Community Archaeology in the UK: Recent Findings

Suzie Thomas, Council for British Archaeology

Appendices

APPENDIX 1 COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY SUPPORT OFFICER PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. **To define 'Community Archaeology'**
   a. To analyse, through the relevant literature, criteria for 'community archaeology'
   b. To establish, through the relevant literature, the theoretical framework within which 'community archaeology' sits

2. **To identify the current extent of community archaeology in the UK**
   a. To establish up-to-date contact details of voluntary groups and societies that are involved in, or have the scope to be involved with, community archaeology
   b. To establish which professional organisations, including universities, archaeological contractors and heritage trusts, currently include community archaeology in their remit, and which have the scope to do so in the future
   c. To establish the contact details for metal detecting clubs and societies and other relevant groups in the UK that may be willing to participate in the survey.
3. **To identify the current range of activities carried out through community archaeology**
   a. To identify, through questionnaire survey, focus groups, interviews and group observation, the types of activities carried out in community archaeology projects
   b. To identify, through questionnaire survey, focus groups, and groups visits, which activities relevant groups and organisations currently do not carry out, but would aspire to do in the future, given appropriate support.

4. **To gain a clearer understanding of the outcomes of community archaeology**
   a. To identify the forms of information and other benefits deriving from voluntary archaeological research and activities
   b. To assess, in outline terms, some of the perceived social benefits of participation in community archaeology

5. **To identify what support currently exists for community archaeology projects and practitioners, and what gaps there are in provision**
   a. To identify and collate the current training, guidance and other relevant material available for community archaeology, from relevant organisations including volunteering organisations (both regional and national), national agencies,

heritage trusts, local authorities, archaeological contractors and universities

b. To identify where support and funding is currently being drawn from

c. To establish which areas, identified in Aim 3, have limited or no support already provided

d. To identify, through questionnaire survey, focus groups and interviews, ways in which current users and non-users of the CAF website would like to use the site, and what material and support they feel would be appropriate for CAF provide.

e. To design continuity and sustainability plan for CAF, and create a forward work programme

f. To encourage substantially wider and higher usage of CAF

6. To disseminate and implement research findings

a. To signpost, through CAF primarily, available training, guidance and other relevant material

b. To provide, through CAF primarily, 'in-house' or commissioned material to 'fill in the gaps' where support and resources are less extensive

c. To design and deliver appropriate training days at selected venues across the UK, informed by results from Aims 3, 4 and 5

d. To redesign and re-launch CAF (CAF 2.0) with a new structure and interface, based on findings from Aims 3 and 4

e. To disseminate research findings through project report, articles in academic journals, conference papers and other relevant media.

APPENDIX 2 COVER LETTER TO ACCOMPANY QUESTIONNAIRE[1]

Postal version:

Address   **Address**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council for British Archaeology, an educational charity working throughout the UK to involve people in archaeology and to promote the appreciation and care of the historic environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

We provide support and advice for voluntary archaeology and heritage groups around the UK. In order to help us improve the support we offer, I am carrying out a major piece of research, funded by the Headley Trust, which involves a nationwide survey of groups such as yours. The aims of the research are to establish the current nature of community or voluntary archaeology, including activities in which local groups and societies are involved, and to identify ways in which the CBA can better support such groups in the future.

The enclosed questionnaire should only take around five to ten minutes of your time to fill in, and with it you will be contributing to valuable research. Unfortunately we are unable to enclose a stamped addressed envelope, but there is an option to fill in the questionnaire online at www.britarch.ac.uk/communitysurvey, which will not cost you postage, and will in fact be of greater help to our data collection process. You can also advise other members of your group of this web link if they wish to take part in the survey too.

Please feel to contact me through the address below, or by telephone on 01904 671417 or via email at suziethomas@britarch.ac.uk if you would like to discuss anything further.

I enclose information about joining the CBA, either as individuals or as an affiliate member through your society, in case this is of interest to you or any of your members.

