



BRIGHTON 2018

THURSDAY 26 APRIL

SESSION AND PAPER ABSTRACTS

14.00 – 15.30 RESEARCH IMPACTING PRACTICE: COLLABORATION, SYNTHESIS AND INNOVATION BETWEEN THE ACADEMIC, PUBLIC AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS

Organisers: Phil Pollard, Postgraduate Research and Skills Officer, Historic England
Kate Geary, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Sponsored by:



The Higher Education sector contains a wealth of expertise and resources and those of us in the public or commercial sectors should be influencing academics to direct their expertise at 'real world' problems. Similarly, skills issues in archaeology and heritage are one of the biggest problems we have, and the more we can do to support the development of high level and specialist skills and expertise, the better.

By working and collaborating directly with early career researchers; particularly postgraduates, we can deliver research outcomes that have greatly improved 'Impact' for archaeology and heritage whilst at the same time help develop the future workforce of our organisations

This session will focus on early career researchers who are working collaboratively with public institutions, or the commercial sector, and ask them to discuss what the wide-ranging benefits of such collaborations are and how their research is influencing (or will influence) practice.

This session forms half of a full block lasting for 1.5 hours, and therefore will be delivered in the PechaKucha format; a first for the ClfA conference. PechaKucha is a presentation style in which each speaker is allowed just 20 slides which are shown for 20 seconds each (usually on a timer). This gives each speaker just 6 minutes and 40 seconds in total but is a format which keeps presentations concise and fast-paced.

PAPER ABSTRACTS

Setting the scene (PechaKucha style)

Phil Pollard, Postgraduate Research & Skills Officer, Historic England

The British Academy *Reflections on Archaeology* report (March 2017) highlighted a need for closer working between the different strands of the archaeological discipline ('commercial', 'public', 'academic' etc). ClfA is addressing its own role in this and at its 2017 AGM ran a workshop on effective collaboration between universities and the commercial sector. Similarly, national bodies such as Historic England are seeking more collaboration with academia through such things as the Collaborative Doctoral Partnership programme and through the launch of their new Research

Agenda.

Setting research agendas – promoting the sectorial impact of postgraduate research

Dan Miles, Research Resources Officer, Historic England

Each year students start masters, doctoral and other academic research in heritage related subjects in Universities throughout the UK. But how much of this research makes a contribution by addressing important gaps in our knowledge or leads directly to solving priority issues and problems eg in practical conservation or updating guidance to improve heritage protection? How easy is it for the historic environment sector to access this research or for students to know how important their research could potentially be and help further its impact outside of the academic sphere into public benefit?

National agendas and a suite of regional research frameworks set out priorities for research that could have real public and sectorial impact as well as being of academic or intellectual value. But is their full potential being realised? Are they providing postgraduate and other early career researchers with priorities to address as well as helping to support their own professional development and career opportunities?

Bridging the gap: bringing academic practice to the Richborough collection

Phil Smither, Collaborative Doctoral Partnership PhD Researcher, University of Kent and English Heritage

Many old collections are in the care of heritage bodies. Excavated in the 1920-30s, Richborough is one such collection. Since that time little work has been undertaken on the collection. It is a site oft cited, rarely researched. This current CDP PhD aims to not only produce an original body of work on the military small finds, but also to reorganise the collection to make it accessible to academic study.

In the short term, this research will contribute to the museum redisplay and site reinterpretation through modern archaeological techniques and theoretical perspectives. In the long term, new research topics can be devised, bringing together the aims of academic research and English Heritage. Bridging the gap between academics and English Heritage will provide specialists with new research material, forwarding the current agendas in Romano-British archaeology as well as giving the site and display a new lease of life.

