



# CIFA2021 ONLINE: ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ONLINE 2021

21 - 23 APRIL 2021

## SESSION TITLE

Promoting professional partnerships - making the most of your specialists

## SESSION ABSTRACT

This session will demonstrate the high value impact of well integrated specialist (conservators, artefact and biological finds, biochemical specialists) involvement throughout the lifespan of a project. Effective specialist input improves cost-effectiveness (more impact for less money), maximises information gain, aids and enriches interpretation, facilitates archive deposition, and enhances outreach.

The session will incorporate contributions in the form of short case studies from throughout the historic environment sector, covering the routine to the exceptional, where specialist input has made a noticeable impact and demonstrate the value of that specialist involvement in project planning, execution, interpretation, outreach/media (e.g. Must Farm's videos) and dissemination/publication.

We will hear from project managers as well as specialists, and explore innovative examples of specialist involvement, collaboration and partnerships which have improved project outcomes, the challenges encountered trying to incorporate multiple, diverse interests and how these have been overcome.

## SESSION PROGRAMME

13:30 – 13:35	<b>Welcome and introduction to the session</b> <i>Ruth Pelling &amp; Zoë Hazell, Historic England</i>
13:35 – 13:55	<b>The Power of Partnership from the Ice Age to COVID-19</b> <i>Emma Hancox, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (WAAS)</i> <i>Deborah Fox, Museums Worcestershire (MW)</i>
13:55 – 14:10	<b>More than the sum of our parts</b> <i>Magnus Alexander, Historic England</i>
14:10 – 14:25	<b>Maximising specialist impact on HS2</b> <i>Glenn Rose, WSP</i>
14:25 – 14:40	<b>Pocklington Iron Age cemetery: successful collaborations</b> <i>Paula Ware, MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd</i>
14:40 – 14:55	<b>Crossing the seas: The Rooswijk ship wreck project as an example of an international specialist collaboration</b>

	<i>Alison James, MSDS Marine</i> <i>Angela Middleton, Historic England</i>
15:00 – 15:15	<b>Break</b>
15:15 – 15:25	<b>Low Ham, Somerset: A Case Study in Collaboration</b> <i>Nicola Hembrey, Historic England</i>
15:25 – 15:40	<b>A Roman ‘service station’ in Bath – digging deeper under the specialist lens</b> <i>Cheryl Green, Context One Heritage and Archaeology</i>
15:40 – 15:50	<b>IPERION-HS: a new approach to developing a distributed pan-European research infrastructure for investigating material culture</b> <i>Gill Campbell, Fort Cumberland Laboratories, Historic England</i>
15:50 – 16:00	<b>Introducing ClfA’s Toolkit for Specialist Reporting</b> <i>Louise Rayner, Archaeology South-East (ASE) &amp; ClfA Finds Group</i>
16:00 – 16.10	<b>Roll with it! OASIS V is here</b> <i>Alison James, MSDS Marine</i>
16:10 – 16:45	<b>Discussions, questions, summing up and take home messages</b> <i>All, chaired by Ruth Pelling</i>

## SPEAKER ABSTRACTS

### **The Power of Partnership from the Ice Age to COVID-19**

*Emma Hancox, County Archaeologist at Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (WAAS)*

*Deborah Fox, Senior Curator at Museums Worcestershire (MW)*

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service and Museums Worcestershire have collaborated over recent years, to harness the greater potential offered by sharing their organisational specialisms and networks through partnership rather than working alone. Emma Hancox (WAAS) and Deborah Fox (MW) discuss two partnership projects. The first project, Lost Landscapes, was made possible as a result of external professionals offering their expertise to support our own work. The second project, No One Left Behind, harnessed the specialisms of WAAS and MW staff to look outwards and support Worcestershire’s historic environment sector during the pandemic.

The Lost Landscapes Project was a collaboration between Museums Worcestershire, The Hive and Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, funded predominantly through HLF and ACE. The project aimed to share the Ice Age story of Worcestershire across two venues; Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum and The Hive. The project was inspired by a Historic England funded report called ‘Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire’s HER’ and ended up bringing together specialists from archaeology, museology, natural history, geology, graphic design and fine art to develop exhibitions, artworks, academic resources, talks and workshops over an 18 month period.

No One Left Behind, Recovery in Worcestershire’s Historic Environment Sector was a Historic England funded project that sought to harness the specialisms of the teams at WAAS and MW to support Worcestershire’s heritage sector during the pandemic through training, toolkits, mentoring

and consultancy. The project surveyed the county's heritage organisations during the first and third national lockdowns in order to understand the impact of COVID-19 on one county's heritage sector.

### **More than the sum of our parts**

*Magnus Alexander, Senior Archaeological Investigator, Historic England*

Over at least the last ten years Historic England (and previously English Heritage) has developed an approach to working on landscape projects utilising a range of specialists to build an evidence base that has allowed us to produce syntheses that are greater than the sum of their parts. These projects have included experts in the use of historical sources, aerial photography and lidar, geophysics, analytical earthwork survey, environmental science, GIS, landscape interpretation, architectural history and archaeological excavation working together in such a way as to maximise opportunities for the cross fertilisation of ideas as well as practical support. The approach has most frequently been applied to post-medieval designed landscapes but has been applied to a range of landscapes and illustrative examples will be drawn from a range of projects.

### **Maximising specialist impact on HS2**

*Glenn Rose, Principal Consultant, Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, WSP*

Involvement of specialists at key points in the lifecycle of a major infrastructure project can be key to unlocking a scheme's potential and helping to deliver and maximise its objectives. WSP has shown that the advice from specialists has enabled clarity in decision making, and also enhanced the overall design of historic environment works on major infrastructure projects. This presentation will demonstrate the use of specialist advice in the project lifecycle and its positive impact on the project.

