

Session title: MODELS OF DELIVERING RESEARCH IN EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT-LED ARCHAEOLOGY (2)

Organizers: Margaret Gowen, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd *Archaeological Consultants and Project Managers*, Ireland
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Time: Friday morning

Room:

Session abstract:

Last year, this EAA session sought to address a growing concern in European archaeology about the nature, quality and dissemination of archaeological results and research arising from development-led work. Growth in large infrastructure development and development generally, continues unabated across Europe. Notwithstanding the existence of European conventions, directives, and legislation the demand for development-led mitigation projects has led to a significant growth in commercial sector archaeology. Traditional academic structures have struggled to keep pace in many instances.

The entrepreneurial response from the commercial and private sector has led to some justifiable concern about quality control in commercial archaeology, with particular reference to dissemination, publication and return to research. What is clear is that development pressure has led to the creation of increasingly independent sectors within the profession. As research funding for the humanities remains under pressure the scale of 'spend' in development-led field archaeology continues on a scale unimagined 20 – 30 years ago. The ill-ease that this has not led to an equivalent return to archaeological knowledge or to society is justifiable and creative new approaches and management structures are required to address the problem and to ensure a creative research interface with development-led activity. This session, seeks to continue to explore the responses of EAA members to these issues, to highlight successful models used for delivering both collaborative and project-specific research and to discuss the potential for a greater research engagement and professional integration with the resources enjoyed by development-led work.

Last year, this session gave rise to the presentation of a number of publishable papers. However, the session did not have sufficient range to produce a suitable volume of papers for publication. The intention in seeking to extend the remit of this session is to gather papers of sufficient weight and content to prepare a publication that may provide valuable insights and advice to the profession in relation to development-led archaeology.

**TO INTEGRATE RESEARCH IN CONTRACT ARCHAEOLOGY – S
RESPONSIBILITY TO SOCIETY – THE SWEDISH APPROACH**

Agneta Lagerlöf, Samhällsavdelningen, Department for Sustainable Management, Riksantikvarieämbetet, Swedish National Heritage Board, Sweden

For contract archaeology of today it is important to produce basic reports and scientific publications (books and articles) that allow the results to become available for researchers, the authorities and the general public. It is then important to emphasize that we have nothing of interest to tell the public unless our narrative (storytelling) is based on good scientific results. In Sweden, every large excavation unit has a general research agenda which summarizes and provides a structure for their experiences of a region or a period (e.g. the Stone Age). These research agendas are often published or available on the Internet. With this as a background specified research agendas are devised for particular projects with priorities linked to that agenda - a process which demands archaeologists with appropriate education, skills and a high level of competence.

LINEAR LANDSCAPES: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION OF THE A1 UPGRADE EAST LOTHIAN, SCOTLAND

Olivia Lalong and Gavin MacGregor, GUARD, University of Glasgow, Scotland

Between 2001 and 2004, GUARD undertook a programme of archaeological fieldwork relating to the upgrade of the A1 road line, East Lothian, Scotland, on behalf of the Scottish Executive Trunk Roads Design and Construction Division. This fieldwork resulted in the excavation of 11 sites, with remains dating from the fifth millennium BC to first millennium AD. We recognised, when planning the programme of post-excavation analysis and publication, that the results of a linear route project afforded an opportunity to synthesise and interpret the sites from a wider landscape perspective. We saw the very concept of a 'site' as deeply problematic – a conceptual limitation we as archaeologists often impose on past human activity, simply through focusing too closely on excavated remains. We sought to move beyond the boundaries of this concept towards a more integrated understanding of what people had done in the past at the places we excavated and also what they had done in the landscapes around them. We presented the excavation results where possible in the active voice, to draw out the evidence for human practice. In this paper, we review these different approaches and reflect on their strengths and weaknesses.

