

CBA Community Archaeology Research

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Introduction

- Outline of research
- Some results
- Implications for Community Archaeology Forum
- Tentative conclusions

Outline of research

- Literature review
- Group contact
- Questionnaire survey of groups and societies
- Interviews with practitioners and facilitators
- Interviews and observation of sample of groups and societies





- 461 complete survey responses
 - 583 responses altogether
- Approx. 25% response rate
- 61 interviews and visits to groups and practitioners

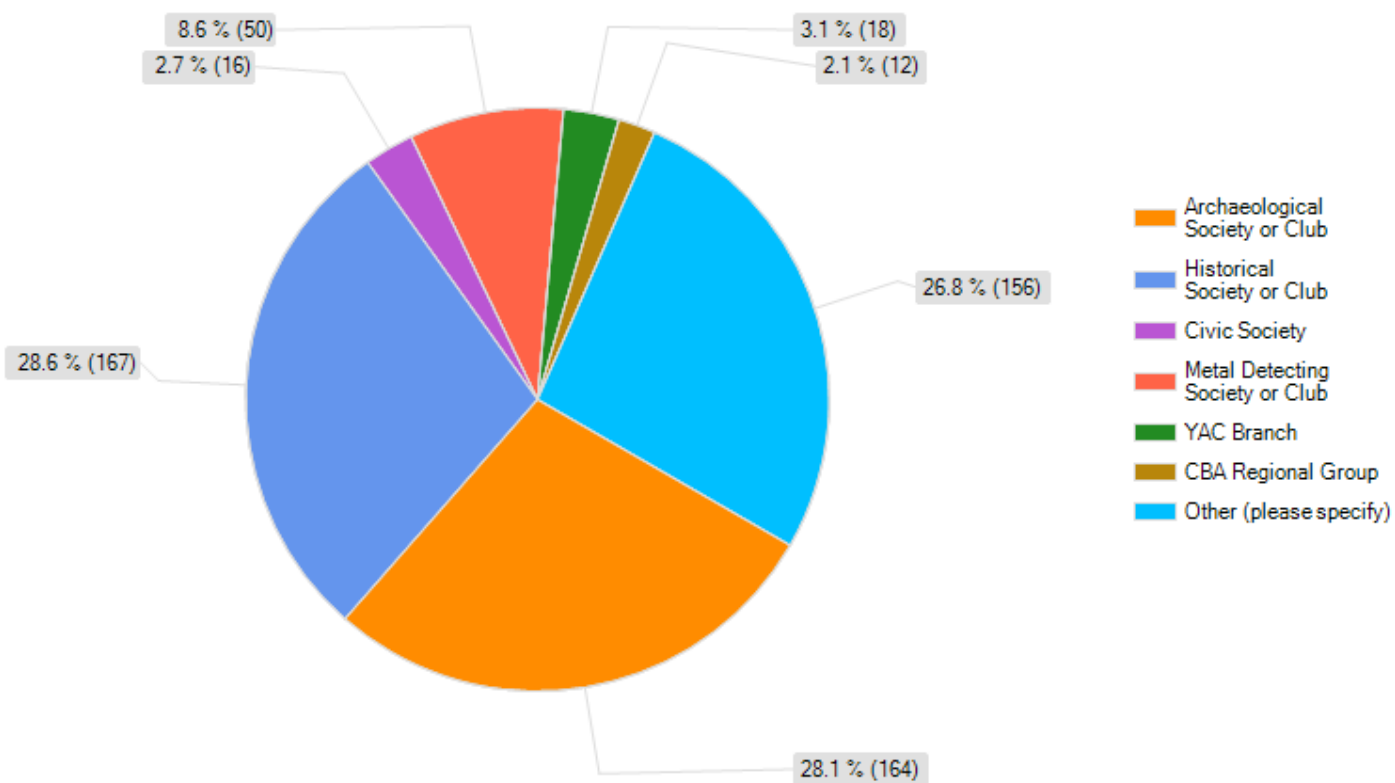
April 2009



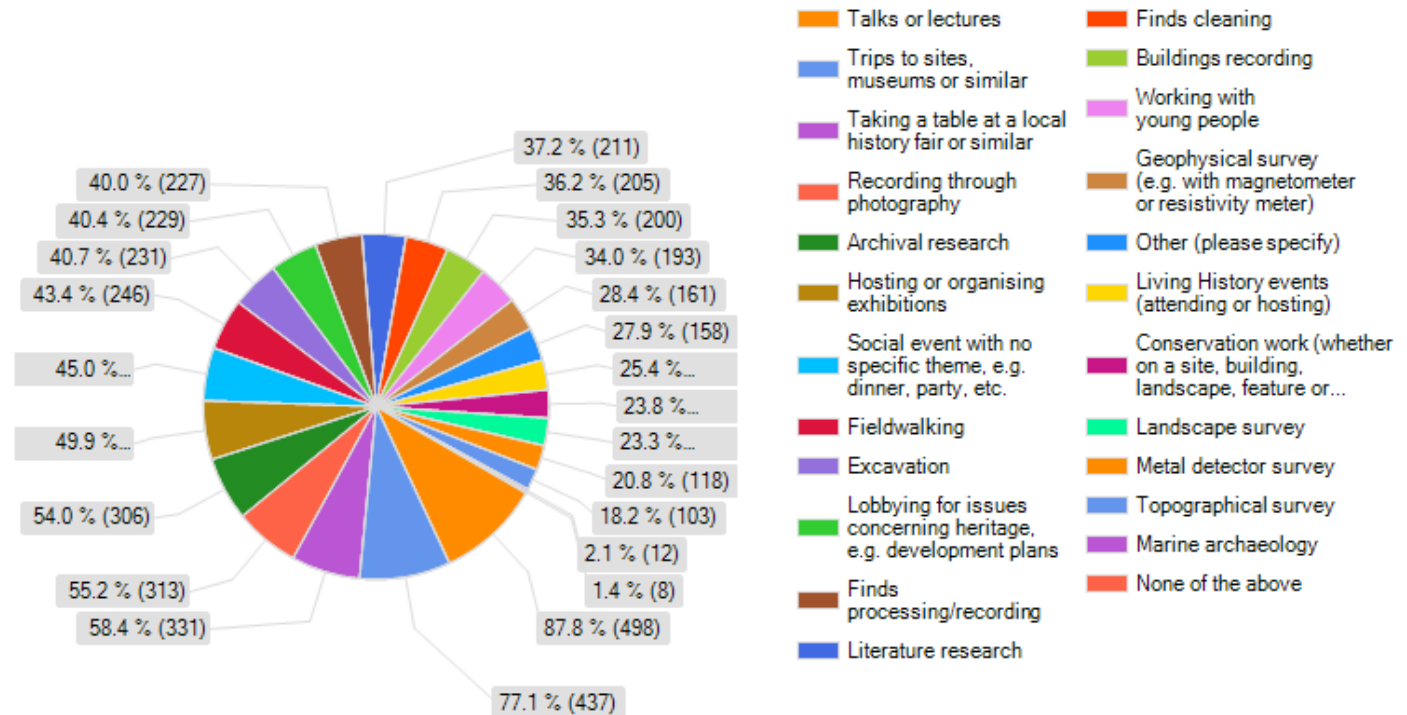
September 2009



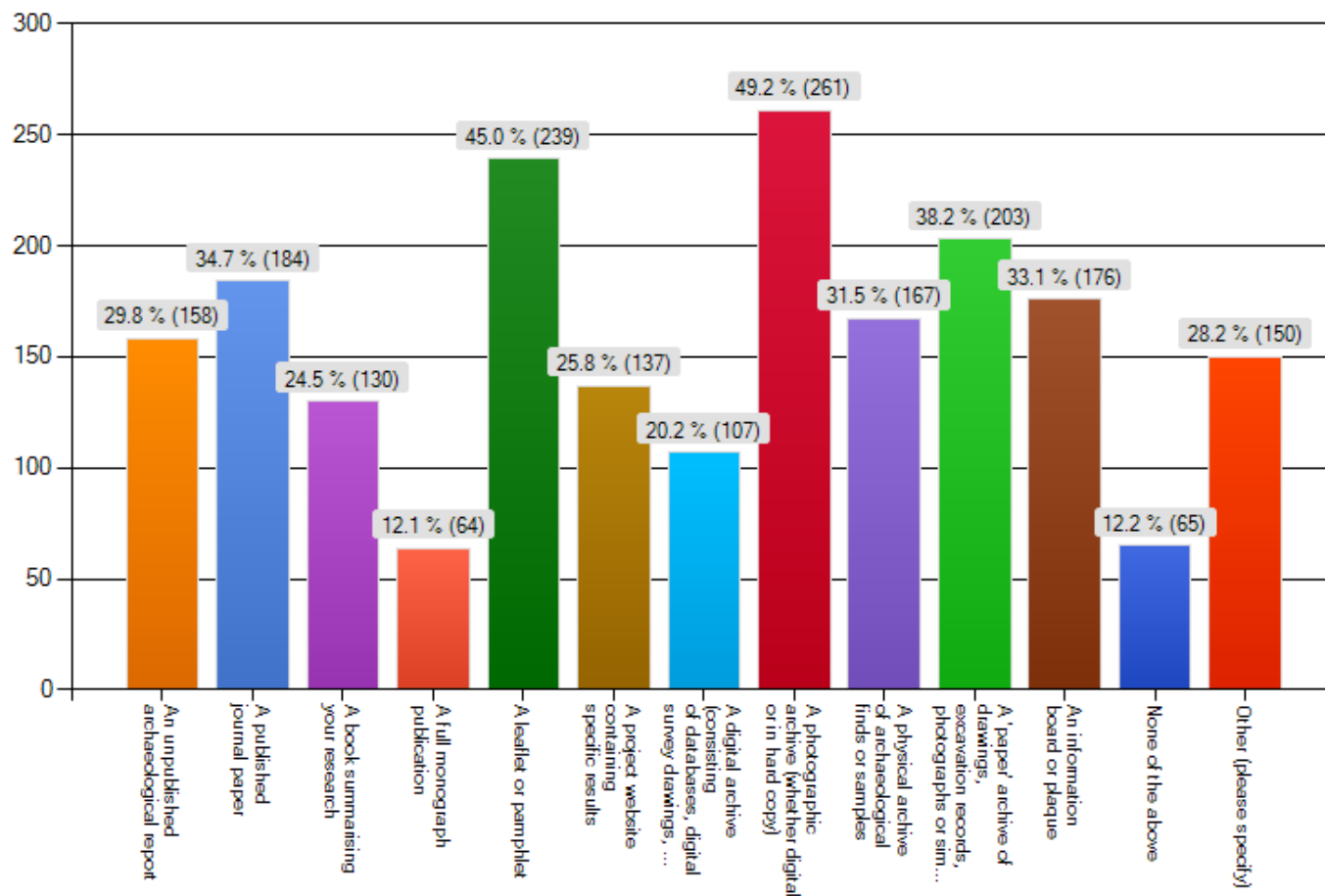
Type of group



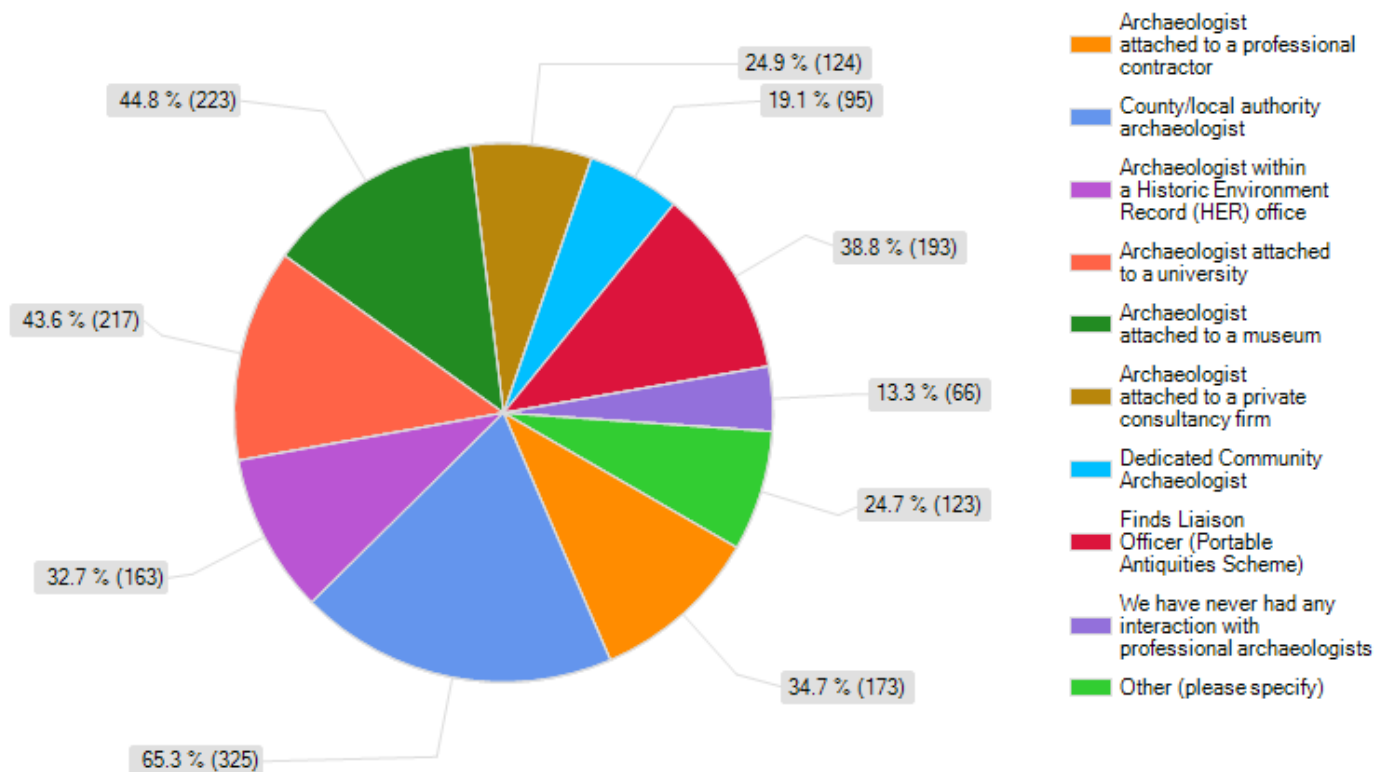
Please indicate any of the following that your group has been involved in over the past five years:



Please indicate which of the following has been produced as a result of your group's research?

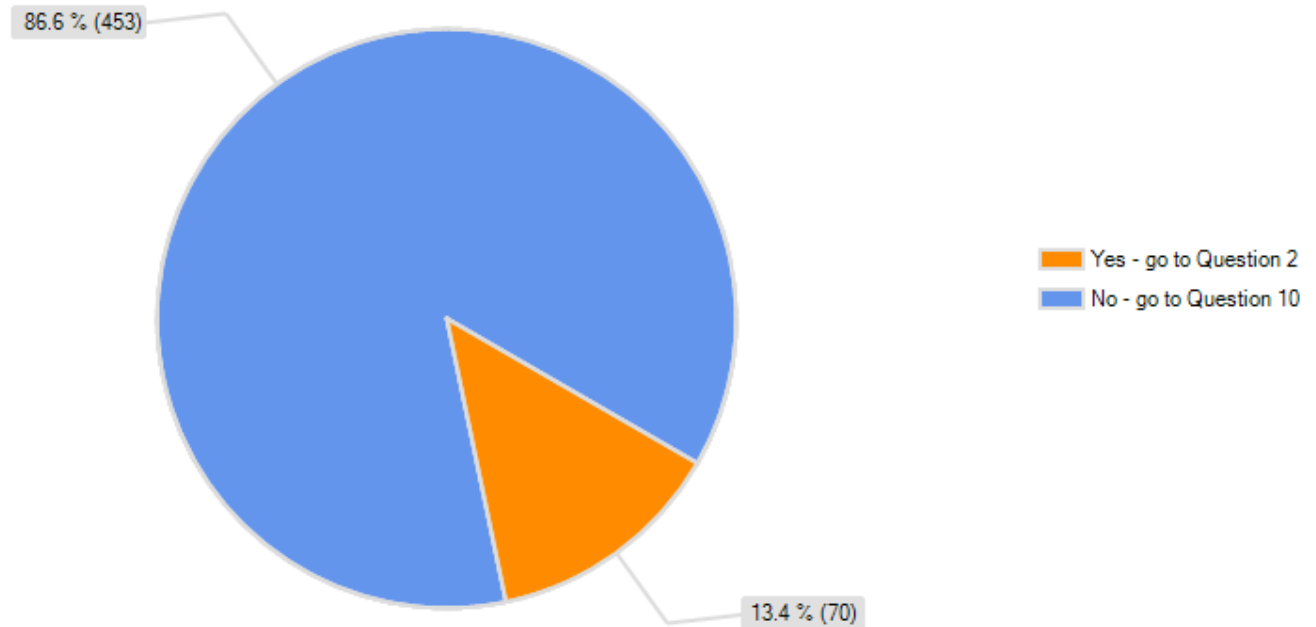


Please indicate which of the following your group has had contact with:

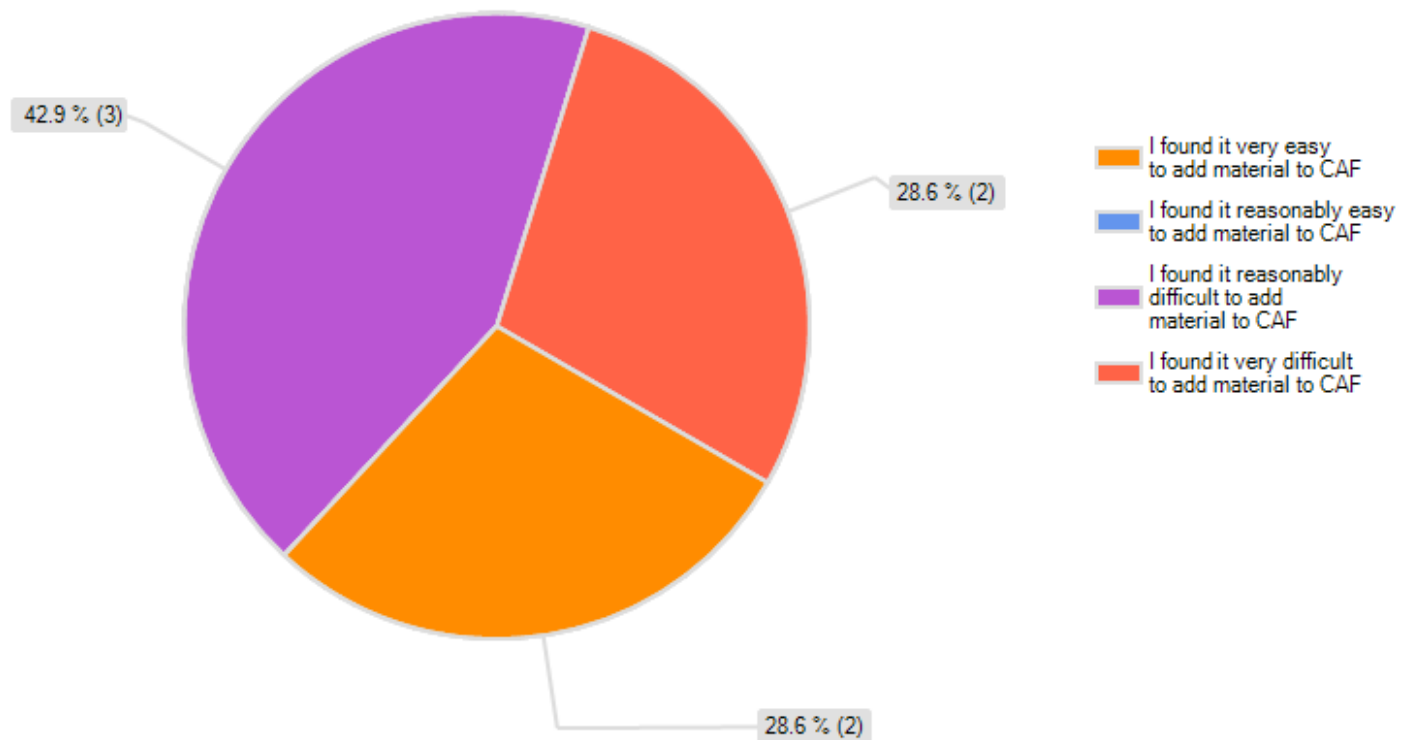


Implications for Community Archaeology Forum

Have you ever visited CAF before?



How would you describe your experience of adding material to CAF?



Tentative conclusions

- Community Archaeology is diverse, energetic and, importantly, growing
- Groups vary from ‘traditional-style’ societies that are not very active (enjoying lectures and days out) through to extremely active, although excavation is not always the primary objective
- The data-collection exercise identified more groups, clubs and societies interacting with archaeology than previously listed by CBA; positive impact for TORC and other resources.
- Group activities, and even their level of expertise, can be significantly influenced by local conditions, such as relationships with professional archaeologists, legislation and availability of grants and funding.
- Recent developments, such as the dramatic decline in continuing education departments and the closure/down-sizing of many archaeological organisations, continue to impact the voluntary sector.
- Good practice literature and guidance exists, but needs to be signposted more clearly and centrally.
- There is a need for training, but this varies from area to area. Hence, focussed analysis is required to identify where training sessions should run, and what their themes should be.
- Accredited or non-accredited? Mixed feelings from groups and practitioners about the nature of training and how formalised this should be. Whose role to carry out the accreditation? Should there be a nationally-recognised qualification connected with Community Archaeology?
- CAF redevelopment needs to be more user-friendly; be more attractive; be mindful of the legislative and procedural differences across the UK, and include more practical advice on fundraising (among other things!),
- Relationships between professional archaeologists and volunteers are in the most part excellent, but there are some regions where issues can be identified.