Bloomberg and Mithras: becoming stewards of London's heritage

In 1954, a Roman temple to Mithras discovered in the heart of the financial centre of London became one of the most famous archaeological sites in the UK. The legacy of that discovery and the enormous public interest that was generated at the time meant that when the site came up for development again more than 60 years later, Bloomberg, intent on making the site their new European HQ, needed to embrace the opportunity of writing the next chapter in the story of the site.

The Foster and Partners-designed building, which opened in 2017, includes a new cultural attraction, the London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE.

This article explores how the project stands out as an example of how to generate value and legacy from engagements with archaeology in the development process. It is transcribed from an interview with **Jemma Read** JR, , Bloomberg's Global Head of Corporate Philanthropy, conducted by CIfA's Policy Advisor, **Rob Lennox** RL.

RL *Could you tell me about your role at Bloomberg and your involvement with the development of the European HQ, specifically with the archaeology project and the Mithraeum?*

JR I oversee the company's philanthropy programme, which includes all our work with communities, partnerships and engagement – everything from education programmes and philanthropy initiatives to major sponsorships around the world.

I was involved with the Mithraeum project since the very early stages and have collaborated closely with the team from Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). I'm fortunate to be responsible for overseeing an amazing team dedicated to ensuring that the unique history of this site is as accessible as possible to the public. It's one of the most surprising and rewarding elements of the job and we don't have another project quite like it anywhere in the world.

Bloomberg construction site during demolition (Photo: MOLA)

RL *How would you summarise the vision for Bloomberg's HQ in London?*

JR The key to all of this is the vision of Mike Bloomberg, founder of the company and former Mayor of New York, who passionately believes in respecting the communities in which we live and work around the world.

London, particularly, has always held a special place for Mike, and respect for the history of the neighbouring buildings, the community and for local culture lay at the heart of the office design. We also wanted to develop something exceptional for our employees, something which encouraged greater collaboration and set new standards for how a building works in terms of sustainability. This balance between respect for the surroundings and the investment in new technologies reflects the Bloomberg culture.

We did look at other sites, but at the end of the day it was this site which was most inspiring, both because of its location at the heart of the financial community but also because it afforded the opportunity to restore and care for the Temple of Mithras. This added a completely different dimension to how we approached the design and construction.

RL *At what point did archaeology become a relevant factor in the design process?*

JR Archaeology was there from the beginning. Bloomberg approached the archaeological importance of the site with a deep sense of responsibility and with a passion for bringing it to life and making it accessible to the public. We set out to create a legacy rather than simply to tick the boxes for the planning permission.

We worked with a team of some of the UK's top archaeologists and collaborated closely both with the City of London and the team from MOLA throughout the

process while engaging world experts and academics to ensure that the Mithraeum was designed with the utmost integrity.

As an archaeological project, it was an exceptional opportunity to learn from the site. As part of the construction project we created a new tube entrance for Bank and this led to us excavating down to a 12-metre depth. As a result, we uncovered some incredibly well-preserved archaeological remains and more than 14,000 Roman artefacts, all of which have been carefully conserved and archived.

We relocated the Temple of Mithras to as close to its original position as possible, and engaged a team of artists, technologists, historical and archaeological experts to create a museum that attempted to bring the experience of the Temple of Mithras to life.

The London Mithraeum is a three-storey cultural hub that is accessible to the public for free. On the ground floor, there is a display case highlighting around 600 of the most important artefacts including a collection of wax writing tablets, amulets, jewellery and leather shoes. There is also a contemporary art space where commissioned artists respond to the unique history of the site. As part of the display, we developed an accompanying interactive digital platform as a means for visitors to explore the artefacts in more detail.

On the mezzanine level we worked with digital designers and interpretation experts to create a series of interactive screens dedicated to key elements of the Mithraic cult as well as an audio guide to the project, including the voices of key expert contributors and actress Joanna Lumley. Then, of course, there is the actual Mithraeum which has been restored using as much of the original material as possible and very sensitive reconstruction methods where new material had to be incorporated.

As part of our commitment to making the Mithraeum and the collection as accessible as possible we have produced three publications and we run a dynamic events and education programme developed in partnership with the Museum of London.

London Mithraeum uses light sculpture, haze and sound to bring the temple's remains to life. (Photo: James Newton)

The near complete reconstruction of the Temple of Mithras (Photo: PAYE Conservation)

RL *It sounds as though where some developers might see archaeology as a constraint or obligation, for Bloomberg it was a key to unlock your contributions to community and satisfy your desire to develop a close connection to your place in the city.*

JR Definitely. At Bloomberg, we are committed to culture, community and creativity. This project brought all these priorities together, giving us an opportunity to demonstrate the breadth of our commitment in an exciting and innovative way. While running a museum was not something that we would ever imagined we would be doing, the opportunity has been amazing and we have fully embraced it.

Interactive kiosks invite visitors to learn more about the rituals and beliefs behind the cult of Mithras. (Photo: James Newton)

Six hundred of the 14,000 Roman artefacts uncovered on the Bloomberg site are displayed on the ground level of London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE. (Photo: James Newton)

To book your visit, go to Londonmithraeum.com.

RL *How is it working for the company?*

JR London Mithraeum Bloomberg Space has been extraordinarily well received. We have had over 160,000 visitors since we opened at the end of 2017 and we have won numerous awards. We were one of *TIME* magazine's top 100 places to visit in 2018 and our ongoing program of events and activities allows us to attract both locals and visitors who otherwise may not have heard of Bloomberg.

RL *What do the staff who work here think about the site?*

JR Everyone is fascinated by the history and stories of the Mithraeum. I hope that our employees feel proud to be part of this incredible piece of history. Our employees join tours, bring their friends and families and have access to a range of education and volunteering opportunities. I think it helps to consolidate our message about Bloomberg supporting culture and I know Mike is very proud of what has been achieved as he regularly talks about it.

