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Assessing the Value of Community-Generated Historic Environment Research

Project Report

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"While some of us debate what history is or was, others take it into their own hands"

Michel-Rolph Trouillot

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The raw (.csv) and summary (.ods) anonymised survey data is freely available on request from:

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Note: On 1st April 2015 the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England changed its common name from English Heritage to Historic England. This document therefore contains references to publications and policies produced under both titles: these should be understood to pertain to the same organisation. Likewise, most survey responses mentioning the organisation use 'English Heritage', but refer to functions now performed by Historic England.

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1 Executive summary

1.1 Project background

The project was commissioned by Historic England, whose specific aims were to assess:

- The amount of historic environment research being undertaken by community groups
- The potential scholarly value that this research could offer to enhance research resources, in particular those used to support the planning system.

The communal and social value of community group heritage research is well recognised and supported by organisations such as the Council for British Archaeology – underpinned by its mission statement “*Archaeology for All*”. The impact of heritage on individuals and communities is highlighted in Heritage Counts 2014 and includes findings from the 2013 review of the value and benefits of heritage by the Heritage Lottery Fund. We understand and support the social benefits that this brings to communities. Beyond the social benefit, however, this project focuses on assessing the added scholarly or research value of community-generated research, and the potential benefits to research resources, in particular Research Frameworks.

Historic England, formerly as English Heritage, has been funding the creation of Research Frameworks and Reference Resources for over twenty years. One of the primary objectives of developing Research Frameworks was to promote collaboration across the sector, bringing together the academic, local authority and commercial sectors. The intention has been to produce frameworks that could be used to coordinate and promote historic environment research.

Up until now, however, local societies and community groups have not been so well engaged with this process, nor has their research been as valued as that produced academically and through the planning system. Community groups have not been targeted as users of these frameworks and the language and accessibility has been focused on professional and academic sectors.

We assess the quantity, focus and format of research being undertaken by community groups across England, whether they are already engaging with Research Frameworks and Historic Environment Records (HERs) and what the value of this research is/could be to the sector as a whole.

This project is not about assessing the **quality** of people's research. Rather, it is about the potential **value** of their work to the resources that are used by the historic environment sector to determine priorities and inform decisions on planning issues, research priorities and strategies for safeguarding heritage assets.

1.2 Definitions

HER (Historic Environment Record)

HERs are information services that provide access to resources relating to the archaeology and historic built environment of a defined geographic area.

HERs contain details on local archaeological sites and finds, historic buildings and historic landscapes and are regularly updated. This information is usually held in a database with a digital mapping system (Geographic Information System). They are maintained and managed by local authorities.

OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS)

OASIS is a project to provide online access to archaeological reports produced by archaeological work in both developer-funded and voluntary sectors. It is linked to the Archaeology Data Service's ArchSearch catalogue.

Research Frameworks (RFs)

Research Frameworks draw together information on the historic environment from a wide range of sources to provide an up-to-date overview of regional and/or subject-specific understanding. The resulting research agendas highlight gaps in our knowledge, and suggest avenues of research to answer these

Research resources

Research resources are sources of information about the Historic Environment used by Historic Environment professionals and researchers in order to assess current understanding, support the planning system and develop future strategies. They include Research Frameworks, reference collections of artefacts and works of synthesis.

Outputs

Research 'outputs' are the products of historic environment research. Within this project they are defined as pieces of work relating to a project, which are shared beyond the group. Examples could include reports, articles in local journals, leaflets, books, audio CDs, websites or online databases.

1.3 Methods & scope

The project looked at a wide range of research investigating the historic environment, covering archaeology, historic building, maritime and local history research, undertaken by any group, organisation, society, association or individual engaged in research, for which the participants do not receive payment for their services.

The project was undertaken in partnership with the British Association for Local History in order to ensure that the perspective of local historians was adequately represented.

- Literature reviews looked at existing analyses of voluntary and community archaeology and its contribution within existing research resources, and an overview of the local history sector. Recipients of HLF grants within the case study areas were collated in order to assess the availability and visibility of associated outputs.
- An online survey was circulated to relevant groups and individuals in England in order to obtain quantitative data on the amount and nature of research undertaken, and the destinations of resulting research outputs.
- In-depth case studies were carried out for three regions: Vale of Evesham, West Yorkshire and Norfolk. The areas were chosen to capture a broad cross-section of different regions, environments and approaches to managing the historic environment. The case studies looked at examples of voluntary research and sought to qualitatively assess the potential of this work to enhance research resources.

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Comments on the experience of publication and dissemination revealed a broad range of issues, including time, costs, funding and difficulty in accessing appropriate expertise. Many cited a **lack of digital skills**, and the difficulty in developing or obtaining the expertise needed to produce sustainable and accessible digital outputs.

Professional support makes a big difference to the destination of the research. Among respondents undertaking specifically archaeological research, **around 2/3 of those who had received support or advice from professional archaeologists sent research to an HER**. By contrast, the figure among those who'd had no professional support or advice was just 37%.

Support and advice

Overall, 49% received support or advice from Local Authority Archaeology Services/HERS. Archive Services (40%), museums (29%), university departments (28%) and national heritage bodies (28%) were also consulted. A significant number also cited valuable support from professional freelance archaeologists (32%) and historians (29%). **Of those conducting archaeological excavations (51%) received advice from freelance professionals.**

Funding

The majority of respondents (75%) are at least partly self-funding, **although 43% have received project funding from an external body**. Motivations for research are dominated by group (69%) and local (85%) interest, but also include conservation (24%) and planning/development issues (16%).

Cross-tabulation of results highlighted that recipients of external project funding are much more likely to consult HERs or Advisory Services, although **only 51.8% of respondents receiving project funding are sending their results to HERs**.

The fate of physical archives, which form a crucial component of the research resource for thematic Research Frameworks such as those for pottery studies, is cause for more concern, as **only 23.4% of respondents undertaking intrusive fieldwork without project funding are sending material to museums**.

Planning and development

There appears to be a growth in the volume of research undertaken at least partly in order to attempt to take ownership of planning and development issues, often in response to perceived shortcomings and capacity issues within local authorities. However, much of this appears to be undertaken on a case-by-case basis with little opportunity for researchers to feed into strategic plans; **potentially valuable research that could feed into local placemaking and planning initiatives is therefore not entering research resources**.

Case studies

Evaluation of outputs from the case study areas demonstrated that across a broad range of research, there is **clear and significant potential benefit to research resources, beyond that which is being currently achieved**. This is in part due to researchers often being unaware of the value of their outputs, and the importance to the historic environment in maintaining effective and comprehensive research resources. In some cases HER staff have also underestimated the scale and value of this research. Capacity issues within local authorities are also a barrier to communication and collaboration, and an increasing cause for concern.

1.5 Summary of conclusions and recommendations

Conclusion 1:

Voluntary and community historic environment research over the past five years has covered a vast range of topics and investigative techniques. The volume is estimated to be in the region of 12,000 projects, contributing a total of over 20,000 discrete research outputs. The difficulties in accurately quantifying such research, which is not systematically collated, mean that this is likely to be a very conservative estimate.

The research generated has significant value and largely untapped potential to enhance research resources and HERs, which could have a positive impact on the sector's ability to manage and protect the historic environment.

Recommendations:

Historic environment professionals need to take this value into consideration in developing and enhancing research resources. Community-generated research is frequently seen in terms of the outcomes and the value of the process, but all-too-often the research value of the outputs has not been recognised.

Conclusion 2:

Dissemination of research is currently haphazard and largely contingent upon the focus of the researchers, existing networks of contact, and the funding of the project.

Local history groups are far less likely than those with a focus on archaeology to send research to HERs.

Recommendations:

The sector urgently needs to examine how the wide range of outputs generated by voluntary sector research can best be captured and incorporated into historic environment research resources in a systematic and efficient manner.

Conclusion 3:

The local history sector is largely disassociated from the process of creating and updating historic environment research resources. Relations between parts of the historic environment sector are at times unequal and unsatisfactory, with too little appreciation for the value of others' roles.

Recommendations:

Closer links between different services and bodies that are recipients of historic environment research outputs, including but not limited to HERs, Record Offices/Archives, local studies libraries and national heritage bodies, should be encouraged.

County-level working groups or forums to discuss and share information on voluntary and community-generated research received and in progress would help to disseminate information and help to prevent duplication of effort and the problem of information silos.

Conclusion 4:

Awareness of Research Frameworks is currently low in the voluntary and community sector. Efforts to improve accessibility and promotion are essential if wider use and more inclusive development of Research Frameworks is to be achieved.

Recommendations:

A concerted campaign to raise the profile of Research Frameworks is needed, ideally coordinated at a national level by Historic England, if efforts to strengthen national ownership are to be successful.

The presentation of the resulting documents needs attention: distillation into short accessible documents, available online, would help to encourage consultation of Research Frameworks at an early stage of project planning, and enable researchers to see how their work may contribute to broader research goals.

Further development of Research Frameworks should involve voluntary researchers as active participants. Their involvement, for the benefit of all parties, should be sought at an early stage of the process.

Conclusion 5:

Use of existing platforms for the integration of research outputs into research resources is limited by awareness and usability of those mechanisms. Besides the difficulties in using the system, there appears to be an issue with lack of awareness of the resources and platforms available.

Recommendations:

The sector should build on and support the progress made by the HERALD project in streamlining the process of using OASIS; use of OASIS should be promoted as an effective way to both ensure a lasting legacy for voluntary research and to ensure an efficient transmission of research outputs to relevant HERs.

Conclusion 6:

Access to, and development of, digital skills and expertise are major potential barriers to the dissemination and integration of valuable work into research resources

There remain few digital report templates, software tutorials or guides to digital publication readily available.

Recommendations:

The historic environment sector should actively seek to enhance the provision of support to voluntary researchers to enhance relevant digital skills.

Templates, software tutorials and lists of useful free and open-source software should be developed and made available online.

Conclusion 7:

Projects in receipt of professional support or advice are significantly more likely to produce outputs that are integrated into research resources.

Recommendations:

Efforts should be made to ensure that access to qualified and experienced professional practitioners is available to voluntary and community researchers.

External funding bodies should be made aware of the impact of funding and professional support on the value of resulting research to the historic environment.

It would be beneficial if seed-funding were more widely available for project development and/or mentoring at the planning stages of research. This initial outlay would lead to better long-term value for money, as the survey results demonstrate that project outputs fare better with professional support.

Conclusion 8:

Voluntary and community researchers' ability to champion the cause of their local heritage is frequently undermined by the confusing nature of roles and responsibilities for heritage within the planning process.

The case for the importance of comprehensive research resources to the planning process is not universally appreciated. Increasing limitations on local authority capacity as a result of budget cuts are also perceived to be a threat to respondents' ability to effectively champion their heritage.

Recommendations:

There is an urgent need for clear pathways, guidance and transparency regarding the role of the historic environment in the planning process, and for the sector to improve communication of relevant bodies' roles and responsibilities.

The goal should be the provision of clear, concise, accessible information about the management of the historic environment, promoted and signposted through local networks.

2 Introduction

Definitions

Key Term	Definition
HER (Historic Environment Record)	HERs are information services that provide access to resources relating to the archaeology and historic built environment of a defined geographic area. HERs contain details on local archaeological sites and finds, historic buildings and historic landscapes and are regularly updated. This information is usually held in a database with a digital mapping system (Geographic Information System). They are maintained and managed by local authorities. An index to HERs by region is maintained by Historic England at: http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/chr/
Archaeological Advisory Service	Archaeological Advisory Services are specialist teams, usually located within local authorities, who provide advice to local authorities, national bodies, developers and the public on archaeological matters, often relating to the planning system, public utilities and agricultural matters. Some are associated with HERs, although others may be within planning or infrastructure departments. Some have outreach or education specialists.
Archive Service or Record Office	Where these terms are used within the report, they refer to public services which collect, preserve and make available records, usually relating to the history of a geographical area and its residents. They are usually maintained by local authorities. Some areas may have a separate Local History centre housing local studies collections. An index to Archives and local history centres is maintained by The National Archives, at: http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/find-an-archive
OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS)	OASIS is a project to provide online access to archaeological reports produced by archaeological work in both developer-funded and voluntary sectors. It is linked to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue. The ADS is currently undertaking a redesign of the OASIS platform: one of the aims of the HERALD project is to increase use of the platform by community groups.
Research Frameworks (RFs)	Research Frameworks draw together information on the historic environment from a wide range of sources to provide an up-to-date overview of regional and/or subject-specific understanding. The resulting research agendas highlight gaps in our knowledge, and suggest avenues of research to answer these
Research Resources	Research Resources comprise sources of information about the Historic Environment which are used by Historic Environment professionals and researchers in order to assess current understanding, support the planning system and develop future strategies. They include Research Frameworks, reference collections of artefacts and works of synthesis.
Outputs	Research 'outputs' are the products of historic environment research. Within this project they are defined as pieces of work relating to a project, which are shared beyond the group. Examples could include reports, articles in local journals, leaflets, books, audio CDs, websites or online databases.

Background

The communal and social value of community group heritage research is well recognised and supported by organisations such as the Council for British Archaeology – underpinned by its mission statement “*Archaeology for All*”. The impact of heritage on individuals and communities is highlighted in Heritage Counts 2014 and includes findings from the 2013 review of the value and benefits of heritage by the Heritage Lottery Fund. We understand and support the social benefits that this brings to communities. Beyond the social benefit, however, this project focuses on assessing the added scholarly or research value of community-generated research, and the potential benefits to research resources, in particular Research Frameworks.

Historic England, formerly as English Heritage, has been funding the creation of Research Frameworks and Reference Resources for over twenty years. One of the primary objectives of developing Research Frameworks was to promote collaboration across the sector, bringing together the academic, local authority and commercial sectors. The intention has been to produce frameworks that could be used to coordinate and promote historic environment research.

Up until now, however, local societies and community groups have not been so well engaged with this process, nor has their research been as valued as that produced academically and through the planning system. Community groups have not been targeted as users of these frameworks and the language and accessibility has been focused on professional and academic sectors.

Voluntary research has also been under-represented in the records held by HERs, especially since the advent of developer-funded archaeology in the early 1990s. It is important that the results of community-generated research should be incorporated into HERs, partly because HERs form part of the research resources used to formulate Research Frameworks, but also because HERs are the basis for the evidence that can be used in determining planning decisions and managing the historic environment. If the results of research are not reliably and comprehensively reported to the local HER, that research cannot be used to inform decisions taken by archaeological advisory services, or considered when developing priorities for future research. Unreported heritage is unprotected heritage.

Research aims and objectives

This project was funded as a Supporting Action of the National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP), specifically to "ensure that information management and knowledge transfer is as good as it can be so that what we learn can be used to its greatest benefit" (NHPP, Historic England, 2012).

The project also feeds into objective 2.4 of Historic England's Corporate Action Plan (2015-18): 'Encourage others to research and articulate the significance of heritage'.

Historic England's specific aims were to assess:

- a) How much research is generated by community groups/societies including community funded projects (for example by the HLF)?
- b) How is this research currently disseminated?
- c) What is the current value of this for informing historic environment planning related decisions, by enhancing Research Frameworks and HERs?
- d) What is the potential value of this research? Is it different for different areas of interest, buried, standing and marine?

In doing so, Historic England hoped to strengthen engagement with and public ownership of Research Frameworks, by:

- a) Highlighting the value of community research and the strength of local knowledge to those involved in the management of the historic environment and making planning related decisions, and others, such as academic researchers.
- b) Providing the conditions for better co-ordination, more inclusive development and wider use of Research Frameworks
- c) Working with community groups to promote engagement with professional systems and processes (including the planning system and OASIS) in order to enhance access to, and use of, community research.

3 Project scope

What do we mean by historical and archaeological research?

'Research' is here defined as a programme of work investigating the historic environment. This could cover terrestrial and maritime archaeological investigations including excavation, field and landscape surveys and geophysical surveys. It also applies to historic building investigations, and to local history research into the history of a settlement, industrial heritage, oral history recording, research on existing museum collections, experimental archaeology, practical investigations or reconstructions of historic trades or industries, or any other original historical research. 'Original' research does not necessarily have to involve collection or collation of primary data – new interpretations and syntheses of existing data are included. The list within the survey is not exhaustive.

How do you define 'community-generated' and 'voluntary' research?

Any group, organisation, society, association or individual engaged in research, for which those undertaking that research do not receive payment for their services. The group need not have history or archaeology as a primary focus: for example, a Civic Society or neighbourhood plan group who undertake local history research would be included. Likewise, this definition does not exclude professional archaeologists or researchers who undertake unpaid research with voluntary groups outside of their professional role. Research undertaken by individuals for or on behalf of a community is also included, e.g. a history of a street or church.

What types of researchers were targeted by the project?

- Local, county or regional archaeology societies
- Local history societies
- Maritime history and sub-aqua groups
- Building research/study groups
- Specialist societies (e.g. industrial heritage groups)
- Civic societies & Local Plan groups
- Independent archaeologists and historians
- Educational organisations and youth groups

The above list is not exhaustive, and the project sought to assess a diverse range of research outputs produced in the course of both structured and informal research.

Out of scope was:

- The collection and collation of project reports, or any type of synthesis of this research information.
- Assessing the *process* or issues associated with how this community-generated research can be fed into HERs or into the development of Research Frameworks.
- Investigations associated with the activities and remit of the Portable Antiquity Scheme (i.e. chance finds and metal detecting activity, except where this forms part of a broader systematic research project).
- An assessment of the total number and demographic profiles of individuals involved.

We intend to suggest mechanisms through which community research could be incorporated more fully into research resources and how communities could be better engaged with the process as part of this project. Testing of these suggested mechanisms is beyond the scope of this project and will form recommendations for future projects.

4 Study area and consultation

The project consulted widely across different scales of organisation and geography throughout England, from national organisations and societies, through regional and county groups and forums to local societies and individual researchers. Discussions with partner organisations and stakeholders were held prior to the launch of the nationwide survey. The case study areas (Norfolk, West Yorkshire and Vale of Evesham, Worcestershire) were chosen to reflect a range of historic, administrative and socio-economic environments. During and following the survey, discussions were held with selected respondents and other community groups in order to explore themes raised by the survey.

Organisations consulted include:

- Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)
- National Council for British Archaeology (CBA)
- CBA regional groups for the three case study areas (CBA West Midlands, CBA Yorkshire, CBA East)
- Historic Environment Forum (HEF)
- National societies such as Vernacular Architecture Group
- County and local history/ archaeology /architecture groups within the study areas
- Historic Environment Services (HERs, Advisory Services, Conservation Officers)
- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers UK (ALGAO) regional groups
- Institute for Historic Building Conservation (IHBC)
- The British Association for Local History (BALH)

The British Association for Local History (BALH) is the national charity which promotes local history and serves local historians, who range from interested individuals and members of local societies to professionals in the field such as archivists and university lecturers. Membership is available to both individuals and societies.

The involvement of the BALH as a partner in the project was intended to redress the imbalance that has arisen due to the historic environment sector having too often neglected local history research as a key source of information and knowledge. This has tended to lead to under-representation of local historians in the production of relevant Research Frameworks and in enhancement of HERs. Through the BALH's involvement the project gained a greater understanding of the scope, breadth and nature of research by local history societies, groups and individuals, and was able to engage with the groups that the BALH represents.



Figure 2 Case Study Areas. CBA regional group areas outlined in blue, counties in pale blue.

5 Methodology

5.1 Literature and Website reviews

The first phase of the project comprised:

- A review of existing quantitative and selected qualitative assessments of community archaeology, in order to provide context for the current understanding of the place of research outputs from community archaeology within historic environment research resources
- An overview of the local history sector from the perspective of the British Association for Local History (BALH), in order to set the profiles and activities of local history researchers in context
- A review of online accessibility of outputs associated with HLF-funded projects within the case study areas, to provide a baseline for understanding how much information from recent externally-funded historic environment projects is available or signposted online, and the range of formats used.

5.2 National survey

A survey aimed at participants in community and voluntary research was designed, in order to find out about:

- Which types of groups are carrying out research relating to the historic environment?
- The range of activities carried out
- The quantity of research undertaken
- Why people are undertaking research
- Awareness and use of Research Frameworks
- Researchers' networks of contacts, support and advice
- Where does their research go?
- Are there any issues affecting researcher's capacity to carry out or share their research?

The survey was designed in consultation with Historic England, the British Association for Local History, CBA West Midlands, selected voluntary groups, and (internally), specialist Archivists, a Local Studies Librarian, Archaeologists and Outreach staff, in order to ensure that it was straightforward, accessible and applicable to as wide a range of historic environment research as possible.

5.3 Case studies

For each case study area, the aims were to:

- Assess the diverse range of sources, projects and collections generated in the last 60 years as a result of community-led research
- Assess the value of research through a sample of examples drawn from the range of research activities
- Consider the wider research potential of work carried out to date
- Explore the potential for promotion of community-led work that will be informed by and contribute towards building the evidence base in support of local, regional and national Research Frameworks
- Assess the potential of existing (and future) work in the context of building data capacity in the HER that will, in turn, support strategic, local and site-based planning advice

A total of 65 community-generated research outputs pertaining to the case study areas were selected for detailed assessment.

6 Findings

6.1 Literature and Website Review

6.1.1 Community archaeology overview

This review comprises an overview of selected studies pertinent to the scope of this project, in order to place in context the themes arising from the results of the survey and case studies.

A number of recent studies have explored the production and dissemination of archaeological research in Britain. Most have, however, focused on the products of developer-funded archaeological work undertaken as part of the planning system, and the undoubtedly enormous potential offered by syntheses of such data. Examples include the study undertaken by Fulford & Holbrook (2011), which undertook to assess the volume and potential of investigations, pertaining to the Roman period, carried out as part of the development process. The difficulties of obtaining a comprehensive dataset are well documented by Fulford & Holbrook; noting the potential value of research undertaken by local groups, they acknowledge that *"fieldwork initiated for research purposes often has especial value when it is directed at regions where there is comparatively little development and, hence, fewer developer-sponsored investigations"*, but note the difficulty in getting access to results of such work where it has not entered the corpus of research resources:

"without further research, it is not possible to estimate what proportion of fieldwork undertaken outside developer-funded archaeology reaches full publication, but publication has undoubtedly suffered from the fact that resources for amateur, county archaeological society and university research projects have become increasingly hard to obtain." (2011, 332)

Estimates for the proportion of archaeological investigations carried out under various different conditions (commercial, academic, voluntary etc.) are easy to come by but hard to corroborate. Professional archaeologists are often heard to remark, by way of explanation of the processes and structures within which they work, that *"90% of archaeological work is developer-funded"*. The most reliable source for this figure appears to be the 2002 paper by Darvill and Russell, which assessed the first decade of developer-funded archaeology under PPG16 (1990-99) in the light of data collected by the Archaeological Investigations Project (AIP), and concluded that *"work in this [developer-funded] sector now accounts for nearly 90% of all archaeological fieldwork in England"* (2002, 3).

However, there are a number of caveats to this figure. Firstly, Darvill and Russell specifically limited the scope of their inquiry to 'archaeological fieldwork'. Second, the degree to which community-generated research was incorporated into the AIP data was reliant on questionnaires with a low response rate of between 17.2% and 26%, whereas for developer-funded work AIP researchers *"visited the headquarters of the contractors and consultants surveyed in order to complete the database... in a consistent and systematic way"* (2002, 10); other data sources included SMRs and the National Monuments Record (NMR), in which community research is thought to be under-represented. Thirdly, as noted by Simpson and Williams (see below), the late 1990s saw a transformational shift which began to empower communities to explore place and heritage in a more inclusive, participatory manner: it is therefore potentially problematic to assume that the picture has remained static since Darvill and Russell's assessment.

Tim Evans has recently explored the continuing under-representation of community-generated research in online research resources, noting that:

"what is striking is the under-representation of research projects undertaken by community groups, academic institutions and individual researchers... the sector outside commercially-funded works is not inconsiderable, but apparently does not submit unpublished reports through OASIS. This... suggests a cultural imbalance in the online availability of information." (Evans 2015, 4.2)

Valuable work on the capacity, demography and interests of those undertaking voluntary and community-led research has also been undertaken by a number of researchers within the last decade. This reflects an increasing focus on the role and mechanisms of community involvement with heritage, place and identity, and a trend identified by Simpson and Williams as a gradual *"transformation of the balance of power"* in British Archaeology, fuelled by broader socio-political *"aspirations to social inclusivity"* and a focus on social values from the late 1990s onwards (Simpson and Williams 2008, 72, 73).

Crucially, Dr Suzi Thomas' 2010 study established a baseline in assessing the extent of community archaeology, the demographics, interests and requirements of participants, and the state of available guidance and support. The study collected survey data from 504 voluntary and community heritage groups, around a 25% sample of the 2030 groups estimated by the CBA to be active across the U.K. This project differs markedly in aims and scope from Thomas' study, and is not intended to comprise a comparative review: whereas Thomas' focus was on rates of participation, range of activities, and support, this report is concerned with the quantity and potential value of research outputs arising from community-generated work. Nevertheless, there are significant crossovers in a number of areas; several of the most informative comparisons are highlighted within this report.

A recurring theme throughout this project has been the complexities, inequalities and perceptions of accessibility, especially with regard to digital outputs, platforms and sustainability. Dr Lorna-Jane Richardson has explored audiences for archaeological data and the importance of understanding:

"the effect of these existing inequalities on the participants and audience... which will have a significant impact on the ability of UK archaeological organisations to create open, inclusive, and participatory public archaeology projects online." (Richardson 2014, 137)

This is particularly pertinent given, as Richardson notes, that the HLF guidance policy for digital outputs specifically tackles the issues of digital inequalities (Richardson 2014, 136); however, questions remain over the degree to which grantees are making effective decisions about the format and fate of digital outputs.

Issues of online accessibility and collaborative approaches to creation of digital content were raised in Pye Tait's (2014) review of Research Frameworks. The review noted that:

"the size and structure of Research Frameworks can make them somewhat inaccessible, while inherent differences between them in terms of layout and design risk undermining their value." (Pye Tait 2014, 42)

Furthermore, the voluntary sector consultees reported more difficulties in navigating Research Frameworks and extracting relevant information than other user groups (*ibid*, 43). Pye Tait's recommendations include working towards a more dynamic online operating system to maintain currency and foster collaboration across different parts of the sector (*ibid*, 71). Crucially, publicity needs to be improved: the report noted that the biggest barrier to voluntary sector utilisation of frameworks was awareness of their existence (*ibid*, 66). It is worth noting, however, that given Richardson's observations on the variable nature digital skills and confidence among the potential voluntary sector audiences for resources like an online

Research Framework, a dynamic online operating system is unlikely to be a panacea for all ills unless the needs and skills of the full range of intended users is carefully considered.

6.1.2 Local history research overview by Dr Gill Draper

This review comprises an overview of the membership and interests of the British Association for Local History in 2015, in order to place the sector in perspective and provide context for readers unfamiliar with the sector.

Within the local history sector, boundaries between 'voluntary' and 'professional' are particularly diffuse. In many ways, the distinction for local history purposes is arbitrary and divisive: in the absence of a situation analogous to the post-PPG16 development of 'professional' archaeology, the bulk of local history studies are undertaken by researchers often with considerable formal academic qualifications and professional expertise in fields related to their research. These researchers may not be salaried or receive formal recompense for their efforts beyond book sales and lectures, but they are undoubtedly 'professional' in the quality of their work and their position within the field.

BALH publishes a quarterly journal, *The Local Historian* which contains articles and features for the general reader that may reflect a local subject or may be of wider, perhaps national, interest. The journal places an emphasis on applying principles and methods to local research and study, so that readers can benefit from the work of other researchers. It also includes reviews and lists of publications.

In addition the Association produces a quarterly magazine, *Local History News*, which includes topical articles of interest to local historians, plus reports from local societies, record offices, museums and libraries. All parts of the local history community are encouraged to contribute articles to the magazine and the Association is keen to include local initiatives and publish material that gives news of best practice, illustrating the diversity and vitality of local history.

Geographical distribution of member societies

The numbers of societies in each county or city reflects primarily county or city size, as well as population and perhaps wealth distribution across England. There are other factors at play: for example, there are large numbers of societies in areas where there is, or has until recently been, strong provision of formal local history teaching at university level. Kent has an exceptional number of societies not only for this reason but also because it has a county-wide local history forum with c.120 member societies, many of which joined the BALH recently, not least to take advantage of its insurance scheme.

The existence of local history societies is fluid and with new ones forming and older ones folding all the time, so this provides a snapshot from 2015. It should be noted that not all local history societies belong to the BALH, particularly perhaps the smaller ones.

Table 1 Distribution of BALH Member Societies

County/City	Number of BALH Member Societies
Bedfordshire, inc Bedford	13
Berkshire inc Maidenhead, Windsor, Reading Sandhurst	11
Birmingham, City of	8
Bristol, City of	11

County/City	Number of BALH Member Societies
Buckinghamshire, inc Milton Keynes	15
Cambridgeshire, inc City of Cambridge	18
Cheshire, inc Chester and Warrington	19
Cornwall inc. Penzance	15
County Durham, inc. Durham, Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees	20
Cumbria	23
Derbyshire inc. Chesterfield, Burton-on-Trent, Bakewell	21
Devon inc. Exeter	27
Dorset inc. Poole and Lyme Regis	16
Essex inc. Colchester, Southend on Sea and Hadleigh	33
Gloucestershire inc. Cheltenham, Stroud and Fairford	24
Herefordshire	6
Hertfordshire inc. Hertford, Tring and Watford	21
Hampshire inc. Southampton, Portsmouth, Romsey, Isle of Wight	43
Lancashire inc. Lancaster, Preston. Chorley and Blackburn	28
Leeds, city of	5
Leicestershire, inc. city of Leicester	13
Lincolnshire including Lincoln, Boston, Peterborough, Grimsby, Market Rasen	23
London (Greater London)	51
Kent, inc. cities of Canterbury and Rochester, also Chatham, Gillingham, Erith, Sittingbourne, Dartford, Gravesend, Erith, Broadstairs, Deal, Dover	82
Manchester, city of, and greater Manchester including Bolton and Oldham	16
Liverpool, city of	8
Merseyside [metropolitan county], and Wirral	7
Middlesex	6
Newcastle, City of	1
Norfolk inc. city of Norwich, and Great Yarmouth	15
Northamptonshire, inc. city of Northampton	15
Nottingham, City of	10
Nottinghamshire, inc. Newark	21
Northumberland inc. Morpeth	16
Oxfordshire, inc. city of Oxford, Banbury, Harwell and Wantage	39
Rutland	7
Sheffield, city of	6
Shropshire inc. Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Telford	16
Somerset inc. city of Bath	16

County/City	Number of BALH Member Societies
Suffolk inc. Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Felixstowe	24
Surrey	27
Sussex (East and West) inc. Brighton, Hastings and Rye	22
Tyne and Wear inc. Sunderland and Gateshead	17
West Midlands county [not inc. city of Birmingham] i.e. the cities of Coventry and Wolverhampton, and Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall	25
Warwickshire inc. Leamington Spa and Nuneaton	13
Wiltshire inc. city of Salisbury, and Swindon	25
Worcestershire inc. Malvern and Evesham	8
Yorkshire North inc. city of York	43
Yorkshire South inc. Doncaster, Barnsley and Rotherham	6
Yorkshire East Riding inc. city of Kingston-upon-Hull	13
Yorkshire West inc. Bradford, Halifax, Barnsley, Huddersfield	36
TOTAL	1023

British Association for Local History literature review:

The review focused on publications produced by the British Association for the five years up to July 2015 and included The Local Historian, Local History News, the 'rolling list' of publications on the BALH website and the online review of books. It should be noted that while a full review of local history society publications was outside the scope of this project, those publications sent to BALH for review have been surveyed and counted.

The BALH quarterly journal, The Local Historian, accepts contributions from academics and independent local history researchers either as individuals or groups and students. The magazine Local History News, aimed at informing and stimulating current local research, also appears quarterly and has had a themed strand of The First World War since Spring 2012. The content is broad with a combination of short articles on current or recent local history, news from societies, museums, archives, libraries and other organisations in addition to book reviews. Local History News also contains a number of reports on new websites of interest to local historians, some of which derive from academic projects and others from such projects with substantial community involvement e.g. England's Immigrants. It should be noted that many of these projects are run by academics with elements of community involvement rather than instigated by the local history community itself.

The BALH also has two other key strands of publication; the Rolling List which is themed around WWI and which is found on the website: www.balh.org.uk. An E-newsletter is also produced which is principally a forum for sharing research and also publishing articles.