### **Pocklington Iron Age cemetery: successful collaborations**

*Paula Ware, Managing Director, MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd*

The unexpected discovery of a middle Iron Age cemetery at Pocklington, East Yorkshire gave rise to some new challenges. As the site increased in complexity and significance relationships were formed with academics, fellow contractors and the community of Pocklington. The results of collaborative working have had profound results for all involved resulting in a forthcoming publication by Oxbow, academic publications, extensive media coverage and the establishment of a local Heritage trust hoping for a museum. Collaborative working has been pleasure on both a personal and professional level and changed both outlook and procedures for future working.

### **Crossing the seas: The *Rooswijk* ship wreck project as an example of an international specialist collaboration**

*Alison James, Director, MSDS Marine and Angela Middleton, Senior Archaeological Conservator, Historic England*

The #Rooswijk1740 project is both funded and led by the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (Ministry of Education, Science and Culture), working in collaboration with project partner Historic England and UK-contractor MSDS Marine. After two seasons of underwater excavation, the project has now moved into the post-excavation analysis stage, where a multidisciplinary team is conserving, analysing and researching the rich material archive.

This presentation will give an overview of the *Rooswijk* project, and using a number of case studies will illustrate how effective collaboration can be achieved when working across borders and according to different institutional principles. The collaboration has used training events, on site visits, and close working at post-excavation stage to bring varied specialists together from different institutions and countries. The approach has meant that skills and knowledge have been used to maximise the potential of the research and learning opportunities for the individuals involved.

### **Low Ham, Somerset: A Case Study in Collaboration**

*Nicola Hembrey, Head of Archaeological Projects (Acting), Historic England*

Historic England's Archaeological Investigation and Investigative Science departments undertake collaborative strategic research, capacity building, advice and casework. Teams include aerial and geophysical survey, archaeological projects and archives; scientific dating, environmental and materials science, conservation and science advisors.

In late 2018, HE Archaeological Projects excavated Low Ham Roman Villa in Somerset, following up work by the HE Geophysical Survey team as part of a Heritage At Risk case. As always, the project took a holistic approach, bringing together specialists from across disciplines, before, during and after the fieldwork. Finds and environmental staff worked together to process and record all material and samples on site. Finds specialists, both internal and external, were encouraged to contribute to an on-site finds workshop, which enabled them to see the site, speak to finds staff, and collaborate with other specialists, while also providing a training opportunity for site staff. All specialists also had access to data from an integrated GIS recording system, which allowed team members to work on and share information in real-time, enabling efficiencies in time and resource, as well as greater co-operation.

This multi-specialist team approach and close working benefits the project as a whole, and allows early and detailed interpretation, and a more interesting and nuanced end product.

### **A Roman 'service station' in Bath – digging deeper under the specialist lens**

*Cheryl Green and Richard McConnell, Context One Heritage and Archaeology*

Excavations in Bathwick uncovered a late 1<sup>st</sup> century road flanked by plots from which food and drink was prepared and served. Specialists were drawn from different arenas, fostering existing and new professional partnerships - public bodies; commercial; research/ academic; and freelance. Specialist analysis was integrated through report sharing and liaison, leading to a tight chronology, detailed insight into a cross-section of society, and ideas about the site's impetus and demise. On-site environmental sampling strategy advice was received from HE's regional science advisor, and

post-excavation liaison between the archaeobotanist and stone specialist enabled both to re-visit their reports. Together with specialist analyses of the animal and fish bone, connections were made between potential food sources and vessels for consumption (ceramics/glass). The important role of illustrator in mapping changing zones of preparation and consumption facilitated an enhanced site narrative.

### **IPERION-HS: a new approach to developing a distributed pan-European research infrastructure for investigating material culture**

*Gill Campbell, Head of Fort Cumberland Laboratories, Historic England*

Integrating Platforms for the European Research Infrastructure ON Heritage Science (IPERION-HS) is a new initiative funded by the European Commission as part of the Horizon 2020 programme building on the success of IPERION-CH. It seeks to develop a pan-European connected infrastructure made up of research facilities situated across Europe and beyond. It will bring together researchers in humanities and sciences fostering a culture of exchange and co-operation. The core activity of IPERION-HS is to provide access for researchers from different arenas to scientific instruments, data, tools and knowledge outside their core area of expertise so that they can develop their competence and advance the understanding and conservation of cultural heritage: from artefacts to archaeological sites.

This paper will introduce IPERION-HS and explain how users can apply to for access to the different platforms in support multidisciplinary research.

<http://www.iperionhs.eu/>

### **Introducing ClfA's Toolkit for Specialist Reporting**

*Louise Rayner, Assistant Director and Head of Post-Excavation and Specialist Services, Archaeology South-East (ASE) and ClfA Finds Group Chair*

This short talk will introduce ClfA's recently published Toolkit for Specialist Reporting. It was produced by the ClfA Finds Group, in response to recommendations made in the 2017 'Review of the Standard of Reporting on Archaeological Artefacts in England', to ensure consistency in the reporting of archaeological finds/materials.

<https://www.archaeologists.net/reporting-toolkit>

### **Roll with it! OASIS V is here0**

*Alison James, Director, MSDS Marine*

Autumn 2020 saw the launch of the redeveloped OASIS, which has a host of new features for users across the sector. In this brief overview we will look at the new system and how it can be used by specialists and freelancers in the project lifecycle.