RL *What about the project's legacy?*

JR We've invested in a permanent site which will have a long legacy and continue to attract visitors. We plan to maintain ongoing investment in digital engagement, education and the commission of contemporary artists to ensure we continue to animate the space and encourage people to return. We will continue our relationship with MOLA supporting the research into the Bloomberg collection, including more detailed research into the writing tablets found on the site.

One of my favourite parts of the project was the ability to capture the oral histories of around 70 participants who visited the site in the 1950s when the Temple was first discovered. We worked with a film maker to capture original memories of the archaeology but also of that time in London's past and what the Mithraeum has meant to people both then and now. And we've published a digital archive on our website adding moving personal stories to the rich legacy of the history of the site.

I don't think that any of us anticipated the level of enthusiasm that the Mithraeum has generated, and it doesn't seem to be slowing down. Visitors of all ages and backgrounds, all coming for different reasons, but all inspired by this story of London. We're definitely very passionate about that legacy.

RL *Bloomberg is closely associated with philanthropy in the environment, with arts, and health. Do you think this project has changed the way that Bloomberg thinks about archaeology in this same way?*

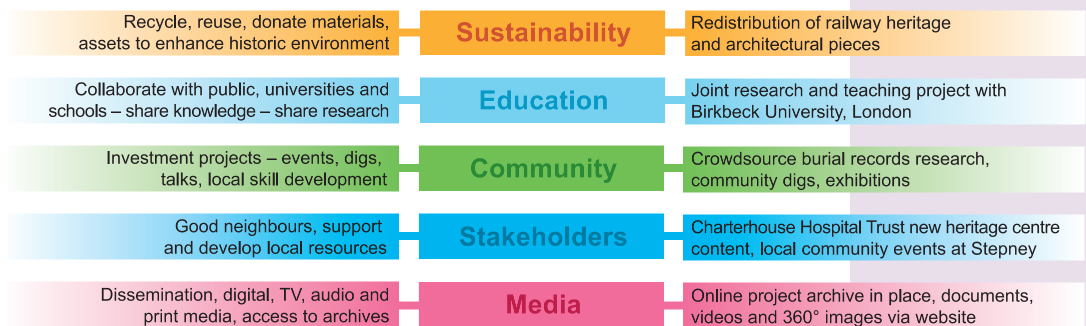
JR An interesting question. Well, alongside our support for many contemporary organisations we also fund cultural and heritage institutions, we believe strongly in the importance of culture for a city's identity, its role in strengthening communities, and its ability to generate economic impact. So, in terms of that core belief in the power culture, I'm not sure it has changed that, but I do think it has consolidated our respect for the connection of the past to the future and to the great importance of protecting and preserving that past.

In running this project ourselves, rather than simply supporting other institutions to do it, we have been given a new understanding of how complex, powerful, and rewarding archaeology can be, which I hope will feed into the way we continue to approach our support for culture moving forward.

Why focus on securing a positive archaeology programme as part of your development?

Case study: London's Crossrail project – securing benefits through the historic environment and archaeology programme

JAY CARVER MCIfA, MANAGING DIRECTOR 4AD CONSULTANTS LTD



Crossrail Historic Environment KPI themes and examples of project elements delivered

In the first decade of the 21st century, industry standards for civil engineering, developed by CEEQUAL[1] and CIRIA[2], have been responsible for an evolution in thinking about sustainability, risk management and best practice. These developments have enabled CIfA-accredited archaeologists to identify opportunities for developers and the historic environment and achieve benefits through processes of positive cross-sector collaboration.

CEEQUAL in particular, from its revision in 2008 (Version 4) moved the historic environment topic up the agenda, from a position of reluctant compliance – 'have you completed a watching brief?' – to a comprehensive performance index for measuring the value that well-planned archaeology and conservation works in the design and delivery of civil engineering projects could deliver for owners, stakeholders and communities affected by the works. Significantly, under the CEEQUAL scheme, performance is linked to project awards. In this way, public recognition that efforts made to maximise benefits for the historic environment in scheme design, delivery and project legacy plans can begin to be directly related to the fortunes of the clients and contractors involved in developing great outcomes.

Designed with continuous improvement at its core, CEEQUAL is delivering real benefits, with what was once 'best practice' but which is becoming more often the norm, with each iteration of the guidance adapted to enable new innovations. The London Crossrail archaeology project design is a recent example of a major public project that is delivering high quality benefits as a result of this practice.

CROSSRAIL'S ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAMME

The Crossrail commitment to achieving value and benefit for the historic environment is set out in a series of measured key performance indicators (KPIs) in sustainability to track how the archaeology programme has performed, and what value it has brought to the project.

Targets for the Crossrail archaeology programme were set in five themes. The illustration above shows the baseline themes and some examples (amongst others) of activities delivered to address the KPIs.

Across these themes, opportunities to make the best use of the archaeological works and discoveries were identified and activities capable of delivering benefits, particularly in the field of community, stakeholders and education (public values), were designed.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Crossrail archaeology team delivered more than 120 public lectures over the course of the project, providing regular updates to communicate the latest finds, news and upcoming works in the programme to audiences ranging from the very local to regional and national. Community halls, local council committee meetings, schools and special interest groups were the most common venues, and this face-to-face sharing, combined with social media content, developed an extraordinary network of community groups

Volunteers joining the Crossrail crowd research project (Photo: Jay Carver)

Open day at Westbourne Park (Photo: Jay Carver)

Lunchtime crowds attend the excavations at the Bedlam (Bethlem) burial ground (Photo: Jay Carver)