BALH also produces printed good-value guides to local history research authored by members of BALH committees/staff. An example is *Living the Poor Life: a guide to the Poor Law Union Correspondence c. 1834-1871 held at the National Archives* by Paul Carter and Natalie Whistance (2012).

The guide resulted from a project sponsored by BALH and the Friends of the National Archives and financed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to catalogue correspondence with the Poor Law

Board from records held at The National Archives. The work was carried out by trained volunteers under the direction of professionals. Such projects which comprise substantial pieces of research would not be possible without professional input and guidance.

In order to determine whether a piece of writing was community-generated, rather than academic, a number of criteria were examined:

- Is the author an individual, group, editor or academic;
- Was the contribution produced through an event by a group known to BALH;
- Is the research part of the output of a funded project;
- who published the research;
- Is it was reasonably priced;
- Does the title or publisher indicate a community project and
- When looking at *The Local Historian* does the article and notes say anything about the origins and author?

This method of determination was applied to all the publications reviewed. If a particular publication met two or more criteria, they were deemed to be community-generated. In addition, the publications were divided into:

- Community-generated;
- Possibly community-generated i.e. work produced by professionals/academics acting in a voluntary capacity;
- (Retired) academics and allied i.e. retired and non-retired academics and teachers with close connections to local/regional/county or national history societies;
- Individuals i.e. those publications produced by local historians/scholars acting alone.

The results are given in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Research origins

Where published/reviewed	Community-generated	Possibly community-generated	By (retired) academics and allied	By individuals
Rolling list of WWI publications on BALH website	13	14	9	12
Publications reviewed online by BALH 2012-15	12	12	7	28
Projects & publications appearing in <i>Local History News</i> 2012-15	64	3	3	12
Production of books etc. reviewed in <i>The Local Historian</i>	16	18	10	26
Articles in <i>The Local Historian</i>	1	1	8	9
TOTALS	106	48	27	87

BALH's *Local History News* proved to be a real treasure trove of information about community-generated research projects. In the short articles and under News from Museums, Libraries, Archives and Societies, very large numbers of community-generated research projects were described. These were easily identifiable as originating in local or occasionally regional groups and largely used volunteers to carry them out. The research generated by community groups

was disseminated in a great variety of ways, it being usually a report or announcement of that dissemination which appears in *Local History News*: books, newsletters, church, village or town guidebooks, and history or heritage trail leaflets, exhibitions, DVDs and films. A small but notable group of 'communities' generating and producing research were various 'Friends' of museums or record offices. These Friends often produced displays or held Open Days or similar, on particular themes, as well as producing accompanying reports/publications, very often in their newsletters, one example being the Friends of Medway Archives. Although these groups appear to be based in an institution, it is clear that they are very much community-generators of research. A small number of projects were instigated after people had worked together to produce theatre productions, and of interest because they outline the genesis of the projects which is not always the case (see *Local History News* 104, for instance).

Local History News includes profiles of local historians (non-professionals) awarded BALH awards. Time has precluded the analysis of these but it is very generally the case that the award-winners draw attention to the fact that their research is really part of the work of a community group, that is, their local history society.

Conclusions

The literature review highlighted the difficulty of establishing what constitutes community-generated research. Articles in *The Local Historian*, and books reviewed there, were much more academic in production than in the other categories analysed. Furthermore, although some articles/books were written by employed academics (including hon. research fellows), others were written by retired academics (including some from other disciplines who had taken up local history after retirement, often acquiring further local history qualifications) and yet others by highly-qualified history teachers. Many of the academics and teachers, whether retired or not, who wrote articles also had close connections to a local or regional or county or national (specialist interest) history society. To accommodate this, the category '(Retired) academics and allied' was used. The category 'Individual' covers local history publications which are as far as can be judged by local historians/scholars working alone.

The review also revealed that a proportion of the research analysed was generated by academic communities, notably works produced by County or City record societies. The volumes of County or City Record societies should be regarded as a kind of research originating in communities since these societies are run, and the volumes edited, by volunteers i.e. nearly always by professionals/academics acting in a voluntary capacity. Indeed County and City Record societies are funded by a membership largely of the relevant community, i.e. a county or city. It is difficult to completely establish if this research is purely generated by the community, therefore the works were categorised as 'possible community-generated research'.

Many of the publications of the Victoria County History are described or reviewed under their various counties in *Local History News*, with most of the works being of the short paperback England's Past for Everyone e.g. VCH Shorts are described in *Local History News* 112. The research produced by the county VCH groups was counted as community-generated as the reports in *Local History News* made clear the role of local and regional communities in sustaining and running the county VCH trust, fundraising and research.

A few joint volunteer-university collaborations which were reported were allocated to possible community-generated research as this seemed most appropriate. However projects generated by university Engagement Hubs, although often aimed at local communities, were not. These projects have not been counted as community-generated, or projects by record offices or museums, etc., which simply recruited volunteers to what were essentially professional operations.

In terms of the content of research generated by the local history community, there is a prevalence for this research to be focussed on historical anniversaries, either local or national, although sometimes there is debate as to whether this is a valid historical approach. Research is widespread although the institution in 2012 of BALH's annual Essay Prize for an article on medieval or early-modern subject (c.AD 600-1600) reflects the smaller amount of local history research in those periods, either by groups or individuals, not least due to the specialised technical skills required.

6.1.3 Review of accessibility of HLF-funded outputs, by Su Vale

The third part of the literature review assessed recipients of HLF grants within the case study areas in order to provide an overview of the types of projects receiving funding, and the online availability and visibility of outputs produced by those projects.

This review focused on Heritage Lottery Funded projects in the three geographical regions which encompassed the project's case study areas: West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humberside, and Eastern. Details of the recipients, projects and the awards granted were extracted from the lottery grants search database on Department of Culture Media and Sport website (<http://www.lottery.culture.gov.uk/Search.aspx>) and limited to grants awarded between January 2009 and December 2014. In order to create a more manageable data set, a 10% random sample of the results was taken for investigation.

Using this data, an internet search was carried out to find information about the projects and the outputs that were produced. For the purposes of this review a wide range of publications, including books and booklets, leaflets and websites, were counted as outputs. These did not have to be directly available online: details of, mentions of or links to outputs were included. Where projects have resulted in more than one output, these have been counted individually.

Table 3 Online visibility of HLF-funded project outputs by region

Region	No. of projects reviewed	Book/booklet	DVD	Leaflet	Website	Heritage Trails	None of the above found
West Midlands	79	5	3	2	3	0	66
Eastern	78	2	2	1	2	4	66
Yorkshire & Humberside	68	3	1	1	4	1	58

Although the Department of Culture Media and Sport website gives details of the grants awarded, including the dates and amounts, it does not include information about the projects' objectives and proposed outputs, so it is not possible to determine whether publications were included in the planned activities. In addition the internet search was limited to the top 20 search results for each project; where publications were produced as part of the project, but not promoted on the internet or where webpages have disappeared, these would not have been included in the results. The majority of the projects included outputs such as open days, school workshops, building repairs and renovations, exhibitions and events which were not relevant to this review.

Nonetheless, it is perhaps concerning that of the total sample of 225 projects awarded grants between 2009 and 2014, 84% did not appear to have any outputs available or easily identifiable online.

6.2 National survey

6.2.1 Overview

The online survey, hosted by SurveyMonkey, was opened for responses on 25/5/2015. The original deadline of 21/08/2015 was extended to 21/09/2015, and the final export of the data (to allow for manual incorporation of paper responses and cleaning of the data) was undertaken on 19/10/2015.

Distribution was undertaken using various means, including:

- Email campaigns using the MailChimp distribution platform: campaigns were distributed to all HERs in England, regional CBA groups, and ALGAO regional groups, with accompanying requests to forward the survey to relevant contacts/members. The combined reach of these email campaigns was 3027 email accounts. They resulted in 470 visits to the survey page.
- The survey was publicised on a number of national forums considered relevant to the topic, including:
 - HER forum JISCMAIL list
 - BAJR Facebook discussion page & News pages
 - Local History JISCMAIL list
 - Community Archives and Heritage Group
- Social media: Multiple HE and WAAS accounts were used to publicise the survey via Twitter and Facebook.
- Newsletters and e-updates: BALH, HE, CBA, WAAS, IHBC, VAG and others.
- Magazines: a link to the survey and brief introduction to the project were included in *Current Archaeology* magazine and *British Archaeology*.
- Hard copies were distributed on request, by post, with SAE for return included.

Where possible (within organisational constraints), open-source software was used for data processing and analysis. In summary:

- Data cleaning and batch geocoding of responses was undertaken using [OpenRefine](#)
- [Voyant Tools](#) was used for text analysis and visualisation. 'Stop words' were filtered using the standard English Taporware list, supplemented by additions where required (e.g. in the case of terms occurring in the question which were repeated in the answer). Link analysis was carried out using [Voyant Links](#).
- Further text visualisation was carried out with [Tagxedo](#)

A total of 669 responses were received. All but 2 were received electronically. Removing duplicate entries from the same IP address, and filtering out responses with insufficient information to be usable (i.e. fewer than two questions answered) resulted in a **final total of 619**.

Multiple, differing responses from different IP addresses were received from 9 groups. In these cases, duplicate responses have not been removed, as they appear to represent:

- a) Sub-groups within umbrella organisations, carrying out separate projects, or:
- b) Differing interpretations of the activities of the group amongst members.

6.2.2 Geolocation

Survey data was processed in *OpenRefine*, and responses were geolocated by IP address, in order to give an indication of the geographical distribution of the responses. Whilst this proved to be a reliable and efficient method, the resulting data needs to be viewed with caution. The IP address will generally return the physical location of the server or ISP data centre used to access the survey, rather than the location of the respondent themselves. The degree to which the two correlate is variable: for example, multiple IP addresses from respondents in rural areas may appear to 'cluster' in a nearby town or city. Furthermore, privacy-conscious users may use a proxy server to mask their location.

Where users are accessing the survey using mobile data networks, the margin for error is even greater: Triukose et al (2012) found that in 70% of cases, geolocation of smartphone IP addresses differed from the physical location of the user by more than 100km, and in some cases errors were inter-continental.



Figure 3 Geocoded respondent locations (n=619)

With these caveats in mind, the response locations were evenly distributed across England, with no clear gaps identified as causes for concern. As expected, particularly given the 'cluster' effect explained above, areas with lower population density such as East Anglia and the North West appear less well-represented, but this is largely due to responses from those regions being tightly concentrated within urban centres.

Additionally, the physical location of a respondent does not necessarily relate to the research they are undertaking. For example, respondents may: be away from home, take the survey whilst travelling, have moved to a different area, or be researching geographical areas outside their home region.

Manual cleaning of geocoded responses was undertaken using Google's *My Maps* platform; where possible responses were manually checked and, if found to be geographically anomalous, moved to the focus of the respondent's research. However, errors may remain, particularly for those respondents who did not provide clues to location of their projects within their responses.

6.2.3 Findings from the national survey

A summary of findings from the survey responses follows, broken down by theme in order to address the aims and objectives of the project. Where graphs and tables relate directly to survey response data, the relevant question numbers are identified in the captions.

To look in depth at how various factors affect the production and dissemination of research, particular areas of interest have been selected for more detailed analysis and cross-tabulation of survey data. These have been grouped by theme, in response to questions arising from the survey responses and from consultation with respondents and other project stakeholders.

As the focus of the project is on the assessing the value of research in terms of its potential to enhance HERs and Research Frameworks, most of the following section is targeted towards this specific aim.

Inevitably there are many more angles to be explored that fall beyond the scope or capacity of this project. Raw, anonymised survey data will be made available to interested researchers, and it is hoped that this will enable topics beyond the scope of this project to be explored in greater depth.

a) Understanding the researchers and types of research

This section outlines the profile of the respondents and the nature of research activities undertaken within the last 5 years.

Group focus

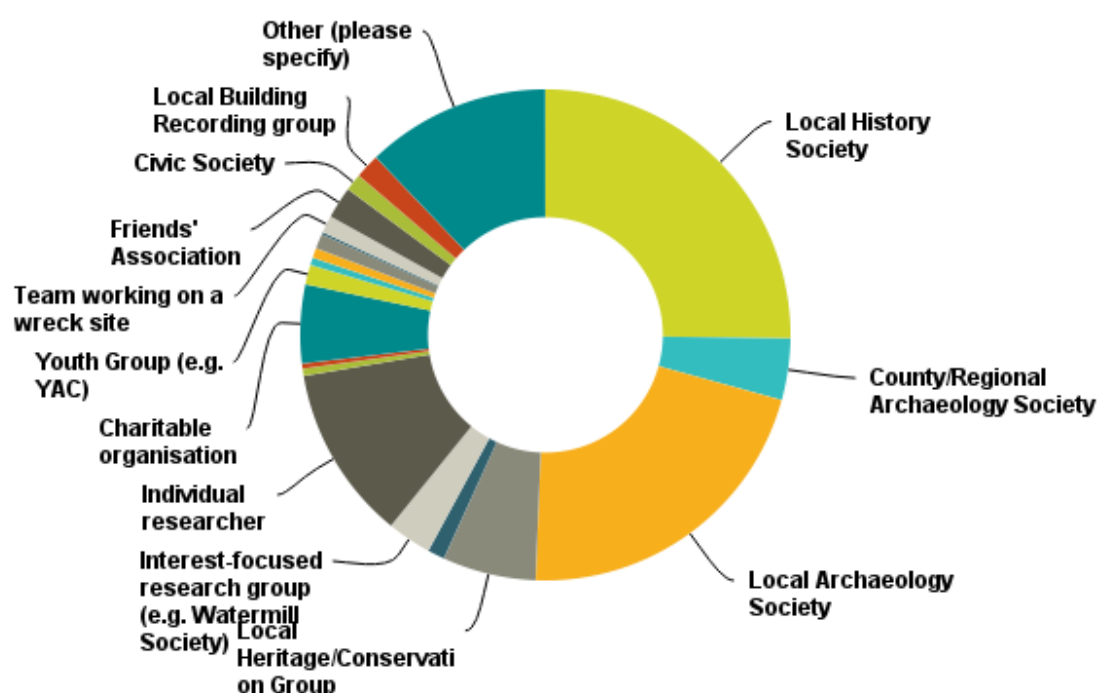


Figure 4 Which option best describes your group or organisation? (Q1)

Table 4 Which option best describes your group or organisation? (Q1)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Local History Society	25.2%	156
Local Archaeology Society	21.4%	132
Other (please specify)	12.1%	75
Individual researcher	11.5%	71
Local Heritage/Conservation Group	6.1%	38
Charitable organisation (e.g. Preservation Trust)	5.2%	32
County/Regional Archaeology Society	4.0%	25
Interest-focused research group (e.g. Watermill Society)	2.9%	18
Friends' Association (e.g. linked to Museum or Building)	2.1%	13
County or local Building Recording group	1.6%	10
Youth Group (e.g. YAC)	1.3%	8
Period-focused research group (e.g. Tudor History)	1.1%	7
Team working on a wreck site	1.1%	7
Civic Society	1.1%	7
County/Regional Historical Society	1.0%	6
Commercial organisation	0.6%	4
Neighbourhood/Local Plan group	0.5%	3
Educational organisation (e.g. school, college, U3A, WEA)	0.5%	3
Experimental Archaeology/Living History group	0.3%	2
County/Regional History Forum	0.2%	1
answered question		618
skipped question		1

A small majority of respondents self-identified as either local history societies or local/county/regional archaeology societies. Individual researchers were also well-represented, along with local heritage/conservation groups and charitable organisations. It should be noted that the question asked which option 'best described' the respondent's organisation: the responses indicated that many crossed category boundaries. Many were keen to stress that their broad range of interests made it difficult to pick an option: the participants in and process of community research is frequently more complex and dynamic than such categories allow.

As the 'other' responses comprised around 12% of the total, these were further broken down to try to ascertain the key focus of the historic environment activity of respondents within this group. They could be broadly categorised as follows:

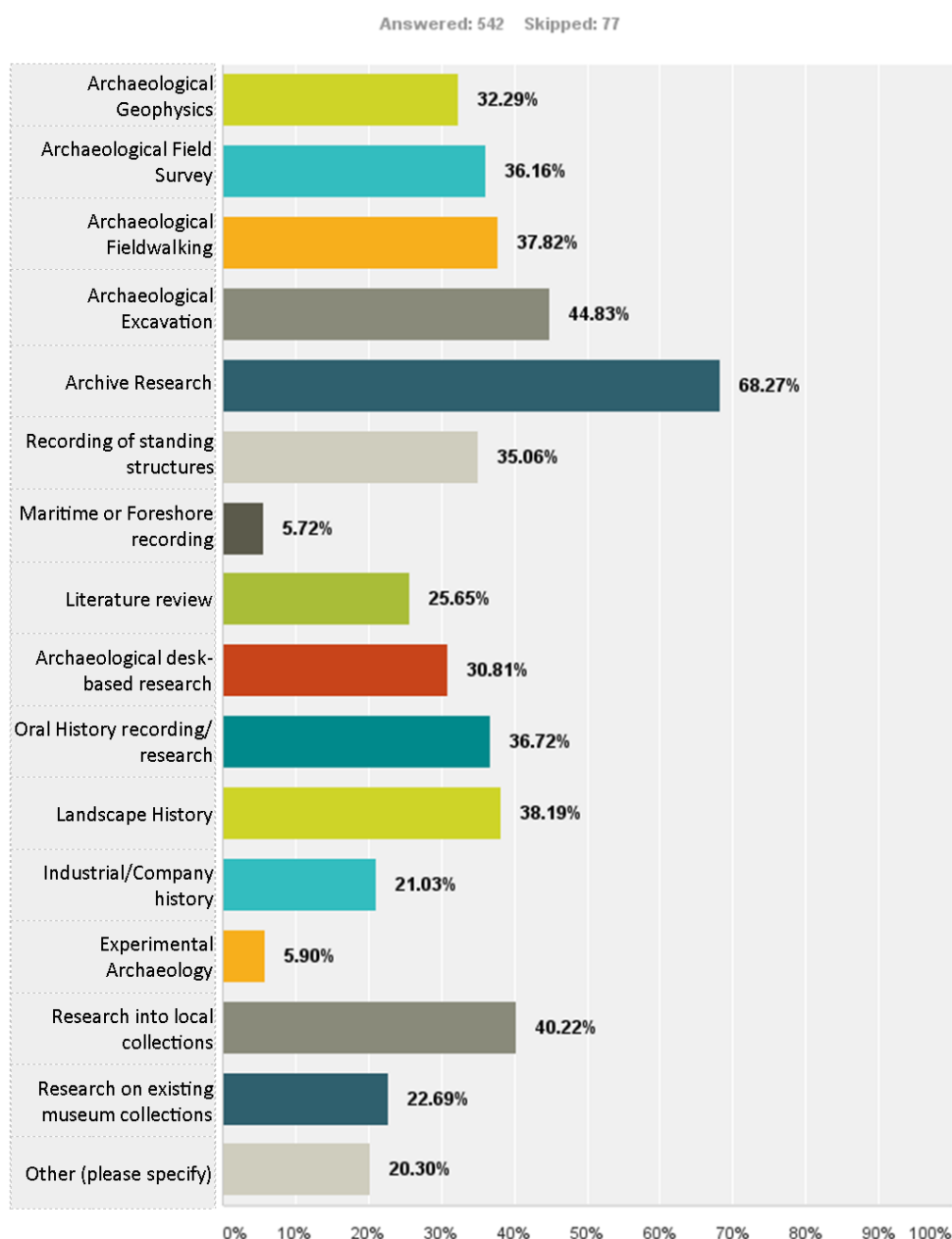
Table 5: Main Focus of 'Other' responses (Q1)

Local History	Archaeology	Local history and archaeology	Maritime	Industrial	Museum	Historic Gardens	Family History	Individual	Local org. with wider interests	Uncategorised	Total
6	12	5	5	7	5	7	2	5	8	13	75

Among significant occurrences in the 'other' column include a number of organisations whose main focus was not heritage, but who had undertaken historic environment research. These include Women's Institute groups, Parish Councils, recreational sub-aqua groups and caving societies.

Activity types

Figure 6 If you have undertaken original research, which of the following have you carried out? (Please select all that apply) (Q7)



Archive research stands out as a clear leader, reflecting its centrality to such a broad range of research projects, both historical and archaeological. It is also clear that most community-generated research encompasses multiple techniques, and that overall the rich spread of activities is encouraging evidence of a sector with a diverse range of interests and expertise.

Within the 'other' field, activities related to World War 1 commemorations were highlighted, corroborating the observation in section 6.1.2 that historic environment research often focusses on historical anniversaries. Research-led conservation, ecological and palaeoenvironmental research and genealogical research arising out of other activities were also mentioned.

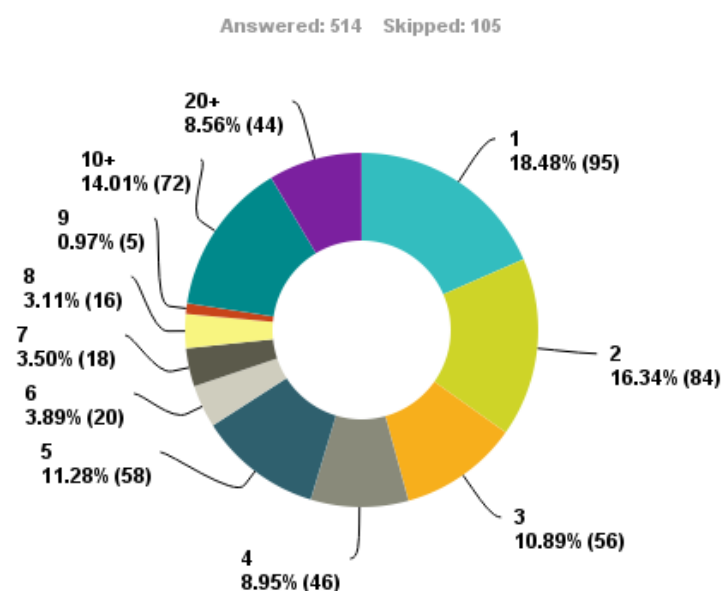
b) How much research has been undertaken and published in the last five years?

The three questions in this section were designed to elicit information about the number of projects undertaken by respondents, the proportion of those projects for which some form of research output had been produced, and the total number of research outputs produced.

These questions were designed and split in order to explore some of the nuances of dissemination of research, and to differentiate between projects undertaken and projects published. Certain types of long-running projects might not be expected to generate research outputs whilst in progress, and many projects will be published in numerous forms; in some cases either a single 'project' may encompass multiple sites or research foci, or many projects may be collated in a single publication.

Number of projects per group

Figure 7 How many projects have you undertaken (include both completed and ongoing) within the last five years? (Please treat projects with the same focus, e.g. a geophysical survey following documentary research on the same site, as a single project) (Q8)



Whilst the majority of respondents had undertaken fewer than 5 projects within the last 5 years, a notable proportion were highly active, with 14% carrying out more than 10 distinct projects, and 8.6% more than 20.

159 respondents used the accompanying comment field to expand or clarify. Some found it difficult to quantify, especially in cases where a series of distinct projects had arisen from a single original area of interest, and in cases where large umbrella bodies were answering on behalf of their members' work:

"The number is questionable; it is impossible to define current research in terms of discrete projects." Local History Society, South East

"With... a substantial number of divers who research wrecks... and write up reports at varying levels it is hard to give a figure." Team working on a wreck site, National

Collating all the responses gives an estimate for the **minimum number of 2924 projects undertaken in the last five years** by the 514 respondents to this question. Given that almost a quarter fell into the 'more than' category, and some of the outliers at the upper end reported, in some cases, having undertaken over 100 projects, this figure is likely to be a very conservative estimate. **The mean number of projects undertaken per group is 5.7.**

Projects resulting in research outputs**Table 6** How many of your projects have produced research outputs or publications by your group or organisation in the last five years? (Please enter a number) (Q11)

This question, which required respondents to enter a numeric value, was intended to pick out how many discrete projects have been published in some form, allowing a distinction to be drawn between projects undertaken (Q8) and projects published. **A total of 3357 projects** for which at least one output has been produced were reported by the 446 respondents, **giving a mean of 7.5 projects per group.**

Measure	Value
Mean	7.5
Median	3
Mode	1
Range	100
answered question	446
skipped question	173

This is substantially higher than the minimum estimate for total number of projects generated from Q8, reflecting the activities of highly active outlier groups or networks of researchers producing very large bodies of work, well above the '20+' upper threshold permitted in Q8.

Total number of research outputs**Table 7** How many research outputs, in total, has your group or organisation produced in the last five years? (Please enter a number) (Q12)

This question looks beyond numbers of projects to assess the number of outputs from those projects, in recognition of the broad scope of some projects and the wide range of different dissemination methods. In total, **410 respondents were responsible for 5192 discrete research outputs.** This gives a mean of 12.7 research outputs per group.

Measure	Value
Mean	12.7
Median	5
Mode	1
Range	100
answered question	410
skipped question	209

Producing a national estimate for voluntary and community research activity

There are some difficulties in extrapolating the numbers above in order to obtain a national estimate. Dr Thomas' survey *Community Archaeology in the UK: Recent Findings* (2010, 15), which states a figure of 'at least' 2030 groups with an interest in archaeological heritage in the UK, is considered to be the most reliable figure to date. Of 504 viable responses to Thomas's survey, 466 could be geolocated, of which 77% (n= 359) were from England. Applied to the contemporary national estimate at the time, this would indicate in the region of 1563 groups extant within England in 2010.

There are several important caveats: whilst most of the group profiles are comparable across the two studies, Thomas's study included groups such as metal detecting clubs, which were beyond Historic England's stated scope for this project, and comprised 6.7% (n=34) of respondents. However, Thomas did not include individual researchers, who represented 11.5% (n=71) of respondents to our survey. If we adjust Thomas' figure to reflect the scope of this study, removing metal detecting groups and adding individual researchers at the respective proportions, we arrive at a figure of 1587.

Secondly, any extrapolation of Thomas' figures to obtain an estimate of current levels assumes that numbers have remained relatively stable since 2010. Whilst group formation dates were beyond the scope of our survey, Thomas' data (2010, 21: fig 4) suggests that among her respondents, there is a steady increase from around 350 in the year 2000 to about 500 in the year 2010, an increase of roughly 30% over a 10 year period. This does not take account of groups defunct by 2010. However, the effect of the recession on the archaeology sector in the years 2010-15, the period covered by the current survey, has been profound, with outreach and education services in local authorities often withdrawn or drastically reduced in local government cuts, affecting the support available to voluntary groups. Pressures on funding

sources and increased competition have also been widely reported by respondents. On the other hand, the Localism Act (2011) and associated legislation and policy have encouraged the devolution of matters involving the historic environment, such as neighbourhood planning, to the voluntary sector at a local level, and the occurrence of anniversaries of national significance (such as the centenary of the start of the Great War in 2014) have been the catalyst for the formation of heritage groups and remembrance projects.

If we therefore make the conservative assumption that the negative factors have counter-balanced the positive to limit the growth of new groups, and take Thomas' figure adjusted for the variance in project scope as above, **we will assume that there are in the region of 1600 extant groups with an interest in the historic environment.** With the caveat that the self-selecting sample taking the survey may represent a subset at the more active end of the scale, extrapolating from this number using the mean figures from survey respondents gives us **an estimate of 12,000 historic environment research projects** which have been disseminated or published in some way **within the last five years**, and a **total of 20,320 discrete research outputs.**

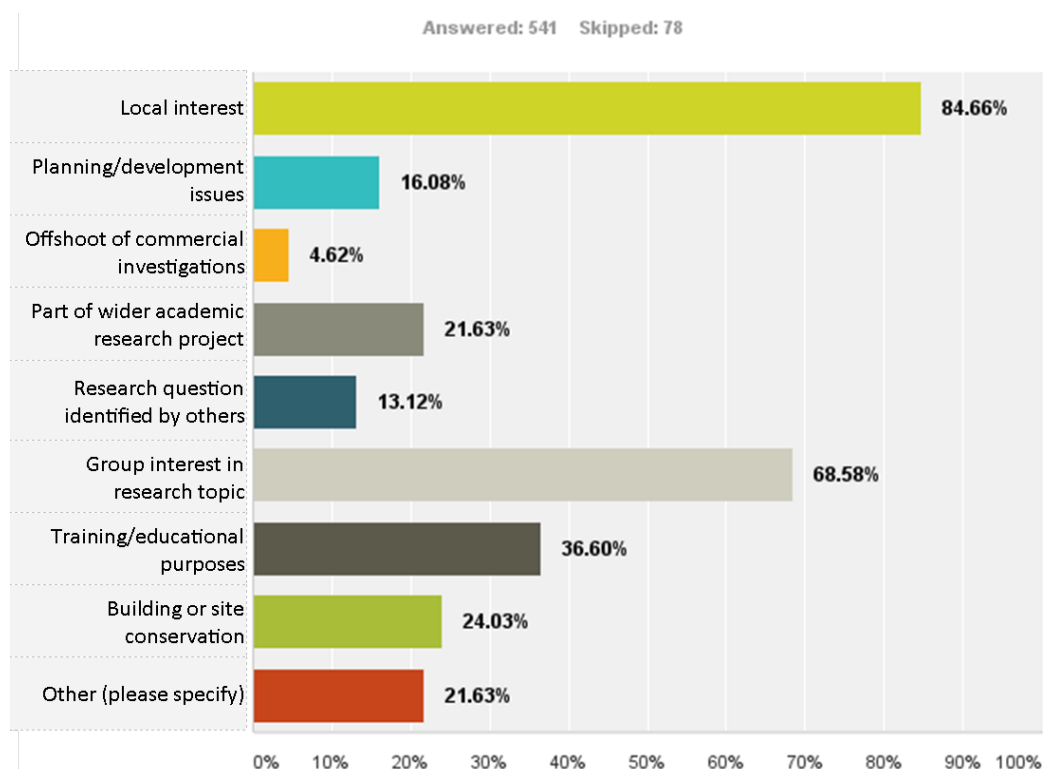
The inherent difficulties in arriving at an estimate of community-generated research are an indicator of the need for a more systematic mechanism for collating the outputs it produces. It is relatively straightforward to arrive at a figure for the amount of developer-funded investigations undertaken in any given area, through the collation of, for example, 'event' records from relevant HERs. Arriving at an accurate picture for community-generated research is difficult in the absence of a single mechanism to record it, and the figure above may be a substantial underestimate.

c) Why is research being undertaken? How are topics/agendas set?

This section aims to examine the motivations which inspire people and groups to carry out research, how participants establish their research aims and objectives, and their awareness and use of existing Research Frameworks.

Motivations for research

Figure 8 What are the reasons for carrying out your research? (Please check all that apply) (Q10)



Local interest and interest in specific research topics are clear leaders in the motivations for research. The significant proportion (36.6%) citing training or educational reasons may indicate a conscious focus on outcomes for participants on the part of many voluntary projects, an important consideration especially for those in receipt of external funding.

Relatively few respondents seem to be undertaking research related to commercial historic environment work, perhaps reflecting the difficulties inherent in constructive voluntary participation within commercial archaeological frameworks.

Of note is the significant minority (16.1%) identifying planning and development issues as motivating factors. In many cases, this appears to result from perceived shortcomings of existing heritage bodies and local authorities, or in response to a reduction in local authority services. A number of groups are effectively undertaking planning casework.

Within the 117 'other' responses, interesting trends emerge. Many respondents cite a desire to protect local heritage and ensure better management.

"We are concerned with creating the best HER that we can, to protect local archaeological features." Local Archaeology society, Yorkshire & The Humber

A number of respondents identified themselves as 'filling the gaps' left by a shift towards professional units undertaking almost exclusively developer-funded work. Whilst the advent of developer-funded archaeology under PPG16 is viewed largely positively within the profession,

some responses hint at a degree of ambivalence from local groups, possibly arising from the lack of capacity to investigate areas subject to fewer development pressures, and the diversion of archaeologists' attention away from the interesting and towards the threatened.

"We aim to look at areas of archaeological potential which cannot be covered by our local Archaeological Unit, since the inception of Developer Funded archaeology came into being. Thank you Mrs Thatcher." Local Archaeology Society, East Anglia

Personal fulfilment and enjoyment play a hugely important role:

"I do this work because I enjoy it and find it stimulating." Local History Group, South East

"My own passion in finding out more about the parish history" Individual researcher, South West

"Fun" Local Archaeology society, East Anglia

"Only to remark what enormous pleasure I have derived over many years from my researches. It has always been, and still remains, like a treasure hunt, a source of abiding interest, satisfaction and achievement." Individual researcher

Establishing a research focus for projects

Almost 2/3 of respondents (65.0%) set out research questions at the outset of their projects.