THE FASTRAC PROJECT: A WHOLE-SITE FIRST-ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT FOR ASSESSING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH POTENTIAL OF AGGREGATES SITES IN THE TRENT VALLEY, UK

David Knight, Trent & Peak Archaeology, University of Nottingham, UK
Keith Challis, University of Birmingham, UK
Ian Hill, University of Leicester, UK
Kip Jeffrey, University of Leicester, UK
Chris Leech, Geomatrix Earth Science, UK
Neil Linford, English Heritage, UK
Gary Priestnall, University of Nottingham, UK

Barry Smith, British Geological Survey, UK
Duncan Wardrop, Lafarge Aggregates Ltd, UK

This paper presents a major collaborative project to develop a methodology for integrating ground investigations for early assessment of the cultural and mineral resources of potential quarry sites. It involved a combination of established and innovative remote sensing and geophysical methods alongside assessments of borehole records, and permitted coverage of large areas and rapid assessment of numerous data sets. The project has demonstrated the significant advantages of combining, early in a development project, assessments of archaeological and mineral resources for studies of cultural potential and issues such as groundwater levels and flood risk. The project has demonstrated a cost-effective methodology permitting better-informed decisions by partners in industry, heritage and planning, closer liaison between archaeologists, geologists and other specialists, and a reduced need for invasive and costly ground evaluations. Results obtained at this early stage permit resources to be targeted firmly upon areas most likely to enhance archaeological knowledge, thus increasing the potential research yield of archaeological work in advance of quarrying.

The project was funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, distributed by English Heritage on behalf of Defra (<http://www2.le.ac.uk/Members/iah/res/fastrac>)

GREY LIETERATURE: THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE?

Mark Pearce, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK

The recent explosion of developer-funded archaeology has led to the production of vast amounts of 'grey literature', the term applied to unpublished archive reports. Although in England such reports are required to be archived in County Historic Environment Records (i.e. local government archaeological archives), this does not always happen (Brookes 2003: 15). Conventional 'academic' publishing has not kept pace with this production. Richard Bradley has recently argued that this grey literature allows for a reassessment of British and Irish prehistory and has published a new synthesis which attempts to take it into consideration (Bradley 2007).

Grey literature provides the 'preservation by record' to mitigate the physical loss of archaeological sites and contexts, but in order to fulfil this function it must be fit for purpose. It will be argued that because grey literature is not publication standard, sometimes not subject to peer review, and in particular not easily accessible, it does not always constitute preservation by record. Data which is of variable quality and inaccessible is not of practical use. It is arguable therefore that preservation by record is an (expensive) failure and that we must face up to the fact that our record of many excavated sites is inadequate and of little practical use.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN IRELAND: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Ian Doyle, Conservation Services, Heritage Council of Ireland, Ireland

A key theme in debate over the past ten years in Ireland has been the lack of publications deriving from archaeological fieldwork and excavation. To some extent is being addressed and monographs are slowly appearing from major infrastructure schemes. The period 2006-2007 in Ireland saw the writing of a number of strategic policy papers including a foresight exercise through a consultative forum held in University College Dublin, a Royal Irish Academy forum, and, by the Heritage Council following a request from a national government. One of the main structural elements in common to all three papers was the need for a refocusing of State archaeological research funding to create a critical mass in research capacity. The response to this is the current Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research (INSTAR) Programme managed by the Heritage Council.

The INSTAR Programme is intended to stimulate research on the major findings coming from the increase in 'Celtic Tiger' development-led archaeology and to bring together research partnerships from the academic and private sectors of the archaeological profession, and encourages a north – south and international dimension to the study of Ireland's archaeological heritage.

The development of the INSTAR Programme represents important support from the State in meeting this aim. Details of the context and progress of this initiative will be presented.