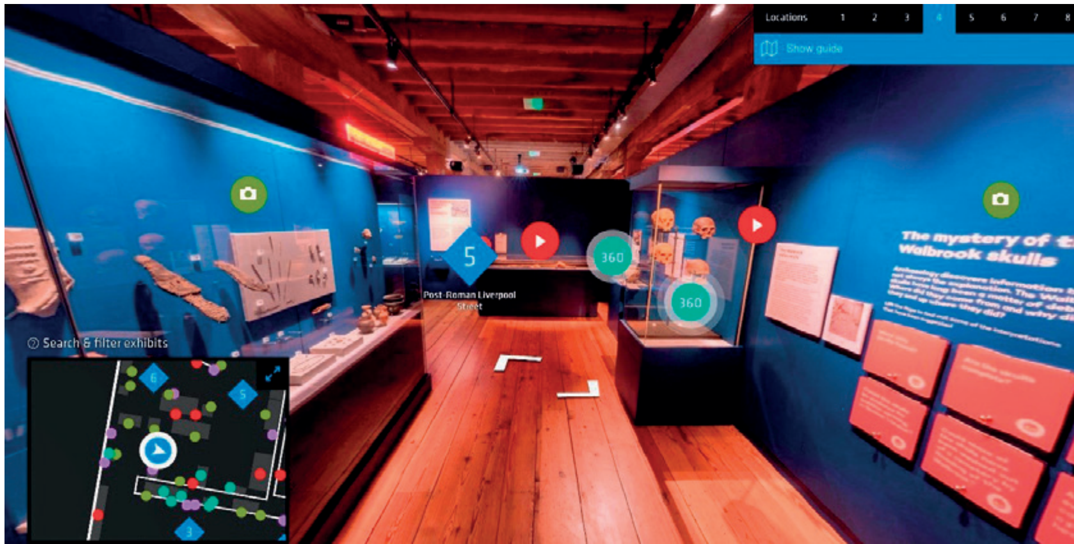
which became actively involved in the project.

One prime example was the creation of the Bethlem New Cemetery burial records project, which was formed to assist the archaeology programme in addressing a pressing research need to transcribe burial register records from across various London parishes that used the site as overflow ground from AD 1569 to 1814. Twenty volunteers (see photo top left) worked with Crossrail over six months to produce the online database (http://www.crossrail.co.uk/sustainability/archaeology/bedlam-burial-ground-register), which would help the archaeology team use the information in the analysis and publication of the graveyard – a key site at the Crossrail Liverpool Street Station. The volunteers were supported by Crossrail archaeology staff and gained valuable experience and skills, as well as an enhanced interest in the history of the site and the local communities.

Educational opportunities were also exploited in a series of free public exhibitions and pop-up site events. Although a challenge for site teams, open days and community participation on site were achieved on the Crossrail project with commitment from senior management. Excavations at Westbourne Park that revealed the physical remains of the original Brunel Great Western Railway-era engine sheds and turntables were attended by hundreds of visitors (see photo middle left) and a daily visitors' platform at the Liverpool Street site welcomed drop-in visitors to step behind the hoardings and engage directly with the excavation team over a period of six weeks (see photo bottom left).

PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL INTERPRETATION

Three major exhibitions of finds were put on: 2012 (Bison to Bedlam), 2014 (Portals to the Past), and 2017 (Tunnel – the Archaeology of Crossrail). Held over periods of weeks and several months, the archaeology content was combined with project engineering information to maximise overall project exposure and form a vehicle for the engagement of those with an interest in history, as well as engaging schools and colleges and those with an interest in civil engineering careers. The Tunnel exhibition was a key collaboration between Crossrail and the Museum of London in Docklands, which achieved its highest-ever visitor numbers for the venue. The value brought to the project from these efforts is demonstrated by the Tunnel exhibition winning the prestigious Royal Historical Society prize for museums in the Public History category in 2018. A commitment was made by Crossrail to those who were not physically able to attend the exhibition in London in 2017 – an immersive website (see image opposite page) with a 360-degree walk-through of the exhibition combined with digital scans of objects and all the panel information is also accessible (https://



Tunnel – The Archaeology of Crossrail: immersive exhibition entry page (Image: Crossrail Ltd)

archaeology.crossrail.co.uk).

Crossrail published a core series of ten books to address the academic value of the findings, alongside specialist articles and academic publications from the numerous institutions that we collaborated with, including the Natural History Museum and university departments across the UK, Europe and the United States.

The style of the core publications was aimed at a general readership to increase their value and reach a wider audience. The books have largely sold out in museum bookshops and online marketplaces. For the professional and academic community who wish to study the data in more detail, Crossrail launched an online resource, the Learning Legacy, where all data reports and specialist data is publicly available: https://learninglegacy.crossrail.co.uk/learning-legacy-themes/environment/archaeology/.

These outputs are fundamental to the value that archaeology brings to development, as they are how new archaeological knowledge gained from the project is disseminated. These outputs are the vehicles that realise the value of the archaeological data. The information from it is preserved and can be enhanced through further analysis and publication.

MEDIA INTEREST

The cultivation of media interest was hugely important for Crossrail, with archaeology delivering major returns in terms of free advertising, which can be measured in commercial terms as well as in audience reach. One Crossrail media event in 2013 generated 220 global media stories with an estimated combined audience of 108 million. Just the core UK TV news and radio coverage generated the equivalent of £650,000 in advertising value that day to Crossrail Ltd, while a few minutes of national coverage can translate into tens of thousands in advertising value. To a company, the impact on its brand from that exposure is worth a great deal, and we can also measure the subsequent impacts by the generation of increased website traffic, inquiries about other aspects of the project, and the positive impact on stakeholders.

CONCLUSION

The success of a project the size of Crossrail should not exclude smaller-scale schemes from seeking to replicate approaches. While sectors of the UK historic environment suffer funding and resources crises,[3] it is critical that resources provided by developers for fieldwork and publication also improve practice relating to the storage of and access to both the knowledge created and physical archives of objects and data, in order to provide further educational and community benefits.

[1] CEEQUAL is the evidence-based sustainability assessment, rating and awards scheme for civil engineering, infrastructure, landscaping and public realm projects – http://www.ceequal.com/

[2] CIRIA is the construction industry research and information association. The work addresses industry issues, challenges and opportunities to provide business and delivery improvement. Works collaboratively across the construction industry to identify good practice, develop new approaches and to identify and enable innovation - https://www.ciria.org/

[3] Society of Museum Archaeology 2017 *Museums Collecting Archaeology (England) REPORT YEAR 2: November 2017*, Historic England. In this report, Historic England recounts an ongoing crisis of space and resources.