Figure 9 Did you set out research questions at the beginning of your project? (Q19)

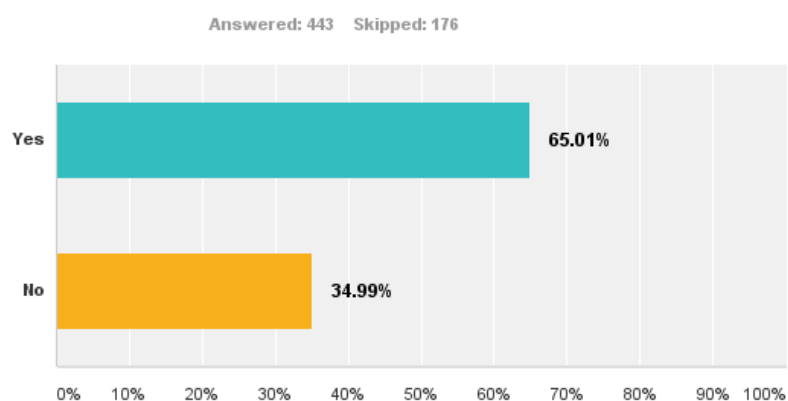
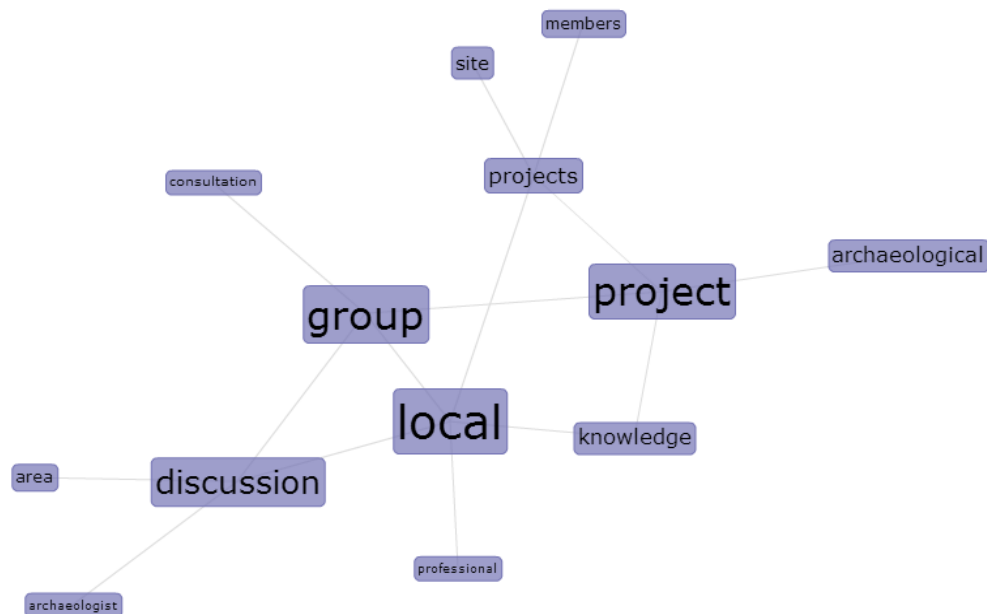


Figure 10 If so, how did you come up with these? (Q20) Generated using Voyant Tools' 'Links' package.



281 free text responses were received, detailing how research questions were set. The link graphic (Figure 10) provides some context to this process, mapping cross-links between recurring terms in the responses, with the most frequently-used and inter-connected words given most prominence. In most cases respondents described variants on an organic, iterative process beginning with local knowledge, experience, or a local 'puzzle', which was gradually developed through discussion and consultation, bringing in a range of specialist knowledge as the project progresses.

Some responses hint at the ways in which initial periods of intense and fruitful discovery led to a 'mature' stage of consolidation and interpretation:

"An unexplored area - initially a period of discovery of a rich archaeological record hitherto untapped. Historical research identified areas of particular interest. Site surveys and geophysics focus interest on specific sites. Present efforts aimed to build understanding of particular episodes in village development." Local Archaeology Society, South West

One respondent highlighted how personal interest and enjoyment develops into an understanding of wider potential:

"I began researching from personal interest, then saw the potential of adding to what was already known about the building locally and nationally; some of my research has been deposited with the HER and Archaeology Collections" Individual researcher, South East

Planning and development

**Q15 Who do you send your research to?
[Filter: motivations include
Planning/Development Issues]**

Answered: 77 Skipped: 10

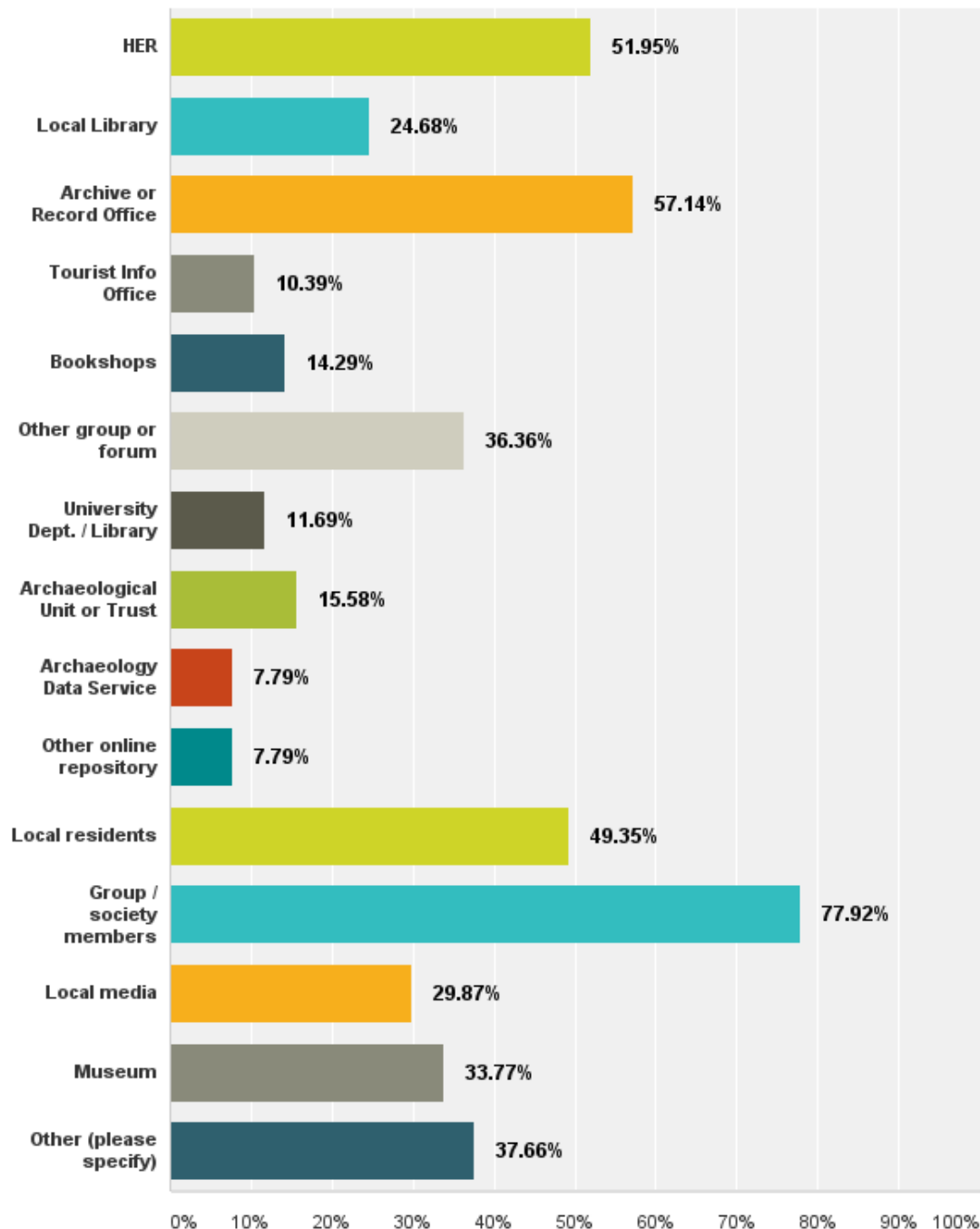


Figure 11 Destinations of research among planning-concerned groups (Q10, Q15)

Almost 1/6 of respondents (n=87, 16.1%) cited 'Planning / Development Issues' as a reason for carrying out research. In order to establish whether respondents engaged in these issues are more likely to consult, and in turn feed their work back into, HERs and Advisory Services, responses for Q10 were compared against those for Q4 and Q15.

The chart indicates that those citing planning and development issues are predominantly circulating their work within the group, and to archive services or record offices. Only half (52.0%) are circulating their research to the local HER, which comprises the key research resource for the Historic Environment in planning-related decisions. However, respondents who don't specifically cite planning issues are 35% less likely to send their research to their local HER/Advisory Service, with only just over 1/3 (33.8%) doing so. This indicates that awareness of the importance of the HER as a research resource for the planning system is significantly higher among those with a direct interest in planning issues, although even amongst this group it remains worryingly low.

Receipt of support or advice from the HER or Advisory Service is relatively high among this group, at 59.8%, but conversely that indicates that over 40% of groups who are actively engaged with planning and development issues are *not* in receipt of such assistance.

Table 8 Relationships between planning-concerned groups & Archaeology Services

Respondents citing motivations including planning and development issues tabulated against support or advice from and dissemination to HERs / Advisory Services				
Question	Option	If citing planning issues as reason for research	If not citing planning issues as reason for research	% difference
Q4 Do you receive support or advice from?	HER / Advisory Service	59.8%	44.4%	-25.8%
Q15 Who do you send your research to?	HER	52.0%	33.8%	-35.0%

Free-text responses elsewhere in the survey help to shed light on this conundrum. Although many groups self-identify as carrying out a range of activities including landscape history and recording of historic structures in reaction to planning issues, few explicitly see their work as fitting into a framework of characterisation, placemaking or enhancement of a body of historic environment data. Whilst it is clear that there are active groups and individuals who are producing large quantities of original work in response to planning applications, local plans and conservation issues, they are reluctant to identify this work as 'research'.

One respondent, in the north of England, notes that:

"the vast bulk is short-term pieces of work in response to planning applications" (Local History Society, North West)

and details a number of investigations which have identified examples of open field systems and locally significant agricultural and industrial structures threatened with demolition; such work often enters the public domain quickly but informally through local heritage discussion boards, Facebook groups and talks, and is submitted to local planning authorities, but crucially does not appear to be fed back into local HERs.

In some cases this stems from a perception that 'research outputs' equate to academic journal publications; the respondent quoted above also noted that:

"our primary aims are to protect local heritage and educate the local population, very few of whom read academic journals". (Local History Society, North West)

Interestingly, the quoted respondent did not explicitly cite planning or development issues, perhaps suggesting that the 16.1% figure is not fully representative; nor do they send the results of their research to the HER.

It seems, therefore, that research resources such as HERs are in some cases starved of data coming from a 'research' angle because they are perceived as planning-focused and uninterested in pure research, yet also simultaneously missing out on data coming from local communities because of a perception that they are too research-focused.

The cross-tabulation and analysis of respondents motivated by planning and development issues indicates that a disconnect exists between local voluntary organisations who are hugely passionate and knowledgeable about their local area, carrying out valuable historic environment characterisation work often in response to shortfalls in local authority provision, and the bodies and research resources that underpin historic environment advisory services.

Planning case-work was highlighted by one respondent, who noted that:

"All this is a normal element of the submissions we make on planning applications which will impact on heritage assets. Our greatest difficulty is in mustering sufficient interest on the part of the four local authorities with which we deal to ensure adequate archaeological conditions in any consents, and we believe that a number of sites have been lost as a result." Local Heritage/Conservation Group, London

This appears to be starting to feed a cycle in which shortfalls in capacity lead to local volunteers taking on a heavy burden of historic environment planning work on a case-by-case basis, often without their research feeding back into the resources which could potentially contribute to the bigger picture and inform a more coherent approach. If voluntary sector advocacy for the historic environment is to be effective, constructive and rewarding in the light of increasing pressure on local authority resources, there is an urgent need to integrate the efforts of local communities into the research resources and empower them to be able to champion their heritage and articulate its contribution to placemaking and local identity.

Awareness of existing Research Frameworks

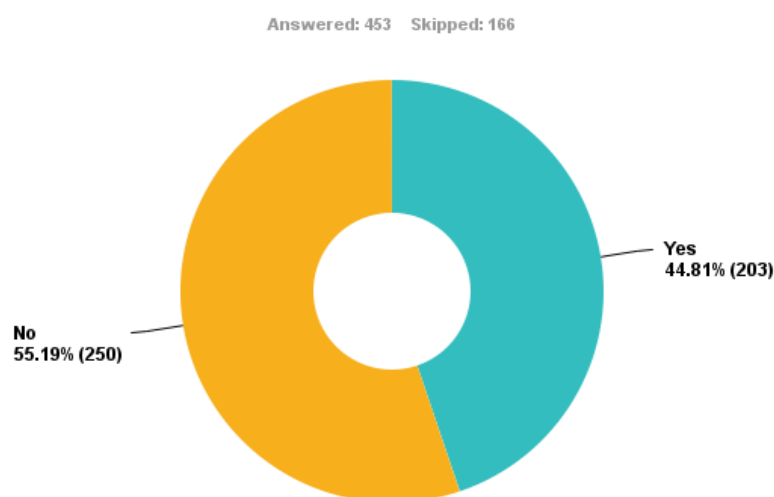


Figure 12 Are you familiar with existing research frameworks relating to the topic of your research or interest? (Q16)

A brief explanation of the form and role of Research Frameworks (RFs) was provided on this page of the survey, with a link to further information on Historic England's website.

Over 55% of respondents were not familiar with existing Research Frameworks. This may be an underestimate of the true proportion of respondents unaware of Research Frameworks: the skip rate for this question was relatively high, which may indicate that some respondents chose not to answer the question rather than answering negatively. Furthermore, of the 67 comments in the associated free-text box, there appeared to be confusion among several 'yes' respondents over the nature of Research Frameworks.

Cross-referencing types of groups and familiarity with Research Frameworks

In order to determine how the group's focus affected their awareness of Research Frameworks, respondents' group types were charted against their familiarity with relevant frameworks.

Table 9 Who is familiar with Research Frameworks?

		Q16: Are you familiar with existing RFs relating to the topic of your research or interest?	
		Yes	No
Q1: Which option best describes your group or organisation?	Local History Society	25.9% 30	74.1% 86
	County/Regional Archaeology Society	71.4% 10	28.6% 4
	Local Archaeology Society	52.5% 52	47.5% 47
	Local Heritage/Conservation Group	42.4% 14	57.6% 19
	Period-focused research group (e.g. Tudor History)	83.3% 5	16.7% 1
	Interest-focused research group (e.g. Watermill Society)	53.9% 7	46.1% 6
	Individual researcher	47.4% 27	52.6% 30
	Neighbourhood/Local Plan group	0.0% 0	100.0% 1
	Experimental Archaeology/Living History group	50.0% 1	50.0% 1
	Charitable organisation	43.5% 10	56.5% 13
	Youth Group (e.g. YAC)	0.0% 0	100.0% 3
	Educational organisation (e.g. school, college, U3A, WEA)	33.3% 1	66.7% 2
	Commercial organisation	0.0% 0	100.0% 1
	County/Regional Historical Society	75.0% 3	25.0% 1
	County/Regional History Forum	0.0% 0	0.0% 0
	Team working on a wreck site	100.0% 5	0.0% 0
	Friends' Association	50.0% 4	50.0% 4
	Civic Society	0.0% 0	100.0% 4
	Local Building Recording group	71.4% 5	28.6% 2
	Total Respondents	174	225

The highest levels of awareness are among both marine and terrestrial archaeology groups, and period-focused study groups. County societies are more likely to be familiar, in part because

many county societies are long established and often have substantial links to local authority HERs/Advisory Services and Museums, in addition to frequently including leading local professionals among their members. Many of the groups covering smaller geographical areas and self-identifying as 'local', on the other hand, are more recently established (with notable exceptions) and have fewer ties to the professional networks that have been, up to now, the primary drivers in the production of Research Frameworks.

It is clear from these figures that whilst a significant majority of county/regional and a small majority of local archaeology societies are aware of existing Research Frameworks, the same can be said of only a quarter of local history societies. There are a number of factors that help to account for this: firstly, as Campion's introduction to the Modern Period (1750-2000) in the East Midlands Research Framework notes:

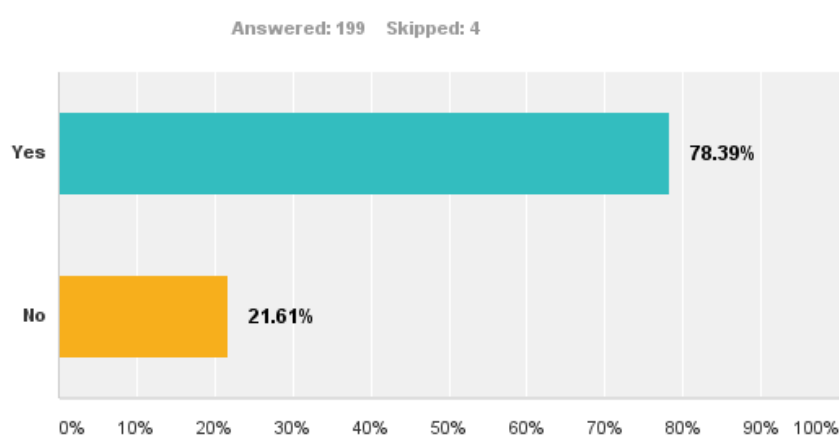
"Nationally, the modern period has received less comprehensive academic archaeological attention and therefore lacks a mature theoretical tradition" (Campion, in Cooper 2006, 237).

This has undoubtedly had an impact on the degree to which local history societies perceive their work to be of interest to archaeologists and as being of value to archaeological Research Frameworks. This is undoubtedly partly due to the fact that Research Frameworks have, to date, been embedded in the archaeological side of the historic environment sector.

Voluntary sector use of Research Frameworks

Amongst those who answered positively to indicate that they were aware of existing Research Frameworks, an overwhelming majority of 78.4% had consulted them in the course of planning research.

Figure 13 If yes, have you consulted the relevant Research Frameworks (where they exist) in planning your research projects? (Q17)



"[We use them] for background research and... to see how our research can contribute to the agenda" County/Regional Archaeology Society, South West

Some comments indicated that some respondents were either sceptical of the value of Research Frameworks, or found them difficult to digest. Others indicated that they felt frameworks were not relevant to their projects, or that they felt reluctant to conform to others' perceptions of research priorities.

"Yes - but only briefly. We don't need others to 'tell us' where further research is required. We have both the expertise and knowledge to determine research priorities for ourselves." Local Building Recording group, East Anglia

Research Frameworks in context

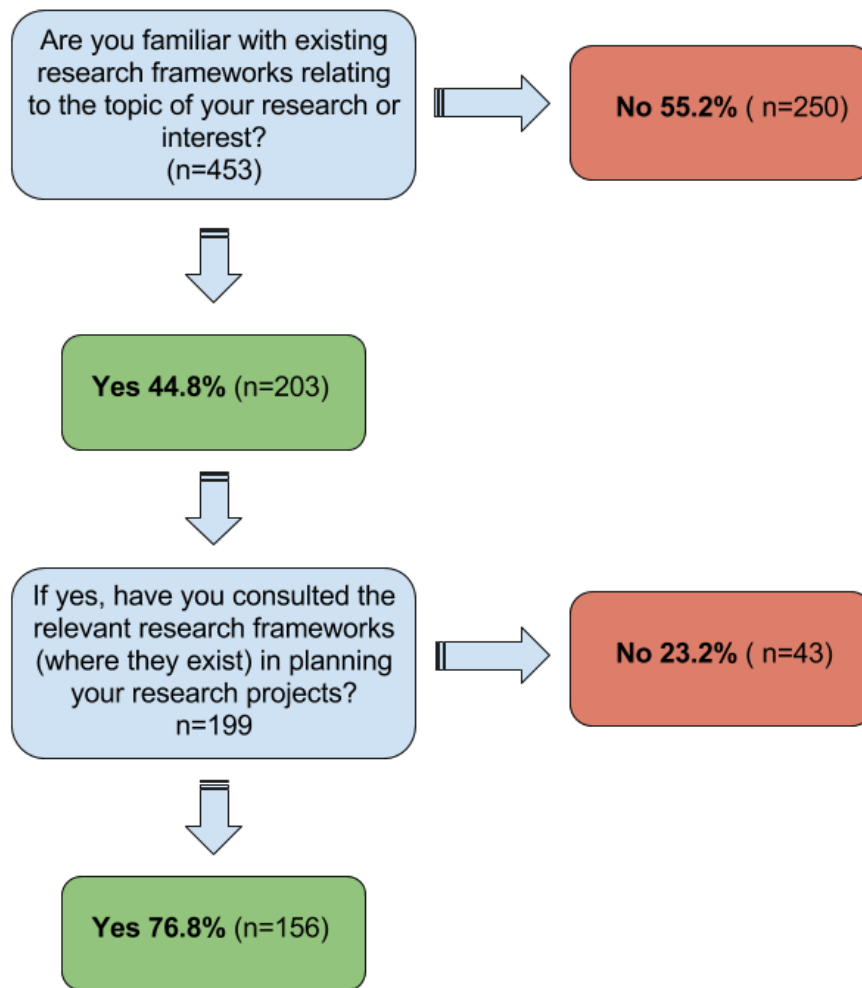


Figure 14 Research Framework usage

Survey questions 16 to 19 established that, although almost 2/3 of respondents (65.0%) had set research questions at the outset of their projects, fewer than half (44.8%) were aware of existing Research Frameworks.

Some of those who were aware of Research Frameworks highlighted tensions between perceived professional agendas and frameworks on one side, and voluntary researchers on another. A minority felt that frameworks were restrictive, inadequate or an attempt to impose:

"This patronising question is framed from the perspective of archaeologists, whom I know and love, but am not one!" Individual researcher

Others cited the difficulty in conforming to priorities in Research Frameworks where projects were predicated on local interest:

"...the concept of specific research questions is an academic one that doesn't always fit well with much local historical research where the aim is to explore the past of a site and see what stories emerge. This may then produce evidence that can be examined using a theoretical approach to address specific questions." Individual researcher, East Midlands

However, of the 203 respondents who answered that they were aware of Research Frameworks, over 3/4 (n=156, 76.8%) indicated that they had consulted frameworks during the planning stages of projects. These figures should be taken with some caution: some respondents appear to have taken a broader definition of Research Frameworks than was set

out on the survey page. However, they do convincingly demonstrate that once the hurdle of initial awareness of the *existence* of Research Frameworks is overcome, they are being utilised.

"The better communication and access to data along with good Research Frameworks - the better; give credit where it's due and make everyone who is interested feel relevant to the bigger historic environment picture." Individual researcher

Several commenters were under the impression that Research Frameworks weren't really relevant to very local projects:

"Our research is only into our village." Local History Society, North East

Others reported having used Research Frameworks, and in some cases being aware but not familiar, or consulting during the reporting phase of a project:

"I am aware they exist and plan to consult them during the writing of the formal excavation report." Individual researcher conducting archaeological fieldwork, South East

This confirms the findings of the Pye Tait review (2014) with regard to community groups, in which the two major cited barriers to voluntary sector use of Research Frameworks were lack of awareness of their existence and lack of understanding regarding how they should be used (Pye Tait 2014, 116).

Some respondents were unfamiliar with frameworks despite the existence of published frameworks for their region, available in book form and online:

"[our area] is an official archaeological wilderness" Local Archaeology Society, North West

The responses suggest that Research Frameworks do remain somewhat inaccessible for many voluntary researchers, and that if they are to be utilised to a greater degree, efforts to ensure that they are digestible, relevant and easy to access are needed; furthermore, the relevance of a well-structured framework to self-contained local projects needs to be highlighted: this would have the potential benefit of encouraging local researchers to see their work in a broader regional context and feeding work back into ongoing development of the frameworks.

The gulf between awareness of Research Frameworks between groups self-defining as being archaeology-focused and those with a local history angle is concerning, and indicates that greater efforts need to be made both to enhance existing frameworks covering the modern period and to work with the local history sector to ensure that a collaborative approach is taken.

In order to explore whether awareness of Research Frameworks follows discernible regional trends, responses to Q16 were plotted against location of respondent. Allowing for the distortions produced by concentrations of location data in urban centres, no clear geographical trends were observed.

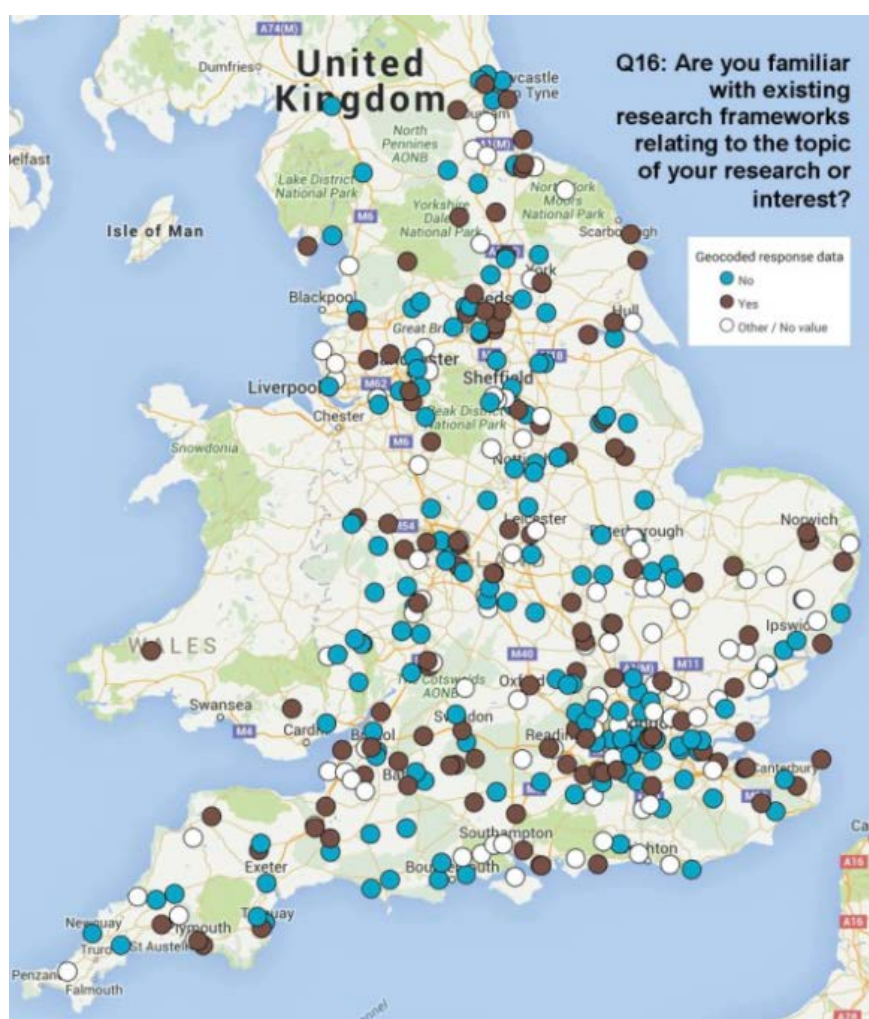


Figure 15 Geographical distribution of research framework awareness

Ownership of Research Frameworks

Although the major barrier to use of, and contribution to, Research Frameworks among voluntary sector researchers remains awareness of their existence, there are nonetheless issues in the degree to which communities feel ownership of these frameworks. Besides the respondents antagonised by the perceived imposition of frameworks, there is a perception amongst some respondents that a regional or thematic framework is too broad to be relevant to their local study. Active promotion of the role of Research Frameworks in demonstrating the value of connecting multiple small projects into the bigger picture is required.

Where groups reported having been actively involved in the process, their attitudes towards Research Frameworks were broadly positive and indicated a sense of ownership:

"Have been involved from beginning in the NAMHO produced Research Framework"
Mining Group, South West

"We were involved in consultation during its formulation" Local Archaeology Society,
East Midlands

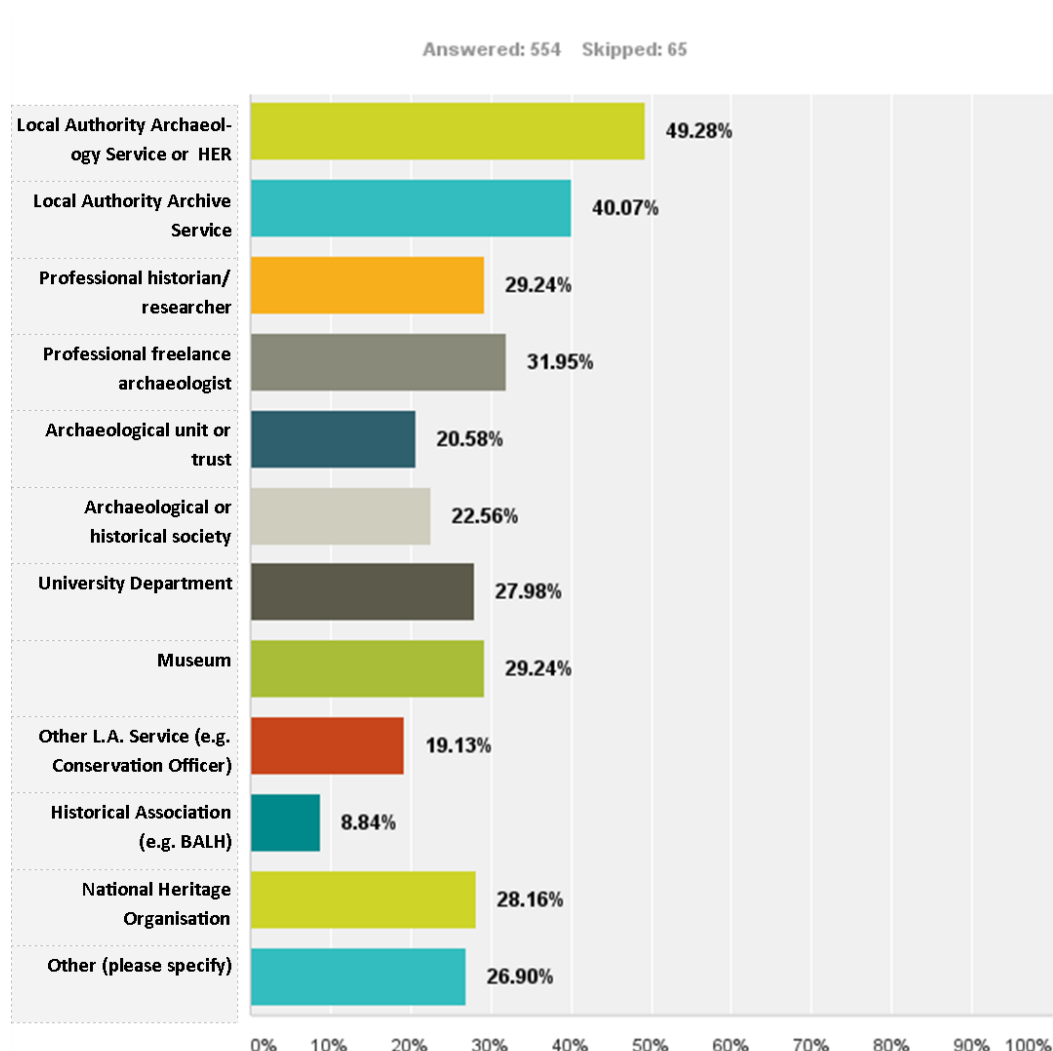
The West Yorkshire model demonstrates how this can be achieved without 'imposing' agendas onto researchers with pre-existing interests and outcomes in mind, through the production of brief overviews of key themes and gaps in current knowledge, into which researchers can dip in order to extract those most applicable and relevant to their area of study.

d) Impact of funding and advice on community-generated research

This section examines sources of funding, advice and support for voluntary sector research, and looks at the impact of these on the production and dissemination of research.

Sources of advice and support

Figure 16 As a group, do you receive support or advice from any of the following? (Please select all that apply) (Q4)



Almost half the respondents have contact with local authority archaeology services. Archives are also well represented. It is also clear that freelance professional archaeologists and professional historians appear to play an important role in supporting researchers.

Other bodies acknowledged include individual Finds Liaison Officers, the Forestry Commission, public libraries, Wildlife Trusts, Civic Voice and conservation architects.

