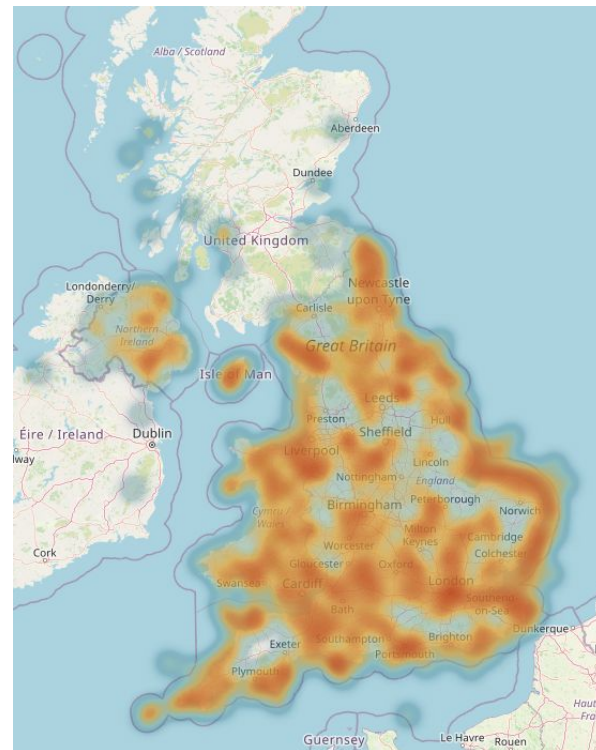# Introducing the ADS

Dr Tim Evans
23/03/2023

Introducing the ADS

- Accredited digital archive for UK heritage data
- Founded in 1996
- Based at the University of York
- Data from UK-based projects
- Data from Industry and Higher Education.
- Archive over 3.5 million unique digital objects
- ...In 312 unique formats
- For more information see our Annual Reports

Introducing the ADS (people)

- **One** Director (Julian Richards)
- **One** Deputy Director
- **Three** Managers.
- **Four** application Developers.
- **Eight** Curatorial + Technical staff (CaTs).
- **One** Internet Archaeology Editor.
- **One** Financial Administrator.
- A cost centre, hosted by the Department of Archaeology at the University of York.

Rationale

Archaeology generates a lot of data!

Excavation is inherently destructive.

Historic notions of 'Preservation by Record' feed into moral and legal obligation to ensure data is preserved **and accessible**.

Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (2011) Wellington Quarry.https://doi.org/10.5284/1000392

It is not possible to publish everything we record in the traditional manner.

ads Archaeology Data Service

Open since 1996

No preservation without re-use.

Reduce barriers to access.

Use digital to overcome traditional problems...

Museum of London Archaeology (2019) The Prittlewell princely burial: excavations at Priory Crescent, Southend-on-Sea, Essex 2003.https://doi.org/10.5284/1050095