Curating public benefit and the power of 'Once upon a time...'

BRUCE MANN MCIfA, ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE AND ALGAO UK VICE-CHAIR

Mesolithic Deeside Community Project, Aberdeenshire – connecting communities with researchers and commercial archaeologists, and developing local voluntary projects based on new knowledge gained (Copyright Cameron Archaeology Ltd)

The local authority archaeologist's curatorial role is one confronted by daily questions. Questions arising from understanding the needs of a developer, questions from those undertaking mitigation works, questions of how to connect one discovery with larger regional and national narratives. Even the most difficult of questions – what to save and what to let go.

As a profession we are determined to do the best possible job, our work underpinned by the standards set by the Institute. It's why we have strived to becoming chartered. I am frequently impressed by the dedication of the circa 6,800 archaeologists employed in the UK, their efforts in going 'above and beyond' are often not appreciated. As a sector we don't stop innovating and improving, continually pushing the boundaries of science-based techniques, new technologies, and the frameworks we work within. We do all of this because we are passionate about our work, our collective discoveries, and the unfolding of our shared history.

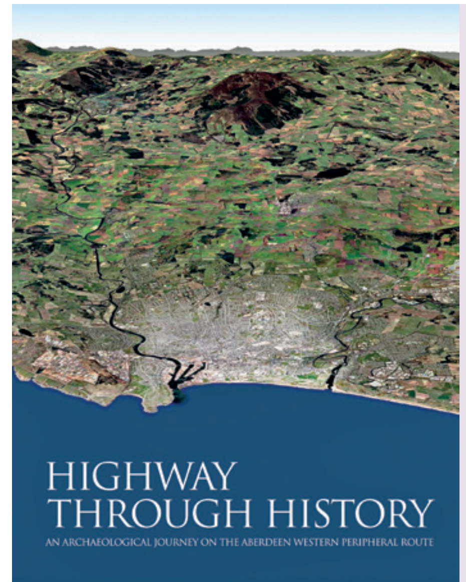
As a profession, we can be proud of our combined contributions to the advancement of our understanding of the past. Indeed, archaeology itself goes 'above and beyond' as it informs ever wider issues ranging from climate change to public health and wellbeing. Even the economy benefits, with commercial archaeology alone contributing £239 million last year. The scale of benefits is significant, if a little daunting.

However, we often fall short at the other end of the scale. National headlines can be generated through the discovery of an intact chariot grave, a hoard of coins, or evidence of the Romans on campaign. Local headlines may be generated by the discovery of a lost industrial building or a prehistoric roundhouse. Rarely is anything mentioned of the isolated pit found ahead of a small housing development, and that's where we're missing a trick.

As a profession we create narratives about the past, answering the journalistic benchmark of who, what, when, where and why. These narratives can be long and complex, covering entire landscapes, or they can be short and simple, focusing on a single moment in time. Take my example of a pit found ahead of a housing development. As archaeologists we will have seen countless pits during our careers. Does the digging of one more add anything to our academic understanding of them? Probably not. Would the residents of the new housing development go and look up the grey literature report on what was found? Probably not.

However, present the story to them of how that pit was dated to the Neolithic, that it was dug by the first farmers, and explain the context of what the land around them looked like and how society functioned back then, and you suddenly have a narrative that will interest and engage. The new house owners can travel back in time by simply connecting them to what was found underneath their feet. All it would take is a two-page glossy summary included in the developer's welcome pack, and additional public value is immediately added to the discovery. Connect the pit to a wider research framework, where commercial archaeology provides randomised sampling of the landscape, and entire communities can learn with us how our understanding of the past expands and changes with each new discovery.

This is the crux to the answer we're looking for when we ask, 'Why are we doing what we do?' We do it not to understand and explain the narrative of our history just for our own elitist satisfaction, but rather so that we can help everyone understand their past. Public engagement is critical to our profession, for without their support and interest there are no legacies from what we do. The primary reason that archaeology and heritage is in the planning system in first place, following its long journey



Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route – free booklet for the public explaining what was found, and how it was found, during the construction of the bypass (Copyright Headland Archaeology Ltd)

from the post-World War II rescue days, is because the public told our politicians that it was of value and must be recorded before it was lost. If we don't communicate the stories we unearth, we undermine the benefits we must deliver as part of our public responsibility, and we shouldn't limit ourselves to just sharing the big discoveries. The values of the narratives are relative; the story of a pit underneath a person's house will have more meaning to them than any story about a nationally important coin hoard found in a different part of the country.

I'll hold my hand up at this point and confess that I regularly fail to practise what I preach. While we have a completion rate of over 99 per cent for developer-led archaeology projects, few watching-briefs, evaluations or excavations will have had their results shared with the immediate local community other than via the Historic Environment Record. Even fewer members of the public will have heard why the excavations happened in the first place. I won't have told anyone in the community that the repurposed old buildings, drystone walls of former field boundaries or other surviving historic assets included in their new housing estate are a result of hard-fought negotiations at the pre-planning stage, or indeed the reasons why I fought for them in the first place. The contributions that individual local sites make to regional or national synthesis are obscured by appearing in specialised publications that emerge long after the memory of the original excavations has faded. The box of finds lies safely tucked away in a museum store, available for future study but never displayed in the location they were found.

For decades now the profession has of course undertaken hugely successful public engagement projects. The live television event of the raising of the *Mary Rose* still resonates with me from my childhood. It is time though for a step change in our approach. We should take traditional mechanisms of open days, public lectures, press releases and publications, and combine them with the opportunities offered by social media, live streaming, 3D printing, virtual reality and eco-museums. Even start at the basic level tomorrow by not only taking photographs of trench sections and features, but also action shots of your colleagues working. Connect the story of what is being found to the people making the finds – marketing and media will always thank you afterwards. We should consider as standard the production of primary dissemination of information in traditional reports alongside secondary dissemination of information to the public in innovative ways. Academia and commercial archaeology should engage more to construct the contextual narratives around discoveries.