Some responses touched on difficulties accessing support and reductions in capacity:

"The Local Authority no longer employs full-time archaeologists... Local authority resources now very thin." Individual researcher, West Midlands

"Main help has come from local Family History Societies... have attended events put on by a local authority archive service but they were to do with closing those services down." Friends' Association, South West

A number cited instances in which support and advice is routinely sought from groups by professional staff or bodies, sometimes as a result of shortfalls in funding or capacity:

"We do reference some of the above e.g. HER but more often WE give advice to Conservation Officers etc." Local Building Recording group, South West

"Resource limitations mean that any such "support or advice" is limited and restricted to major areas. Our local authority did not have the resources to produce our Conservation Area Appraisal and asked us to do it. We have in the past year fought two major public inquiries in regard to threats to heritage assets, and have won both, in each case decisively, although the believe that in each case the success was due to the local amenity groups efforts, not the local authority's." Local Heritage/Conservation Group, London



Additionally, some alluded to the fluid boundaries between 'professional' support and local groups, noting that:

"The professionals concerned are members of the organisation. Not outsiders" Local Archaeology Society, North West

"Several respected local historians contribute and we do have access to all the above... 'Professional' is a sticking point, so was omitted." Local History Society, South West

"We give and receive mutual support and have members in all the above areas" County Archaeology Society, South East

And some were proudly independent:

"Just me, my shoes, and a need to know!" Local History Society, East Midlands

Figure 17 Link analysis of Q4 'other' responses using Voyant Tools' Links package

Figure 17 maps cross-links between recurring terms in the responses, with the most frequently-used and inter-connected words given most prominence. Notably, there's a distinct separation of the terms associated with professional archaeological support in the lower portion of the figure, and the term 'history' in the upper portion, presumably reflecting that fewer explicitly 'history'-focused respondents are seeking advice from the archaeological sector.

Advice and support for different investigative techniques

In order to try to establish how the activities of respondents (Q4) related to their sources of advice and support (Q7), responses to the latter (n=542) were filtered by groups of activities, with the resulting data compared against that from Q4. Groups comprised:

- A. Intrusive archaeological fieldwork (excavation, fieldwalking)
- B. Non-intrusive archaeological field survey (geophysical survey, earthwork/LiDAR survey, condition assessment, building recording)
- C. Maritime/Foreshore archaeological recording

- D. Documentary-based research (archive research, literature review, archaeological desk-based assessment, landscape history, industrial/company history)
- E. Experimental archaeology
- F. Other collections-based research (oral history recording/research, local studies or community heritage collections, existing museum collections)
- G. Other (free-text responses)

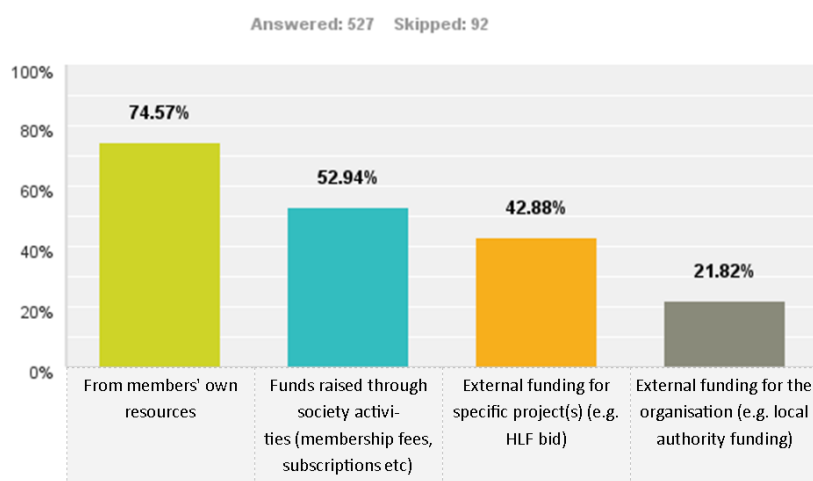
Table 10: Activities tabulated against sources of advice and/or support

		Activities undertaken:						
		A. Intrusive fieldwork	B. Non-intrusive field survey	C. Maritime/Foreshore recording	D. Documentary research	E. Experimental archaeology	F. Collections-based research	G. Other
Advice and/or support received from:	HER / Advisory Service	65.9% 182	60.1% 191	40.7% 11	54.2% 222	71.9% 23	52.3% 124	31.0% 31
	Archive Service	40.6% 112	42.8% 136	29.6% 8	45.1% 185	46.9% 15	48.1% 114	41.0% 41
	Professional historian	33.7% 93	35.2% 112	37.0% 10	31.7% 130	43.8% 14	32.5% 77	27.0% 27
	Freelance archaeologist	48.9% 135	40.9% 130	51.9% 14	32.4% 133	59.4% 19	35.9% 85	20.0% 20
	Archaeological unit or trust	31.9% 88	26.4% 84	37.0% 10	22.2% 91	31.3% 10	22.8% 54	9.0% 9
	Archaeology / history society	29.0% 80	28.3% 90	48.2% 13	25.9% 106	37.5% 12	27.9% 66	17.0% 17
	University Department	35.9% 99	33.0% 105	44.4% 12	29.8% 122	53.1% 17	31.2% 74	25.0% 25
	Museum	34.1% 94	31.8% 101	44.4% 12	30.5% 125	37.5% 12	36.7% 87	19.0% 19
	Other L.A. Officer	19.9% 55	22.0% 70	25.9% 7	21.0% 86	34.4% 11	25.7% 61	21.0% 21
	Historical Association	8.3% 23	9.1% 29	7.4% 2	9.5% 39	12.5% 4	12.7% 30	7.0% 7
	National Heritage Body	34.8% 96	35.9% 114	51.9% 14	30.7% 126	46.9% 15	32.1% 76	21.0% 21
	Other (please specify)	23.6% 65	24.5% 78	22.2% 6	27.3% 112	9.4% 3	28.7% 68	43.0% 43
	Total respondents	284	345	31	410	32	237	100

One of the interesting aspects of this data is the relatively **high incidence of support or advice provided by freelance archaeologists** (49%) to those undertaking intrusive fieldwork. To place it in context, far more respondents are consulting freelance archaeologists than are consulting university departments (36%) and commercial units (32%). It is not possible to distinguish at what stage in the project these freelance professionals are involved, nor whether they are primarily supporting the planning, fieldwork or post-excavation stages, but the free-text 'other' responses do suggest a widespread reliance on the latter, **particularly finds specialists** for identification and reporting. **The importance of freelance specialists in supporting community archaeology projects has, to date, been under-acknowledged;** this data indicates that they play a significant role.

Funding of voluntary sector research

Figure 18 How have you funded your work? (Please select all that apply) (Q9)



Responses to this question indicate that a large majority (74.6%) of those undertaking voluntary research are at least partly reliant on participants' own resources, whilst **42.9% have received project-specific funding from external sources** (including, but not limited to, the HLF).

The reliance on self-financing is cause for concern, as it may limit opportunities for participation in voluntary research, especially among low-income groups.



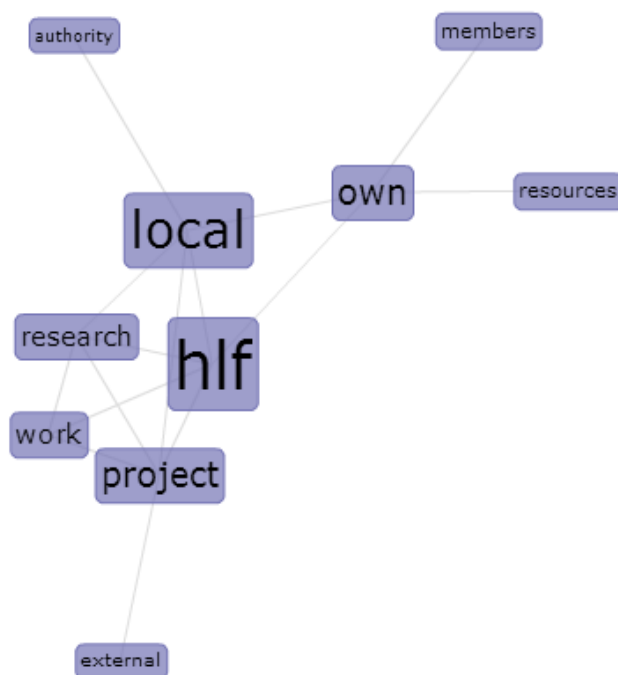
Figure 19 How have you funded your work? Generated from Q9 free-text comments using Voyant Tools 'Cirrus'

The free-text comment box attached to the question illustrates the issue. Text analysis of the 137 responses reveals that both 'HLF' and 'own' are in the top 4 words by frequency.

The Heritage Lottery Fund, it is clear, continues to play a hugely significant role in enabling voluntary research. Perhaps hitherto unrecognised is the degree to which many other projects place considerable demands on their participants' own finances and resources.

Analysis of trends associated with funding of community projects

Figure 20 Text links associated with funding. Generated using Voyant Tools 'Links'



Anecdotal evidence and themes emerging from free-text responses led us to look at how variability in sources of funding affected sources of advice and support, the degree to which respondents consulted with others prior to and during projects, and the effect of such variability on the destination of their research.

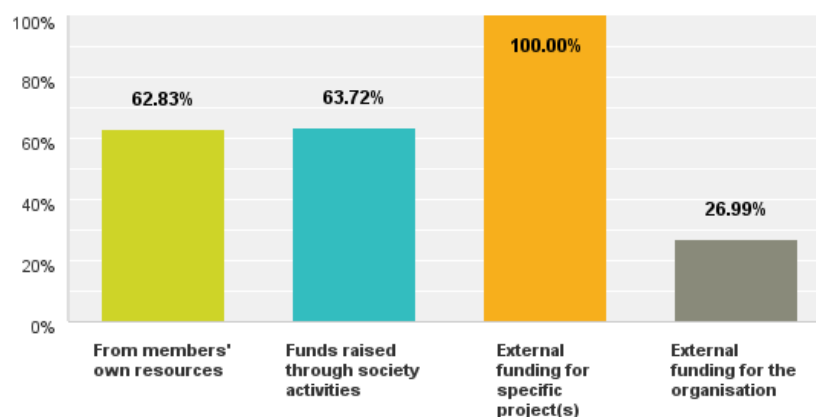
In order to establish this, we first filtered the responses of those who had received external, project specific funding. 226 respondents, 42.9% of the total, had received such funding. The Heritage Lottery Fund is likely to account for the largest number of these – it is mentioned explicitly in comment fields 71 times. 43% of respondents who declared receipt of external project funding *and* supplied more detail in the comment box

mentioned HLF specifically by name, and inspection of the text responses suggests it accounts, at least in part, for many more.

Figure 21 Additional funding sources for externally-funded research

Q9 How have you funded your work? [Filter: external project funding recipients]

Answered: 226 Skipped: 0



However, it is also apparent that in many cases multiple sources of external funding are received by the same groups, often for a single project. **The majority**, even with external project funding, also **continue to draw upon members' own resources** and funds raised through society activities.

Comparing group or organisation types against recipients of external funding reveals that those self-defining as an archaeology group are more likely to receive external funding than those

Table 11 Cross-tabulation of funding sources and group self-definition

Receiving external project funding	% identifying as Local History-focused	% identifying as Archaeology-focused
Yes (n226)	25.2%	28.8%
No (n301)	26.2%	16.9%

identifying as being focused on local history. Among those who had not received external funding, the proportion of local history societies was only fractionally higher than that for those who had. On the other hand, archaeology-focused groups accounted for 28.8% of those who had received project

funding but only 16.9% of those who had not. This indicates a greater reliance on external funding by those undertaking archaeological projects, probably reflecting the increased expense of equipment, expertise and archiving.

The receipt of project funding also affects the degree to which respondents sought help or advice from other bodies, set research questions and consulted Research Frameworks. **The 313 respondents who had received no project-specific funding were 39.2% less likely to consult and 38.2 % less likely to share their results with HERs or Archaeology Services.**

Table 12 Funding sources tabulated against sources of advice and/or support

Cross-tabulation of project funding sources with relationship to HERs and Archive Services				
Question	Option	If receiving external project funding	Not receiving external project funding	% difference
Q4 Do you receive support or advice from?	HER / Advisory Service	60.4%	36.7%	-39.2%
	Archive Service / Record Office	45.1%	33.9%	-24.8%
Q15 Who do you send your research to?	HER	51.8%	32.0%	-38.2%
	Archive Service / Record Office	52.8%	37.8%	-28.4%
Q16 Familiar with RFs?	Yes	51.6%	40.1%	-22.3%
Q19 Set research questions at outset?	Yes	77.3%	56.4%	-27.0%

Intriguingly, whilst more respondents are likely to consult an HER/Advisory Service than to send their research to them, the reverse is true for Archive Services and Record Offices. This may be a function of the fact that it is possible, if familiar with systems and services, to use an archive for research without necessarily receiving support or advice from staff, whereas HER data is generally (although not exclusively) accompanied by at least some degree of staff input in order to extract the data or provide training for a researcher to be able to use the system. Alternatively, it may be due to variance in researchers' perceptions of the roles of HERs and Archives, and it may be that many are unaware of the potential value of their work to the HER.

e) Potential value of community research

Perceived value of research

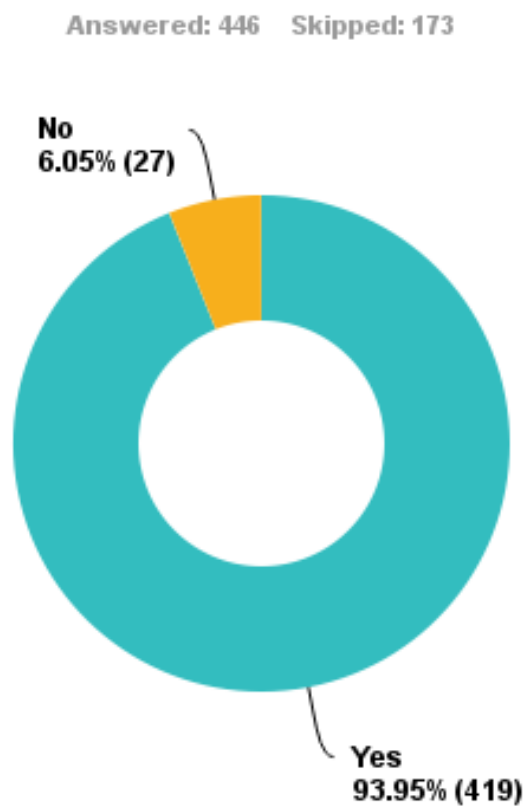


Figure 22 Do you think that your research has the potential to contribute to wider understanding of your area of research? (Q18)

This question aimed to establish whether respondents felt that their research, no matter how small-scale or local, had the potential to contribute something to research resources that would enhance wider understanding of a particular area or theme. **The vast majority (94%) answered positively.**

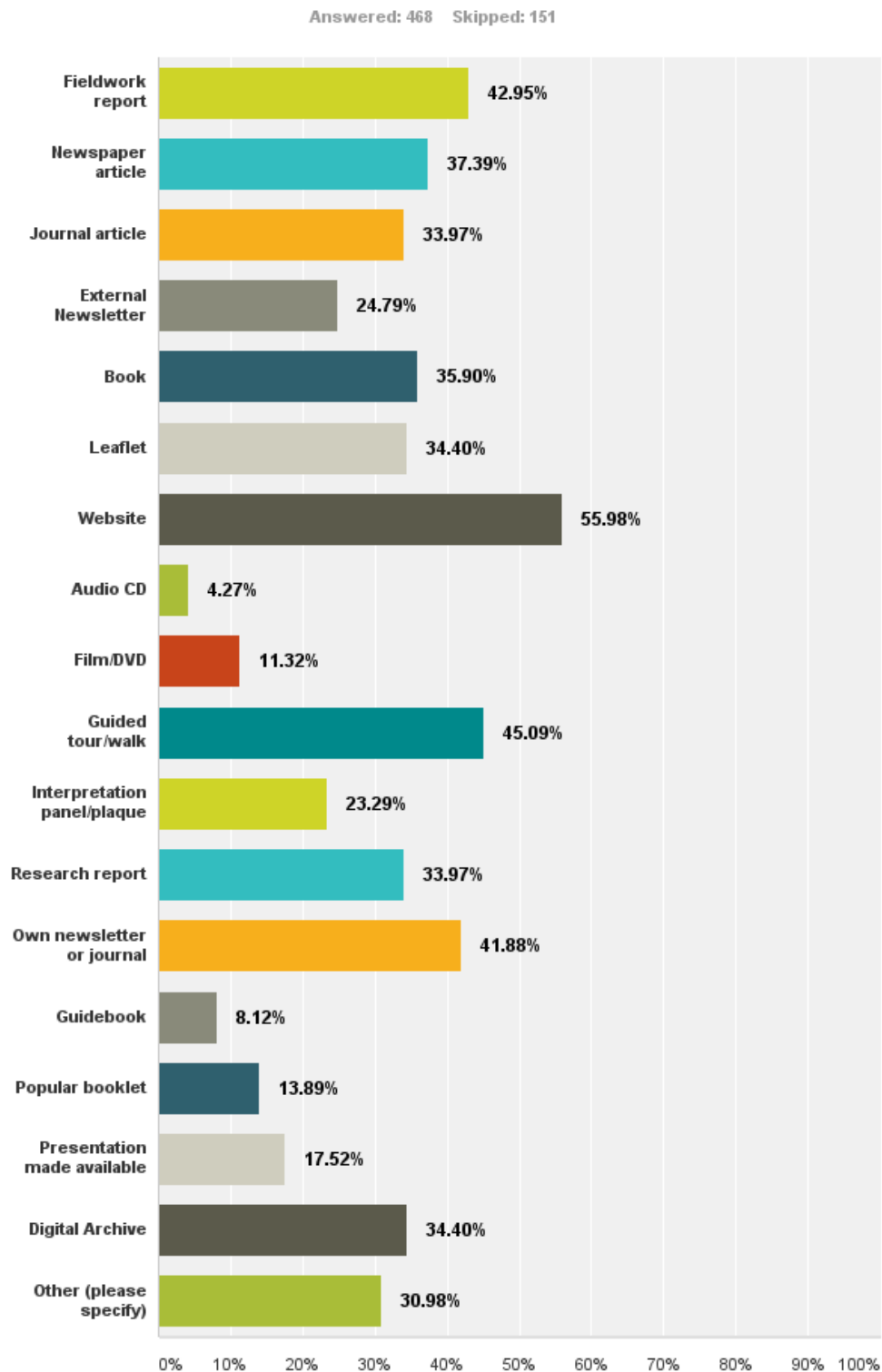
This indicates that, whether or not researchers are explicitly responsive to Research Frameworks in their current form, they do overwhelmingly believe that their work has the potential to inform further study; their outputs should, therefore, be taken seriously, and efforts to incorporate their work and their perspectives into research resources should focus on developing a meaningful dialogue with voluntary sector researchers.

f) Dissemination of research: where does it go?

This section looks at the types and formats of research outputs produced by voluntary and community projects, how they are disseminated and where the results go.

Types and format of research outputs

Figure 23 What type of research outputs have you produced? (Please check all that apply) (Q13)



Although traditional formats such as reports, newsletters, books and media articles remain common, the outlying leader is the production of websites: 56% of respondents are sharing their work online: mostly in addition to other, traditional forms of publishing. More than 1/3 of respondents (34.4%) are also producing digital archives, although the destination and curation of these remains unclear, especially in the light of the low levels of accession with the ADS and other online repositories indicated in Q16.



Figure 24 Generated from Q13 free-text comments using Voyant Tools 'Cirrus'

Among 145 'other' responses were talks, lectures and temporary exhibitions/displays: all identified as important vehicles for disseminating the results of research, both within the community and across networks of other groups at conferences and events.

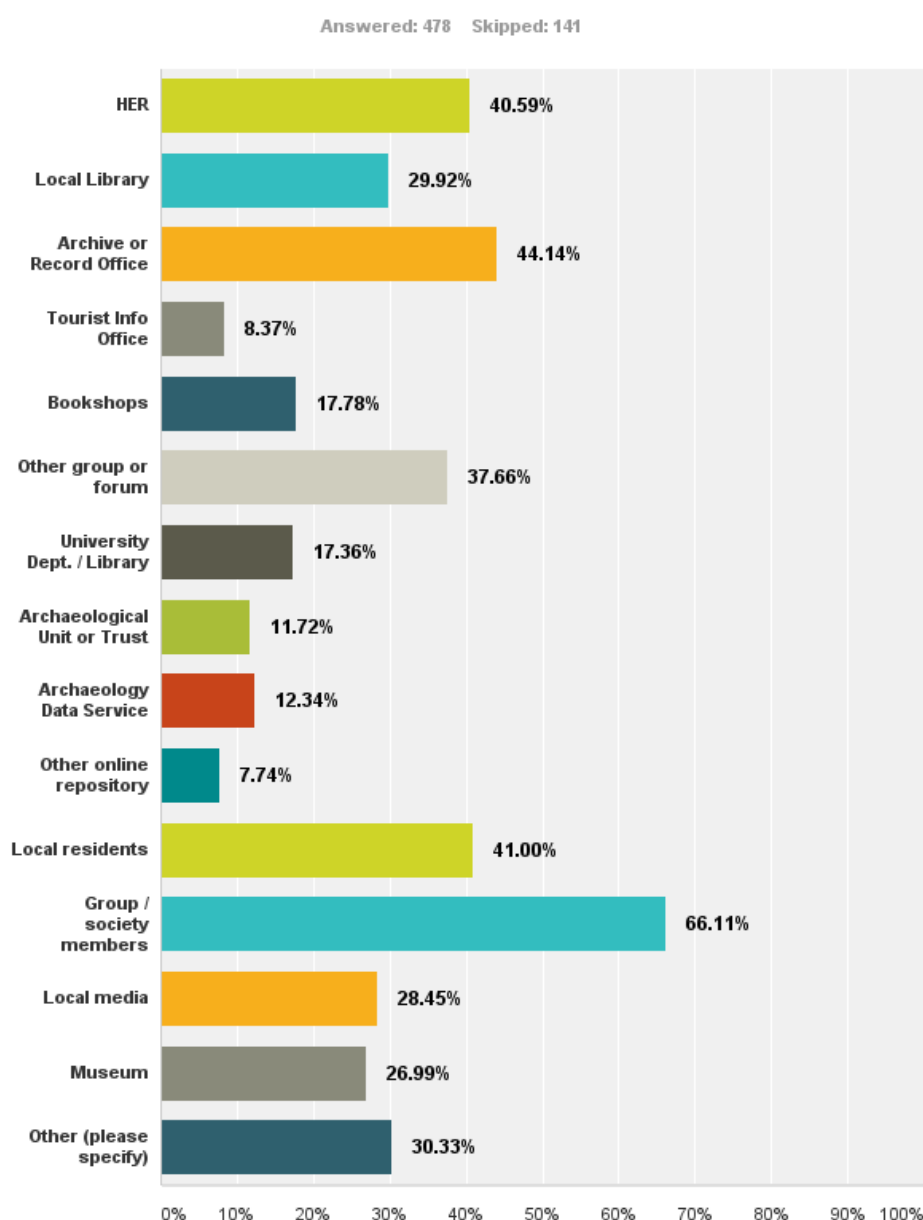
The response below illustrates the degree to which these informal outputs can be vital in shaping thoughts and ideas, and can connect researchers with mutually supportive networks:

"The outputs till now have been largely informal; 3 guided site tours, 4 talks to local groups, an exhibit at a big family archaeology day at Brighton Museum, a draft copy of a book on the project blog, some A4 handouts summarising aspects of the project... I am working towards the production of a formal dig report, but progress is slow as I have a lot to learn along the way. I have been surprised by the amount of interest and support I have received from the general public, amateur enthusiasts and professionals."
Individual researcher conducting archaeological fieldwork, South East

Destination of research

The survey asked respondents to select all recipients of the results of their research, in any format. There are some caveats worth stating: sometimes, places such as libraries and record offices may receive copies of research outputs that have not been sent directly by the researchers and would therefore not be recorded here, particularly in the case of articles in local journals. Nevertheless, there are some interesting trends.

Figure 25 Who do you send your research to? (Please check all that apply) (Q15)



A majority share results internally within a group, but many (37.7%) are sharing their work with other groups or forums: this highlights the importance of researchers' networks within their geographical or specialist area. That fewer than half of respondents send their research to HERs (40.6%), with record offices faring slightly better at 44.1%, is potentially cause for concern. The reasons for this, and the relationships between types of research, activities undertaken, and the destination of research, are explored below.

145 'other' responses included national bodies such as the Forestry Commission, interest group magazines (e.g. diving magazines), landowners, local schools and local authority planning or conservation officers. Many groups were happy to supply data to individuals on request for related family or local history research.

Some respondents felt reluctant to classify their work as 'research', especially where planning issues and campaigning were primary motivating factors:

"The main purpose of our work is not "research", but ensuring that heritage and archaeological considerations are integral to the planning process." Local Heritage/Conservation Group, London

Others raised concerns over the legacy of their research:

"We are fearful that our results and the hundreds of artefacts will end up boxed and forgotten." Individual researcher, South East

Understanding research dissemination for different types of researchers

To identify whether there differences in the dissemination of research for different types of group, a sample of the most active 11 types of organisation (Q1) was plotted against the destinations of outputs (Q15).

Table 13 Organisation focus plotted against destination of outputs

	Who do you send your research to?														
	HER	Local Library	Archive or Record Office	Tourist Info Office	Bookshops	Other group or forum	University Dept. / Library	Archaeological Unit or Trust	Archaeology Data Service	Other online repository	Local residents	Group / society members	Local media	Museum	Other
Local History Society	23%	43%	53%	10%	26%	40%	16%	5%	6%	5%	54%	74%	33%	22%	26%
	27	52	63	12	31	48	19	6	7	6	65	89	39	26	31
County/Regional Arch. Society	71%	18%	65%	0%	12%	41%	24%	18%	47%	6%	12%	82%	12%	35%	29%
	12	3	11	0	2	7	4	3	8	1	2	14	2	6	5
Local Arch. Society	67%	40%	47%	8%	11%	40%	18%	21%	28%	5%	39%	74%	34%	38%	25%
	68	40	47	8	11	40	18	21	28	5	39	75	34	38	25
Local Heritage / Conserv. Group	39%	33%	52%	18%	18%	58%	15%	9%	3%	9%	45%	70%	33%	33%	27%
	13	11	17	6	6	19	5	3	1	3	15	23	11	11	9
Interest-focused research group	47%	0%	33%	0%	7%	47%	20%	20%	0%	7%	40%	67%	33%	20%	40%
	7	0	5	0	1	7	3	3	0	1	6	10	5	3	6
Individual researcher	36%	27%	32%	2%	15%	37%	22%	12%	7%	7%	34%	36%	19%	24%	32%
	21	16	19	1	9	22	13	7	4	4	20	21	11	14	19
Charitable organisation	48%	13%	30%	9%	17%	43%	13%	0%	22%	9%	30%	83%	30%	39%	26%
	11	3	7	2	4	10	3	0	5	2	7	19	7	9	6
County/Regional Hist. Society	33%	0%	67%	0%	17%	33%	0%	17%	0%	17%	0%	67%	0%	0%	83%
	2	0	4	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	5
Team working on a wreck site	17%	17%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%	67%	0%	0%	17%	33%	17%	0%	67%
	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	2	1	0	4
Friends' Association	25%	50%	63%	13%	13%	38%	38%	25%	0%	25%	63%	75%	38%	25%	25%
	2	4	5	1	1	3	3	2	0	2	5	6	3	2	2
Local Building Recording group	20%	20%	80%	10%	20%	40%	10%	10%	0%	0%	30%	60%	30%	30%	40%
	2	2	8	1	2	4	1	1	0	0	3	6	3	3	4

Table 13 reveals that **only 23% of local history societies send their research to their HER**. Whilst the corresponding figure for local archaeology societies is refreshing much higher, it remains the case that 1/3 of these are not submitting results of research to HERs. Although a small sample, respondents answering for local building recording groups indicate that just 20% are sending their work to HERs.

Also of note is the fact that, currently, only 28% of local archaeology societies are depositing with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

How do different investigative techniques affect destination of research outputs?

In order to determine whether there are discernible trends in the relationship between the type of work undertaken by groups (Q7) and the destination of the resulting research (Q15), responses to the latter were filtered by groups of activities, with the resulting data compared against that from Q7. This allows a comparison between the range of groups' activities and the recipients of their research outputs, with the caveat that in many cases not all projects undertaken by each respondent will be of a similar type, or go to the same recipients. The resulting figures are therefore likely to be on the generous side.

Table 14 Comparing destinations of research and different types of investigation

		Activities undertaken:							
		Overall	A. Intrusive fieldwork	B. Non-intrusive field survey	C. Maritime or Foreshore recording	D. Documentary research	E. Experimental archaeology	F. Collections-based research	G. Other
Who do send your research to?	HER	41% 194	61% 150	51% 150	46% 13	43% 174	81% 25	38% 87	24% 23
	Local Library	30% 143	29% 72	31% 91	29% 8	32% 130	29% 9	37% 84	25% 24
	Archive or Record Office	44% 211	48% 118	49% 146	25% 7	48% 192	48% 15	46% 106	47% 45
	Tourist Info Office	8% 40	10% 24	9% 27	4% 1	8% 32	13% 4	12% 28	9% 9
	Bookshops	18% 85	14% 34	15% 46	14% 4	18% 74	23% 7	18% 42	19% 18
	Other group or forum	38% 180	44% 107	42% 125	39% 11	39% 156	48% 15	46% 104	37% 35
	University Dept. / Library	17% 83	20% 48	18% 52	11% 3	18% 71	23% 7	19% 43	22% 21
	Archaeological Unit or Trust	12% 56	16% 38	15% 44	29% 8	12% 49	19% 6	11% 25	6% 6
	Archaeology Data Service	12% 59	22% 54	17% 50	18% 5	13% 54	35% 11	11% 25	3% 3
	Other online repository	8% 37	9% 22	10% 30	4% 1	8% 33	13% 4	11% 24	8% 8
	Local residents	41% 196	44% 109	43% 128	39% 11	42% 169	45% 14	49% 112	40% 38
	Group / society members	66% 316	73% 178	69% 206	68% 19	68% 273	81% 25	69% 158	61% 58
	Local media	28% 136	34% 83	31% 92	39% 11	30% 121	42% 13	36% 82	31% 29
	Museum	27% 129	33% 82	29% 86	46% 13	28% 112	32% 10	35% 80	18% 17
	Other (please specify)	30% 145	29% 72	30% 88	39% 11	31% 126	23% 7	29% 65	44% 42
Total Respondents:		478	245	297	28	404	31	228	95

Archive services and Record Offices score relatively highly across a wide spectrum of activities, especially collections-based research: respondents whose activities include such investigations are 22% more likely to send research to an archive than to an HER. Conversely, HERs are 21% more likely than Record Offices to receive outputs from groups undertaking intrusive archaeological fieldwork, although these are likely to also be of considerable interest to Record Offices and local studies collections. This suggests that mechanisms to improve the flow of information between HERs and archives and Record Offices could be beneficial to all, and contribute to the enhancement of historic environment research resources.

Does professional support have an impact on dissemination of research?

In order to determine whether receipt of professional support or advice in the course of undertaking specifically archaeological work had an impact on the subsequent integration of research outputs into archaeological research resources, responses were filtered to include only those carrying out intrusive fieldwork (i.e. excavation and fieldwalking), archaeological/buildings/maritime field survey, archaeological desk based assessments, landscape history, experimental archaeology and research on archaeological collections. Respondents undertaking any of these were then cross-tabulated with sources of professional archaeological advice.

