An Update from the ADS:

Standards Development and Good Practice

ARCHAEOLOGY DATA SERVICE

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An Update from the ADS:
Standards Development and Good Practice

- A Brief History of the G2GPs
  - Guides produced and how they've evolved

- Guides to Good Practice: What's the Point?
  - Purpose of the Guides and how they fit in with ADS

- Future Development of the Guides
  - Current work and future plans for the Guides

A Brief History of the G2GPs

Initial stage of development (hard copy guides):

1998 GIS: A Guide to Good Practice
1998 Archiving Aerial Photography and Remote Sensing Data
1999 Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork (+ Rev. 2nd Ed.)
2001 Geophysical Survey Data in Archaeology
2002 CAD
2002 Creating and Using Virtual Reality: a Guide for the Arts and Humanities

- Hard copy and online, covered similar core elements.

Phase of Project-based development:
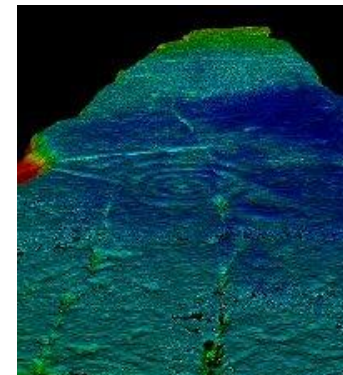
2005-6 The Big Data project:

- English Heritage funded project to explore the preservation, dissemination, and reuse potential of 'Big Data' datasets (largely from remote sensing).

- Used <u>three</u> case studies to examine the storage, documentation and dissemination of large datasets…

Phase of Project-based development:

2005-6 The Big Data project:

- Wessex Archaeology *Wrecks on the Seabed* (mag., sub-bottom, sidescan, multibeam)

- Durham University *Breaking Through Rock Art* (laser scan)

- English Heritage *Where Rivers Meet* (lidar)

- Project produced a final report and a set of recommendations for future research – all available online.
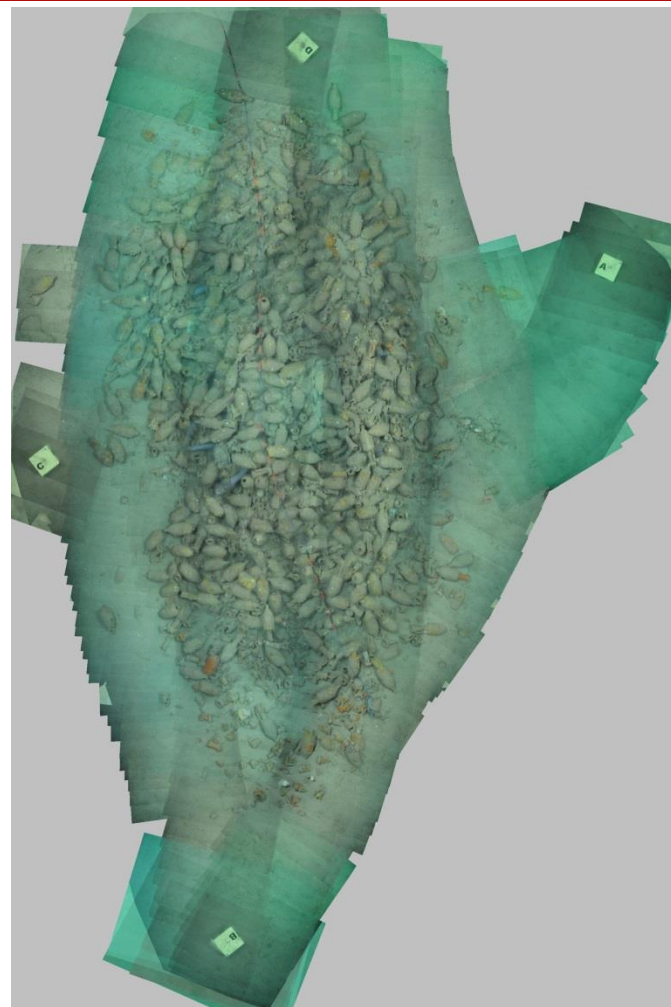
More project-based development...:

2006-9 Virtual ExploratioN of Underwater Sites (VENUS) (with INRAP):
- Aimed to develop methodologies and technological tools for the virtual exploration of underwater sites (using UAVs).
- ADS deliverables (again, online):
  - Exemplar archive (images, multibeam & sidescan, vrml)
  - A **VENUS Guide** for data preservation and documentation

Digital Antiquity project to revise and expand the Guides

2009-11 Revised Guides to Good Practice

- Carried out in support of **Digital Antiquity** working with teams in the US at the Uni. of Arkansas and Arizona State University.
- Develop the basis of workflows for Digital Antiquity's **tDAR** repository and the ADS.
- Opportunity to **update** existing ADS Guides but also to work with US project partners to **expand** scope.
- **Wiki-based platform** allowed a collaborative approach and created the framework for ongoing expansion, maintenance and revision.

The Scope of the Revised Guides:

Aerial Survey
Geophysics
GIS
CAD

Revised and Updated Old Guides

Excavation & Fieldwork   **Retired / 'recycled'**

Marine Remote Sensing
Laser Scanning
Photogrammetry

New Guides

Scope of the New Guides

Archival strategies
Selection and Retention
Preservation Intervention Points
'Big Data'
Creating Datasets
Copyright

Create Integrated Archive & Project Level Sections

Documents and Texts
Databases and Spreadsheets
Raster and Vector Images
Digital Video and Digital Audio

New 'Common Components'

Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology

Also came full circle, resulting in the publication of a new hard copy guide.

(And a revised hard copy of the Geophysical Survey guide).