Collectively we should aim to tell each and every archaeological story we unearth to the local community. By doing that we place our profession at the heart of place-making. We're not just a transient good news story about discovery, but rather a science that meaningfully contributes every day to people's lives.

Victoria Primary School, Newhaven – mural painted by the children to celebrate the 2015 discovery by AOC Archaeology Ltd of the 'Newhaven Pirate' (Copyright John Lawson, Edinburgh City Council)

Engagement with the public through planning-led archaeology: a local government advisor's perspective

NORMAN REDHEAD MCIfA, HERITAGE MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR (ARCHAEOLOGY), UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD

This article explores ways in which archaeologists can engage with the public and local societies in planning-led archaeology based on experiences from the ten planning authorities covered by the Greater Manchester Archaeology Advisory Service (GMAAS). Since 1990 archaeology has been firmly embedded within the English planning system, but it is only since 2010 that it has explicitly focused on the potential public benefits arising from the great volume of archaeological investigations that the system enables (PPS 5 2010, Policy HE12). GMAAS operates as an effective broker between the developer and the public, attempting to ensure effective relationships between stakeholders and deliver beneficial outcomes for places and communities.

Hoarding with one of the display panels for the New Bailey Prison excavation and (above) the Salford mayor opening the Salford Central railway station exhibition (Photos: Norman Redhead)

PLANNING

The National Planning Policy Framework for England requires archaeological recording of heritage assets affected by developments and that the results of the investigations are put into the public domain (NPPF 2018, paragraph 199). Good practice guidance supports this policy, encouraging public engagement in many different ways, and sets out how such activity can add value in terms of a 'deeper sense of place, ownership and community identity'.

GMAAS's role is to help secure the protection of heritage significance by ensuring that applicants understand the archaeological interest of heritage assets and the impact of development proposals upon it. We recommend staged conditions to secure programmes of archaeological recording and dissemination. The structure of these is constant but the detail is flexible depending on the circumstances of each development proposal. These conditions require applicants to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which will be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The WSI will set out a phased programme of works to enable proportionate understanding of the site and the mitigation or offsetting of impact, including the deposition of archives, and will also set out a plan for dissemination of results. This process encourages applicants and their consultant advisors to recognise opportunities to create public benefit resulting from engagement with archaeology.

SOME WAYS OF ENGAGING WITH THE PUBLIC

There are many ways of engaging with the public during and after archaeological investigations. It is one of the strengths of the planning system that it enables applicants to explore creative approaches that take account

Volunteers from Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society helped out at the Ashbury's site. (Image: courtesy of SLR Consulting which excavated the site and produced an awarding-winning popular booklet)

of individual circumstances and opportunities. The New Bailey development scheme in Salford is a good example of this.

Excavation ahead of development ground works on the site of the late 18th-century New Bailey reform prison site in Salford saw Salford Archaeology liaise with the developer to run a two-week volunteer excavation on part of the site. This approach was possible because of the good knowledge of the site that had been built up during earlier phases of the development, which allowed archaeologists to set up a project appropriate for volunteers to excavate. Guided tours were also provided, as well as an open day for the public. This was attended by the elected mayor of Salford and the council's chief planner, providing an excellent public relations exercise for the developer (Bowmer & Kirkland) and an opportunity for informal discussions on the wider development and public realm works.

The wider archaeological and historical context of New Bailey Prison was set out in an exhibition, launched by the mayor, on Salford's Early Past in the foyer of the adjacent Salford Central railway station. This has allowed the story of Salford's archaeology to be seen by thousands of passing commuters.

THE VALUE OF LOCAL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

The Greater Manchester Archaeology Federation is made up of 18 local archaeology societies supported by the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the University of Salford. These societies undertake their own research projects, often on land that would never be developed, thus providing a research balance to the skewed distribution of commercial archaeological work. In addition, some of the members have specialist knowledge and skills that can be of benefit to development led investigations. As part of Network Rail's redevelopment of the 19th-century Ashbury's Rail Carriage and Iron Works in East Manchester, the condition specified the requirement to engage with volunteers from the Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society. They took part in the excavation and their specialist knowledge on industrial processes was invaluable in enabling the professional archaeologists to understand the site. This culminated in the production of a popular booklet, which won the national industrial archaeology publication award (Hayes 2014).

DISSEMINATION

Informing the local and wider community of the results of archaeological investigations is very important and delivers considerable public benefit through the planning system where archaeological remains are lost to development works. Of course, the level of dissemination should be appropriate to the significance and scale of loss.

At the lower end, where archaeological results are of limited interest, it is sufficient to complete an OASIS form, enter the results in the Historic Environment Record (HER) and make the report on the results publicly accessible through the HER and Archaeological Data Service. The next level up might be to

Three recent examples of information panels in Manchester

THE ASTLEY

An Archaeological Excavation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd in April 2016 at Nos 74-88 Great Ancoats Street. The excavation trench was located in the southern part of the site on the corner of Dean Street and Houldsworth Street, where a series of late 18th- and early 19th-century brick cellars and a paved courtyard were revealed.

Until the 1770s Ancoats was a rural area to the east of Manchester, but during the last quarter of the 18th century it became the town's first industrial suburb with the construction of cotton factories, weavers and other workers cottages. The population of Manchester grew dramatically from 76,000 in 1801 to 316,000 in 1851 with more people being crammed into smaller and smaller houses. A significant proportion of these people were Irish who made up a tenth of the city's population by 1841, concentrated in the slum area of Ancoats and often living in conditions of abject poverty in windowless cellars. The buildings revealed on site were a mixture of residential and commercial, with small workers houses and a warehouse. The vast majority of the cellars had fireplaces which suggest that they were indeed occupied rather than just used for storage. Census returns from 1861 onwards would suggest at least by that date that none of the buildings were occupied by more than one family, however families of up to seven were sharing two small rooms and a cellar measuring as little as 3.75m by 3m (9ft 11in by 11ft 6in).