Yours sincerely

Suzie Thomas
Community Archaeology Support Officer
Council for British Archaeology

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[1] NB slightly modified versions of this letter were sent to different sets of groups, for example if via mailing by Archaeology Scotland to member groups, to metal detecting clubs, or to Welsh groups (in which case a Welsh language letter and questionnaire was also included)

APPENDIX 3 PAPER VERSION OF QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

CBA Community Archaeology Questionnaire 2009

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire below. We are grateful for your response, as it will help us in providing support and advice to voluntary archaeology groups such as yours. This should only take around five to ten minutes of your time and will be contributing to a major piece of research, which will inform future support provided by the CBA to community archaeology across the UK. Questionnaires to be returned to Suzie Thomas, Community Archaeology Support Officer, Council for British Archaeology, St Mary's House, 66 Bootham, York, YO30 7BZ or email to suziethomas@britarch.ac.uk. This questionnaire can also be accessed online at www.britarch.ac.uk/community survey.

If you need any extra space for comments, please use the space at the end of the questionnaire, indicating which question your comments refer to.

About you and your group

1. Your Name and Position: _____

2. Name of Group or Organisation: _____

3. Type of group (please tick):

☐ Archaeological society or club
☐ Historical society or club
☐ Civic Society
☐ Metal Detecting club or society
☐ YAC branch
☐ CBA Regional Group
☐ Other (Please state) _____

4. Year in which group was founded (if known) _____

5. Current number of members (please indicate if an estimate)_____

6. Average age of members (estimate!) _____

Current activities

7. Please tick any of the following that your group has been involved in over the past five years:

☐ Fieldwalking
☐ Talks or lectures
☐ Trips to sites, museums or similar
☐ Metal detector survey
☐ Excavation
☐ Geophysical survey (e.g. with magnetometer or resistivity meter)
☐ Topographical survey
☐ Landscape survey
☐ Buildings recording
☐ Marine archaeology
☐ Finds cleaning
☐ Recording through photography
☐ Finds processing/recording
☐ Conservation work (whether on a site, building, landscape, feature or objects)
☐ Lobbying for issues concerning heritage, e.g. development plans
☐ Hosting or organising exhibitions
☐ Working with young people
☐ Archival research
☐ Literature research
☐ Living History events (attending or hosting)
☐ Taking a table at a local history fair or similar
☐ Social event with no specific theme, e.g. dinner, party etc.
☐ Other (please state) _____
☐ None of the above

Activities not carried out and why

8. Please tick any of the following that your group **has not** been involved in over the past five years:

☐ Fieldwalking
☐ Talks or lectures
☐ Trips to sites, museums or similar
☐ Metal detector survey
☐ Excavation
☐ Geophysical survey (e.g. with magnetometer or resistivity meter)
☐ Topographical survey
☐ Landscape survey
☐ Buildings recording
☐ Marine archaeology
☐ Finds cleaning
☐ Conservation work (whether on a site, building, landscape, feature or objects)
☐ Lobbying for issues concerning heritage, e.g. development plans
☐ Archival research
☐ Hosting or organising exhibitions
☐ Working with young people
☐ Literature research
☐ Living History events (attending or hosting)
☐ Taking a table at a local history fair or similar
☐ Social event with no specific theme, e.g. dinner, party etc.
☐ Other (please state) _____

9. Please tick any of the following reasons for why some of these activities have not taken place; in addition, there is space below this question to add any extra comments on this issue:

☐ There is no interest from the group to get involved in some or all of these activities
☐ We lack the knowledge or expertise required
☐ We do not know who to contact about becoming more involved
☐ We have made enquiries about getting more involved, but have had no success in moving this forward
☐ We lack the equipment/material required
☐ We lack the funding required
☐ We have just never considered doing this
☐ Other (please state) _____

Extra
comments:_____
_____
_____
_____

10. To help with analysis, please **go back to Question 8 and mark with an asterisk (*) any of the activities that you feel that your group would like to become involved with** in the future.

11. Which of the following has been produced as a result of your research (tick as many as appropriate)?

☐ An unpublished archaeological report
☐ A published journal paper
☐ A book summarising your research
☐ A full monograph publication
☐ A leaflet or pamphlet
☐ A project website containing specific results
☐ A digital archive (consisting of databases, digital survey drawings, a Geographical Information System or similar files)
☐ A photographic archive (whether digital or in hard copy)
☐ A physical archive of archaeological finds or samples
☐ A 'paper' archive of drawings, excavation records, photographs or similar
☐ An information board or plaque
☐ Other (please state) _____
_____

Community Archaeology Forum
The Community Archaeology Forum (CAF) is an award-winning website managed by the CBA, with the aim of providing a resource where groups can access relevant information as well as disseminate information about their own projects to others. It can be viewed at www.britarch.ac.uk/caf.