Table 15 Archaeological research: sources of advice compared to destinations of research

		Sharing research with (Q15)														
		HER	Local Library	Archive or Record Office	Tourist Info Office	Bookshops	Other group or forum	University Dept. / Library	Archaeological Unit or Trust	Archaeology Data Service	Other online repository	Local residents	Group members	Local media	Museum	Other
Receiving professional support/advice from (Q4)	Local Authority Archaeology Service or HER	67%	33%	60%	9%	16%	42%	21%	19%	20%	11%	43%	69%	35%	32%	31%
		141	68	126	18	34	88	44	39	41	22	89	144	74	66	65
	Professional freelance archaeologist	66%	32%	48%	9%	13%	46%	25%	16%	28%	9%	45%	73%	40%	30%	30%
		92	44	67	12	18	64	35	22	39	12	63	102	55	41	41
	Archaeological unit or trust	65%	32%	56%	15%	21%	55%	31%	35%	26%	14%	47%	75%	46%	34%	28%
		55	27	48	13	18	47	26	30	22	12	40	64	39	29	24
	University Department	55%	34%	53%	12%	13%	45%	49%	25%	26%	10%	45%	75%	40%	37%	34%
		61	37	58	13	14	50	54	27	29	11	50	83	44	41	37
	National Heritage Organisation	59%	28%	56%	9%	11%	46%	23%	23%	24%	12%	46%	79%	36%	34%	40%
		71	34	67	11	13	55	27	28	29	14	55	95	43	41	48
	None of the above	37%	21%	40%	6%	13%	26%	17%	12%	17%	8%	34%	56%	27%	22%	25%
		45	25	48	7	16	32	21	15	21	10	41	68	33	27	30

67% of researchers undertaking archaeological research who are in receipt of support or advice from an HER/Advisory Service send their work to their local HER. At 66% and 65% respectively, the figures for those receiving support from professional freelance archaeologists or archaeological units are similarly high. Those Although it is concerning to note that 1/3 of researchers in receipt of such support have not sent work to the HER, some of these respondents are likely to be in the midst of ongoing projects.

What is clearly of concern is that **only 37% of** the 'none of the above' category of respondents – i.e. **those undertaking archaeological work without professional support or advice** – have

shared the results of research with an HER. Even allowing for the fact that, as above, some projects are likely to be 'in progress', the fact remains that **those who do not receive support or advice from a freelance, unit or Local Authority-based professional source are 45% less likely to report their research to HERs.**

Dissemination and research resources in context

A common thread running through many responses was the perception that for the purposes of championing and protecting local heritage, sharing information within local or specialist networks and communities was considered more important than contributing to research resources whose purpose and function may be unfamiliar. Dissemination of information in such networks is vital to enhancing local knowledge and appreciation of heritage, but runs the risk of creating a false sense of security if outputs are not correspondingly lodged with the HER. One correspondent, in discussing gaps in local HER records, stated that:

"The HER is in our view inadequate, with only a relatively a small proportion of the local finds from various periods of which we know. I confess we have been somewhat remiss in not ensuring that they are on the HER, but we nevertheless make this potential clear to the local authorities, when commenting on applications." Local Heritage/Conservation Group, London

Any research resource is only as good as the information it receives. As noted above in the discussion of planning and development issues (section 6.2.3c), saturation of local networks with information and advocacy is only likely to have a long-term impact if the relevant research resources are enhanced accordingly, otherwise a cycle of local frustration at official inaccuracy or inaction is compounded and perpetuated. This requires both researchers themselves and receiving bodies such as HERs to be open, flexible and accommodating to ensure that outputs are welcomed, smoothly integrated and utilised appropriately.

Those consulting HERs or Advisory Services appear to be much more likely to appreciate the importance and value of feeding results back into HERs, but the survey data indicates that this is much more likely to happen if either the researchers have a focus on archaeological fieldwork or recording, or a group is in receipt of external project funding. This is resulting in research that is potentially of considerable value to HERs, not least in enhancing the evidence base for planning purposes, failing to be integrated into the resources.

The range of destinations for research outputs, and the corresponding difficulty in synthesising all available information on a given topic in addition to the information silos that hamper communication between voluntary and professional parts of the sector, is leading in some cases to duplication of effort and unnecessary expenditure. One correspondent highlights the problem of:

"expending vast resources duplicating work already undertaken... [Project X] was launched without researching whether this work had already been undertaken, failed to contact the leading 'amateur' archaeologists... and is now spending tens of thousands of pounds of public money simply trying to replicate the results of an earlier project" Interest-focused research group, East Anglia

There is an urgent need to improve awareness of the role and function of research resources in safeguarding the historic environment, to build constructive relationships between researchers who are currently unaware of the value of their outputs and those who maintain research resources, and to work towards systematic data collection to reduce duplication of effort.

g) Barriers and pitfalls

This section examines some of the barriers, issues and pitfalls respondents have reported in the production and dissemination of research, including time, confidence, expense, digital skills, physical archives and security concerns.

Barriers to research

Answer Options	Response %	Response Count
Not interested in undertaking own research	0.0%	0
Access to funding/resources	24.2%	8
Lack of professional support	6.1%	2
Lack of experience	9.1%	3
It's not the group's focus	48.5%	16
Lack of equipment	9.1%	3
Other (please specify)	48.5%	16
<i>answered question</i>		33
<i>skipped question</i>		586

Table 16 If you haven't undertaken any original research, which of the following factors were applicable? (Please select all that apply) (Q5)

Skip logic was applied to the survey to filter out respondents who had responded 'Yes' to question 3.

Encouragingly, lack of access to funding, equipment and support is cited by relatively few groups. The majority of the 'other' responses indicated that groups were newly established or

awaiting funding to pursue research.

Comments on experience of publishing/sharing research

Answers in this free-text comment box were given by 293 respondents.



Figure 26 Do you have any comments on your experience of sharing your project results? Are there any barriers which prevent you from doing so? Please provide details. (Q14) Generated using Voyant Tools' 'Cirrus' and a custom 'stop-word' list.

The word-cloud and link analysis pick out a number of key themes, discussed below. Perhaps unsurprisingly, time and funding were frequently cited.

Figure 27 Do you have any comments on your experience of sharing your project results? Generated from Q14 free text comments using Voyant Tools' 'Links' package



Addressing digital divides: Digital skills and online integration/dissemination

Access to software and licenses are cause for concern, with respondents expressing frustration at the cost of packages that are perceived as necessary for the production of high-quality outputs:

"The main barriers are access to software associated with report production, i.e. GIS, CAD, etc. and copyright incurred when using digital map and geology data e.g. DIGIMAP. It's fine if you are an educational establishment (i.e. university or college) but licences are simply not geared to local society use. There needs to be a UK wide reassessment of economical accessibility by voluntary groups/societies by all relevant providers." Local Archaeology and History Society, South East

"A lack of resources prevents us from being able to access some of the more important software, such as GIS." Period-focused Research group, North East.

"Organisations willing or available to identify finds from independent test pitting... are hard to locate (and/or costly) and this has delayed final publication due to the continuing uncertainty. There appears to be a lack of any standard template for amateur archaeological reports and uncertainty as to the detail required for the HER and for any reports to be lodged with ADS. Plan drawing for such reports does not appear to be supported by any available affordable software, Ordnance survey map copyright costs are prohibitive for any small club." Local Archaeology and History Association, South East

The cost of OS licences for use of map data were mentioned by several respondents, despite the increasing scope of the availability of OS products for free through the OpenData initiative. Furthermore, none of the proprietary software mentioned by respondents is without tried and tested open-source equivalents. There would appear to be a demand for an online resource listing open data and software of use to researchers, in addition to guides to their use.

Although self-publishing online was popular and well-received, concerns over digital obsolescence, sustainability and access to digital skills were also raised:

"Absence of a reliable sustainability cloud-based platform for publishing research. The platform currently being used by [NAME] Heritage Association was ideal but, though based on open-source programs, it was designed and support by one man, now deceased. Therefore we are reluctant to build our future records on it in case at some future date it becomes digitally unsustainable." Local History Society, South East.

"We no longer have a website manager and have to pay an external source for any changes." Local Building Recording Group, South East

[Lack of] "time for members to research and write up their research and for them or others to then acquire or use their skills to keep a website up to date" Local History Society, North West

"We also need a website as the best way of sharing our ongoing research but have nobody in the group able to set up and run it." Local History Society, South East

"Funding the website with its attached archive has been problematic. Costs associated with this prevent us from expanding the archive with more recent projects." Local History Society, North West

"Money. Experience. Confidence. The lady who used to publish regularly has died and we don't know what to do. We don't know how to put a book together and we aren't very digital" Local History Society, West Midlands

Recent research by Go-On UK (<http://www.go-on.co.uk/resources/heatmap/>) highlights the degree to which digital exclusion can hamper capacity to access digital online resources, let alone create or manage digital content. Within the Vale of Evesham case study area:

- There is a 'medium' likelihood of digital exclusion: **5** on a 1-9 scale.
- **12.2%** of adults have never been online
- Whilst **77%** of adults say they have basic digital skills...
- ...only **38%** have used all 5 'basic digital skills' in the last 3 months.

Basic digital skills are defined as:

- Managing information (i.e. finding a website, using search engine)
- Communicating (i.e. sending email, social media)
- Transacting (buying items or services from a website/app)
- Creating (completing online forms, creating new images/resources)
- Problem solving (using online help services, verifying sources of information)

Given that only 38% of adults are routinely using these skills within the study area, and demographic research into participants in community-generated historic environment research consistently highlights the fact that they include people at high risk of digital exclusion (Thomas 2010, Richardson 2014), it is clear that it is not satisfactory to rely entirely on digital processes and platforms to improve the flow of information and outputs between research resources and voluntary sector researchers.

It is worth noting that **the CBA's 2010 survey found that just 26.5% of groups produced project-specific online content** (Thomas 2010, 29), whereas **56.0% of respondents to our 2015 survey cited websites among their research outputs**. The take-up of online publishing has, therefore, more than doubled within the last five years. Crucially, though, large numbers of respondents are reporting fears over obsolescence, lack of skills needed to sustain online

platforms, and fears over the future of their efforts. The substantial increase since Dr Thomas' 2010 report in the degree of online awareness and accessibility brings with it huge challenges if we are to avoid losing large quantities of valuable research to broken links and expired domains.

The OASIS redesign provides the sector with an opportunity to provide a sustainable digital platform for community-generated outputs; however, this should not obviate the need for concerted efforts to maintain relationships with HERs, build capacity and encourage broader digital inclusion: the hugely diverse, quirky and maddening range of digital outputs encountered during this project cannot be shoe-horned into a single repository, nor should they be.

The range of platforms through which research can be disseminated has broadened considerably, partly as a result of an increase in scope of heritage projects producing research outputs, accompanying the emergence of the Heritage Lottery Fund and the socio-political move towards localism and inclusivity discussed in section 6.1.1, and partly due to the emergence of digital and online technologies. The reactions of respondents to these changes indicate a degree of fragmentation among the originators of community-generated research: for some, dissemination rapidly and informally through platforms such as Facebook groups has transformed the way historic environment data and research is disseminated.

An example is the plethora of 'Memories' or 'Old Town Pics' groups such as [Worcester's 'OLD TOWN PICS'](#). Almost without exception, these are informal networks administered by voluntary individuals or groups, with little or no input from 'official' heritage bodies. Again, almost without exception, these groups are considerably more popular and active than the social media presences of HERs or Record Offices (at the time of writing, Worcester's OLD TOWN PICS is followed by 9844 people, 7 times as many as the Archive and Archaeology Service's page), and have become, for many interested users, a hub for discussion, debate and reminiscence.

It is worth noting, however, that the degree to which knowledge permeates throughout a community or locality has little bearing on the degree to which it is incorporated into research resources, and this has the potential to create tension between an 'official' record perceived as inadequate on the one hand, and local knowledge on the other.

Social media has also enabled heritage advocacy groups to coalesce, gather support and campaign effectively: examples include the Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort group.

Group focus has a significant impact on the extent of online dissemination. **Whilst almost 2/3 of local archaeology societies (65.1%) shared their work via a website, fewer than half of local history societies (49.2%) reported publishing online.** Conversely, local history societies (53.3%) were more than twice as likely as local archaeology societies (24.3%) to have published a book. Dr Gill Draper points out that:

"Overwhelmingly authors in The Local Historian refer to their own or others' books or articles in print, some of which may also be available digitally. In Local History News, it is to websites themselves that short articles or short mentions refer, not blogs or social media. BALH's recent questionnaire to members showed that the large majority (87%) did not use social media, nor did they intend to in the near future (Local History News 112). Judging by sales of Internet Sites for local historians: a Directory (2014, 3rd ed.), local and family historians, both members of BALH and not, use digital resources extensively. However, it does not appear that digital media is necessarily used to disseminate the results of research."

One individual researcher noted that local archaeology journals had been "taken over" by outputs from developer-funded research, leaving little room for traditional local means of publication. This may have been a factor in driving archaeology-focused researchers towards

other means of dissemination; conversely, many of the traditional avenues for publishing local history research continue to be accessible to researchers.

Intrusive archaeological fieldwork & physical archives

During the process of data collection it became apparent that interesting trends and potential pitfalls were emerging concerning projects undertaking intrusive archaeological fieldwork, i.e. projects that could be expected to result in the collection and production of a physical archive, and to have a physical effect upon the archaeological resource under investigation.

Given that Research Frameworks for artefacts are of considerable value and increasing importance, and that the development and use of these is dependent to some extent upon the accessibility of artefactual material itself, the production and dissemination of physical archives from community-generated research needs to be explored.

In order to investigate these issues, responses were first filtered to exclude respondents not undertaking archaeological excavation or fieldwalking. This left 286 responses who had undertaken intrusive fieldwork projects, of which 282 had provided details of their funding in Q9. These were split into those receiving external project funding (n=154) and those receiving no external project funding (n=128). The degree of contact with HERs and Museums during fieldwork projects was then assessed at consultation (Q4) and dissemination (Q15) stages. The results are tabulated below.

Table 17 Intrusive archaeological projects: funding & relationship to HERs and Museums

Question	Option	If receiving external project funding	Not receiving external project funding	% difference
Q4 Do you receive support or advice from?	HER / Advisory Service	71.4%	55.5%	-22.3%
	Museum	33.1%	32.8%	-0.9%
Q15 Who do you send your research to?	HER	66.2%	46.1%	-30.4%
	Museum	38.2%	23.4%	-38.7%

This is somewhat concerning for the fate of the physical archives produced as a result of community-generated research. Fewer than 1/3 of respondents receiving external funding for intrusive archaeological projects are consulting museums during the course of the project. **Of those respondents who have not received external project funding, only 23.4% have sent material to a museum.**

This last figure should be taken with a degree of caution: as the survey is focused on those undertaking research within the last five years, some projects will be ongoing. Similarly, whilst interim results may have been fed back into the HER, physical archives may be awaiting full completion of a multi-stranded project before deposition is undertaken. However, a search on the term 'museum' in the attached free-text comment box, in order to try to pick up explanations of this sort, only returned three results, two of which had already deposited material. Lastly, some respondents may not have considered the physical archive to form part of the 'research', although the phrasing of the question was intended to be as open-ended as possible to incorporate a wider range of material than the research 'outputs' options given in Q13.

Nevertheless, it is clear that better collaboration is needed between those undertaking community-generated intrusive fieldwork and the museums sector in order to safeguard the future of physical archives.

There are concerns for HERs, too: although the rate of contact and support for groups receiving funding for intrusive work is relatively high, at 71.4%, there is a substantial drop-off when externally-funded projects are excluded. Furthermore, fewer than half (46.2%) of groups not in receipt of external funding are feeding research back into the HER.

Security

Security concerns were also cited by a number of groups, especially those undertaking archaeological fieldwork and maritime archaeology:

"There are local difficulties with illicit metal detecting and so local publicity has been much more modest than it would otherwise have been." Local Archaeology Society, North East

"There is now a big problem with newly discovered sites underwater... can't get designation until site has been investigated, can't do proper investigation without paying thousands in MMO [Marine Management Organisation] license fees, which EH won't fund until site is designated. MMO requires advertising of the location of the site so it would get looted by local divers before investigation complete. Can't share results of investigation as this would advertise the site, and with no legal protection it would simply get looted. MMO rules often ignored by everyone except those wanting to work legally." Local History Society, South West

This is clearly, in some cases, a major barrier to the free and open dissemination of research: some researchers have serious and legitimate concerns over the prospect of criminal behaviour arising from information reaching the public domain. Sensitive and judicious use of 'confidential' records by HER officers and a constructive dialogue with Advisory Services are needed and can go some way towards allaying such concerns. The situation in the maritime sector is evidently rather different, and perhaps in need of attention.

It should be acknowledged that surveys such as this are unlikely to reflect the activities of those either wilfully or inadvertently acting in a damaging or irresponsible fashion. One respondent raised the issue that a self-selecting sample of respondents is likely to be dominated by those working responsibly and within established networks:

"Often this feels like myself and my volunteers are working despite the government agencies with responsibility for heritage and the marine environment, rather than because of them. The laws that have been put in place actively discourage volunteer participation, yet the majority of work that goes on in the maritime sector is done by avocational groups. This has led to many now doing their work in secret to avoid paying license fees, unfortunately this survey will not identify that as a problem as these groups won't respond to the survey. Thus, the agencies will think all is well in the maritime world when in fact it's far from being that way." Local Maritime History Society, South West

Poor professional practice

The historic environment sector cannot stand on a pedestal and dictate best practice to the voluntary sector without concerted efforts to continually improve professional standards. One response in particular highlights the **serious responsibilities of professional organisations and individuals**, when they undertake to support those who invest time, energy and passion into projects:

*"Community archaeology is very interesting and exciting, and can take over your life; it should have helped to bring the community together, but in fact, people ended up working alone, with very little advice/training... it was badly organised, shoddy, lacking specific aims and objectives and lacking any conclusions. We had a constant change of professional staff from this so-called professional company (4 leaders over 2 years and none who seemed to be experts in this area... This seemed like the blind leading the blind and yet the potential finds are of significantly high importance... But the outcomes are remarkably absent... As volunteers we have yet had no chance to examine or be informed about the pottery finds... it would be good to have a data base to turn to, to seek people with a good record in community archaeology who would be passionate, dedicated and who would bring the project alive... rather than simply getting my hours of work in libraries plagiarised by the so-called professional company who then takes the credit for all the work... **I feel like I have been used as slave labour without any return.**"*
Local History Society, East Midlands

Such experiences do considerable damage to relations between professional and voluntary sectors, and by extension to the effective management of the historic environment.

Whilst this experience appears, thankfully, to be relatively rare, professional organisations and bodies must respond to such reports by upholding standards and codes of conduct, and working with those delivering projects in partnership with the voluntary sector to ensure that both outputs and outcomes are effectively and productively delivered.

6.3 Case Studies, by Aisling Nash & contributors

6.3.1 Assessing the value of community-generated research outputs

This part of the project attempted to analyse a selection of community-generated research outputs from the 3 case study areas and a selection of local history outputs published through the BALH in order to specifically assess the current or potential value of community-generated research to inform the Historic Environment by contributing to and enhancing HER records and Research Frameworks. This is one of the key aims of the project and it is important to point out that no judgement has been made with regards to why particular research is being carried out or what benefits it has e.g. communal or social. In determining this potential to contribute to and enhance present systems in the protection of the Historic Environment, it is necessary to separate 'value' from 'quality'. By its very definition, quality implies a comparison and judgement based on what is deemed to be an example of excellence. Providing an example of excellence is fraught with difficulty and therefore, any comment on quality was not deemed appropriate for this project.

The definition of value as the 'importance, worth or usefulness of something' lends itself more readily in the assessment of community-generated research. It is recognised that research which is not in a traditional format i.e. a report, can be as valuable as those which are presented traditionally. Digital outputs such as websites and blogs are becoming increasingly more popular with the advent of open source software and easy to navigate tools. Not only is the information contained within these formats potentially of considerable value, the results are disseminated to a much wider and varied audience.

In order to critically examine value, it was necessary to apply a set list of criteria with which to evaluate a sample of the research outputs generated by a variety of community groups. The criteria were based on the Conservation Principles published by Historic England which set out a method for thinking systematically about heritage values which can be ascribed to a place (Historic England, 2008). These principles are normally used to assess the significance of heritage assets but they provide a good basis to begin assessing value. The Conservation Principles revolve around four main elements:

- Evidential value: the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity
- Historical value: the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present
- Aesthetic value: the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place
- Communal value: the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

(Historic England, 2008)

A scoring system was applied to each of these values from a range of 1 – 5 in order to determine the potential value of an output in a systematic way. In addition to assessing outputs against the Conservation Principles, a section relating to research resources was included. This aimed at establishing the use of the output as a 'source' and therefore its potential value in informing Research Frameworks and HER records. An attempt was also made to establish whether any of the samples chosen were mentioned within the relevant regional Research Frameworks. Once the assessment had been carried out, it was indicated whether the output had the potential to contribute to both Research Frameworks and HER records.

A blank assessment form can be found in Appendix 3.

6.3.2 Assessment

A total of 65 research outputs were chosen from the local history community and the three case study areas of Worcestershire, West Yorkshire and Norfolk. A random selection of outputs was assessed which included reports, websites and blogs with a date range of 1960 to the present day. Full details of the scoring breakdown can be found in Appendix 3.

West Yorkshire

A random sample of 20 outputs were assessed, comprised a mix of externally and privately funded project and could be divided broadly into three areas. The three broad areas of research can be broken down as follows:

- Archaeological field surveys & visits
- Building surveys
- Archaeological fieldwork

Table 18 West Yorkshire research evaluation

Pub. date	Format	Focus	Structure & Format	Referenced in RF & HER	Value & Potential	Overall score
			Total	Total	Total	
1975	Record form	Built heritage	20%	50%	67%	51%
2015	Website, Film	Archaeological fieldwork	50%	0%	55%	40%
1988	Monograph	Archaeological fieldwork	63%	50%	80%	68%
1995	Record form	Industrial heritage	80%	50%	75%	70%
2008	Journal article	Archaeological field survey	90%	33%	80%	71%
2007	Fieldwork report (interim)	Archaeological fieldwork	70%	50%	65%	63%
2009	Publication	Archaeological fieldwork	90%	33%	75%	68%
2011	Photographic survey, measured survey	Archaeological field survey	40%	33%	50%	43%
2012	Record form	Archaeological field survey	83%	50%	70%	68%
1991	Record form	Built Heritage	90%	50%	70%	70%
2004	Fieldwork report	Archaeological fieldwork	90%	25%	60%	59%
2013	Fieldwork report	Archaeological fieldwork	40%	0%	65%	43%
2010 - 13	Digital Archive, website, blog	Archaeological field survey	100%	33%	80%	73%
Unknown	Website	Local History, Archaeological field survey	50%	0%	60%	43%
Unknown	Website	Transport, local history	0%	0%	40%	20%

Pub. date	Format	Focus	Structure & Format	Referenced in RF & HER	Value & Potential	Overall score
			Total	Total	Total	
1992	Record form	Built heritage	50%	25%	50%	44%
2006	Fieldwork report (interim)	Archaeological field survey	20%	25%	65%	44%
2012	Journal article	Archaeological fieldwork	80%	25%	80%	66%
2006	Fieldwork report	Built heritage	90%	50%	70%	70%
2007	Fieldwork report	Archaeological fieldwork	70%	25%	80%	64%
Mean Score			63%	30%	67%	57%

The potential value of the outputs varied from 20% to 73% (Table 18 above) with an overall mean score of 57%. A total of six projects lie at the low end of the range i.e. under 50%. Of these, three are externally funded projects and the outputs assessed were websites. The difficulty in assessing these websites lay in their incompleteness as when viewed as an isolated piece of research, these outputs did not score highly in terms of value (as laid out in the Conservation Principles) or in their potential to enhance Research Frameworks or HER records. However, when viewed as part of a larger project these scores would increase.

Fieldwork projects which had a large element of professional guidance scored highly with a notable example of CSI: Rombalds Moor which scored 73%. This project was part of a wider HLF funded project which covered five major themes, one of which was the Historic Environment. This project scored highly due not only to the quality of the data generated, but in its legacy which takes several forms including a blog. The legacy of this project means that the research has clear and significant aesthetic and communal value in the context of Historic England's Conservation Principles.

Norfolk

A random sample of 15 outputs were assessed and could be broadly divided into three main areas. Two of the sample fall into two other distinct categories, namely that of Industrial Heritage and Maritime. The broad categories were:

- Archaeological fieldwork
- Archaeological field survey
- Built heritage

Table 19 Norfolk research evaluation

Pub. date	Format	Focus	Structure & Format	Research Resources	Value & Potential	Overall score
			Total	Total	Total	
1978	Newsletters, Bulletins	Archaeological fieldwork	80%	75%	75%	76%
1979	Journal article, record forms	Industrial heritage	80%	50%	65%	65%
1982	Journal article	Archaeological fieldwork, landscape history, archive research	80%	0%	75%	58%
1986	Journal article	Archaeological Fieldwork	30%	0%	60%	38%
1990	Monograph, Record forms	Archaeological fieldwork	100%	75%	75%	81%
1991	Monograph, Record forms	Archaeological field survey	100%	100%	70%	85%
1996	Journal article	Archaeological fieldwork	60%	50%	45%	50%
1998	Article in Annual	Archaeological field survey	60%	25%	65%	54%
2013	Online publication	Archaeological fieldwork	30%	0%	45%	30%
2005	Monograph, Record forms	Built heritage	100%	100%	85%	93%
2007	Monograph, database	Built heritage	40%	0%	50%	35%
2007	Online publication	Maritime heritage	13%	25%	20%	20%
2010	Fieldwork report	Built heritage	60%	50%	65%	60%
2010	Journal article	Archaeological fieldwork	80%	25%	75%	64%
2013	Monograph, digital record forms	Built heritage, oral history, local history	80%	75%	65%	71%
Mean Score			66%	43%	62%	58%

The overall scores for these outputs are in a range of 20% to 93% with an overall mean score of 58%.

Four of these projects achieved scores of under 50% with the lowest score of 20% being given to an outline publication. This online publication related to a survey of the wreck of a 20th century ship, however, only the basic details of the survey are available online with no dissemination of the full report. Other projects within this range do not score highly in terms of their aesthetic and communal value, primarily due to both the restricted nature of the data i.e. not fully complete as well as the restricted nature of dissemination.

The majority of those projects in the top range of the scoring benefited from a range of professional guidance including the academic community as well as the HER. The project entitled 'The Historic Buildings of New Buckenham' scored the highest at 93%. This project involved a detailed survey of historic buildings which included dendrochronology. It also

benefited from a high degree of professional guidance in addition to a prompt deposition of the results in the HER.

Vale of Evesham, Worcestershire

A random selection of 20 outputs were assessed and could be divided into three broad areas. These categories vary slightly from the other two case study areas with a number of projects focussing on local history. One of the projects involved assessing museum collections and so can be regarded as being in a separate category. The broad areas are:

- Archaeological fieldwork
- Built heritage
- Local history

Table 20 Vale of Evesham research evaluation

Pub. date	Format	Focus	Structure & Format	Research Resources	Value & Potential	Overall score
			Total	Total	Total	
1989	Pamphlet	Built heritage	100%	100%	80%	90%
2008	Photographic survey	Built heritage	90%	100%	75%	85%
2008	Book	Built heritage	75%	0%	85%	61%
2000	Book	Local History, Oral History	100%	50%	75%	75%
2011	Book	20th century history	60%	0%	93%	62%
1996	Book	Local History	75%	100%	70%	79%
2009	Booklet	Local History	70%	0%	85%	60%
1981	Booklet	Local History	80%	0%	80%	60%
2010	Fieldwork report	Built heritage, military history	100%	50%	85%	80%
2007	Book	Local history, military history	100%	100%	87%	94%
1980	Booklet	Transport, local history	88%	100%	90%	92%
2002	Book	Transport	100%	0%	80%	65%
2005	Fieldwork report	Archaeological fieldwork	100%	100%	87%	94%
1985	Fieldwork report	Archaeological fieldwork	100%	33%	73%	70%
2008	Report, web resources, reconstruction illustrations	Museum collections	90%	100%	87%	91%
2015	Fieldwork report	Geophysical survey	83%	100%	80%	86%
1997	Book	Historic Landscapes	100%	100%	60%	80%

Pub. date	Format	Focus	Structure & Format	Research Resources	Value & Potential	Overall score
			Total	Total	Total	
2015	Website	Local History, archaeology	50%	0%	71%	48%
2015	Website	Built heritage, local history	90%	100%	87%	91%
2009	Book	Local history, family history, agriculture	83%		85%	63%
Mean Score			89%	63%	81%	78%

The overall scores of these outputs ranged from 60% to 94% with an overall mean score of 78%.

Seven projects on the above list achieved an overall score of less than 78% with the majority achieving a score of between 60% and 65%. Interestingly, the outputs which generated the low scores are in the form of books. They range in their publication date but comments noted during assessment include that where they cover the history of the whole Vale of Evesham, the early history of this area is sparse. The value of this research can therefore be considered to be reduced as a result of both this lack of detail and also the limited nature of dissemination i.e. book/booklet format.

As with the above case study areas, it was found that projects with professional support gained the highest overall scores. The project which achieved the highest score of 94% involved fieldwalking in the vicinity of cropmarks and was supported by the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service. It should be noted that the publication 'Survey of Historic Parks and Gardens in Worcestershire' which was published by Hereford and Worcester Gardens Trust, has been adopted by the industry and is the principal work relating to this aspect of the historic environment.

Local History

Assessment of local history outputs by Su Vale

In addition to the general literature review above, a sample of 10 additional outputs pertaining to the geographical case study areas was obtained from British Association for Local History (BALH) publications and assessed according to the Conservation Principles. Due to the nature of local history research, questions relating to standards of fieldwork recording, accessibility of the archive, Research Frameworks and HERs were excluded from this assessment, with outputs instead considered against relevant parallels.

Table 21 Local History research evaluation

Case study area	Pub. date	Format	Focus	Structure & Format	Research Resources	Value & Potential	Overall score
				Total	Total	Total	
Norfolk	2012	Journal article	Local history	100%	100%	70%	85%
West Yorkshire	2012	Journal article	Local history	83%	50%	70%	68%
Norfolk	2012	Journal article	Local history, family history, agriculture	100%	100%	70%	85%
West Yorkshire	2014	Journal article	Local history, social history	83%	100%	80%	86%
Vale of Evesham	2015	Journal article	Built heritage, local history, social history	100%	100%	80%	90%
Vale of Evesham	2014	Journal article	Social history, local history	83%	100%	80%	86%
West Yorkshire	2014	Magazine article	Social history, local history	100%	100%	80%	90%
West Yorkshire	2009	Magazine article	Local History, Archaeological field survey	50%	50%	80%	65%
Vale of Evesham	2014	Journal article	Social history, local history	83%	50%	70%	68%
Norfolk	2015	Journal article	Transport, local history	100%	100%	80%	90%
MEAN SCORES				88%	85%	76%	81%

A random selection of 10 outputs from the local history community was assessed with a scoring range of between 65% and 90% with a mean score of 81%.

All of the articles contained references to relevant and reputable sources and eight had made use of original archives, one of the exceptions being a report into the activities of a local history group which did not cite references, but did acknowledge the use of archives, previous research and field trips in their activities. Several articles made extensive use of sources such as local newspapers which provide local historical evidence, however as they are not an original archive they have not been counted as such for the purposes of this assessment.

All of the case studies published in The Local Historian were written by academics or professionals such as archivists, in contrast the articles and reports in The Local History News were submitted by local groups or individual authors (sometimes academics) on behalf of local groups.

All of the articles had the potential to enhance the local history knowledge of the geographical area as they used local original archives, local newspapers or secondary sources based on local

research. However this enhancement of knowledge may be limited to local groups, not necessarily the wider community who may not have access to the research in the same way as they would if an exhibition or interpretation panels were produced. In some cases, such as the Pauper Prisons...Pauper Palaces project which used copies of local Poor Law archives, the articles had the potential to enhance wider knowledge and promote further research.

Some of the articles assessed provided a local perspective on a subject that had previously only been researched on a national level, allowing the author to test theories and conclusions and assess whether the national picture was replicated in the local area.

The evaluation of research outputs – what does it mean?

Although the sample size is relatively small in comparison to the sheer volume of community-generated research, this part of the project has overwhelmingly shown that this research has high potential value to contribute to HERs and Research Frameworks. It has also identified some interesting trends and influencing factors when considering the potential value that these types of research outputs have in enhancing our knowledge of the historic environment.

Factors influencing value

Lack of dissemination

All three geographical areas have active community archaeology and local history groups with strong links and relationships with the varying advisory services being built up over a long period of time. Despite this, there is still a disconnection between these groups and the corresponding advisory service (including the HER). While some of the research being generated by these groups does find its way into the HERs, many of the outputs remain within the domain of the particular groups. There may be several different factors at play in relation to this; many groups have a long history of active research and being independent and subsequently, HERs and advisory services rely on the good will of these groups to deposit their research which may not always be present. This lack of dissemination of project results to the relevant HER or indeed through other media such as websites, limits the audience and thereby reduces the value of this research.