Site view looking south-west towards Houldsworth Street

Late 19th and early 20th-century glass bottles embossed with the names of Greater Manchester mineral water manufacturers and a Blackburn brewery

(left to right) J. Pratt/& Son, Leigh Street; J & B/Jewbury Brown, Ardwick Green North; T. W. Lawson Limited, Napoleon Works, Rochdale Road; Thomas Whewell, Victoria Brewery, Blackburn; John Dyson, Temperance Street and Clayton; M. Lapidus, Great Ducies Street and T. D. and P. Dowd, Beswick Street

1980s photograph of buildings on the corner of Dean Street and Houldsworth Street (© Manchester Early Dwellings Research Group)

Astley Arms/Paganini Tavern, 78 Great Ancoats Street

The Astley Arms stood to the north of the excavation area at 78 Great Ancoats Street. It is possible that the public house dates back to the late 18th century as a large building is shown on William Green's Map of 1794. From at least 1816 to 1828 the licence was held by Thomas Evans who commissioned his own pottery for the pub.

Transfer-printed mug with a European landscape design commissioned by Thomas Evans, landlord of the Astleys Arms public house found on site

From 1832 to 1849 the licence was held by Thomas Inglesent, a local character, who was known as 'blind' or 'fiddling Tom'; he renamed the pub the Paganini Tavern after his hero whom he imitated on the violin, and in addition made wonderful farmyard impressions to his customers who were described as 'not very select'.

By the mid 1850s the pub reverted to its original name, the Astley Arms, and it remained as a pub until 1928. By the time of the Goad fire insurance map of 1931 it was used as a button warehouse.

36-40 Dean Street

The earliest buildings found on the site were three one room workers houses that fronted onto Dean Street. These houses consisted of two storeys with brick floored cellars and had a slate roof. These cottages soon became 'blind backs' with the construction of buildings to their rear.

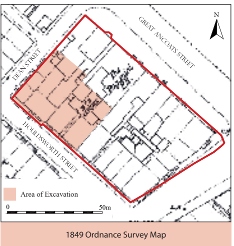
By the time of the 1861 Census the properties were occupied by two Irish families and a Londoner with an Irish wife who were employed as a painter's labourer, a paper hanger, nail maker, shoe nail maker and a cap milliner. For at least 30 years from 1871 to 1901 No. 36 was occupied by Manchester born Joseph Shipley, his wife Teresa and his expanding family of 6 children. Joseph conducted his French polishing business from the premises and the family grew in prosperity to take over neighbouring No. 38 by 1881.

Buildings on Houldsworth Street & No. 2 Court

To the rear of the workers cottages was built a commercial building which operated as a rag and paper warehouse in 1888 and behind this was a paved courtyard with outside privies.

The pair of buildings to the east appear to have been a mixture of commercial and residential properties from at least 1851. On Goad's map of 1888 they were part used by the paper warehouse with a smithy in the basement. A ginnel ran between the two buildings giving access to an area to the rear of the Astley Arms pub, where No. 2 Court is shown. Two small two storey one room court dwellings were built in this courtyard and were occupied in the last quarter of the 19th century.

At least one of these court dwellings was at one time associated with the Astley Arms to the north, as it is mentioned in a sale's particular of 1891 and a publican was living there in 1901 along with numerous other families including that of a cabinet maker, a seamstress and greengrocer's porter in 1881, a French polisher in 1891 and a sackmaker in 1901.



1849 Ordnance Survey Map

Aerial view of the site (© ADM)

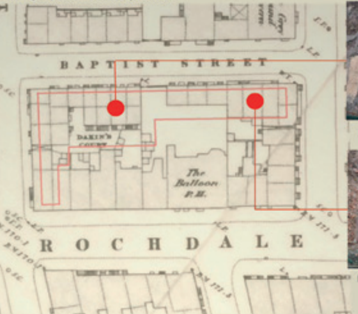
Plan showing house numbers

Fireplace in room fronting Houldsworth Street

Dakin's Court, Ancoats, Manchester

An archaeological excavation took place on this site in January 2018 in advance of development works that would otherwise have removed all record of the well-preserved remains of workers' houses along Sharp Street and Baptist Street. The back-to-back cellars that were revealed were built in the late-18th to early-19th centuries and are depicted in detail on the 1850's Ordnance Survey map. The 1851 Census Return indicates that around 31 people lived in the dwellings around Dakin's Court and were largely Irish immigrants.

'Rochdale Road Gas Works, Manchester'. View looking north towards Rochdale Road Gas Works in 1939 © Historic England. The image shows that the workers' houses around Dakin's Court had been demolished by 1939. The more substantial buildings at the north-east end of Baptist Street were still standing, as were those along Ludgate Hill and around to the Balloon Public House on Rochdale Road



Aerial photograph of Dakin's Court cellars during excavation

Re-purposed cellars on Baptist Street, used as a printing shop in the 20th century

Archaeological excavation plan showing key features

Early-19th century cellars

Late-18th to early-19th century back-to-back cellars around Dakin's Court

Re-purposed cellars still in use through to the mid-20th century

1950s works' building

N

Metres 0 5 7.5 10 15

Glass including window glass and bottles (beer, ginger beer, medicine and ink)

Animal bones including: pig, sheep, goat, cattle and rabbit

Pottery including cooking and storage vessels, kitchen and tablewares

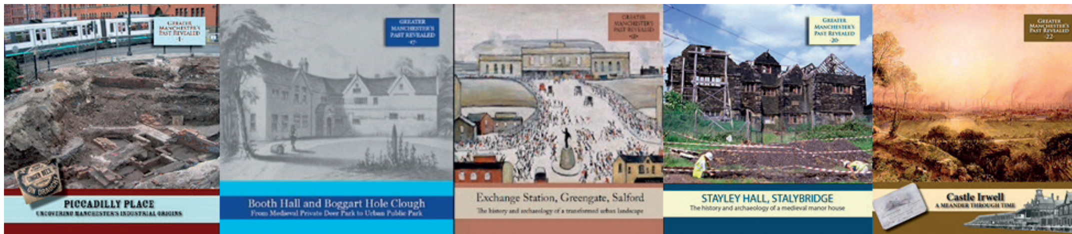
Clay tobacco pipes including plain and decorative stems and bowls

Wallpaper samples, likely from the Osbourne Mills Wallpaper Co. found in the re-purposed cellars

'Nu-Swift' fire extinguishers from the re-purposed cellars

require an information board commemorating the heritage of the site. An information board can provide a sense of history and place to incoming residents, as well as to the existing community. Sometimes these boards are placed in reception areas, and in several instances are located next to display cabinets of finds from the excavation but, ideally, they should be positioned where passers-by can read them.

