Adopting Archaeology

Sustaining Heritage Stewardship Communities by Digital Co-design

In light of continuing cuts to archaeological and heritage provision in local council budgets, the Council for British Archaeology and the Department of Archaeology at the University of York have developed the Adopting Archaeology project. The project divides its focus between the sustainability and impact of community-led heritage stewardship projects. The sustainability strand has three overarching questions:

- How sustainable are community groups that engage in taking care of their local heritage?

- What are key factors for sustainability in heritage stewardship communities?

- How can NGOs, like the CBA, best support local stewardship communities in an increasingly challenging financial climate?

Participating in this co-design project is an opportunity to:
- Influence the design of digital tools designed for you
- Collaborate with experts in heritage, computer science and digital design
- Meet people concerned with taking care of local heritage
- Receive a free report reflecting on the successes and failures of the co-design project

Participating in this co-design project will involve:
- 3-4 meetings in your local heritage stewardship community
- 1 optional collaborative design workshop in York with participants from other heritage stewardship communities (free attendance and reimbursed transportation costs)
- 1 product showcase in York with participants from other heritage stewardship communities (free attendance and reimbursed transportation costs)

If you choose to participate in this co-design project, you will be asked to:
- Complete a short evaluation survey (less than 5 minutes) at each event you attend
- Volunteer to provide a stream-of-consciousness account of your reflections on participating in the project (see the leaflet insert for more information)

What are the evaluation surveys about?

The surveys will ask questions about your experience of being involved in the co-design project

Are the surveys required?

You do not have to complete the surveys in order to be part of the co-design project. However, all participants are encouraged to complete the surveys, as this will help us improve our co-design projects in the future. Participants who do attend all events and complete all surveys will be given priority if financial support cannot be offered to all participants wishing to take part in the two optional events in York.

You may pull out for any reason at any time. Any data traceable to yourself will be deleted and destroyed.

Will I be anonymous?

Yes, your survey responses will be anonymous. Any identifying information will be removed. Your name will not be mentioned to others or published in any professional or academic reports. Pictures will be taken at some events. You will be asked for permission before any pictures of you are taken.

How will my responses be used?

The answers you provide will be included in a PhD dissertation, and may be referenced in workshops, conference presentations, journal articles and other forms of professional and academic research literature. Upon completion of this research project, the data will be stored and shared in accordance with University of York policies on data sharing. Please do get in touch if you have any questions about the future use of your data.

Are you willing to provide more information about your co-design experience?

We are looking for a small number of participants to provide stream-of-consciousness accounts of their experience. This will entail:

- Recording or writing your thoughts reflecting on each co-design event you participate in
- Provide your account immediately following each event, using equipment provided, or send a digital file by email during 48 hours following.
- Anything from 5 to 30 minutes per event, but this will vary from event to event and participant to participant

You may pull out at any time. If you do, your data will be deleted and destroyed

Each co-design project will involve participants from a number of different heritage stewardship groups. A small number of participants from each group will be asked to provide a stream-of-consciousness account of their experience.

Your account is confidential and will be anonymised before it is used in any research outputs or shared with other researchers. The utmost care will be taken to ensure your account cannot be traced to you individually or your group.

If you have any questions about providing a stream-of-consciousness account of your participation, please do not hesitate to contact Harald Fredheim lhf506@york.ac.uk

Who is conducting this research?

(Leif) Harald Fredheim is a PhD candidate at the University of York, jointly supervised by John Schofield and Gill Chitty in the Department of Archaeology and Mike Heyworth, director of the Council for British Archaeology. Harald's background is in archaeology, but more recently in archaeological site management and objects conservation, having completed MA and MSc degrees at University College London.

Has this research been subject to ethical review?

This research project has been approved by the Arts and Humanities Ethics Committee at the University of York, chaired by Dr Kate Giles. Please do contact the committee with any ethical concerns regarding this project hrc-ethics@york.ac.uk

More information?

For more information about being a co-design participant in this research project, please do contact Harald at lhf506@york.ac.uk, or adoptingarchaeology@gmail.com for any questions about the broader Adopting Archaeology project.

You can also follow us on Twitter:
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OLOGY FOR ALL
Council for British Archaeology