Lack of engagement in post-fieldwork processes for archaeological projects

Another factor which has been highlighted is the lack of engagement in the post-excavation process of archaeological fieldwork projects. In the case of the Vale of Evesham, some groups find it difficult to engage with the post-excavation process which includes the writing up of findings, thus making it more difficult to deposit within a HER or contribute to a Research Framework. This has also been noted in several cases in Norfolk with some externally funded projects which have not allocated the correct budget to this post-excavation, publication and archiving process. It is difficult for community groups to understand the steps required to facilitate this process and this often requires professional guidance to ensure that an accurate budget is established. However, this is becoming increasingly difficult as local government cuts reduce the capacity and resources of HER and advisory services.

Relationships between local community groups and archaeological advisory services

The assessment demonstrated that projects with professional support and guidance are more likely to produce research which is disseminated through the HER and thus contribute to the research landscape on a local, regional and national scale. While research generated without professional support is still of value, advisory staff are able to apply a professional filter to Research Frameworks, guide groups in terms of best practice in addition to ensuring that the research assists in building a more robust evidence base i.e. the HER. In order to do this

however, it is necessary to apply resources in terms of staff time. Norfolk and West Yorkshire advisory services are facing severe cuts in their near future which will severely impact on their ability to continue to provide this professional advice and support. While Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service is currently stable in terms of budgets, there is the possibility of further cuts which may impact on the ability of staff to provide this support in this area. This loss of resource will very likely result in even less community-generated research reaching HERs which leads to a loss of knowledge in terms of local, regional and national frameworks all of which serves to the value of this research being reduced considerably.

Research Frameworks:

While the research generated by community groups does not explicitly refer to regional Research Frameworks, it is clear that much of the research has the potential to contribute to these frameworks. Many groups (as demonstrated in the wider analysis) are not necessarily aware of these frameworks and may have difficulty in understanding how their research relates to them. In the case of West Yorkshire, clear research agendas have been commissioned by WYAAS which are distilled through a professional filter for public consumption. This means that they are immediately accessible both through their website but also in terms of the language that is used and the clear priorities which are set out. As in the case of Norfolk and Worcestershire, many of the active groups have their own research agendas which frequently driven by the interests and motivations of the individual members. It is important that these interests are not ignored but rather incorporated into the wider local and regional frameworks.

Review of methodology

Although the Conservation Principles are a useful framework in which to assess value, it has not been without its problems. These principles have been developed to specifically assess heritage assets and not the research generated by either the wider community or academia. For the purposes of this project, these outputs were assessed in isolation as an individual piece of research. While an individual output may not score highly in terms of these values, when looked at as part of a wider project then values were increased. An example of this can be found in the Lowe Castle Hill project in the West Yorkshire case study area. The output assessed was a website featuring a 20 minute video clip. While this did not score highly in terms of its value in contributing to the HER and Research Frameworks due to assessing it in isolation, it was obvious that the overall project had high potential value.

What must also be taken into account is that not all projects are instigated with specific research questions in mind which has an impact on overall potential value. This difficulty is compounded when assessing outputs generated by local history groups. Much of the research being generated is of high value but they could not be adequately assessed against our established criteria in particular the aesthetic and communal values as defined by the Conservation Principles due to their very nature. If this research can be combined within a wider project or indeed, disseminated amongst a wider audience then this may increase the potential value of this research in contributing to HERs and Research Frameworks.

When assessing the value of community-generated research against Conservation Principles in the future, it will be necessary to view outputs in terms of the wider project in order to fairly attribute value.

Another aspect of the criteria which proved to be slightly difficult to assess in all of the case study areas is the section relating to research resources. This section specifically relates to the question of whether the research has referenced regional Research Frameworks or the relevant HER. In the case of local history research, this section was deemed to be inapplicable when it

became clear that local history groups do not know of or relate to, Research Frameworks or HERs in the same way as other more archaeologically focussed groups. In this case, this section was taken out of the scoring in order to provide a balanced result.

The selection of the outputs was made randomly; however, this came with its own problems. Due to the range of dates from 1960 to the present day, this meant that for those outputs with an older publication date, questions relating to reference Research Frameworks and HERs became somewhat moot. This is because much of this research was produced before the publication of Research Frameworks or the production of a systematic HER. It was also noted that in the geographical case study areas, an element of 'clumping' was observed as many of the outputs assessed comprised archaeological fieldwork or survey and did not have a clear spread of all types of research project.

6.3.3 Putting the case studies in context

The full case study documents can be found in Appendix 2. The discussion and conclusions are presented below:

West Yorkshire, by Aisling Nash:

This case study has clearly shown that West Yorkshire has very active community groups involved in both archaeology and local history with many of these groups having a close relationship with WYAAS. It is also apparent from the examples that the research generated by these groups is disparate and that there is a disconnection between what is being produced and what it is being generated to a wider audience. It is notable that those projects which have received professional support have resulted in wider dissemination through the HER and digital outputs than those that haven't been in receipt of this guidance. The research being generated without this professional support is potentially of value but this value is reduced as the outputs are confined to a particular group of people namely the membership of that group.

It is recognised by WYAAS that collaboration with community groups can result in very good work which has the potential to feed into the wider research of the area. However, this support requires resources namely that of staff time. WYAAS are facing a loss of 35% of their budget which has resulted in the loss of their Dayschool which is a primary way of building relationships and links between the Service and groups in addition to between groups themselves. As a result, they are now mainly reliant on free-to-use digital communications, such as email mailing lists and electronic newsletters, and a Facebook page for the HER, in order to maintain contact with local societies. This reduction in budget will have other ramifications which all leads to a further disconnection between WYAAS and their community groups.

Although it is outside the scope of this case study, it is notable that no mention is made of deposition of archives in any of the research outputs. It is possible that some of these archives have been deposited with the HER e.g. the digital archive generated by the CSI: Rombalds Moor project but this is by no means universal. Report archives have been referred in within a group website but these are not accessible without being a member of that group.

The value of the research generated by these community groups is very clear as is the need for professional guidance. The potential for this research to add to the HER and provide a more robust evidence base for historic environment planning advice is evident in addition to feeding into Research Frameworks; however, the requirement for professional guidance cannot be ignored. 'You need a HER that knows what it doesn't know' (pers. comm. Sanderson, I)

Norfolk, by Alice Cattermole:

There is no doubt that community-led work has already made an enormous contribution towards building the evidence base in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record and facilitating research at a local, regional and national level. However, it is clear that some community-led groups are much better than others at linking their work to current Research Frameworks. In Norfolk, some groups, such as the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group, have their own research agenda (Longcroft and Morgan 2003), while others such as the Norfolk Industrial Archaeological Society have specific aims and objectives that are tied to their own areas of interest. Given that all of these community groups are working on a voluntary basis it falls to the county authorities to work with these groups to try to ensure that they are working towards some of the research objectives set out in local, regional and national framework documents. This is not always straightforward, since many of the groups already have clear objectives of their own, and because much of their work is driven by the interests and expertise of group members. It is not reasonable to expect volunteers to apply their skills and time to projects or research in which they have little or no interest, and attempting to do so risks alienating such groups altogether.

In Norfolk the HER has fostered good links with as many such groups as possible, and has provided them with advice and guidance on how to write up their research. HER staff also encourage these groups to visit the HER and access the secondary archive material and the aerial photographs of their area, and attempt to demonstrate the benefits of sharing their research with others by depositing their data with the HER. This process can be problematic, particularly in terms of ensuring that information is supplied in appropriate formats so that it can be easily integrated into the HER within the constraints of the resources available to HER staff.

For groups with greater fieldwork ambitions, and particularly for those with more of a county-wide remit such as Norfolk Archaeological & Historical Research Group and Norfolk Industrial Archaeological Society, the Historic Environment Service has a successful track record of ensuring that their data is deposited with the HER. However, in order to encourage this to happen, and to keep track of ongoing fieldwork in the county, we ask that all community-led groups contact the HER ahead of any fieldwork taking place so that we can issue them with an HER event number, which they should use as the main reference on their project archive. This HER event record allows staff to follow up any unreported fieldwork after a suitable time-period has elapsed. It also enables Historic Environment Service staff to offer advice and guidance ahead of the work taking place. In particular, groups are encouraged to give due consideration to the post-excavation or post-survey processes and are alerted to the potential costs and time commitment involved. Where such costs are likely to be great, Historic Environment Service staff encourage groups to consider possible sources of funding. However, there are insufficient resources within the Historic Environment Service to support groups through the grant application process, so these grants are often not sought.

Within the Museums Service there is currently no provision for the deposition of digital archives resulting from archaeological fieldwork. This is an increasingly significant problem affecting all fieldwork carried out in the county (including that undertaken by commercial archaeological units), and the fact that there is currently no secure digital archive is of great concern. There is no doubt that community-led research projects would benefit greatly if there was a digital repository for historic environment data, especially since so much of it is 'born digital'. The Norfolk HER does not have the digital storage capacity to provide such a facility at present, and nor does the county Museums Service. There is currently no obvious free of charge provision for the archiving of such archive material at a national level either, for example via the Archaeology Data Service, and although local groups may be encouraged to use Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) to deposit their reports, very few do so at present.

In a similar vein, it would also be hugely beneficial if the Historic Environment Service was able to provide web space for community groups to upload and share information, but the constraints of local authority ICT provision mean that this is unlikely to happen within the local authority framework. Some positive steps have been made by the Federation of Norfolk Historical and Archaeological Societies who have collated a list of websites belonging to local heritage groups and attempt to share information about forthcoming events. Some groups have set up their own websites, and a proportion of these are used to disseminate research results, but these do require a considerable investment of time and resources by the groups in order to maintain their online content, and many such sites tend to become unmaintained or vanish entirely relatively quickly.

Another significant factor that currently hampers the work of community-led projects in the county is lack of access to suitable equipment for carrying out fieldwork. The Historic Environment Service has started a small equipment library, and loans out surveying equipment and GPS units to groups that do not have these, and provides training in their use if necessary. Expanding this equipment library would be beneficial to many community-led groups and would almost certainly improve recording standards, ensuring that the data generated by these groups is of a sufficient standard to inform any subsequent research.

Given the pivotal role that Historic Environment Service staff need to play in ensuring that the results of community-led research are deposited with the HER and can feed in to Research Frameworks, the planned reduction in local authority spending and the resultant impact on staffing is likely to limit the work that can be done in this area in the future. As with other HER and advisory services, the Historic Environment Service is entirely reliant upon the continuing goodwill of local groups in sharing their data with the county authorities. One of the clear conclusions of the Coastal Heritage Project was the value of having a dedicated member of staff whose role was to work closely with local groups, facilitating, training and encouraging their research, hence the appointment of a core-funded Community Archaeologist. Without skilled staff dedicated to this task it is very likely that the vast majority of community-led fieldwork in the county will not reach the HER, and will therefore not be able to feed in to local, regional or national Research Frameworks, thereby drastically reducing the potential value of this work.

Worcestershire, by Derek Hurst:

It is clear that community based archaeology favours relatively discrete areas of research: on places often with a personal association to the author, and their buildings (and often well populated with people), built landscape features to do with communications (i.e. the history of roads; Cox nd; railways, Oppitz 2002), other landscape features (e.g. parks and gardens, Lockett 1997), major events such as the World Wars (e.g. the ground-breaking work by Wilks 2010 and his colleagues), or quite personal histories where the narrative provides a lot of local colour and incidental local history (e.g. Boswell 2009). There has been, therefore, a very wide range of responses to the topic of local archaeology/history.

Though this is not a scientific sample it is felt that there is a distinct trend towards an increasing output of such work in the last decade or so, and that it often achieves a good standard of content. Development of new communications technology, greater leisure time and improved access to education since the Butler Act of 1944 may well be some of the factors playing a part in this emergence of such talented and dedicated work on recording the local historic environment.

There is no doubt, therefore, that community-led work is making an enormous contribution towards building up the evidence base in the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record, to facilitate research at a local, regional and national level. Though it is not yet possible in the west

Midlands to link this to any current Research Frameworks. Since these individuals/groups are already self-driven perhaps the best thing is to make sure that they know about the HER and are encouraged to use its resources. Even where their area of interest coincides with development-led work their work is liable ultimately to be of value as they are likely to be able to pursue sources beyond the reach of the report sufficient for development purposes, such as being able to engage with resources held nationally, such as in the National Archives at Kew. This was certainly achieved, for instance, with the Dodderhill parish survey project (Hurst et al 2013) with the transcribing medieval and later documents at NA.

The conservation appreciation of the historic environment has been well served by most the sources used in this study. In particular evidential and historical values are well represented, since much of these works has been descriptive of physical remains and then has placed the evidence in an (usually general) historical context. Other values, such as aesthetic and communal, are less easy to attribute, but plainly sometimes there has been a strong communal response, as in the case of the Vale of Evesham market gardening volume by Boswell (2009), in the sense that this recalls very personally a distinctive local way of life tied to that part of the landscape.

Looking forward, some further support through the provision of practical sessions on more specialised aspects of archaeological practice could usefully be supplied by practicing archaeologists. This would be intended to raise understanding and, perhaps also in some respects, define and establish standards, but ultimately to foster the hope that by joining forces on projects a better product can be produced from all the dedicated effort that is being made. As part of this team, museums would need to be brought on board, especially as the museum vision is, in effect, now being generated locally. Local group websites make the sharing of this information much easier, and are likely to develop further, with all the issues that surround digital data. Perhaps HERs could have a valuable role in supporting integration into a more secure home for this type of data than standalone websites, and so be seen as providing support to the community-led research effort that is now well under way.

6.3.4 Conclusions

Several key points have been highlighted through the collation of these case studies. All three geographical areas have active community archaeology and local history groups with strong links and relationships with the varying advisory services being built up over a long period of time. Despite this, there is still a disconnection between these groups and the corresponding advisory service (including the HER). While some of the research being generated by these groups does find its way into the HERs, many of the outputs remain within the domain of the particular groups. There may be several different factors at play in relation to this; many groups have a long history of active research and being independent and subsequently, HERs and advisory services rely on the good will of these groups to deposit their research which may not always be present. In the case of the Vale of Evesham, some groups find it difficult to engage with the post-excavation process which includes the writing up of findings, thus making it more difficult to deposit within a HER. Many other groups have specific interests of their own, generally in relation to their locale and may find it difficult to see how their research can be part of a wider research landscape.

While the research generated by community groups does not explicitly refer to regional Research Frameworks, it is clear that much of the research has the potential to contribute to these frameworks. Many groups (as demonstrated in the wider analysis) are not necessarily aware of these frameworks and may have difficulty in understanding how their research relates to them. In the case of West Yorkshire, clear research agendas have been commissioned by

WYAAS which are distilled through a professional filter for public consumption. This means that they are immediately accessible both through their website but also in terms of the language that is used and the clear priorities which are set out. As in the case of Norfolk and Worcestershire, many of the active groups have their own research agendas which frequently driven by the interests and motivations of the individual members. It is important that these interests are not ignored but rather incorporated into the wider local and regional frameworks.

What is clear from the case studies is that the research generated by communities is of value and has added considerably to the overall corpus of archaeological knowledge within the three areas. Generally, this value will vary in relation to the standard of work which has been carried out in order to produce the outputs. It is out of the scope of this project to assess the quality of research generated by community groups but it has been seen across the three case studies that this quality varies and thus has an impact on the overall potential value of the research. Those community groups or projects which have been professionally supported and guided are more likely to produce research which is disseminated through the HER and thus contribute to the research landscape on a local, regional and national scale.

While research generated without professional support is still of value, advisory staff are able to apply a professional filter to Research Frameworks, guide groups in terms of best practice in addition to ensuring that the research assists in building a more robust evidence base i.e. the HER. In order to do this however, it is necessary to apply resources in terms of staff time. Norfolk and West Yorkshire advisory services are facing severe cuts in their near future which will severely impact on their ability to continue to provide this professional advice and support. While Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service is currently stable in terms of budgets, there is the possibility of further cuts which may impact on the ability of staff to provide this support in this area. This loss of resource will very likely result in even less community-generated research reaching HERs which leads to a loss of knowledge in terms of local, regional and national frameworks all of which serves to the value of this research being reduced considerably.

The literature review and the assessment of the research generated by the local history community demonstrated that while there are similarities between local history groups and more archaeologically focussed groups, there are different factors at play. The role of professionals/academics and volunteers appear to be more intertwined within the local history community and as such play an important part in supporting researchers and are often members of the group(s). While professionals in the archaeological industry do often volunteer as part of community groups, professional advice is generally sought out in response to the needs of a particular project. This may be connected with the intrusive and technical nature of archaeological fieldwork although there are aspects of local history research that can be counted as such e.g. research relating to medieval and earlier periods.

Groups within the local history community are more likely to publish at county-level and in their society's own newsletters, books and booklets, than within national journals. The provision of the Local History News produced by the British Association for Local History is invaluable in providing a forum for reviews and news reports. In contrast, there is no central publication which provides this forum for more archaeologically focussed community groups. It could be argued that the newsletters produced by the Council for British Archaeology regional groups could be counted as such. However, these newsletters are not purely for dissemination of community-generated research as they also include the results of developer funded archaeological work. It may be necessary to promote these newsletters as a forum to community groups more effectively.

It is clear that the research generated by the local history community has value and indeed potential, to contribute to the wider corpus of knowledge of the historic environment as a whole. It is necessary to recognise that the terminology used within the archaeological sector such as Historic Environment Record and Research Frameworks may be unfamiliar to those in the local history community. If closer working relationships are to be established with the local history community, then it is essential that the definition of these terms is reworked so that the benefit of feeding research into HERs and Research Frameworks can be clearly seen.

7 Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusion 1:

The volume of voluntary and community historic environment research over the past five years is estimated to be in the region of 12,000 projects, contributing a total of over 20,000 discrete research outputs and covering a vast range of topics and investigative techniques.

The research generated has significant value and largely untapped potential to enhance research resources and HERs, which could have a positive impact on the sector's ability to manage and protect the historic environment.

Recommendations:

Historic environment professionals need to take this value into consideration in developing and enhancing research resources. Community-generated research is frequently seen in terms of the outcomes and the value of the process, but all-too-often the research value of the outputs has not been recognised.

Conclusion 2:

Dissemination of this research is currently all-too-often haphazard and largely contingent upon the focus of the researchers, existing networks of contact, and the funding of the project. Overall, only 41% of researchers send their work to HERs, and only 12% upload reports via OASIS. A dizzying array of formats and styles of output are produced, far exceeding the range of outputs traditionally captured by research resources and HERs.

Local history groups are far less likely than those with a focus on archaeology to send research to HERs: just 23% report having done so. The case studies have found much of this research to be of considerable potential value to archaeological research resources.

Recommendations:

The sector urgently needs to examine how the wide range of outputs generated by voluntary sector research can best be captured and incorporated into historic environment research resources. Any such mechanism needs to be systematic and efficient, and in the context of diminishing resources for many HERs, needs to require little in the way of staff resources.

With the imminent migration of the British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography to the ADS, the opportunity to assess whether a similar or combined resource could be extended to aggregate or link the outputs of local history research should be explored.

Conclusion 3:

The local history sector is largely disassociated from the process of creating and updating historic environment research resources; this is due to both:

- a) an under-appreciation of the potential value of research undertaken by local historians for informing the management of the historic environment, both among professional historic environment staff and among the researchers themselves.
- b) a variety of structural issues including lack of linkage between HERs and Archive Services/Record Offices, confusion and conflation of public sector specialists' roles and responsibilities, and historic environment professionals' failure to articulate the importance of comprehensive research resources.

Relations between parts of the historic environment sector are at times unequal and unsatisfactory, with too little appreciation for the value of others' roles.

Recommendations:

Closer links between different services and bodies that are recipients of historic environment research outputs, including but not limited to HERs, Record Offices/Archives, local studies libraries and national heritage bodies, should be encouraged.

County-level working groups or forums to discuss and share information on voluntary and community-generated research received and in progress would help to disseminate information of relevance to others within the sector, and help to prevent duplication of effort and the problem of information silos.

Links to the local history community should be developed by fostering closer links between the historic environment sector and bodies such as the BALH.

Conclusion 4:

Awareness of Research Frameworks is currently low in the voluntary and community sector. Only a minority of respondents (45%) reported being familiar with relevant frameworks; of those who were aware of their existence, however, over three-quarters (78%) had consulted Research Frameworks in planning projects. Efforts to improve accessibility and promotion are essential if wider use and more inclusive development of Research Frameworks is to be achieved.

This corroborates Pye Tait's conclusion that:

"The main barriers facing non-users include not having previously heard of Research Frameworks... Some interviewees and workshop participants pointed out that Research Frameworks are poorly promoted, with an absence of clear national guidance around their use and potential value for different user groups, particularly societies and community groups." (Pye Tait 2014, 90)

Recommendations:

The first obstacle to wider use of and involvement in Research Frameworks by voluntary researchers is awareness. A concerted campaign to raise the profile of Research Frameworks is needed, ideally coordinated at a national level by Historic England, if efforts to strengthen national ownership are to be successful.

The presentation of the resulting documents needs attention: a format along the lines of West Yorkshire's approach, distilling key questions and priorities for each period/theme into a short accessible document, available online, would help to encourage consultation of Research Frameworks at an early stage of project planning, and enable researchers to see how their work may contribute to broader research goals.

Research undertaken and knowledge held by voluntary researchers has been demonstrated to be of considerable potential value to Research Frameworks: further development of Research Frameworks should involve voluntary researchers as active participants. Their involvement, for the benefit of all parties, should be sought at an early stage of the process, otherwise it risks appearing as a token gesture of consultation.

Conclusion 5:

Use of existing platforms for the integration of research outputs into research resources is limited by awareness and usability of those mechanisms. Currently only 12% of researchers overall, and 22% of respondents undertaking intrusive fieldwork, upload to OASIS. Besides the difficulties in using the system, there appears to be an issue with lack of awareness of the resource. It is noted, and welcomed, that the HERALD project seeks to move towards a 'more

efficient and inclusive [OASIS] system' (ADS 2015, 6) with the needs of voluntary sector researchers taken into consideration.

Recommendations:

The sector should build on and support the progress made by the HERALD project in streamlining the process of using OASIS; use of OASIS should be promoted as an effective way to both ensure a lasting legacy for voluntary research and to ensure an efficient transmission of research outputs to relevant HERs.

Conclusion 6:

Access to, and development of, digital skills and expertise are major potential barriers to the dissemination and integration of valuable work into research resources. Participants in voluntary and community research include people at high risk of digital exclusion.

Even for those with basic digital skills, dissemination and publication is hampered by fears over the cost of equipment, software licences and web hosting. Whilst open-source software has the potential to bring the production of high-quality outputs within the financial scope of the sector, there remain few available digital report templates, software tutorials or guides to digital publication available.

Recommendations:

Besides providing support and training for the process of undertaking research itself, the historic environment sector should actively seek to enhance the provision of support to voluntary researchers to enhance relevant digital skills.

Templates, software tutorials and lists of useful free and open-source software should be developed in consultation with the Archaeology Training Forum and other relevant stakeholders, and made available online. Existing resources available at isgap.org.uk could usefully be expanded and updated.

Conclusion 7:

Projects in receipt of professional support or advice are significantly more likely to produce outputs that are integrated into research resources. Among researchers conducting archaeological work, those not in receipt of such support are 45% less likely to send research to an HER.

Externally-funded projects are 38% more likely to send research to HERs than those without funding, although the rate of reporting among the former, at 52%, is still worryingly low.

Recommendations:

Efforts should be made to ensure that access to qualified and experienced professional practitioners is available to voluntary and community researchers. An online directory of willing participants would be beneficial, perhaps hosted at isgap.org.uk.

External funding bodies should be made aware of the impact of funding and professional support on the value of resulting research to the historic environment. Whilst outcomes for participants are crucial, the value of thorough research outputs has also been shown to be high, and is enhanced by appropriate support. Participants are motivated by the knowledge that they are contributing something of value and enhancing resources for the future: the outcomes and outputs are therefore linked, and it would be beneficial to all parties if funding bodies were to take a close interest in the production of meaningful outputs.

It would be beneficial if seed-funding were more widely available for project development and/or mentoring at the planning stages of research. This initial outlay would lead to better long-term value for money, as the survey results demonstrate that project outputs fare better with professional support. This is particularly important in the light of diminished local authority capacity (especially the reduction in core-funded roles), given the need for commercial units, freelance professionals and externally-funded public sector staff to be fairly recompensed for their expertise.

Conclusion 8:

Concerns over local planning, placemaking and heritage are expressed by many voluntary and community researchers; their ability to champion the cause of their local heritage is frequently undermined by the confusing nature of roles and responsibilities for heritage within the planning process.

Among respondents citing planning concerns as a motivation for research, just 52% send results to an HER, and 40% are not in receipt of support or advice from local authority archaeologists; the case for the importance of comprehensive research resources to the planning process is evidently not universally appreciated. Increasing limitations on local authority capacity as a result of budget cuts are also perceived to be a threat to respondents' ability to effectively champion their heritage.

Recommendations:

There is an urgent need for clear pathways, guidance and transparency regarding the role of the historic environment in the planning process, and for the sector to improve communication of relevant bodies' roles and responsibilities. The lead taken by the CBA's Local Heritage Engagement Network in this regard should be supported and expanded.

The goal should be the provision of clear, concise, accessible information about the management of the historic environment, promoted and signposted through local networks.

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Appendix 1

Survey Form

Community Research Survey

1. Welcome

This survey is part of a project commissioned by [Historic England](#) to assess the amount of archaeology (including maritime), historic building and local history research being undertaken by voluntary groups within England.

The value and importance of such research has long been recognised; however, the scale and breadth of the work undertaken across the country remains unclear. This survey will provide data to enable us to get a better picture.

Your response will enable us to better understand the contribution of your efforts to archaeological and heritage research, and help us to ensure that community-generated research is better valued within, and integrated into, national and local historic environment research resources.

The survey is being undertaken by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service. All personal information given will be treated as confidential, and will not be shared with any third parties or used for commercial or marketing purposes. Anonymised data may be made available to trusted partners for research purposes. More information, including definitions of what types of research we're interested in hearing about, is available at: <http://community-heritage-research.blogspot.co.uk/>

The survey should take around 10-15 minutes to complete

Thank you.

Community Research Survey

2. About you

Information about you and/or your group or organisation. You do not have to supply a name if you prefer to remain anonymous.

1. Which option best describes your group or organisation?

2. What is the name of your group or organisation? (For wreck sites, if no group name, include name of wreck site or group leader)

3. Has your group undertaken any original historical, historic building or archaeological research in the last 5 years? This can include research carried out by individual members, if published and/or disseminated by the group.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Comments:

4. As a group, do you receive support or advice from any of the following? (Please select all that apply)

- ☐ Local Authority Archaeology Service or Historic Environment Record
- ☐ Local Authority Archive Service
- ☐ Professional historian/researcher
- ☐ Professional freelance archaeologist
- ☐ Archaeological unit or trust
- ☐ Archaeological or historical society
- ☐ University Department
- ☐ Museum
- ☐ Other Local Authority Heritage Services (e.g. Conservation Officer)
- ☐ Historical Association (e.g. British Association for Local History)
- ☐ National Heritage Organisation (e.g. Council for British Archaeology, Historic England, National Trust)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Community Research Survey

3. About your research

5. If you haven't undertaken any original research, which of the following factors were applicable? (Please select all that apply)

- ☐ Not interested in undertaking own research
- ☐ Access to funding/resources
- ☐ Lack of professional support
- ☐ Lack of experience
- ☐ It's not the group's focus
- ☐ Lack of equipment
- ☐ Other (please specify)

6. Does your group facilitate the publication of others' research? (E.g. through the publication of local journals)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Comments:

Community Research Survey

4. About your research

7. If you have undertaken original research, which of the following have you carried out? (Please select all that apply)

- ☐ Archaeological Geophysical Survey
- ☐ Archaeological Field Survey (e.g. earthwork survey, LiDAR validation, condition assessment)
- ☐ Archaeological Fieldwalking
- ☐ Archaeological Excavation
- ☐ Archive Research (county and/or national)
- ☐ Recording of standing historic structures
- ☐ Maritime/Foreshore archaeological recording
- ☐ Literature review
- ☐ Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
- ☐ Oral History recording/research
- ☐ Landscape History
- ☐ Industrial/Company history
- ☐ Experimental Archaeology
- ☐ Research into local studies or community heritage collections
- ☐ Research on existing museum collections
- ☐ Other (please specify)

8. How many projects have you undertaken (include both completed and ongoing) within the last five years? (Please treat projects with the same focus, e.g. a geophysical survey following documentary research on the same site, as a single project)

Comments:

9. How have you funded your work? (Please select all that apply)

- ☐ From members' own resources
- ☐ Funds raised through society activities (membership fees, subscriptions etc)
- ☐ External funding for specific project(s) (e.g. HLF bid)
- ☐ External funding for the organisation (e.g. local authority funding)

Comments:

10. What are the reasons for carrying out your research? (Please check all that apply)

- ☐ Local interest
- ☐ Planning/development issues (including neighbourhood plans)
- ☐ Offshoot of commercial investigations
- ☐ Part of wider academic research project
- ☐ Research question identified by other organisation (e.g. HER or Record Office)
- ☐ Group interest in research topic
- ☐ Training/educational purposes
- ☐ Building or site conservation
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Community Research Survey

5. Sharing your work

We'd like to know how many 'research outputs' or publications your group or organisation has produced in the last 5 years, and in what form.

A 'research output' or publication is defined as a piece of work relating to a project, which is shared beyond the group. Examples could include reports, articles in local journals, leaflets, books, audio CDs or online databases.

For the purposes of this survey, a web-based mapping tool or report published online is included, but a project progress blog or twitter feed is not.

11. How many of your projects have produced research outputs or publications by your group or organisation in the last five years? (Please enter a number)

Sometimes, a single project can lead to multiple outputs or publications. We're aware that, for many researchers, these questions will be difficult to quantify numerically; please use the comment box for the question at the bottom of this page to expand or clarify your answers.

12. How many research outputs, in total, has your group or organisation produced in the last five years? (Please enter a number)

13. What type of research outputs have you produced? (Please check all that apply)

- ☐ Fieldwork report
- ☐ Newspaper article
- ☐ Article contributed to external journal
- ☐ Article contributed to external newsletter
- ☐ Book
- ☐ Leaflet
- ☐ Website
- ☐ Audio CD
- ☐ Film/DVD
- ☐ Guided tour/walk
- ☐ Interpretation panel/plaque
- ☐ Research report
- ☐ Society newsletter/journal
- ☐ Guidebook
- ☐ Popular booklet
- ☐ Conference or society presentation made available (e.g. published online)
- ☐ Digital Archive
- ☐ Other (please specify)

14. Do you have any comments on your experience of sharing your project results? Are there any barriers which prevent you from doing so? Please provide details.

Community Research Survey

6. Promoting your research

15. Who do you send your research to? (Please check all that apply)

- ☐ Historic Environment Record
- ☐ Local Library
- ☐ Local Authority Archive Service or Record Office
- ☐ Local Tourist Information Office
- ☐ Bookshops
- ☐ Other local group, society or umbrella body (e.g. local history forum)
- ☐ University Department or Library
- ☐ Archaeological Unit or Trust
- ☐ Archaeology Data Service (OASIS)
- ☐ Other online library or repository
- ☐ Local residents
- ☐ Group or society members
- ☐ Local media
- ☐ Museum
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Community Research Survey

7. Research Frameworks

Research Frameworks draw together information on the historic environment from a wide range of sources to provide an up-to-date overview of regional and/or subject-specific understanding. The resulting research agendas highlight gaps in our knowledge, and suggest avenues of research to answer these.

More information on Research Frameworks is available from the Historic England website:

<http://historicengland.org.uk/research/support-and-collaboration/research-resources/research-frameworks/>

16. Are you familiar with existing research frameworks relating to the topic of your research or interest?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Comments:

17. If yes, have you consulted the relevant research frameworks (where they exist) in planning your research projects?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Comments

18. Do you think that your research has the potential to contribute to wider understanding of your area of research?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Comments

19. Did you set out research questions at the beginning of your project?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

20. If so, how did you come up with these?

Community Research Survey

8. Thank you

Thank you for completing this survey. Results will be collated and analysed by the project team at Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service. The final report will be published in Autumn 2015, and will be available on the Historic England website.

If you would like to hear directly about the findings of this research, please enter your email address below:

21. Contact Information (optional)

Email Address

22. Do you have any further comments that you would like to make?

Appendix 2

Full case study documents

1 Norfolk Case Study, by Alice Cattermole

1.1 Background

Norfolk is a large, arable county, with most of its population living in dispersed rural settlements and small market towns. Today, Norfolk's rich and diverse heritage is one of the main factors that bring large numbers of tourists to the county. Norfolk has a wide range of different landscape types including the sandy Breckland to the south-west of the county, the low-lying Fens and coastal marshland, chalk uplands in the west of the county, the central clay plateau and the distinctive peat-cuttings of the Norfolk Broads. Norwich is the main urban centre, with historic ports at Great Yarmouth in the east and King's Lynn to the west, with the Anglo-Danish town of Thetford on the southern border.