Where the archaeological investigations have been extensive and the results tell an important story, then GMAAS advocates a popular publication. Dependent on the significance of the archaeology, this might be partnered with information boards and a more academic monograph. In 2010 GMAAS devised the Greater Manchester's Past Revealed series. This provides a format for publishing significant archaeology from developer-funded, research or community projects in an attractive, easy-to-read, well-illustrated style. Funded by the developer, a limited print run is freely distributed to members of the local community, new residents, the developer's



Some of the Greater Manchester Past Revealed publications produced by ROs (left to right): Oxford Archaeology North, Wardell Armstrong, Pre-Construct Archaeology, York Archaeological Trust, Salford Archaeology

contacts, planners and councillors, libraries and museums, schools and other interested people. After distribution, a pdf of the booklet is put on the Greater Manchester Archaeology Festival website (https://diggreatermanchester.wordpress.com/publications).

The first volume, Piccadilly Place: uncovering Manchester's industrial origins, produced by Oxford Archaeology North (Miller, Wild and Gregory 2010), describes the excavation of densely concentrated late 18th-century workers' dwellings, early textile mills (including one of the world's first rotary steam-powered cotton mills), and a Victorian lithographic print works. Importantly, as well describing the site's archaeology, the booklet, along with others in the series, provides a wider historical and archaeological context and an understanding of the historic industrial processes undertaken. Several archaeological contractors have now produced booklets in the series, with the 23rd volume printed recently. These booklets provide good public relations for the developer at a reasonable cost and deliver considerable public benefit.

Several highly significant archaeological excavations have justified the publication of dedicated monographs to reach a wider and more academic or specialist interest audience. In these cases, there may also be information boards and a popular booklet. The site's heritage might also be commemorated through display in the public realm of the new development. This might take the form of marking out former wall lines and features, having artwork/sculpture inspired by the heritage, incorporating finds within the new landscape, and using digital technology to produce interactive on-site information with further details held on a linked website. All of these are being applied at the site of Arkwright's Shudehill Mill in Manchester, one of the world's first steam-powered cotton mills, as a result of a dedicated condition and productive engagement by the applicant's agent in response to the archaeology of the site.

CONCLUSION

When considering community engagement in planning-led archaeology the following points are worth bearing in mind. Many commercial excavations are inappropriate for direct community participation, but do not be easily put off by health and safety challenges. As early as possible, discuss community participation opportunities with the client and local government archaeologist – remember the good PR that can result. Where direct participation is not possible, ensure that results of investigations are disseminated to the local community. Archaeology planning conditions can be used to secure community engagement and dissemination of results, justified through NPPF and its good practice advice. The methodology and detail of this should then be set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation, reflecting the individual circumstances of a particular project, and building in flexibility to respond to changes in the level of public interest and significance of the heritage asset. In my experience most archaeologists derive considerable satisfaction from interacting with the public and feel a strong sense of duty to share their discoveries with local and wider communities. It can be seen that the planning system is geared up to facilitate this positive impact for the public, archaeologists and their clients.

Sources:

Communities and Local Government 2010 *Planning Policy Statement 5: planning for the Historic Environment*

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Miller I, Wild, C and Gregory, R 2010 *Piccadilly Place: uncovering Manchester's industrial origins*. Greater Manchester Past Revealed 1. Oxford Archaeology North

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2018 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Enhancing a sense of place and time

ANDREW HOOD MCIfA, FOUNDATIONS ARCHAEOLOGY

Figure 1: Cholsey phase 1 excavations (Photo: David Dewey)

This year's themes of research, impact and legacy have, for some time now, been widely identified as key components of the commercial archaeological process. As an outcome of fieldwork, they are commonly seen as indicators of the 'value' of archaeology. In practice, it has often been difficult for contractors to marry these potentially nebulous themes with the reality of excavating and reporting fieldwork; what is the impact and legacy of any particular strip, map and sample? How has it facilitated research? To a large degree, the answers to these questions are heavily dependent upon what is actually found; a 'blank' site is unlikely to score highly by any of these measures. Presuming a site is of significant archaeological interest, how does a commercial project achieve a meaningful and lasting impact?

Foundations Archaeology has been conducting archaeological fieldwork throughout Britain for over 20 years, evolving from a small to a mid-sized archaeological contractor during that time. We have recently undertaken two projects which are particularly relevant to the issues raised above.

Figure 2: Members of The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) excavating at Cholsey (Photo: Foundations Archaeology)

CHOLSEY, OXFORDSHIRE

In 2015 we were asked by Linden Homes to carry out an evaluation in a field on the edge of the village of Cholsey, Oxfordshire, in advance of a proposed housing development. Previous desk-based assessment had indicated that the site did not have any particular known archaeological interest, other than the presence of a Roman road nearby. Evaluation trenching and geophysical survey, however, told a very different story. A large Roman building was located in the south-west corner of the site, while the remainder of the area contained Roman, as well as earlier, ditches, pits and postholes. By the end of the evaluation, it was clear that the site contained a Roman villa and part of its immediate hinterland.

In terms of facilitating the development, the occurrence of the villa was a major concern and would require a very precise and clear mitigation strategy. After consultation between ourselves, Linden Homes and the Oxfordshire County Council Planning Archaeologist, it was agreed that the development could proceed, provided that

- the villa building could be preserved in situ
- the remainder of the site was subject to appropriate archaeological investigation
- the archaeological works produced a clear benefit to the local community.