Whose archive is it anyway? Archaeological Palaeoenvironmental archives and shared responsibilities for more accessible archives

Paul Flintoft, Collaborative Doctoral Partnership PhD Researcher, University of Reading and Historic England

The archiving of biological remains recovered from archaeological investigations has not been as meticulous as it perhaps could have been. A combination of stochastic sub-sampling prior to deposition and sub-optimal preservation techniques has had a tendency to militate researchers' efforts to identify comprehensive archives. With constant advances in scientific techniques, acquiring access to well curated palaeoenvironmental archives for analysis is of growing importance for future reinterpretation.

But whose duty is it to prepare biological samples in an appropriate fashion prior to deposition? Can we expect the already stretched museum services to organise the samples for long term preservation? What mechanisms can provide advice to contractors' to ensure that environmental assemblages are appropriately sub-sampled prior to deposition? Needless to say, in order to answer these questions, collaboration across the discipline is necessary, as is the inclusion of our colleagues in the museum services.

Collaborating in regional research: the early fieldscapes of Snowdonia

Emily La-Trobe Bateman, Collaborative Doctoral Award PhD Researcher, University of Sheffield and Snowdonia National Park Authority

This paper will outline the nature and context for collaborative research into the early fieldscapes of Snowdonia; as well as the importance of long-term collaborative relationships and what has made them work so well with this project. It will also discuss the influence of the research for public and commercial archaeology at a regional scale; in particular the Carneddau HLF Landscape Partnership project and research frameworks.

The study is one of a small number of Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDA), between academic and non-academic partners as part of a cohort of PhDs funded through the White Rose College of the Arts and Humanities (WROCAH); itself a collaboration between the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York.

Translating academic research into useable tools: the case of in situ preservation (deterioration) of organic materials

Kirsty High, NERC Knowledge Exchange Fellow, University of York, York Archaeological Trust and Historic England

Research into preservation in situ has provided considerable knowledge regarding decay mechanisms and the conditions required for organic preservation. Several high-profile studies have highlighted the speed at which loss of archaeological sites can occur if threats to continued preservation are not identified soon enough. However, for heritage professionals focused on making the best decisions in the face of financial and time constraints, this research can be irrelevant, contradictory or simply impossible to access. At the same time, mechanisms for the public or commercial sector to influence the direction of academic research are severely lacking.

Knowledge exchange (KE) fellowships build relationships across sectors, ensuring that academic research benefits end-users. My KE project examines methods for assessing risks to sites preserved in situ, reviewing and collating existing scientific evidence. By working with heritage professionals to condense this into a useable format, this data can be more rapidly applied in the decision-making process.

Any old iron: recognising value in medieval objects

Alice Forward, Research Associate and Ben Jervis, Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Cardiff

This paper will discuss the outcomes and problems we have encountered in the first phase of our research on the material evidence for Living Standards in Medieval Rural Households. This has involved gathering data on excavated objects (excluding pottery) from 12 counties across England. The majority of our data collection has been captured from developer funded work and as a consequence we have relied on the HERs as an initial resource. We have encountered a variety of methodological challenges but are beginning to see some significant results which will not only address the questions set by the project but also provide a resource for future research.

Developing a research framework for the historic built environment: collaboration, synthesis and innovation

Stella Jackson, Research Assistant, University of Liverpool

In the field of archaeology, research frameworks have been used for many years and are now an essential part of the professional and academic environment. However, although regional archaeological frameworks often include historic buildings, they do not always do so in ways that take account of the many and varied interests of all who are involved in the built historic environment. With this in mind, Historic England has commissioned the creation of a Knowledge Exchange framework for the Historic Built Environment (HistBEKE) from the University of Liverpool.

The three key aims of this project are to: enhance decision-making processes through wider access to current knowledge; set an agenda for knowledge enhancement through targeted projects and research; and enable more effective management and protection of the built historic environment. The objective, therefore, is to create both a knowledge exchange, a 'one stop shop' synthesis of information, resources and best practice; and a research agenda and framework to help us fill any knowledge gaps. These will be online resources which are created collaboratively and managed by a stakeholder network of heritage practitioners, academics, and members of the public.