Further development through European Projects:

2012: ACE Project Case Studies
- **Archaeology in Contemporary Europe** project funded a number of bursaries during 2012
- Two-week placements at ADS
- Case studies based on datasets brought with the bursary holder.
- Apply ADS procedures and document the processes.
- INRAP (France) and Aristotle Uni. Of Thessaloniki (Greece) produced detailed case studies.

Current development:

2013-17: ARIADNE project
- Currently underway and due to complete in January 2017.
- Initial phase allowed assessment of 14 European partner's guidelines and procedures.
- Assessment phase developed a plan for new guides and case studies.
  - Dendrochronology (DANS) - TRiDaS
  - RTI / PTM (DAI) – CHI
  - 3D Models
  - Thermoluminescence (ATHENA) – currently in review

Guides to Good Practice: What's the Point?

- To ensure that digital data is successfully managed and archived in a digital format…

- …via guidance on data creation, documentation, storage, and metadata.

- Guides are aimed at a wide audience (i.e. both depositors and data creators)

- Follow established Digital Preservation principles

Guides to Good Practice: What's the Point?

The Guides…

- **Do not** cover ADS repository procedures (ADS Data Procedures)

- **Do not** deal specifically with how to deposit with ADS (Guidelines for Depositors)

- …but they are compatible with these.

Guides to Good Practice: What's the Point?

Essentially the Guides are…

- **Guidelines**

- They have been produced in various ways, through specific projects or as the result of specific needs or work undertaken.

- They provide a basis from which repository or project specific specifications can be drawn (either wholly or in part).

Guides to Good Practice: What's the Point?

But, again, what's the point?

From an **ADS perspective** they enable:

- data to be successfully managed and archived. Archaeology as the "unrepeatable experiment."

SECURE DATA

- data to be understood, not just by those who created it, for as long as the data is available (ideally, in perpetuity!)

DOCUMENT DATA

- …and, ultimately, to enable data to be <u>reused</u>.
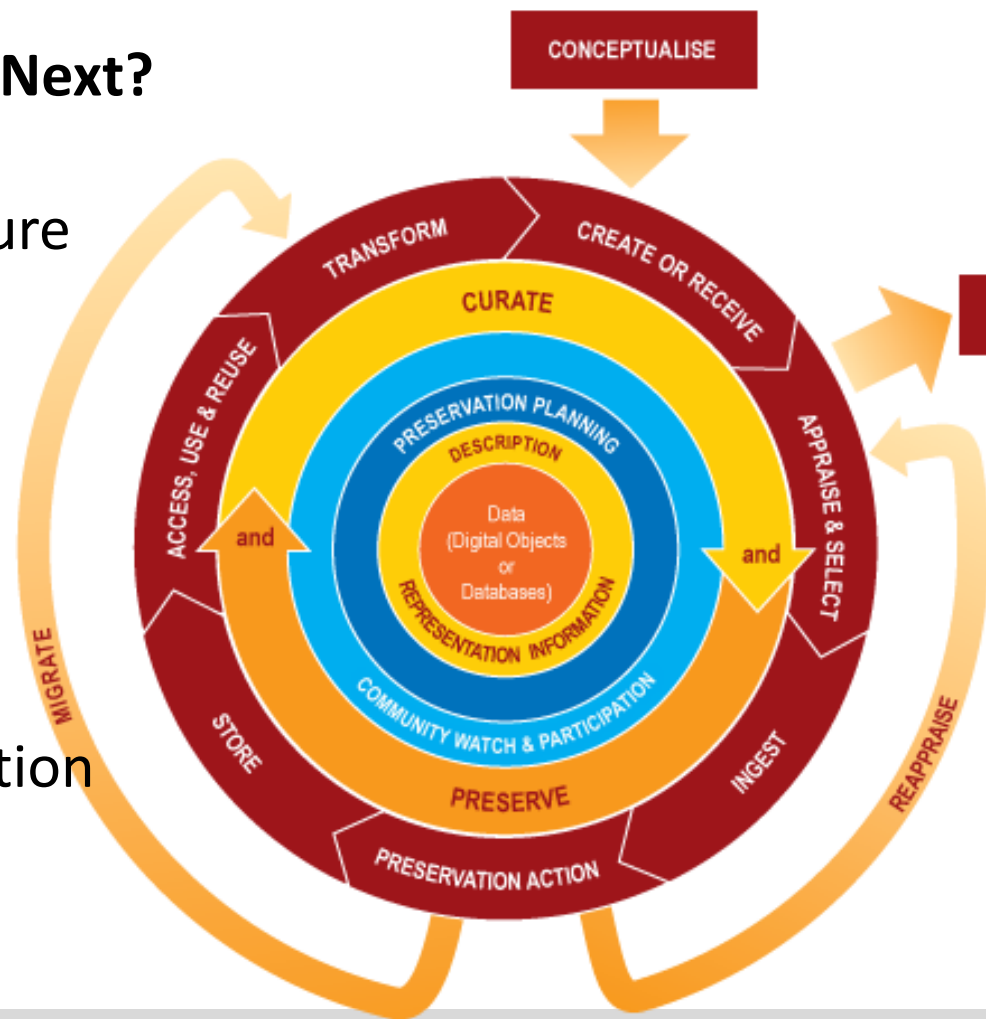
DISSEMINATE DATA

Guides to Good Practice: Where Next?

Guides Development: Wider Picture

- Actively follow the :

DCC Curation Lifecycle Model

- Preservation Planning
- Community Watch & Participation
- ...feed back into ADS policy
throughout day-to-day activities.

Guides to Good Practice: Where Next?

Development of the Guides…an ongoing process.

- The ADS Five Year Plan 2016-21 states:
  "Maintain and update the Guides to Good Practice, working with external partners in the UK and overseas to ensure currency and relevance."

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