Norfolk boasts evidence of the earliest human occupation so far discovered in northern Europe, and the oldest human footprints known outside Africa. These remarkable findings on the north-east coast at Happisburgh highlight the county's huge archaeological potential. Later periods are represented by nationally significant sites such as the Neolithic flint mines at Grimes Graves, the much-publicised Bronze Age timber circle 'Seahenge' on the north Norfolk coast, a Romano-Celtic temple at Fison Way, Thetford, and the *civitas* capital of the Icenii at Caistor St Edmund. The county has a plethora of Anglo-Saxon settlements and cemeteries, including the exceptionally large cremation cemetery site at Spong Hill in the centre of the county. Norwich was medieval England's second town, with well over fifty churches within the city walls, a large Romanesque cathedral and the imposing royal castle. The county thrived during this period with the landscape being densely settled and intensively farmed. The post-medieval landscape saw the rise of many large estates, the major redesigning of the landscape as part of the process of enclosure and the industrialisation of agriculture. In more modern times Norfolk's gentle topography resulted in it hosting many airfields during both World Wars and the Cold War.

Norfolk has a long tradition of archaeological and historical research. The Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society (NNAS) was founded in 1846, and is one of the oldest county archaeological societies. Since then it has published its journal *Norfolk Archaeology* every year, with its first volume emphasising the 'desirability of the Society's confining its researches exclusively to Norfolk' and a warning to members 'not to allow the resources of the county to be frittered away in the publications of other societies' (NNAS 1847, x). The other key objective of the NNAS when it was founded was 'to collect the best information on the Arts and Monuments of the County' and 'by exciting a wider interest... lead to the discovery of those [sites] hidden and the preservation of those known' (NNAS 1847, x–xi).

Norfolk was also the birthplace of the Prehistoric Society. In 1908 an 'East Anglian Society of Prehistorians' was formed and held its first meeting in Norwich's Public Library. By 1911 when the Society produced its first *Proceedings* it already had over one hundred members, the majority of whom were flint-collecting enthusiasts from Norfolk and Suffolk, demonstrating how active the community already was at this time in the pursuit of information about the county's prehistory. By 1935 the society had a truly national remit, and changed its name to the Prehistoric Society.

The Norfolk Research Committee was set up in the 1930s, with the aim of being a meeting-place for all people working on Norfolk's history, natural history and geography. At this time the Research Committee met regularly at Norwich Castle, which served as a focus for archaeological endeavours in the county having opened as a museum in 1894. The Castle Museum also played host to the

Norfolk Archaeological Index which took the form of a card index developed by Roy Rainbird Clarke, who had grown up in the county and was appointed as Norfolk's local correspondent working with O.G.S. Crawford to update the antiquities marked on Ordnance Survey maps. Following a period working in Taunton, Rainbird Clarke returned to Norfolk as Deputy Curator of the Norwich Museums in 1946 and was appointed Curator in 1951. Rainbird believed strongly in popularising archaeology, and wrote a series of popular articles in local newspapers and even made a television series on the archaeology of Norfolk and Suffolk in 1962. The result of this publicity was that large numbers of people brought their finds to be identified at the Castle Museum, and these were meticulously documented on index cards. These index cards would form the basis of the Sites and Monuments Record (more recently known as the Historic Environment Record).

In 1967 the Centre of East Anglian Studies (CEAS) was established at the University of East Anglia to develop and encourage the study of all aspects of the archaeology and history of Norfolk, Suffolk and the adjacent counties of Lincolnshire, Essex and Cambridgeshire from prehistoric times to the present. From the outset it has worked closely with the local community and local societies, and numerous successful collaborative projects have been undertaken by CEAS in Norfolk and neighbouring counties. The CEAS runs an annual lecture series which is open to all, and prides itself on communicating the results of its research as widely as possible. In addition the CEAS has produced numerous publications on a wide range of topics, some of which has been the result of community-led research. The CEAS was also responsible for the establishment of the Norwich Survey, a research project which ran from 1971 until 1988 and which involved community groups and individuals from Norwich and further afield.

In 1971 a number of archaeologists and other heritage professionals joined together to form the Scole Committee. Concerned with the pace at which sites of all types were being destroyed without record, this committee began to coordinate archaeological rescue work in East Anglia. It also became the body which received government and local authority funding within the region, and it was under the aegis of the Scole Committee that the Norfolk Archaeological Unit was formed in 1973 and a year later the Suffolk Archaeological Unit was founded. The Scole Committee was also responsible for the production of *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment* (Glazebrook 1997) and *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

Also in 1971, the first issue of the *Journal of the Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Study Group* was published. This group has its origins in a series of Workers' Educational Association courses run over the summer of 1970 which included practical fieldwork and recording of sites such as the herring-curing works at Great Yarmouth, some of the maltings buildings in Dereham and a steam pump in Haddiscoe. The founding members of this group were concerned with the rapid rate at which companies were closing down and their former premises being either demolished or converted. This society has always been concerned with the dissemination of the information they have gathered, with the editorial in the first issue of their Journal stating 'it is no use taking the most detailed measurements and drawings if they lie forgotten in someone's home. To be of use they must be clearly-written and drawn and placed where they are readily available' (NIAS 1971, 1). This group continues to publish the results of their investigations in their annual journal. The Resource Assessment highlights NIAS's research on lime kilns (Glazebrook 1997, 76), and their close liaison with the HER is noted in the same document (*Ibid.*, 78).

Following the establishment of the Norfolk and Suffolk Archaeological Units and the Norwich Survey, a new monograph series *East Anglian Archaeology* was founded, with the first volume being published in 1975. The purpose of this series was to provide a regional publication to allow the

Norfolk and Suffolk Archaeological Units and the Norwich Survey to publish the results of fieldwork and excavation as rapidly as possible. This series was, and continues to be, a valuable source within the region and, as is demonstrated below, it has been used to present a wide range of material resulting from community-led projects and fieldwork in the county.

In Norfolk, community-led archaeology started to gather pace during the 1970s, with the advent of several groups whose focus was rescue archaeology. Most notable of these was the Norfolk Archaeological Rescue Group (NARG), which was set up in 1975 'to coordinate amateur interest in archaeology and to harness this interest for rescue work in the County of Norfolk' (NARG 1975). As well as undertaking a great deal of their own fieldwork, including excavation, field-walking and other survey work, NARG volunteers played an active role in many of the projects undertaken by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit, particularly on field-walking projects ahead of major road schemes such as the Thetford Bypass and the Norwich Southern Bypass. This provided an opportunity for many of them to work alongside professionals, providing invaluable additional resources, while at the same time gaining training and skills which they were able to apply to their own projects. NARG also produced a quarterly newsletter called *NARG News* which detailed current projects and opportunities for members to get involved and also included short articles from NARG members, professional archaeologists and academics on a wide range of topics.

In 1991 NARG and the Norfolk Research Committee decided to join forces, and merged into a single society, the Norfolk Archaeological and Historical Research Group (NAHRG), and as part of this process decided to re-launch their publications as *The Quarterly* and *The Annual*. *The Annual* is NAHRG's outlet for longer articles on the history and archaeology of Norfolk and each issue contains five or six articles, historical essays or descriptions of individual research, written by members and others. *The Quarterly* was a newsletter for NAHRG members, highlighting fieldwork and research projects and opportunities, and sometimes also including short notes on pieces of work carried out by members of the society and others. It is now published twice yearly as *NAHRG News*.

While all these community-led groups were becoming more active in the county, the Norfolk Archaeological Unit took over the updating of the County Archaeological Index, which later became the Sites and Monument Record (SMR). The implementation of PPG16 in 1990 saw the Norfolk Archaeological Unit split into a contracting team undertaking fieldwork which retained the Unit's name, and a curatorial body providing heritage management and planning advice which became known as Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA). As well as fulfilling the planning functions required by PPG16 and maintaining the SMR, NLA also placed a great deal of emphasis on community engagement, working closely with volunteer groups such as NAHRG, and also building good working relationships with the county's numerous metal-detector enthusiasts by providing a finds identification and recording service (I&RS). This generated huge amounts of data (particularly in relation to unstratified archaeological finds) which was integrated directly into the SMR, and which was used as an exemplar when the national Portable Antiquities Scheme was established in 1997.

During the early 2000s the SMR broadened its scope to include more detailed information on the built environment and accordingly changed its name to the Historic Environment Record (HER). Between 2005 and 2007 with the help of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund the Norfolk HER put its data online for the first time via the Norfolk Heritage Explorer. As part of this work significant data cleansing and enhancement was carried out, and a series of parish-based historic environment summaries written. A programme of community outreach was undertaken as part of this HLF-funded project to raise awareness of Norfolk's historic environment and in particular to allow members of the public to research their own local area using information

from the HER. This proved very popular and also stimulated new fieldwork being undertaken by local groups, with input from the project's Outreach Officer.

In 2010 Norfolk Landscape Archaeology merged with the county's Buildings and Landscapes team, bringing together archaeologists and buildings specialists within a new Historic Environment Service (HES). The HES continued its planning, finds identification and HER work, and also secured funding for a Coastal Heritage Project from Defra. This proved so successful in engaging local communities that once the project was complete, the HES appointed a core-funded Community Archaeologist to continue the successful collaborative work that started during the Coastal Heritage Project. Since 2010 the HER has also undertaken a significant amount of enhancement work, improving indexing of records and enhancing monument, event and source data. This has helped optimise the retrieval of data from the HER, ensuring that research potential of work undertaken in the county is maximised.

This background information sets out Norfolk's long tradition of recognising the value of volunteer-led projects in enhancing understanding of the county's historic environment. The case studies compiled as part of this project ably demonstrate the wide range of disparate sources, projects and collections generated as a result of community-led fieldwork in Norfolk.

1.2 Assessing the value of community-led research in Norfolk

Having summarised the main outlets for disseminating the results of community-led archaeological projects being carried out in Norfolk, it is important to consider how projects of this kind have enhanced our understanding of the county's historic environment. The Case Studies include detailed assessment of 'value' separated into four components: aesthetic, communal, evidential and historical, and should be referred to alongside this section of the report. Given the vast quantity of community-led research that has been carried out in Norfolk, it is not possible to look at all of these projects in detail. The contribution of the metal-detecting community and the voluntary reporting of finds is not considered here, since this is outside the scope of this report. Suffice to say that Norfolk's long tradition of successful liaison with detectorists is directly responsible for the vast majority of the 25,000 find-spots recorded in the HER, as well as for the discovery of many very significant sites. There are significant conclusions that can be drawn by looking at the different types of projects that community groups have undertaken in the county. This section of the report will examine different types of community-led research activities in turn, and highlight some examples of best practice.

Building Surveys

Building surveys in Norfolk have been carried out by a variety of different types of organisations and individuals. In the 1970s and 1980s many such surveys were carried out on industrial buildings ahead of demolition or conversion to alternative uses, and most were done by the Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society (NIAS), as described above. As well as their strong emphasis on dissemination of their research results, this group has always deposited their records in an archive held by the Historic Environment Service, with ready access given to HER staff. This has enabled the full integration of all of their surveys into the HER, and HER staff are able to provide access to their detailed records to researchers as required.

During the 1980s an extensive survey of farm buildings was carried out in Norfolk, led by CEAS and involving large numbers of well-trained volunteers. The value of carrying out this survey in a county whose economy has for so long been dependant on agriculture, was immediately apparent. The survey records were deposited with the HER, and have been fully integrated. Additionally, the results of the 'Norfolk pilot' were published in a monograph, making them accessible to a wider audience (Wade Martins 1991). This survey was mentioned in the first

Regional Research Framework (Glazebrook 1997, 75) as an exemplary piece of work and has inspired other counties to undertake similar work.

The most prolific community-led group working on building surveys in Norfolk is the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group (NHBG), which was founded in 2000 and is almost entirely run by volunteers, with academic input from Dr Adam Longcroft in the School of Education and Lifelong Learning at the University of East Anglia. Over the last fifteen years this group has carried out building survey work across the county, following geographical and thematic approaches. Some parishes such as New Buckenham (Longcroft 2005), Tacolneston (Longcroft *et al.* 2009) and Walsingham (Longcroft *et al.* 2015) have been surveyed in detail, and certain building types, for example rural schools (Longcroft and Wade Martins 2013), across the county have been subject to assessment and synthesis. The NHBG have always consulted the HER prior to undertaking their survey work, and have been exemplary in their desire to work collaboratively with colleagues within the Historic Environment Service. They have always provided copies of all survey notes and photographs to the HER, prior to their inclusion in the NHBG's own publications. The value of this volunteer contribution in terms of fulfilling research objectives is not always huge in terms of the findings for individual buildings, but this group's approach to dissemination and liaison, enabling ready access to their research, enhances the opportunity for their surveys to contribute to wider research and understanding of the historic environment. The New Buckenham survey is highlighted in the current Regional Research Framework (Medlycott 2011, 68–9).

These surveys contrast sharply with those produced through developer-led work. In Norfolk, as with most other counties, developer-led work has resulted in the production of fairly standard Historic England (2006) compliant building records, which vary greatly in their usefulness. However, since 2010 Norfolk County Council has also issued 'self-record' building survey *pro formas* to some homeowners. Reports submitted as a result of these 'self-record' briefs serve to demonstrate how difficult it is for useful building surveys to be produced by non-professionals without the expertise that a group such as the NHBG has within its membership.

Building surveys carried out by groups other than the NHBG in the county show how important NHBG's liaison with NCC is, particularly in terms of addressing relevant research objectives, and in dissemination of results. For example, the Vernacular Buildings Survey carried out by the Breckland Society in 2004 and funded by Historic England was undertaken with no interaction with the Historic Environment Service (Breckland Society 2007). No baseline data was sought prior to the survey being carried out, and there was no attempt to liaise with the HER to assist in the deposition of data – instead, this was deposited with the Norfolk Record Office and the County Libraries Service. This showed a fundamental lack of understanding of the functions of the relevant heritage bodies working within the county. It also means that the data remains largely inaccessible, since the NRO has no means of indexing or disseminating this survey data in the way that an HER would. The data was finally submitted to the HER several years after the survey was carried out, following several requests by HER staff and the County Archaeologist, and proved difficult to integrate.

The wider research potential of volunteer-led building surveys is very high, and applicable at a variety of scales. Provided that the data generated by these surveys is supplied to the HER and can easily be integrated, these all have the potential to inform decisions made in the planning process. In particular they provide baseline data about heritage assets which may previously have been unrecognised or their value overlooked, for example in recording the industrial uses of large buildings that have since been converted to other uses. What NIAS has been doing in Norfolk since 1971 is now common practice elsewhere in the country, but if they had not taken the initiative when they did, much of Norfolk's poorly understood industrial past would have been lost without record.

The work of the NHBG in conducting parish-based and thematic surveys has served as a template for further volunteer-led survey work, and has also had huge community benefits, stimulating research at a more local level, for example inspiring parish heritage groups to conduct further research. The dendrochronological analysis included in some of the NHBG's work provides a scientific basis on which to understand the chronology of building development within specific localities, which in turn by extrapolation helps inform interpretation of vernacular buildings at a regional level.

Field-walking surveys

Field-walking surveys have proved one of the most popular, engaging and enlightening methodologies employed by community-led heritage groups in Norfolk. This is partly because Norfolk's arable landscape is well-suited to this method, and this method has enabled the collection of data for large parts of the county about which little was previously known. The other great advantage of field-walking in terms of community-led archaeological work is that it can involve larger groups, and although training is necessary, by working in groups individuals with varying levels of experience can all actively participate and make a significant contribution. In Norfolk there is no doubt that the data generated by community-led field-walking projects could not have been of such great value without the huge contribution made by paid staff within the county's Finds Identification and Recording Service (I&RS). Almost all of the field-walking finds recovered by volunteers in the county passed through the I&RS ensuring secure, consistent and free-of-charge identifications and dating of the material. The involvement of professionals at this stage in the process has also facilitated the smooth and swift transfer of survey data to the HER.

In Norfolk, although some commercial archaeological projects do include field-walking, the vast majority has been carried out by highly skilled volunteers. As mentioned above, NARG's members were regularly called upon to undertake field-walking ahead of major road schemes such as the Thetford Bypass and the Norwich Southern Bypass. The level of detail that such surveys yielded (especially when compared with more recent field-walking undertaken by commercial archaeological units) ably demonstrates the merits of their involvement. These large projects also served as opportunities during which new volunteers were recruited from nearby communities.

There are several notable individuals who have worked extensively in Norfolk on a wide range of field-walking surveys, without whom the resource would be much less rich. Especially prolific was the late Alan Davison, who was heavily involved with NARG, but also undertook significant survey work on his own. He was one of two main contributors to the Hales, Heckingham and Loddon survey carried out over a period of six years in the 1980s. He published at least five articles in *Norfolk Archaeology* (Davison 1983, 1987, 1995, 2003; Davison with Cushion 1999) and two volumes of *East Anglian Archaeology* (Davison 1990; Davison, Green and Milligan, 1993) summarising the results of his various surveys. The geographical scope of his research was county-wide. The value of Davison's work is most obvious in terms of providing new evidence for areas of the county that had previously been little-studied and which, prior to his surveys, were poorly understood.

More recently extensive field-walking has been carried out by volunteers working on the ongoing Caistor Roman Town Project, with the intention of providing contextual information from numerous parishes surrounding the *civitas* capital of the Iceni at Caistor St Edmund. The value of this research is less immediately obvious than that of earlier field-walking projects. This is partly because this work has not yet been published. However, another difficulty was presented by the fact that so much new material was recovered in a relatively short period of time that it proved too resource-intensive for the I&RS to assess all of the material that the

project generated, leading to inconsistencies in finds recording and making it more difficult to integrate this material into the HER. Additionally, the project has involved many more volunteers than previous community-led field-walking projects, and although some highly skilled field-walkers from groups such as NAHRG have been involved, not all volunteers seem to have received sufficient training, so recovery of material appears quite variable. This clearly demonstrates that in order for community-led field-walking to succeed there needs to be a critical mass of skilled individuals providing supervision and training to new volunteers.

The county's Historic Environment Service has instigated some field-walking projects in the county, using trained volunteers. During the Coastal Heritage Project, volunteers from Happisburgh parish were able to work with volunteer field-walkers from nearby Southrepps who provided hands-on training and advice for the new volunteers. This enabled the Happisburgh Heritage Group to carry out some field-walking in their own parish. The Historic Environment Service also equips community groups who wish to undertake field-walking with spreadsheets tailored to their requirements. These can then be used to import the results (once checked and validated) directly into the HER.

The wider research potential of field-walking data is widely recognised in academic literature. However, it is particularly pertinent in a relatively sparsely populated county where much of the land is given over to agriculture. The field-walking data held in the Norfolk HER has been used as baseline data to inform a wide range of academic research and development-led infrastructure projects. One of the great benefits of field-walking data is that it is multi-period, and can therefore help inform a wide range of research questions, many of which were outside the scope of the original objectives of those collecting the data. The advent of commercial, and more recently open source, Geographical Information Systems has given much of this volunteer-generated field-walking data new lease of life. It has allowed researchers to revisit historic survey data and analyse it with much greater ease, generating in seconds distribution maps that would previously have taken days or weeks to produce by hand. In particular it is now possible to compare datasets over a much greater geographical range, and bring together the results of disparate projects and integrate them with other types of survey data. In Norfolk, the vast quantity of field-walking data is complemented by the huge amount of material revealed by metal-detecting, which has been recorded on the HER since the 1970s and some of which is now available via the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Test-pitting surveys

Archaeological test-pitting surveys have risen to prominence during the last 15 years and have become a popular method of research which is frequently employed by community groups in the county. Although the archaeological potential of a single 1m by 1m test-pit is arguably limited, the cumulative results of groups of test-pits excavated within discrete areas can be significant and enable something to be inferred about the distribution of past occupation and activity. The method is most effective in areas where larger excavations might not be possible, and in Norfolk most test-pits have been excavated in gardens within the cores of historic settlements.

Although the excavation of 1m by 1m test-pits has become common practice among Norfolk's archaeological societies, there remains a degree of variation in the approaches taken by each survey. Some opt for excavation and recording in 10cm spits, with finds from each layer being analysed by relative depth, while other surveys attempt to dig in context as per larger archaeological interventions. Both methods have their pros and cons, but the imposed structure of the former method lends itself to those with little or no previous archaeological experience upon which to draw. In Norfolk most surveys of this kind have taken place under the direction of a professional archaeologist, who has ensured a consistent approach to excavation and

recording within each project and who, crucially, has a direct involvement in post-excavation finds identification and analysis.

In part the popularity of this method can be traced to the broadcast in June 2003 of the *Time Team's Big Dig*, a weekend of live television during which thousands of members of the public were encouraged to excavate test-pits in their gardens and report their findings using pro forma recording kits provided by the programme. The *Big Dig* was the subject of much controversy at the time, with the approach being branded 'entertainment, not archaeology' (Kennedy 2003), but despite this the approach has prevailed and gained a degree of archaeological respectability.

Although an extensive test-pitting survey was carried out in the village of Sedgeford by the Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project between 2002 and 2004 (Moshenska 2005), by far the most high-profile test-pitting surveys in Norfolk have been those undertaken by Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA), under the aegis of former *Time Team* presenter Carenza Lewis. ACA is an archaeological outreach department based in the McDonald Institute of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge. To date ACA have led test-pitting surveys in twelve Norfolk villages, many of which have seen numerous seasons of work. As a consequence large numbers of people, many of them school pupils, have been involved in such projects and the media profile for these events is very high. Unfortunately, this participation and engagement has not translated into meaningful data being deposited with the county Historic Environment Record.

Summary results of ACA projects are published on their website, where interpretation is limited to a couple of paragraphs, and each season's work is supported by low-resolution PDF maps showing the approximate locations of the excavated pits against 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey base mapping. Basic pottery reports are also provided, with standardised descriptions and interpretations being offered based on the presence or absence of different types of pottery. In almost every case there has been little or no involvement with the county's archaeological authorities before, during or after each survey, and very few synthetic reports have produced for these surveys. Primary site data and finds are not archived with the county authorities and detailed locational data and results are not routinely submitted to the HER, although these have occasionally been secured directly from ACA by HER staff. This lack of consolidation substantially undermines the point of the fieldwork and does not allow others to draw upon the raw data. However, the results have underpinned a series of academic papers written by Lewis (for example Lewis 2010) which have highlighted the great potential of this material in understanding settlement development.

The most successful community-led test-pitting projects have all involved training being provided by the Historic Environment Service, and *pro forma* recording sheets and guidance documents being supplied to the groups ahead of fieldwork taking place. This has facilitated easy integration of the results into the HER at the end of the project, ensuring that the raw data is available for future research. Such projects have only been possible since the Historic Environment Service has had the capacity to conduct its own programme of community engagement and has employed a Community Archaeologist to liaise closely with local groups. Successful fieldwork has taken place on this basis in several parishes, mostly involving parish-based groups and individuals, for example the Loddon and District Local History Group and the Docking Heritage Group. The work carried out in Loddon complements extensive field-walking carried out elsewhere in this parish during the 1980s by NARG (Davison 1990), see above.

Carenza Lewis has clearly demonstrated with the results of projects that she has overseen in Norfolk that test-pitting data has huge research potential. She has produced numerous papers in academic and popular publications highlighting how the material recovered from settlements

can inform understanding of the development of settlement during the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. Additionally, it is potentially of great use in informing the archaeological planning process, since it is very often the only invasive fieldwork that has been carried out within the settlement core.

However, in to maximise the research potential of community-led test-pitting, a consistent methodological approach needs to be employed, professional input in finds recording is advised and the density of the test-pitting needs to be sufficient to provide a reasonable overview of past activity and its distribution.

Archaeological Excavations

There is a long tradition of community groups and volunteers such as NARG members taking an active part in excavation work within the county, for example at the Iron Age hillfort in Tasburgh (Rogerson and Lawson 1992) and the major Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery at Spong Hill in North Elmham (Hills 1977). However, while this voluntary contribution must not be overlooked, this discussion is primarily concerned with community-led excavation projects.

NARG has instigated several significant excavations in the county since the 1980s, some of which have yielded significant results. For example, in the 1970s NARG excavated an Augustinian Friary in Gorleston, providing new information about the surviving remains and providing plans of some parts of the site, including the Chapter House (Bullock 1986). In the late 1990s, NAHRG excavated at Oxwick where they revealed the missing chancel of the disused parish church (Sims 2010). In 2003 they offered to ground-truth some of the cropmarks relating to a Roman road identified by the National Mapping Programme at Scottow. Most recently, NAHRG collaborated with the Caistor Roman Town Project to conduct field-walking, a geophysical survey and an evaluation excavation of a small Roman building in Stoke Holy Cross. All of these projects had clear objectives at the outset, and much of the fieldwork was conducted in an exemplary fashion. Some of the recording was made more difficult because of the lack of suitable equipment to record levels and to survey features accurately. All of these volunteer-led projects have struggled during the post-excavation phase, particularly because of the costs involved in procuring specialist advice and input. In the absence of major grants is difficult to see how voluntary groups such as NARG can better prepare for post-excavation work, but it is certainly the case that this is necessary. Unfortunately the difficulties encountered during post-excavation are often reflected in their publications, with a lack of detailed analysis and/or interpretation. The project archives are sometimes found to lack good quality data, which limits their potential for further research.

On a more localised scale, in the parish of Sedgeford in north-west Norfolk, the Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project (SHARP) was set up in 1996, and since then has conducted extensive excavations and surveys across the parish. This project has drawn in volunteers from a wide geographical radius, and offers to provide training in a variety of disciplines, therefore appealing in particular to university students and recent graduates. This project has undoubtedly revealed much new information, in particular about the Middle and Late Anglo-Saxon settlement and cemetery. The ethos of the project is 'democratic archaeology', which means that although there is a hierarchy of archaeological supervisors in place, the emphasis is very much on everyone making an equal contribution to the project (The Sharp Team 2014). However, it is clear from the scant publication record generated during the last two decades of research that while volunteers for excavation and fieldwork are abundant, post-excavation analysis and synthesis has fallen to a small number of the project's long-standing members. Again, this project has suffered from a lack of planning of the necessary post-excavation work, while excavations continue unabated. Such is the momentum of the project, which as a volunteer-led project sits outside the authority of the county's Historic

Environment Service, that it is difficult to see how this situation will be resolved. It is certainly the case that the poor publication record and the inability of external bodies or the HER to obtain the raw data means that the potential value of this work cannot be realised at present. This is a great shame given the significance and rarity of much of the excavated material.

Volunteer-led excavations have great research potential. They are very often free of the time constraints imposed on development-led projects, as the sites they investigate are less likely to be at risk. The groups working on such projects also usually have clear research objectives, which serve to focus their work on specific aspects of the site. This can be a huge benefit in that sites are often revisited over several seasons in order to excavate meticulously and maximise retrieval and recording. However, the drawback is that sometimes the excavation results may only be focussed on answering these research objectives and other findings of potential interest to others may go unrecognised or may not be widely disseminated. For projects such as SHARP where there are a large number of university students involved, the research potential is often better realised, because the students involved use data from their voluntary work in their academic studies. However, this research is generally very specific, and is often devoid of wider contextual information that would be of greater potential to others engaged in research.

1.3 Conclusions

There is no doubt that community-led work has already made an enormous contribution towards building the evidence base in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record, to facilitate research at a local, regional and national level. However, it is clear from the case studies that some community-led groups are much better than others at linking their work to current research frameworks. In Norfolk, some groups, such as the NHBG, have their own research agenda (Longcroft and Morgan 2003), while others such as NIAS have specific aims and objectives that are tied to their own areas of interest. Given that all of these community groups are working on a voluntary basis it falls to the county authorities to work with these groups to try to ensure that they are working towards some of the research objectives set out in local, regional and national framework documents. This is not always straightforward, since many of the groups already have clear objectives of their own, and because much of their work is driven by the interests and expertise of group members. It is not reasonable to expect volunteers to apply their skills and time to projects or research in which they have little or no interest, and attempting to do so risks alienating such groups altogether.

Groups working at a local parish-based level tend to be very focused on finding out about their immediate locality, but their interest as a group often does not extend beyond this area. In Norfolk in recent years HES staff have attempted to get parish-based groups to make contact with each other and share their results and expertise. In some cases this has resulted in some very successful collaborations, but it is not always possible to get groups to work outside their own parish or locality or to share the results of their research with others or with the HES.

For community-led groups working at this parish-based level, dissemination of project results is often quite difficult to achieve. In Norfolk the HER has fostered good links with as many such groups as possible, and has provided them with advice and guidance on how to write up their research. HER staff also encourage these groups to visit the HER and access the secondary archive material and the aerial photographs of their area, and attempt to demonstrate the benefits of sharing their research with others by depositing their data with the HER. This process can be problematic, particularly in terms of ensuring that information is supplied to the HER in appropriate formats, in order that it can be readily integrated. In recent years Norfolk HER staff have worked closely with community groups to provide hands-on training, advice and guidance, including supplying *pro forma* sheets for on-site recording, and customised spreadsheets for

collating finds-related data. These spreadsheets have been developed in such a way that HER staff can help the groups produce distribution plots, and also so that the importer developed for use with PAS downloads can be used to bring validated finds data directly into the HER database. This is something that could be more widely used elsewhere.

For groups with greater fieldwork ambitions, and particularly for those with more of a county-wide remit such as NAHRG and NIAS, HES has a successful track record of ensuring that their data is deposited with the HER. However, in order to encourage this to happen, and to keep track of ongoing fieldwork in the county, we ask that all community-led groups contact the HER ahead of any fieldwork taking place so that we can issue them with an HER event number, which they should use as the main reference on their project archive. This HER event record also serves as a useful reminder for HER staff, and allows them to follow up any unreported fieldwork after a suitable time-period has elapsed.

In Norfolk responsibility for archaeological archives resides with the county Museums Service, not the Historic Environment Service. Unfortunately within the Museums Service there is currently no provision for the receipt of digital material arising from archaeological fieldwork undertaken in the county. This is an increasingly significant problem affecting all fieldwork carried out in the county (including that undertaken by commercial archaeological units), and the fact that there is currently no secure digital archive is of great concern. There is no doubt that community-led research projects would benefit greatly if there was a digital repository for historic environment data, especially since so much of their data is 'born digital'. The Norfolk HER does not have the digital storage capacity to provide such a facility at present, and nor does the county Museums Service. There is currently no obvious free of charge provision for the archiving of such archive material at a national level either, for example via the Archaeology Data Service, and although local groups may be encouraged to use Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) to deposit their reports, very few do so at present. In a similar vein, it would also be hugely beneficial if the Historic Environment Service was able to provide web space for community groups to upload and share information, but the constraints of local authority ICT provision mean that this is unlikely to happen within the local authority framework. Some positive steps have been made by the Federation of Norfolk Historical and Archaeological Societies who have collated a list of websites belonging to local heritage groups and attempt to share information about forthcoming events. Some groups have set up their own websites, and a proportion of these are used to disseminate research results, but these do require a considerable investment of time and resources by the groups in order to maintain their online content, and many such sites tend to become unmaintained or vanish entirely relatively quickly.

By encouraging groups to contact the county's HES ahead of undertaking fieldwork, HES staff also offer advice and guidance ahead of the work taking place. In particular, groups are encouraged to give due consideration to the post-excavation or post-survey processes and are alerted to the potential costs and time commitment involved. Where such costs are likely to be great, HES staff encourage groups to consider possible sources of funding. However, there are insufficient resources within the HES to support groups through the grant application process, so these grants are often not sought.

Another significant factor that currently hampers the work of community-led projects in the county is lack of access to suitable equipment for carrying out fieldwork. The HES has started a small equipment library, and loans out surveying equipment and GPS units to groups that do not have these, and provides training in their use if necessary. Expanding this equipment library would be beneficial to many community-led groups and would almost certainly improve recording standards, ensuring that the data generated by these groups is of a sufficient standard to inform any subsequent research.

Given the pivotal role that HES staff need to play in ensuring that the results of community-led research are deposited with the HER and can feed in to research frameworks, the planned reduction in local authority spending and the resultant impact on staffing is likely to limit the work that can be done in this area in the future. The HES is entirely reliant upon the continuing goodwill of local groups in sharing their data with the county authorities. One of the clear conclusions of the Coastal Heritage Project was the value of having a dedicated member of staff whose role was to work closely with local groups, facilitating, training and encouraging their research, hence the appointment of a core-funded Community Archaeologist. Without skilled staff dedicated to this task it is very likely that the vast majority of community-led fieldwork in the county will not reach the HER, and will therefore not be able to feed in to local, regional or national research frameworks, thereby drastically reducing the potential value of this work.

