



Community Archaeology Workshop: 11

Methods of dissemination: Archives, publications and websites

Saturday 25th February 2006, The King's Manor, York

Praise for workshop 11:

"The workshop had an engaging and well-informed presenter" Participant

"Most enjoyable, informative and thought provoking" Participant

"Excellent presentation with interesting handouts and good discussion" Participant

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Workshop 11 provided an insight into digital archiving, publication and website use. The workshop leader, Dr Jon Kenny, pulled on his background in digital archiving and community archaeology to give well-informed and very useful presentations.

The first session of the day looked at the physical archive – artefacts, paper records and drawings. Jon described how these should be kept safe and secure and properly catalogued. Artefacts in particular need to be stored and packaged correctly, and preferably, made accessible to the local community. Jon also raised the issue of where artefacts should be kept – in a museum, a local community, or (more commonly) in someone's garage?



The second session of the day covered publication. There are a lot of ways in which community groups can publish their work. These range from leaflets, local history booklets, annual reports and formal publications, to articles in regional journals, thematic fascicules and web publications. We looked at some good and bad examples of publications, raising the issues of accommodating a variety of audiences, dealing with detail and how to set out a report. The key message of the day was to think long-term – how will others know what you

have done in your project if you do not keep your records updated, keep your artefacts safe and your results accessible.

The final session of the day focussed on the digital archive. The main problem about digital archiving is that the archaeological record could be decaying faster in its digital form than it did in the ground. Jon outlined five key steps for the preservation of digital data:

- Back-up data (in the life time of the project)
- Security of data (continuous)
- Documentation of project (continuous)
- Migration of files (beyond the project)
- Refreshment (beyond the project)

After lunch the group had a look at some useful websites and web publications. These are listed below.

Thanks very much to Jon for preparing such interesting presentations and for covering this very important topic.

Useful websites

Archaeology Data Service

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/>

English Heritage

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/>

Internet Archaeology

<http://intarch.ac.uk/>

Keys to the Past

<http://www.keystothepast.info>

Out of Oblivion (Yorkshire Dales HER)

<http://www.outofoblivion.org.uk/>

Portable Antiquities Scheme

<http://www.finds.org.uk/>

Scottish Data

<http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/search.html>

Somerset HER

<http://webapp1.somerset.gov.uk/her/query.asp>

Wessex Archaeology

<http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/>

Worcestershire HER

<http://worcestershire.whub.org.uk/home/wcc-arch-her.htm>

Contact

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