Preservation

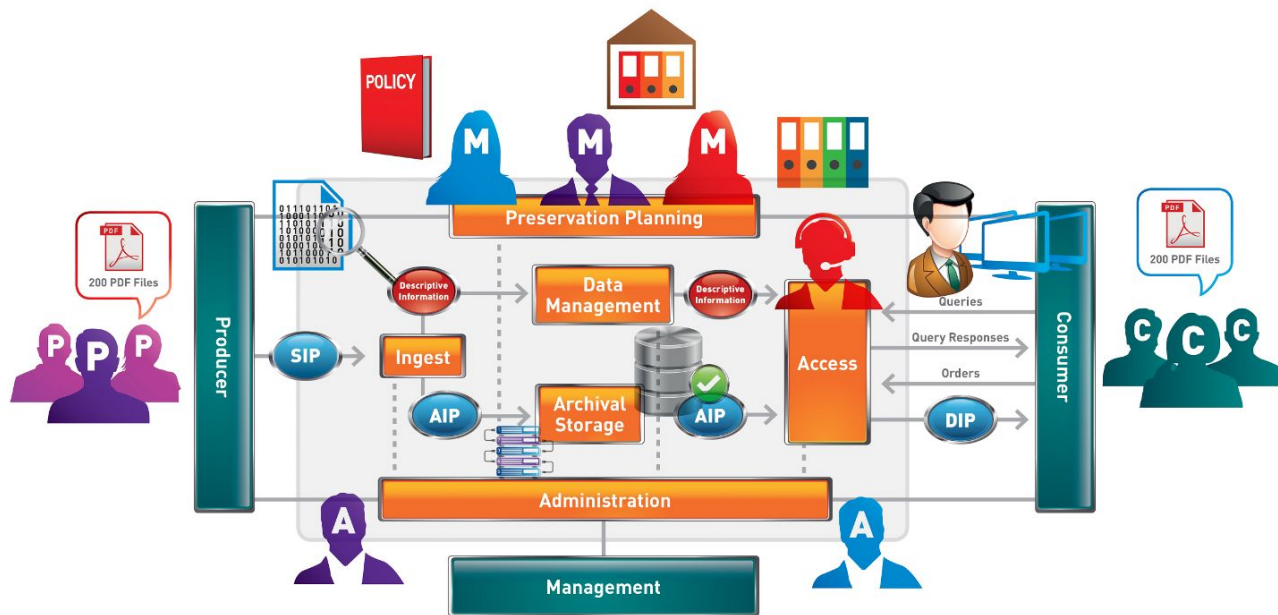Physical media is vulnerable

Technologies change

File formats evolve (obsolescence)

Accidents!

Bill Gates in 1994 showing a CD-ROM could hold more info than a stack of 330,000 pieces of paper.

Preservation in Practice

Preservation in Practice

Step 1: Get data in: What are we collecting? e.g. **Collections Policy, File Formats Statement**

Step 2: Manage the data+metadata: What are we doing, why and how? e.g. **Preservation Policy, Cataloguing Policy.**
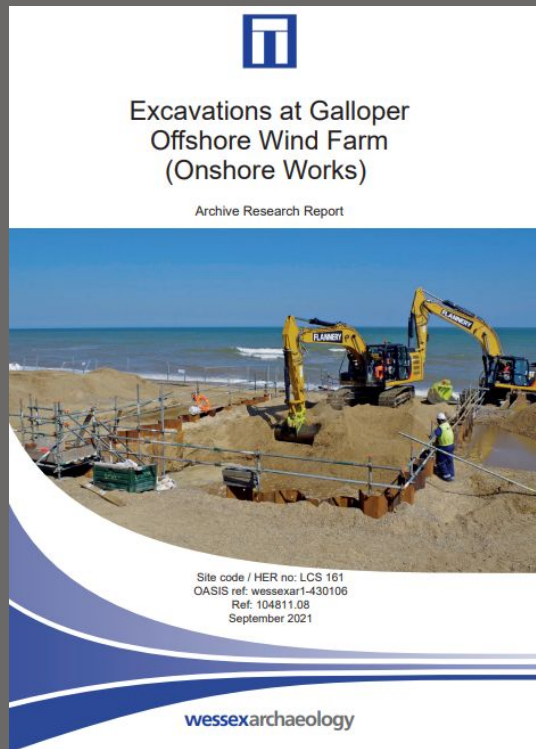
Step 3: Get the data out and make it findable...

Collecting: Grey literature

"Grey literature is any information that is not produced by commercial publishers".

Archaeologists: everything not in a conventional publication...

.. which in archaeology is most projects!

ads Archaeology Data Service

Excavations at Galloper Offshore Wind Farm (Onshore Works)

Archive Research Report

Site code / HER no: LCS 161
OASIS ref: wessexar1-430106
Ref: 104811.08
September 2021