PAVING THE WAY WITH DEVELOPMENT-LED RESEARCH: SRI INITIATIVES FOR RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

Teresita Majewski, Diane L. Douglas, Jeffrey H. Altschul, Donn R. Grenda, and Richard Ciolek-Torrello, Statistical Research Inc., USA

The Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI) family is composed of a series of companies and institutions dedicated to advancing historic preservation throughout the world. SRI is a for-profit firm that provides comprehensive heritage management consultant services, primarily in North America. The SRI mission statement expresses the company's commitment to conducting significant research on the human condition while at the same time meeting our client's needs for responsive and cost-effective compliance with pertinent legislation. SRI follows a variety of strategies to deliver the results of collaborative and project-specific research to the profession of archaeology. Initiatives include the creation of the SRI Press; partnering on projects with the non-profit SRI Foundation; providing the federal government with guidance documents on heritage management topics ranging from advanced predictive modelling to digital collections management; and creative marketing. SRI staff members use the results of development-led work to challenge and augment the conventional wisdom espoused by our academic colleagues by publishing in professional books and journals and by participating in conferences, workshops, traditional teaching settings, and in professional and scholarly organizations, often in a leadership role. The company is also committed to making the heritage management profession a viable, highly desirable career for those with baccalaureate and advanced degrees in archaeology, anthropology, and history.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT: WHO WILL BITE THE DUST? LOOKING FOR A WORKING MODEL OF ARHCAEOLOGY IN HUNGARY

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The archaeological profession all over Europe has arrived into the third millennium with new technologies and new methodologies and unimagined development. A lot of money, time and energy is spent to develop, test and introduce new and innovative technologies, systems, standards and protocols just to keep up. In Hungary, however, the response remains fragmentary. With perhaps the strongest cultural heritage legislation in Europe, and approximately 150 million Euro spent on archaeology in the last two decades, and the institutional system is also one of the most ancient and strongest on the continent, the country still does not have a working official database of archaeological sites.. The government decided in 2007 to establish a central organisation and the process of remodelling Hungarian archaeology is going on. The presentation will summarise the history of these developments, and the possibilities and plans for the future. Special attention will be paid to highlight issues, such as the cooperation of institutions in delivering research, dissemination, and how the resources received from the developers are integrated into the general scientific work.

RESEARCH IN A COMMERICAL WORLD: A DUTCH PERSPECTIVE

Karen Waugh, Managing Partner, Vestigia B.V, *Archeologie & cultuurhistorie*, The Netherlands

A decade ago the majority of archaeologists in the Netherlands were employed by either government bodies (central, provincial and local government organisations) or universities. Today the majority of archaeologists are employed by commercial companies. The changes have arisen due to the implementation of the Convention of Valletta (Malta) via the Archaeological Management Act 2007 (*Wet op de Archeologische Monumentenzorg 2007*). The Act ensures that archaeology is taken into consideration in spatial planning and that the costs of necessary archaeological research are met by the developer. The available research budget for archaeology has grown significantly as a consequence but traditional academic structures have struggled to assert their position alongside the growth of commercial sector archaeology. It is also important not to lose sight of the fact that inadequate limited financial resources in the past led, perhaps inevitably, to an enormous backlog in post-excavation and publication of excavated sites. Within the new archaeological system are some good examples of developer-funded research projects and initiatives in which collaboration between the academic, commercial and curatorial sectors are achieving a high standard of fieldwork and publication.

THE BOTTOM LINE: DELIVERING 'RESEARCH' THROUGH LOCAL PLANNING CONDITIONS

Brian Durham, Oxford, UK

Last year's session raised the issue whether archaeological research can be of equal standard when driven democratically and implemented commercially as when it is initiated at national level and implemented centrally. This paper looks at two examples of targeted research carried out in Oxford, UK, a city of 'traditional academic structures'. These projects done commercially and monitored (curated) through the local authority planning process (PPG16). In each case the research approach was justified in the name of 'the people of Oxford and their visitors'.

In the first case this rationale was used to justify 100% excavation of a large site, mainly to record medieval and later 'rubbish pits'. Outwardly this could have seemed excessive had it not been tied to an explicit ongoing research policy, but the benefit became clear when two unforeseeable discoveries of regional/national importance were made. The second case is ongoing archaeological research on the geomorphology of a flood plain. Neither of these examples would have merited research input on the basis of national priorities yet, in Oxford, they come at the end of seventeen years of PPG16 during which no archaeological planning requirement has been challenged by an appeal. Such bottom-driven research at Oxford has a good record of dissemination and publication, thereby bringing the desirable 'return to archaeological knowledge or to society' as we know it.