community Representative
Jon Kenny (JK), Community Archaeologist
John Oxley (JO), City of York Archaeologist
Steve Roskams (SR), York Archaeological Forum (YAF)

1. Receipt of Apologies for Absence

All members of the Project Board were present.

2. Minutes of the last Project Board meeting

The minutes were agreed.

3. Community Archaeologist's Report

a) Contact with Community Groups

JK reported that he continues in touch with 30 groups in and around York. Of those 15 have carried out archaeological fieldwork in the last year or are planning to do so this winter. JO informed the meeting about the latest work carried out for the Hob Moor group by On Site Archaeology, undertaking a 1x1 m test pit to evaluate material in the possible vicinity of a medieval mill on the 'triangle'.

SR suggested that it would be valuable for reporting purposes and future funding bids etc to have a break down of the groups, what they do, outputs and what their membership is etc.

Action: JK to put together a table for the next meeting.

The board were pleased at the positive contributions from the community groups at the YAT Archaeology and History Fair, noting the networking opportunities that stemmed from the day. More can be achieved next year in attracting more visitors and trying to bring in more local students. The Fair can be advertised in the weekly archaeology dept newsletter through Andrea (ad537@york.ac.uk).

SR also reminded the board that there are likely to be a number of students looking for dissertation material or other experience who might be used to help groups or to act as

helpers on study days. JK has already agreed to take 6 placements from the MA in Archaeological Heritage Management (2 per term). This will help with specific project work and certain administrative tasks. It may also be possible to integrate the research interests of local groups with the universities fieldwalking training (91 students).

Action: SR to contact JK to after ascertaining whether this is practical, if so JK to liaise with Cath Neal.

JO offered to run a study day, in addition to the usual programme, to take a small group of people (4-6) from the more active groups to show them how to use and input material into the new HER register.

Action: JO to contact JK with possible dates.

CA reported on the appointment of Suzy Thomas at the CBA in a national support role for Community Archaeology. The board welcomed this post and JK will make contact in the near future.

Action: JK to contact Suzy.

b) Advisory Group / Timeline York Plus

CA reported on the recent meeting of the reformed advisory group.

The meeting identified areas where the project is not getting the exposure it should. JK accepted that the communications side of his work could be expanded. In particular JK will:

- Use the YAT 'publicity machine' to get material into relevant places (libraries, supermarkets etc) and the local press.
- The Newsletter must begin again and will need to be quarterly.
- There is a lot of material so it will be published as an A3 fold in full colour.
- JK will get articles from people within the community groups.
- A press release will go with the new newsletter.
- The newsletter will also include feedback from study days.

The idea of a touring exhibition was discussed, the Advisory Group felt that this would aid communications and SR suggested that it would also allow the project to highlight local research agenda, into which local work can feed.

Agreed: A touring exhibition would be an excellent idea if it was created from below by the TYP rather than imposed by the Community Archaeologist.

With regard to the educational role of the Community Archaeologist, the Advisory Group felt that as it is impossible to cater for the potential demand from schools in the York area the Community Archaeologist should concentrate on teaching teachers. JK noted that this had been the object of his contact with Yearsley Grove Primary School where staff was looking to build confidence in teaching the Romans after it had fallen from their curriculum. The work with Hob Moor Community Primary School also includes an element of this as it demonstrates the variety of subjects that archaeology can teach to the staff. These aspects need to come across in the project publicity.

c) Study Days

JK reported that to date there have been 39 study days and 801 attendances (an average of just 21 per session). There have been over 228 separate attendees and 36 individuals have attended 5 or more study days.

The main focus of the Project Board discussion was on the New Year's programme. It was **agreed** that the final year's programme would be themed and would aim to build on the introductory days held over the first four years. The three themes would be research, processing and archives. This will aim to:

- Encourage people to see their work in broader research themes.
- To understand and feel confident in going beyond basic data gathering by analysing and writing up data collected through survey, excavation, work at the HER, archive material, oral history, image collections.
- To understand and take forward issues and solutions regarding both physical and digital archives at local group level.

The following subjects were agreed for each theme:

Research: Local Research Agenda, Industrial Archaeology, Castles, Medieval Houses, Textiles, Urban Landscapes, Rivers, Roads and Transport.

Processing: Analysing and writing up fieldwork data, Researching finds, Finds and the FLO at the PAS, drawing up plans (hachures etc).

Archives: Archiving documents, photographs and finds, Archiving digital material, publishing our work.

Action: JK to circulate a proposed programme for discussion in the next couple of weeks.

d) Reaching a Variety of Audiences

JK presented a table outlining numbers that the initial project aimed to benefit and an estimate of current performance. It was felt by the board that JK had underestimated the % of older people benefiting from the project and the average group sizes.

Action: JK to continue refining the table and continuing to include it in the Community Archaeologist's report.

The impact on Minority Ethnic Communities still reports nothing. This needs to be addressed; JK has ascertained that HLF does not have an official definition of a minority ethnic group as this varies from place to place.

SR suggested that a touring exhibition as previously suggested might be themed to emphasise the influence of ethnic diversity in York in the past and present. The creation of the exhibition would however, be time consuming. JH and SR suggested that the International Students Association at the University of York would be a convenient group to approach. They could be offered talks / workshops on the past in York, emphasising cultural diversity (e.g. the recent Roman Diaspora exhibition at the YM). SR also

suggested contacting the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit at the University of York, the contact there is Alp Özerdem (Tel 432643, email ao102@york.ac.uk). JH also suggested having a session at the University and inviting likely interested groups in community archaeology.

Action: JK to pursue these links at the University, including the possibility of running a study day there.

e) Sustainability

The project board and the advisory panel expressed concern that now is the time to begin establishing the detail regarding the continuation of the project. The HLF support for the project ends at the end of February 2010. It is likely that funds can be found to see the project through to the end of the financial year in 2010 but a review and plan are necessary to obtain funds from April 2010 onwards. To this end the following are required:

- An idea of what the project board wants from a community archaeologist.
- What would TYP want from a community archaeologist?
- The above should allow us to define:
 - What will a continuing Community Archaeology Project do?
 - What will it cost?
- Community Archaeology in York should benefit from the adoption of the City Heritage Strategy due for adoption in Sept 2009. This should be a strategic 'way point' in establishing the sustainability of the project into 2010/2011.
- The project board should meet separately to discuss sustainability; this should include a co-opted person from the local authority, probably Chris Hogg.
- JK and JO giving presentations to selected Ward Committees should really be seen as publicity.
- JK suggested that a further HLF bid might pay for some of the community archaeologist's time. This might take forward the research driven side of community archaeology, bringing together academic interest in York and its hinterland and the communities best placed to research it.
- Given that groups in North Yorkshire also benefit from the project comment and support (in the first instance) should be garnered from Bob Sydes at NYCC. There are also some groups in East Yorkshire so they should also be contacted.

Actions:

- All to reconvene on Friday 30th Jan to discuss sustainability.
- JO to provide a timeline to work to from the City Council perspective.
- JH to talk to Chris Hogg.
- JK to gauge HLF thoughts on research driven community project.
- CA to get opinion from Timeline and Mike Heyworth.
- JK to approach Bob Sydes at North Yorks and East Yorkshire county archaeologist.

4. Any other business

Nothing was raised.

5. Date for the next meeting of the Project Board

The next meeting of the Project Board will be on Friday 30th January 2009 at 12pm at York Archaeological Trust, 47 Aldwark. To discuss sustainability.
RH thanked everyone for coming. The meeting closed at 13.30.