wessexarchaeology

Wells, T. (2021). Excavations at Galloper Offshore Wind Farm (Onshore Works) Archive Research Report. Wessex Archaeology. https://doi.org/10.5284/1090262.
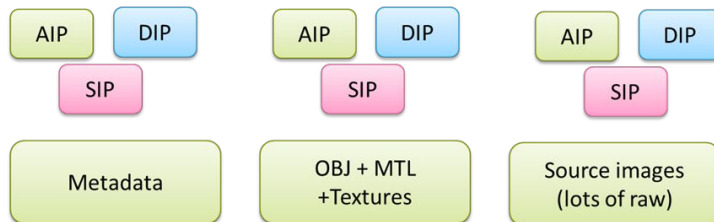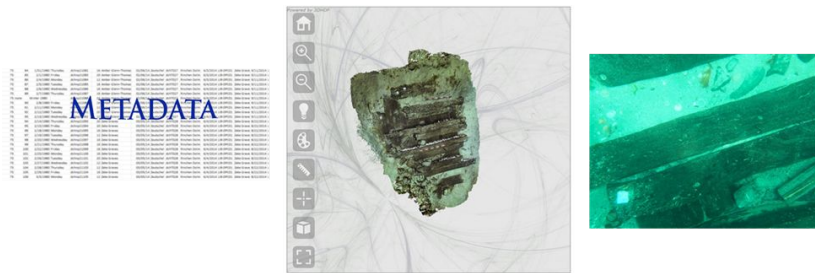
Collecting: Traditional data

Datasets for specialist reuse - databases, spreadsheets.

Used to support a publication, and now commonplace as a form of digital appendix (e.g. measurements).

```
msdata:
  id: 20150618_DC5
  version: 1.1.0
  cvList:
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      id: MS
      fullName: Proteomics Standards Initiative Mass Spectrometry
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      URI: https://raw.githubusercontent.com/HUPO-PSI/psi-ms-CV/m
    cv:
      id: UO
      fullName: Unit Ontology
      version: 09:04:2014
      URI: https://raw.githubusercontent.com/bio-ontology-researc
  fileDescription:
    fileContent:
      cvParam: MS1 spectrum
      cvParam: profile spectrum
    sourceFileList:
      sourceFile:
        id: fid
        name: fid
        location: e:/20150618_DC5/0_I22/1/1SRef
        cvParam: SHA-1, b305b66c1045710c0ea9fda0b6629cfb893175f7
        cvParam: Bruker FID format
        cvParam: scan number only nativeID format
      sourceFile:
        id: I22_20150618_DC5_1.mzXML
```

Fiona Brock, Thomas Higham (2018) Denisova 11 Human Bone Fragment [data-set]. York: Archaeology Data Service [distributor] https://doi.org/10.5284/1047219

Preserving

AIP	DIP
SIP	
Metadata	

AIP	DIP
SIP	
OBJ + MTL +Textures	

AIP	DIP
SIP	
Source images (lots of raw)	

REP_ID	PURPOSE	FILE_NAME	FILE_SIZE	CHECKSUM	OBJECT_ID
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3,935,119	Original	Bayo_04_obj.mtl	591	85d7f17485d895259dc47f2b8c7770bd	1,640,995
3,935,120	Original	Bayo_04_obj.obj	62,254,861	52a77f1a869f06d225930d380a92df09	1,640,995
3,935,121	Original	Bayo_04_obj1.jpg	2,286,790	e81f43d7b8b7977ef8d0595617aae964	1,640,995
3,935,122	Original	Bayo_04_obj2.jpg	1,851,007	182af6c0d14222d8cfa9f9cf12644fdc	1,640,995
3,935,123	Original	Bayo_04_obj3.jpg	2,237,707	b92b8b585a1306524c53fc2a42f53a48	1,640,995

Making data findable and useable

A lot of questions! For example...

What metadata standards are we using?

How do we present data?

What search technologies are we using?

What's our **Access Strategy**?

What's our **Communications Strategy**?

Designated Community

Professional archaeologists

Curatorial archaeologists

Local Government

National Government

Archaeological Specialists

Researchers

Designated Community

Community Groups

Schools

Creatives/Creative industries

Geologists/Historians/

Interested people!

ADS Retweeted

WHGS Primary @WHGSPrimary · Oct 14, 2022

Yesterday, #WHGS_YAC learned about the Folkton drum burial, thanks to the great work of the @Grave_Goods Project. We made our own "drum", each with its own story and interpretation. Such a great resource by @ADS_Update, @MelanieCGiles and team.

archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/arch...

Thankyou!

tim.evans@york.ac.uk

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