In light of these parameters, the area around the villa was designated 'an area of play' within the development plan and was not subject to below-ground disturbance. Moreover, the area was 'mounded-up' with topsoil in order to create sufficient overburden to hinder metal detectorists. Subsequent to the completion of the housing development, a permanent

noticeboard detailing the villa and its finds will be erected, as part of the play area.

During 2016 and 2017 we undertook a programme of strip, map and sample across the remainder of the site (Figure 1). As expected, the excavations recovered a significant number of features related to the villa, as well as earlier activity. These included multiple ditched enclosures and droveways, five substantial corn dryers, wells with associated clay-lined water tanks, animal burials, human burials and cremations, as well as numerous pits and postholes. Finds included substantial ceramic and animal bone assemblages, a significant number of small finds and metal finds, and environmental samples. The post-excavation assessment is ongoing, but it is clear that the excavations have yielded high-quality data with a high research potential, especially in relation to the previously unknown Roman villa, its hinterland and related economy.

In order to provide a benefit to the local community, a programme of outreach was undertaken during the fieldwork. It included

- a noticeboard that was updated daily
- excavation open days (Figure 2), where members of The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) were invited to help with our site excavations
- multiple public/school open days (Figure 3), which included site tours, discussions and competitions for the children
- newspaper and radio interviews.

The outreach programme was successful in communicating the value of the archaeology undertaken. Local people were captivated, not only by the villa but also by the archaeological process; when asked to draw pictures relating to the site, the school children demonstrated that they had clearly understood what we were finding and how we went about it (Figure 4). The 'live' notice board proved particularly popular and the Oxfordshire Planning Archaeologist has now asked for this to be implemented on other sites. Outreach has extended beyond the fieldwork; we are continuing to give lectures relating to the site to the local archaeological societies in an attempt to provide more access to this audience along the journey to publication.

In relation to research, impact and legacy, the Cholsey project has been very successful as it facilitated

- a badly needed housing development within the village
- the discovery and preservation of a hitherto unknown Roman villa building
- positive engagement between the developer, archaeologists and local people, as well as local societies
- a lasting impact within the village, in terms of the built space, as well as a sense of place and enhanced historical significance
- an archaeological excavation, the results of which have a high potential to add to our understanding of the villa economy in this area.

Figure 3: Kids and corndryers (Photo: Foundations Archaeology)

LECHLADE MEMORIAL HALL, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

As part of the regeneration of Lechlade Memorial Hall following a fire, the town council commissioned us to undertake archaeological works before the construction of a new hall and skate park. The site, although relatively small, contained a very interesting sequence of remains, which included Late Neolithic 'Grooved Ware' pits; an Early Bronze Age high-status barrow, with associated burials spanning over 1,500 years (Figure 5); later prehistoric and Roman boundaries, and Anglo-Saxon buildings.

At an early stage in the project, it was clear that the site had a high potential to allow us to engage with the public and, therefore, working closely with the town council, we instigated a programme of information dissemination during and after the fieldwork, with a view to 'telling the story of the barrow'. This comprised a noticeboard that was updated daily and continued public engagement during the excavations, as well as multiple public lectures and a radio piece

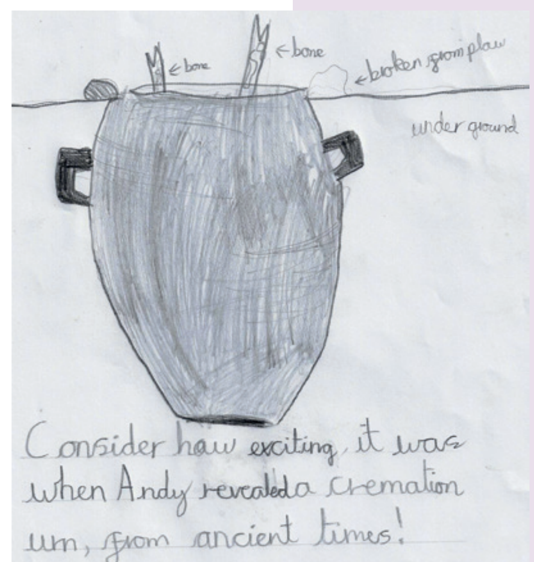

Figure 4: Herb's (aged 9) picture of a plough-damaged cremation (Photo: Herb/Foundations Archaeology)

Figure 5: The primary burial at skate park barrow, Lechlade (Photo: Foundations Archaeology)

Figure 6: The Barrow skate park (Photo: Foundations Archaeology)

on BBC Radio Gloucestershire. As with the Cholsey site, it was clear that people were very interested, not only in the barrow, but also in the process of excavation. People of all ages, genders and backgrounds would frequently come to site for updates and discussions. The positive interaction between the archaeologists and the public was key to success here.

The engagement with the public is continuing beyond excavation; the town council is planning to include our site reports as permanent features on their new town website and they have named the new skate park 'The Barrow' (Figure 6).

We think that the Lechlade Memorial Hall project added material value to the local community as it

- formed a significant and positive part of the story of the regeneration of the Memorial Hall
- enriched the local environment, providing the new community hall and skate park with a deep-rooted sense of place and time
- allowed archaeologists and the town council to positively engage with the public
- has left a lasting impact, whereby the previously 'buried and forgotten' barrow is now a feature in the contemporary townscape
- facilitated the collection of high-quality data, which has the potential to significantly enhance our understanding of the prehistoric and Saxon archaeology.

These two sites have clearly demonstrated the potential for commercial archaeology to add value to development projects. This value exists not only in 'hard' research potential but also in materially enhancing people's sense of place and the history of that place. In relation to research, impact and legacy, a key to the success of these projects was identifying the archaeological potential of the heritage asset at an early stage and projecting this potential, so that it could act as a springboard to maximising the outputs for all stakeholders. In the context of value to society, the archaeological remains present within these sites was seen as an enabler, as opposed to an inhibitor.