12. Have you ever visited CAF before?

☐ Yes – **go to Question 13**   ☐ No – **go to Question 21**

13. Are you a registered user of CAF (with a username and password)?

☐ Yes – **go to Question 14**   ☐ No – **go to Question 18**

14. Have you personally added any material to CAF before?

☐ Yes – **go to Question 15**   ☐ No – **go to Question 17**

15. How would you rate your experience of making contribution to CAF

☐ I found it very easy to add material to CAF
☐ I found it reasonably easy to add material, but feel that things could be done to make the process simpler
☐ I found it reasonably difficult to add material to CAF
☐ I found it very difficult to add material to CAF

16. Please make any comments or suggestions regarding the process of adding material to CAF here:_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

If you answered Question 16, go to Question 18.

17. If you **are registered on CAF but have never added any material**, please tick below the reasons that apply:

☐ I do not have anything to add to CAF at this point
☐ I have not added material, but I have participated by adding comments
☐ I registered, but found it too difficult to add material myself
☐ I have just not got round to adding anything yet, or have not had the time.
☐ Other (please state) _____
_____
_____

18. If you have visited CAF please rate your experience of the following aspects from 1 to 5, where 1 = "very satisfied" and 5 = "very dissatisfied". (Please state 'N/A' if you have not used or viewed a particular category)

General ease of navigation/finding things: _____
Range of projects represented: _____
Advice and guidance available: _____
Range of events represented: _____
Funding information available: _____
Information on artefacts available: _____
Information on Community Archaeology regions: _____
Information in the Help section (including the guidelines for registration): _____
Information on research about community archaeology: _____

19. Please use this space to make any extra comments about using CAF
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

20. Please list any extra material currently not on CAF that you think should be included:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

If you answered Question 20, go to Question 22.

21. If you have **never** looked at CAF, tick as many reasons below that apply:

☐ I do not have internet access
☐ I do not like using websites
☐ I had never heard of CAF, but would consider consulting it in the future
☐ I had never heard of CAF, and doubt that I would consider consulting it in the future
☐ I do not think that it would be relevant to my group or my interests
☐ Other (please state) _____
_____
_____
_____
_____

22. Please use this space to make any extra comments about CAF, or about the material that you would like to see made available on it (if you have not done so already)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Training

In order to plan what future support the CBA may be able to provide, we would like to know more about what kind of training, if available, would appeal to you and your group.

23. Please tick which of the following you have **already received training on**:

☐ Excavation methods
☐ Surveying methods
☐ Finds identification
☐ Conservation work (whether on a site, building, landscape, feature or objects)
☐ Landscape survey
☐ Buildings recording
☐ Marine archaeology
☐ Historical research methods (e.g. archival research, literature-based research)
☐ Health and safety issues, including insurance, risk assessments, etc.
☐ Organising events
☐ Working with young people
☐ Writing a Project Design
☐ Writing an archaeological report
☐ Developing exhibitions
☐ Disseminating research results
☐ Advice and guidance on fundraising
☐ Advice and guidance on other legal requirements, e.g. managing charitable status if obtained
☐ Other (please state)_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
☐ None of the above

24. Please tick which of the following you think your group **would benefit from** training in:

☐ Excavation methods
☐ Surveying methods
☐ Finds identification
☐ Conservation work (whether on a site, building, landscape, feature or objects)
☐ Landscape survey
☐ Buildings recording
☐ Marine archaeology
☐ Historical research methods (e.g. archival research, literature-based research)
☐ Health and safety issues, including insurance, risk assessments, etc.
☐ Organising events
☐ Working with young people
☐ Writing a Project Design
☐ Writing an archaeological report
☐ Developing exhibitions
☐ Disseminating research results
☐ Advice and guidance on fundraising
☐ Advice and guidance on other legal requirements, e.g. managing charitable status if obtained
☐ Other (please state) _____
_____
_____
_____
☐ None of the above

25. We know that many groups have expertise in particular areas and skills. Please tick which of the following you feel your group **may be capable** of leading training on, for example in the form of a workshop sharing experiences with other local groups:

☐ Excavation methods
☐ Surveying methods
☐ Finds identification
☐ Conservation work (whether on a site, building, landscape, feature or objects)
☐ Landscape survey
☐ Buildings recording
☐ Marine archaeology
☐ Historical research methods (e.g. archival research, literature-based research)
☐ Health and safety issues, including insurance, risk assessments, etc.
☐ Organising events
☐ Working with young people
☐ Developing exhibitions
☐ Disseminating research results
☐ Advice and guidance on fundraising
☐ Advice and guidance on other legal requirements, e.g. managing charitable status if obtained
☐ Other (please state) _____
_____
_____

26. Please use the space here to suggest any other archaeological skills or general advice you would like some training in:
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Funding

27. Has your group ever applied for funding before?

☐ Yes   -**go to Question 28**   ☐ No – **go to Question 29**

☐ Unsure – **go to Question 29**

☐ We would rather not answer this question

28. If yes, please tick and provide information as appropriate:

☐ We have applied for funding but have been unsuccessful (please indicate which body/bodies you have applied for funding from:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

☐ We have been awarded funding (please provide short description of one or more projects that you have been awarded funding for, including who you applied to)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Working with professional archaeologists

29. Please tick below which of the following your group has had contact with:

☐ Archaeologist attached to a professional contractor
☐ County/local authority archaeologist
☐ Archaeologist within a Historic Environment Record (HER)
☐ Archaeologist attached to a university
☐ Archaeologist attached to a museum
☐ Archaeologist attached to a private consultancy firm
☐ Dedicated Community Archaeologist
☐ Finds Liaison Officer (from the Portable Antiquities Scheme)
☐ Other (please state)_____
☐ We have never had any interaction with professional archaeologists

30. Please provide any additional information or comments about working with professional archaeologists below:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Archaeology Online

The CBA has a resource through its website to list the contact details of clubs, societies and other organisations across the UK. While we already know contact details for your group either through CBA affiliate membership or for the purposes of this questionnaire, we would also like to feature your contact details through our website, to allow people to find out about your club if they are looking for information.

If you would like your club included in Archaeology Online, please indicate so by filling in the details below **that you would like to appear online**. (For example if you would not like a telephone number to be available online, leave this part blank)

Name of group: _____

Name and position of contact: _____

Postal address:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Email address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Website:_____

Follow-up research

As part of the research programme, the Community Archaeology Support Officer will be visiting a sample of groups across the UK to observe their activities and to discuss the issues raised with group members. While unfortunately it won't be possible to visit every single group, efforts will be made to include a variety of geographical locations, and a variety of types of groups in this phase of the research. If you wish for your group to be considered as a possible participant in this phase, please indicate the best way of getting in contact with you specifically on this matter here: _____

Thank you.

APPENDIX 4 CRITERIA FOR SELECTING GROUPS TO VISIT

Criteria for selecting groups to visit:

Geographical spread: selecting groups from range of regions and countries within the UK. Within this selection the impact of different policies in the different countries may also be observed.

Urban/rural setting: selecting groups based on range of urban and rural settings, from sparsely populated rural areas through larger villages, small towns and suburbs to inner cities.

Research interest of groups: selecting groups that represent different interests and foci. For example: traditional county archaeological societies; special interest groups such as industrial archaeology or Roman archaeology groups; Friends societies of museums or heritage sites; civic societies; nautical and maritime archaeology societies; historical societies; conservation or preservation groups; metal detecting clubs; natural history societies, and specifically-named "Community Archaeology" groups.

Range of activities: selecting examples of groups involved in different activities, as indicated by the questionnaire responses. These might include excavation, landscape survey or buildings recording, as well as the research and conservation of sites, features or buildings in other ways. A balance will be struck between groups who currently engage in participative activities such as these, in contrast to talks and lectures.

Age of groups: selecting groups based on the number of years that they have been in existence – representing a range. This is informed by online information about groups, direct contact with the CASO in which the group's age has been mentioned, and on questionnaire responses. In addition, average age of *group members* may also be taken into account as indicated by the questionnaire results.

Contact with other sectors within archaeology: selecting range of groups to be representative of whether the group has regular contact with professional archaeologists, whether curatorial, contracting or higher/further education professionals. Also considering the extent to which this occurs, based on information from interviews with 'community archaeologists' (professional outreach and facilitation workers) and on questionnaire responses.