The impact of the work carried out by community groups cannot be overestimated. It remains one of the main contexts in which research-orientated fieldwork can be undertaken. However, it is clear from the assessment of resources generated through community-led work that in order for the value of community-led historic environment projects to be fully realised, and their research potential maximised, a considerable injection of resources would be required.

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2 West Yorkshire Case Study, by Aisling Nash

2.1 Background

The metropolitan county of West Yorkshire encompasses the rich industrial textile and mining heritage of Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds and Wakefield. The West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service (WYAAS) has a long history of successful collaboration and productive relationships with local researchers, including archaeological societies and industrial heritage groups.

The structure of the service is such that WYAAS is managed separately to the commercial Archaeological Services WYAS, both under the West Yorkshire Joint Services umbrella body. Unlike the other case study areas, historic environment provision is provided by this umbrella body to a group of metropolitan boroughs which are, in effect, unitary authorities.

Both WYAAS and Archaeological Services WYAS are active in assisting and supporting community-generated research, with the latter hosting a CBA Community Archaeology Bursary Placement. There is a wide range of online help, guidance and information available to members of the public through the WYAAS website, including forms for reporting archaeological discoveries. It is interesting to note that while other documentation on the website may be more widely used, the form for reporting archaeological sites and finds is rarely accessed (pers. comm. Buck, R). There is currently no functionality to upload photographs and sketches through this medium which may be a factor in its disuse. It is also possible that due to the relationships between the community and WYAAS, talking through discoveries may be preferable to trying to distil information down to an online form.

The Service also has strong links with the local Record Office and in fact rents space within the Archives. This relationship has resulted in collaborative working on projects such as digitising tithe maps to inform HLC. As a result of these links, WYAAS have noted that there is an ad hoc transmission of publications from libraries/local studies through to the HER. While this may be the case, it also means that the Service has access to a library of publications both in terms of Archives but also within the HER.

As one of the most densely populated areas of England, with population density seven times higher than that of Norfolk and approximately six times higher than the Vale of Evesham, development pressures are high, with estimates from the National Housing Federation suggesting that the next 20 years will see the formation of 369,000 additional households in the region (Yorkshire Evening Post 15/10/2014). The advisory services, therefore, face challenges in ensuring historic environment considerations are not subsumed by the volume of development, and the case study will aim to assess the potential for community-generated research to contribute to the safeguarding of the area's heritage.

2.2 Assessing the Value of Community-Generated Research

An analysis of the sources within the West Yorkshire HER shows that over 25 community groups have submitted their research and contributed to HER records over a long period of time. The earliest research appears to date to the 1950's and is in the form of a publication titled '*Cartwright Hall Archaeology Group Bulletins*'. These bulletins cover a wide range of research ranging from surveys of prehistoric rock art to the industrial heritage of this region. It should also be noted that these bulletins are now online through BIAB and shortly through ADS in addition to the HER. It is clear from these sources that community-generated research has been

a very active part of the archaeological research landscape within West Yorkshire over a number of decades.

The following assessment is based on the sources in the HER which have been provided by WYAAS in addition to others which have not been submitted to the HER. It cannot be seen as a comprehensive overview of all the community-generated research from West Yorkshire rather it should be regarded as a 'snapshot'. The range of sources generated by community groups is disparate and it is not possible to discuss all of these through this case study.

Prehistoric Rock Art

Yorkshire's prehistoric rock art forms a significant and enigmatic part of the archaeological landscape in this area and therefore, it is of no surprise to find that a number of sources in the HER relate to this area of research. The earliest published reference to rock art in Yorkshire dates to 1869 with subsequent work being conducted during the succeeding 150 years (*ERA: England's Rock Art*). Ilkley Archaeological Group formed in the 1970's and they play a prominent role in generating research relating to the rock art of Ilkley Moor and beyond. The value of their research lies in the detailed recording and their dissemination of these surveys through the HER but also through publications such as '*Prehistoric Rock Art of the West Riding*' 2003 & 2010.

In recent years, the Watershed Landscape project received HLF funding which involved 5 major themes, of which one was the Historic Environment. As part of this wider initiative, a project known as CSI:Rombald Moor was formed specifically to record prehistoric rock art of the region with a view to the future conservation of these carvings. The project ran from between 2010 and 2013 and built on the previous work carried out by the Ilkley Archaeological Group and Boughey & Vickerman. The project was supervised by Pennine Prospects with involvement from WYAAS and the HER. The project has now been completed with the digital archive being held by the HER and disseminated through the ADS. The value of this research lies not just in the quality of the data generated, but in its legacy which takes several forms including a blog. The legacy of this project means that the research has clear and significant aesthetic and communal value in the context of Historic England's conservation principles.

Field Visits & Surveys

A number of sources within the HER relate to the survey and field visit results carried out by various individuals. The information generated by these surveys has been clearly used to enhance HER records and indeed in some instances, has generated a HER record e.g. PRN11726: Cairn at Withens Reservoir. It is clear that there is sufficient engagement between WYAAS and these individual researchers (some of whom will be part of a wider research group) to enable the data generated to be filtered into the HER with the minimum of cleaning. The evidential and historical value can be clearly seen through the survey information but the aesthetic and communal value is more difficult to quantify. The research in and of itself does not necessarily present high aesthetic and communal value but does have the potential to increase its value in this area if combined with other resources such as wider dissemination through group websites/ADS or site interpretation boards for example. The majority of the archaeology identified through these field visits and surveys relate to previously unknown prehistoric sites which will have an aesthetic and communal value to the people who frequent the wider landscape. This value could be enhanced by the community-generated research but it could be argued that the subjective value placed upon these sites by frequent visitors would remain high regardless of this research.

Building Surveys

It is clear from the HER that building surveys form a significant part of community-generated research. The Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group and the Calder Civic Trust & Hebden

Bridge Local Society are prominent in the HER with a variety of work being carried out over a number of years. Other building survey work has been carried out by other societies but it appears that building recording is the primary objective of these two out of the three groups.

The Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group was formed in 1972 and has recorded over 1800 buildings to date (yvbsg.org.uk; 2012). Interestingly, the website for the group lists the Yorkshire Archaeological Society and the National Monuments Record as suitable repositories for building survey reports without mention of the Historic Environment Record. It is assumed that any sources in the HER which results from research carried out by the group have either been deposited by individuals or have been referenced by the staff at WYAAS. Hebden Bridge Local History Society was formed in 1949 as part of the wider Hebden Bridge Literary and Scientific Society which has a long 100 year history. The Society has clear links to the HER as mentioned on their website and evidenced through the HER (hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk; 2013).

It is clear that building surveys as generated by community research have an evidential and historical value through their potential to enhance research frameworks and HER records. This in turn improves the current evidence base to provide robust planning advice. What is less clear is the potential for these surveys to add aesthetic and communal value to a place i.e. a building. The research generated by these surveys are generally confined to a small audience, namely that of the membership. Although use is made of social media, notably the YVBSG, the dissemination remains small. The aesthetic and communal value of this research could be improved if the results were more widely disseminated.

As an aside, it is interesting to note that when assessing the value of this research it was noted that standards of recording improved through time. It is difficult to quantify the factors which have led to this improvement but aspects such as greater access to guidance e.g. Historic England, the enshrinement of the Historic Environment within planning legislation and greater public interest in the historic environment have surely played a part.

Archaeological Fieldwork

From the sources which have been provided by the HER, it can clearly be seen that archaeological fieldwork consisting of excavation and fieldwalking features prominently. This fieldwork appears to span several decades and have been carried out by several different community groups, many of which have a long history of researching within the area. While a number of reports relating to this work have been disseminated through the HER, upon examining the websites of some of these active groups, it is clear that many of the research outputs relating to archaeological fieldwork remain within the confines of the particular group.

A small number of these reports have been assessed as part of this case study with a combination of those that have received professional support and guidance and those that have not. What is clear from this assessment is that the research is of high evidential and historical value but attributing aesthetic and communal value is more elusive. One factor which must be taken into consideration is that this research is primarily related to sub surface archaeological deposits and therefore, it is more difficult to assign aesthetic and communal value to these sites due to their very nature. However, if this research could be combined with additional outputs such as interpretation boards/reconstructions, it would increase the potential of this research within the context of these values. It is also possible that if these outputs could be disseminated more widely, then this would also assist in increasing the value of this research. Externally funded projects such as the Austhorpe Archaeological Heritage Project and The Archaeology of Buck Wood could be regarded as examples where the value of the research is high across all areas due to attaining a wider audience. Other examples of externally funded projects such as

Chevin through Time and Kirkgate Calling clearly have the potential to be of high value across all four categories; however, the research in its current format i.e. incomplete websites does not.

It has also been noted through these examples that where professional support has been provided in the form of an archaeological specification from WYAAS and on site professional guidance, these reports have been disseminated through the HER. Interestingly, these reports do not appear to have been deposited with the Archaeological Data Service through OASIS. In addition, no mention is made of where the site archive has been deposited although it is possible that West Yorkshire HER may hold these. At the time of writing, it is not known if this is the case.

Research Frameworks

Unusually, WYAAS commissioned their own Research Agendas in response to the original Research Frameworks. These agendas are accessible on their website and consist of four documents:

- Palaeolithic and Mesolithic West Yorkshire (2009)
- The Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age in West Yorkshire (2010)
- The Iron Age and Romano-British Periods in West Yorkshire (2008)
- Historic Buildings in West Yorkshire (Medieval & Post-Medieval to 1914) (2013)

These agendas are easily digestible and are used by WYAAS to provide a gentle steer to community groups while taking into account their personal interest. The agendas are distilled for community group consumption through a professional filter and can be adjusted to fit both the research agenda but also the aims of the community work. (pers. comm. Sunderland, I) What is also interesting to note is that these research agendas contain priorities that are outside the development control framework which means that community groups can clearly see where their research can be incorporated into the wider research of the area. By identifying priorities in this way, it validates the research of community groups by recognising that not all questions can be addressed by commercial archaeology.

Through assessing a small number of projects, it is apparent that research frameworks are not referred to explicitly in the outputs regardless of whether the project has received professional support. However, it is clear that the research being carried out does fit within the wider corpus of knowledge which is being generated through community research, academic research and commercial archaeology. An example of this is the CSI: Rombalds Moor, the results of which have clearly addressed one of the priorities identified within the research agenda for the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age in West Yorkshire. If community research is being disseminated through the HER/ADS, then it is possible for it to be added to this wider knowledge and it is not, therefore, necessary to explicitly separate out this research within the research framework.

2.3 Conclusion

This case study has clearly shown that West Yorkshire has very active community groups involved in both archaeology and local history with many of these groups having a close relationship with WYAAS. It is also apparent from the examples that the research generated by these groups is disparate and that there is a disconnection between what is being produced and what it is being generated to a wider audience. It is notable that those projects which have received professional support have resulted in wider dissemination through the HER and digital outputs than those that haven't been in receipt of this guidance. The research being generated

without this professional support is potentially of value but this value is reduced as the outputs are confined to a particular group of people namely the membership of that group.

It is recognised by WYAAS that collaboration with community groups can result in very good work which has the potential to feed into the wider research of the area. However, this support requires resources namely that of staff time. WYAAS are facing a loss of 35% of their budget which has resulted in the loss of their Dayschool which is a primary way of building relationships and links between the Service and groups in addition to between groups themselves. This reduction in budget will have other ramifications which all leads to a further disconnection between WYAAS and their community groups.

Although it is outside the scope of this case study, it is notable that no mention is made of deposition of archives in any of the research outputs. It is possible that some of these archives have been deposited with the HER e.g. the digital archive generated by the CSI: Rombalds Moor project but this is by no means universal. Report archives have been referred in within a group website but these are not accessible without being a member of that group.

The value of the research generated by these community groups is very clear as is the need for professional guidance. The potential for this research to add to the HER and provide a more robust evidence base for historic environment planning advice is evident in addition to feeding into research frameworks; however, the requirement for professional guidance cannot be ignored: *"You need a HER that knows what it doesn't know"* (pers. comm. Sunderland, I).

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3 Vale of Evesham, Worcestershire Case Study, by Derek Hurst

3.1 Background

Worcestershire is a largely rural west Midlands county consisting of three broad historic landscape regions: the dispersed woodland settlement (farmsteads, and small enclosures) of its north contrasting with the more open appearance (nucleated villages and communal open fields) of its south. This is analogous to the better known counterpoint of woodland (Arden)/'champion' (Feldon) regions of Warwickshire to its east, and so the landscape of Worcestershire forms part of a wider Midlands settlement pattern. The Severn river valley is a major feature bisecting the county from north to south, which, together with its Avon tributary, form an area rich in fertile (alluvial) soils and, therefore, historically and still today, the focus for intensive arable farming. This was accompanied, though more notably in the past, by large tracts of riverside meadow providing for valuable hay (winter fodder) and the rich grazing of cattle. To the north the county has the extensive urban sprawl of Birmingham and the Black Country, while its other boundaries are with the rural counties of Warwickshire to the east, Gloucestershire (including the Cotswold hills) to the south, and Herefordshire to the west. By far the biggest settlement is the City of Worcester, but there are a number of long established smaller towns providing local services over the centuries.

Notable archaeological discoveries include Pleistocene faunal remains (e.g. from Upton Warren; Coope *et al* 1961), a late Iron Age coin hoard near Pershore (the largest excavated hoard of the at period at the time; Hurst and Leins 2013), the sub-Roman/Saxon salt making structures at Upwich, Droitwich (still unmatched at other salt production sites even on a European level; Hurst 1997), and the major city-centre excavation at Deansway Worcester (Dalwood and Edwards 2004), being a notable achievement in the annals of urban archaeology. The latter had followed on from a synthesis of archaeological work in Worcester by Martin Carver which was model of its type in its day. Notable early excavations include at Kemerton Camp, the main Iron Age hillfort on Bredon Hill, carried out in the mid-1930s.

The city of Worcester may have its origins in the Iron Age with the recent realisation that a large rampart just south of the cathedral belongs to this period, and after a Roman phase of activity, this became the administrative centre from the late Saxon period onwards - being involved in the English Civil War as the focus for two major actions, so that the city has now become nationally recognised for this association, with its Civil War centre at The Commandery.

The county has an archaeological society which was started in 1854 and has published continuously since. This was possibly the first place where experimental archaeology in terms of large structures was put into motion with the building of an Iron Age roundhouse on Bredon Hill by Peter Reynolds who subsequently went on to found the Butser Ancient Farm in Hampshire which had such an impact on this aspect of archaeological development.

The involvement of the community in archaeological investigation is evident in terms of private individual research, as by, for instance, Hodgkinson in Droitwich from the 1940s–1940s (e.g. 1925–6). By the late 1950s this was manifesting itself in more co-operative endeavours by at least one group of individuals working together, and focussed on the Worcester City museum, the Severn Valley Study Group. Their excavation at Bevere, north Worcester, left such a good fieldwork record that the site could be revisited in 2009, and re-interpreted. As members of this group developed interests well beyond Malvern this group eventually became disbanded and its members were absorbed into a group that was intended to cover a wider geographical area, the South Worcestershire Archaeology Group (SWAG). Peter Price was the major figure in bringing this new group into being, and he remained the inspiration thereafter, through his initiating

many and various lines of local research. This especially led to many fieldwalking forays, and earthwork surveys, in a classic local group pattern, and finally also to geophysical survey. The group continues today and excels in the latter.

County archaeologists have been present since the 1970s, and this was in response to the ongoing pressure from development. In the case of Droitwich, for instance, this came about through the establishment of a local committee (again voluntary) in support of archaeology, where local councillors, council officers and academics formulated responses that gradually brought into being an archaeological presence dedicated to carry out works in mitigation of the impacts of development.

Collaboration was then sought from and eagerly provided by the professional archaeologists working in the field at the time, and this resulted in much common endeavour including the development of research projects where both participated. A good example of the latter is the search for the medieval pottery industry of Hanley Castle - the successful conclusion of this project would not have been possible without the involvement of SWAG which provided the workforce for extensive fieldwalking.

The area has lacked any tertiary education where archaeology was well represented, though since 2003 the University College, then University of Worcester, has provided this possibility. As a result most of the links that were built during the emergence and the early flourishing of SWAG had been set up with the Extra-Mural Department at the University of Birmingham. There were regular evening class courses of 10 or 20 weeks which were held at various local centres and so reached a large number of people living in those communities.

Sometimes local groups have been focussed on a single place, an example being the Badsey Society (founded in 2002), which has also occasionally undertook fieldwork. North Worcestershire Archaeological Group (NWAG) is another group founded about the same time, but which has focussed much more on fieldwork and, particularly, excavation.

Formerly covering the counties of both Herefordshire and Worcestershire, the Worcestershire County Archaeological Service has continued as an integrated archaeological organisation for Worcestershire, though with clear divisions between its two main functions, advisory including planning, and contracting, the latter being the main fieldwork arm. In 2012 the County Archaeology Service was formally combined with the County Record Office and now functions as the Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service, based in the City of Worcester in the Hive building, which is shared with the combined public and University of Worcester libraries.

Vale of Evesham

The Vale of Evesham is located in the south part of Worcestershire, and is especially noted for its spring blossom, being a notable fruit growing area with a long tradition of smaller scale agricultural enterprises firmly founded on its exceptional soils. In a sense it could well be regarded as being a *terroir* region, analogous to other local European regions with a long tradition of producing high quality speciality foods.

The Vale of Evesham is a core area of the South Worcestershire Archaeology Group (SWAG) local group and has been the focus of much of their interest, including fieldwork, though it formally constitutes only a part of south Worcestershire. While, in the main, this activity has consisted of fieldwalking and earthwork survey, they have also occasionally undertaken excavation (e.g. along the line of the Evesham by-pass in the 1980s). Conventionally they have held winter lectures and then organised site visits and occasional fieldwork the rest of the year. Writing up was done by short reports in a news-sheet and occasional special reports, with Peter Price always to the fore in any of the initiatives being undertaken. And there was always a keen eye on the wider landscape whenever discussing the archaeological evidence. A survey of ridge

and furrow is a long-running project, the results of which have reached the HER, and, through close links with County archaeologists, very detailed reporting on the large assemblages from much of their own fieldwalking have now been entered in the HER as well (see Evans *et al* 2008 below).

This background information sets out Worcestershire's long tradition of recognising the value of volunteer-led projects in researching the past and so enhancing understanding of the county's historic environment. The case studies selected as part of this project, and mentioned below, ably demonstrate the wide range of disparate sources, projects and collections generated as a result of community-led fieldwork in Worcestershire.

3.2 Assessing the value of community-led research in Worcestershire

The contribution of community-based research is assessed here by reference to the Vale of Evesham, where there has been some well-established groups, supplemented in recent years the emergence of others, perhaps inspired by the possibilities of new technology, especially the establishment of websites to share information. Here the natural appeal of the landscape and its attractive smaller towns have drawn individuals into research. This assessment is being mainly made through a selection of twenty case studies, which are very variable in character and range, but are taken to be a representative sample of typical community-involved research products, and in terms of whether/how these projects have enhanced our understanding of the county's historic environment. The Case Studies include detailed assessment of 'value' separated into four components: *aesthetic, communal, evidential* and *historical*.

There are significant conclusions that can be drawn by looking at the different types of projects that community groups have undertaken in the county. This section of the report will examine different types of community-based research activities in turn, and highlight some examples of good practice.

Buildings

Many of the sampled sources feature buildings in one way or another. In the main these are not entirely new research but, instead, include elements of fresh research. For instance, the church guided by Watson (nd) on Norton Church includes an original appraisal of military apparel as represented on the main tombs in a church. Several of these sources have concentrated on photographic evidence. Since they tend to use private photographs held within the community (often where the buildings are incidental to shots of people), these are likely to constitute important local sources for the future, as there is no guarantee that these same photographs will be available in the future in many cases, unless, that is, they are from collections already recognised due to their age as being of some historical significance. Examples of this approach usually focus on the whole of a village, for instance Badsey (2008, but based on a photographic survey in 1968), Honeybourne (Boocock 2000), Eckington (Wilks 1996) and, to a lesser extent, and Bishampton (2011), while a more specifically themed example is based on the pubs of Evesham (Brotherton 2008; again based on much earlier work done in the 1950s).

Sometimes the balance of the text and photograph means that local history and local people are more prominent in the coverage than the buildings (e.g. Barnett and Svendsen 2009), or in the case of Wyre Piddle where local history predominates (Hammond 1981).

These surveys contrast with modern developer-led work as they are extensive rather than intensive detailed surveys; their current value lies also in providing a context (albeit recent) for any archaeological work, but this value will increase as time goes on, and as change takes its toll

on the built heritage. Such studies where comprehensive (e.g. Badsey) are potentially of very high value for the future, which reflects the motivation behind these communal records as they are often a response to a rapidly changing world. In the case of Badsey the built environment has been related to the 18th century tithe on a website, which details the more recent development/change in the village from that period up to the present-day.

Unfortunately this part of Worcestershire has not been associated with community-based historic buildings research, except rarely by an individual (Williams 2010). Though a recent project did seek funding from Historic England in order to foster such a group and to rectify this omission following the example in other parts of the county such as at Tenbury Wells. This was unsuccessful on the grounds that there was no suitable group in existence and, despite an enthusiastic local response to the idea, the situation was perpetuated. Elsewhere in the county HLF-funded historic building recording as part of a community research initiative is taking place professionally in Bewdley, in Dodderhill (Hurst *et al* 2011), and in Droitwich (work in progress), and this is within the context of specific projects generated by the community. Some community recording of buildings took place on the HLF-funded Northwick project, but it was relatively basic.

As yet these community heritage initiatives have not fed in to producing more momentum towards broader projects to understand the wider picture, which would help characterise what is, after all, a classic area for timber-framed construction. However, this work has already pointed to one of the main challenges that face historic building studies in the region, and that is the extensive use of elm timbers. While this would normally be seen as the death knell of any attempt at dendrochronological dating, it has in fact been successfully dated at Droitwich in the 1980s (Groves and Hillam 1997), and so the pursuit of further dating of elm now needs researching and community work could be the key to this. Where historic building recording has recently been done on any scale in the county it has been through community-led projects, funded by the HLF, and these provide the best hope for achieving access and successful outcomes to this sort of investigation, moving us forward to an evidence-based understanding of stylistic building development in this region for the first time.

Though not directly included in this survey of community-led archaeology the Earth Heritage Trust (nd) have more recently surveyed the building stone used in county churches, and this used a high level of voluntary effort.

Field-walking surveys

Fieldwalking has tended to be the mainstay of local groups and Worcestershire is a case in point. SWAG was busy in this regard from the point it was founded and only ceased to be active in this way, once it was realised that such a lot of ground had already been covered and a great deal of finds collected, but without any real analysis. Informal identification of finds was being carried out by the professional archaeology staff but reporting on such large quantities was not possible by this means. And eventually the need to identify resources to write up this archive curtailed this activity somewhat. With professional assistance resources were introduced through the Aggregates Levy Scheme and reporting was finally achieved for the bulk of the material that had been collected over many years (Evans *et al* 2008).

Other fieldwalking has been possible because projects were opened up to the possibility of community involvement, and this has occurred at Cleeve Prior for instance (Hurst 1999) as part of a community project funded through Rural Action for the Environment and as part of establishing a new village green. In another similar case the assistance of SWAG members was called on in 1999 to help investigate cropmarks at Bretforton, where the finds were reported on via a grant from the CBA Challenge Fund (Hurst 2005). Therefore, the realisation that continuing

fieldwalking without writing up was not a good idea has been addressed by SWAG itself, in more recent years, by sometimes raising resources to complete the work to a good standard.

Outside the Vale of Evesham community-based fieldwalking has been key to projects that were of significance for Worcestershire, a principal example being the campaign across several years that succeeded in locating and excavating the first medieval kiln (and associated clay pits) of the medieval Malvernian pottery industry that supplied much of the region with everyday ceramics (Hurst 1994). However, it must be acknowledged that this fieldwork method is only appropriate in the central and southern parts of the county, where the primarily arable landscape is well served by it in terms of producing useful data about sites and periods of cultivation.

Whereas fieldwalking suits community-based groups very well, it is a field method that is rarely possible in the commercial arena due to its high costs following on from high staffing levels. This should mean that joint projects of this type with the community would be a good fit, but, to date, this has not transpired in Worcestershire in a commercial development context, though it has been looked into. Proper supervision and training of new volunteers would always need to be parts of such schemes when set up for a community archaeology purpose, and some HLF-funded local archaeology projects in the county have provided this (e.g. during a ten-year community project in Dodderhill parish; Hurst *et al* 2011). Here the community fieldwork was directed towards establishing the Roman landscape north of the saltmaking centre at Droitwich. For the first time this pointed to a landscape of few farmsteads in the hinterland of Droitwich, with arable cultivation in their vicinity, but with tracts of uncultivated ground (potential pasture) closer to the main settlement (Hurst *et al* 2011). Similar studies might usefully be carried out around other Roman centres (e.g. villas, such as at Childswickham; Patrick and Hurst 2012) in the Vale of Evesham. Here the villas characteristic of the Cotswold hills seem to spill into the adjacent lowlands, presumably attracted by the rich soils - community based fieldwalking would be ideal for this purpose, especially where the data was combined with the other major data source now available (i.e. the Portable Antiquities Scheme; PAS).

Test-pitting surveys

Archaeological test-pitting surveys first given prominence by Time Team's 'The Big Dig' in 2003 have made great strides in much of East Anglia through the influence of Carenza Lewis. They have also been introduced into Worcestershire (Hurst 2014) - see Norfolk Case Studies for an explanation of the technique - but clearly they need to build up a much greater weight of data before the results can be put to much use here. So far the results elsewhere in the county, most notably in Hanley Castle parish have produced useful evidence for the medieval period, but for earlier periods have not been that informative, partly due potentially to there being less cultural artefacts in this region in the Saxon period. However, this needs to be thoroughly tested before any final conclusions are drawn.

Geophysical survey

Local groups have been able to expand their activities technically by the purchase of geophysical equipment and this has been done by SWAG, initially by Peter Price himself, and subsequently by the group with their own equipment (SWAG 2015). It is clear that after gaining experience in operating this equipment there is now a distinct capacity for the group to carry out useful work on sites of choice. This has the potential to extend the range of archaeology in the region which is otherwise tied to development-led investigation.

Archaeological Excavations

There is a long tradition of volunteer involvement in excavation in the sense that whole teams were largely except for supervisors working on subsistence payments only in the 1970s, and so large excavations as at Beckford (still unpublished) depended on this. The development of

community -involved excavation fitted with *rescue* work as the local response to threatened sites, and in Worcestershire this was still happening in the mid-1980s in the Vale, the best example being on the line of the Evesham by-pass where there was no specifically funded professional archaeological input. In this case Peter Price and members of SWAG endeavoured to recover a site record, including traces of Roman buildings - interestingly the writing up of this vintage fieldwork is still (2015) being pursued through the same group by the holding of infrequent voluntary study sessions with a professional advisor - clearly progress has been slow. The challenge has, however, remained and there is still a dogged determination by some members of the group to see the work through!

Occasionally older unpublished excavations have been usefully published through voluntary initiatives (e.g. at Middle Hill; Watson 1985), though in this case this was by an experienced archaeologist working on material from his local area.

Elsewhere in the County excavation has been undertaken only occasionally by other local groups. Here the mutually satisfactory aligning of community and professional expectations in the practice of invasive archaeology can still has some way to go. Apart from that, it is also clear that all of these volunteer-led projects tend to struggle during the post-excavation phase, particularly because of the costs involved in procuring an adequate level of appropriate specialist advice and input so that the value of the data can be adequately realised.

3.3 Conclusions

It is clear that community based archaeology favours relatively discrete areas of research: on places often with a personal association to the author, and their buildings (and often well populated with people), built landscape features to do with communications (i.e. the history of roads; Cox nd; railways, Oppitz 2002), other landscape features (e.g. parks and gardens, Lockett 1997), major events such as the World Wars (e.g. the ground-breaking work by Wilks 2010 and his colleagues), or quite personal histories where the narrative provides a lot of local colour and incidental local history (e.g. Boswell 2009). There has been, therefore, a very wide range of responses to the topic of local archaeology/history.

Though this is not a scientific sample it is felt that there is a distinct trend towards an increasing output of such work in the last decade or so, and that it often achieves a good standard of content. Development of new communications technology, greater leisure time and improved access to education since the Butler Act of 1944 may well be some of the factors playing a part in this emergence of such talented and dedicated work on recording the local historic environment.

There is no doubt, therefore, that community-led work is making an enormous contribution towards building up the evidence base in the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record, to facilitate research at a local, regional and national level. Though it is not yet possible in the west Midlands to link this to any current research frameworks. Since these individuals/groups are already self-driven perhaps the best thing is to make sure that they know about the HER and are encouraged to use its resources. Even where their area of interest coincides with development-led work their work is liable ultimately to be of value as they are likely to be able to pursue sources beyond the reach of the report sufficient for development purposes, such as being able to engage with resources held nationally, such as in the National Archives at Kew. This was certainly achieved, for instance, with the Dodderhill parish survey project (Hurst *et al* 2013) with the transcribing medieval and later documents at NA.

The conservation appreciation of the historic environment has been well served by most the sources used in this study. In particular *evidential* and *historical* values are well represented,

since much of these works has been descriptive of physical remains and then has placed the evidence in an (usually general) historical context. Other values, such as *aesthetic* and *communal*, are less easy to attribute, but plainly sometimes there has been a strong *communal* response, as in the case of the Vale of Evesham market gardening volume by Boswell (2009), in the sense that this recalls very personally a distinctive local way of life tied to that part of the landscape.

Looking forward, some further support through the provision of practical sessions on more specialised aspects of archaeological practice could usefully be supplied by practicing archaeologists. This would be intended to raise understanding and, perhaps also in some respects, define and establish standards, but ultimately to foster the hope that by joining forces on projects a better product can be produced from all the dedicated effort that is being made. As part of this team, museums would need to be brought on board, especially as the museum vision is, in effect, now being generated locally. Local group websites make the sharing of this information much easier, and are likely to develop further, with all the issues that surround digital data. Perhaps HERs could provide a more secure home for this type of data than standalone websites, and so be seen as providing support to the community-led research effort that is now well under way.

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Appendix 3

Case study output evaluation form and weighting
criteria

Sample Research Evaluation Criteria & notes on Weighting

Case Study Area: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	Rec. Date: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	Index No: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
Research Title: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	Research Format: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	Publication Date: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>

1. QUALITY

N=0; Partly=1; Y=2

1.1	Does the research cite relevant and reputable sources?	
1.2	Have the researchers made use of background material (e.g. original archives)	
1.3	[For field projects] Does the research achieve a good standard of field recording?	
1.4	Is raw data/project archive accessible, and is it likely to remain so long-term?	
1.5	Is the research coherent and easy to use/navigate, i.e. is it useful as a source?	
SCORE [n/n]		

2. RESEARCH RESOURCES

Y=1; N=0

2.1	Does the research refer to either:	Research Framework(s)?	
		HER Record(s)?	
2.2	Is the research referred to in either:	Research Framework(s)?	
		HER Record(s)?	
SCORE [n/n]			

3. VALUE AND POTENTIAL

3.1 Does the research enhance the value of a site, landscape or place?

		SCORE					Comments
		Not at all ----- Exceptionally					
		1	2	3	4	5	
VALUE	Aesthetic						
	Communal						
	Evidential						
	Historical						

 SCORE [n/n]

Value Comments:

4. TOTAL

		SCORE	WEIGHT	ADJUST
SECTION	1		25%	
	2		25%	
	3		50%	
OVERALL WEIGHTED SCORE [%]				

5. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL

Y/N

5.1	Based on the above, does the research have potential to enhance:	Research Framework(s)?	
		HER Record(s)?	

ASSESSMENT COMMENTS:

Notes on weighting: Sections 1 and 2 each contribute 25% of the total score. Where questions are not applicable (e.g. 1.3 for non-field projects, or 2.1 for an area/period not well served by research frameworks), they can be excluded from the total. Although the project is not seeking to evaluate the quality of research, some scoring of this metric is necessary to judge whether outputs are sufficiently thorough and usable to have practical potential. The scoring is weighted in favour of Section 3, at 50%, to reflect the fact that the evaluation is chiefly seeking to ascertain the value of an output in terms of its potential to enhance research resources.