Experience of applying for funding: selecting groups ranging from never having applied for grants, through groups which have applied but have been unsuccessful, to groups that have been successful, as indicated through the questionnaire results.

APPENDIX 5 GROUPS AND PRACTITIONERS VISITED AND/OR INTERVIEWED BY THE COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY SUPPORT OFFICER

Voluntary Groups and Societies:

- Claro Community Archaeology Group
- The Arbeia Society
- Quinta
- Tyne-Forth Prehistory Forum
- Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society
- Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Fieldwork Group
- Fulford Battlefield Society
- Spalding Gentleman's Society
- Knucklas Castle Community Land Project Ltd
- Islington Archaeological and Historical Society
- CBA London
- Hendon and District Archaeological Society
- CBA North
- CBA West Midlands
- CBA North West
- Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland
- Chester Archaeological Society
- Wilmslow Community Archaeology
- Roman Gask Project
- Manchester and District Archaeology & Social History Society
- South Lancashire and Cheshire Metal Detecting Club
- Newark and District Young Archaeologists' Club
- Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group
- Navenby Archaeology Group
- Ripon Community Archaeology Project
- Whitehall Roman Villa project, part of Community Landscape and Archaeology Survey Project
- Salford Hundred Society
- Loughbrickland Historical Group
- Glenelly Historical Society
- New Buildings Archaeological and Historical Society
- Carrickfergus Gasworks Preservation Society
- Ulster Archaeological Society
- La Societé Guernesiaise, Archaeology Section
- Museum Archaeology Group, Guernsey
- Festung Guernsey
- The Christchurch Antiquarians
- Lochaber Archaeological Society
- Strathbogie Archaeology Group
- St Asaph Archaeological Society
- Flintshire Historical Society
- Mold Civic Society
- Rhydymwyn Valley History Society
- Harlech Historical Society
- Garw Valley Historic Gardens Heritage Trust

Practitioners and Archaeological Organisations (including specific projects):

- Kevin Cale, Community Archaeology Ltd.
- Dan Elsworth, Greenlane Archaeology
- Penny Cunningham, Faye Simpson and Sam Walls, University of Exeter X-Arch Project Team
- Jon Kenny, York Archaeological Trust
- David Rudling, Centre for Continuing Education, Sussex Institute, University of Sussex
- Jim Symonds, Archaeological Research and Consultancy at the University of Sheffield
- Sally Rodgers, Heeley City Farm
- Deborah Anderson, David Mason and Clare Henderson, Durham County Council
- Myra Giesen, Newcastle University
- Peter Liddle, Leicestershire County Council
- Christina Evans, Warwickshire County Council
- Lorna Richardson and Natalie Cohen, Thames Discovery Programme
- Chris Naunton, Egypt Exploration Society
- David Griffiths and Jane Harrison, Oxford University Department of Continuing Education
- Austin Ainsworth, Gloucester City Council
- Abby Guinness, Surrey County Council
- Robert Isherwood, Community Archaeology North West
- Norman Redhead, Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit and DIG Manchester
- Birgitta Hoffman and David Woolliscroft, University of Liverpool
- Mark Adams, National Museums of Liverpool
- Roger Martlew, Yorkshire Dales Landscape Research Trust
- David Petts, University of Durham
- Jim Rylatt, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
- Stephen Young, University of Northampton
- Sarah MacLean, North Somerset Council
- Ivan Minnis, Northern Ireland Archaeology Forum
- Malachy Conway, National Trust (Northern Ireland)
- Tanya Walls and Philip de Jersey, Guernsey Museums and Galleries
- Gareth Owen, Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology
- Natasha Ferguson and Tony Pollard, Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division, University of Glasgow
- Ishbel Mackinnon, Andrew Dutton and Andrew Wilkinson, Scotland's Rural Past, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments
- Eila Macqueen, Philip Richardson, Mags MacCartney, and Rebecca Boyde, Archaeology Scotland
- Susan Hughes, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust
- Gwilym Hughes, Cadw
- Louise Ray, Archives Lottery Advisory Service
- Ian Harvey, Civic Society Initiative
- Christopher Burgess, Northumberland County Council
- Catherine Hardman, the Archaeological Data Service