

# ACCORD

## Archaeology Community Co-Design and Co-Production of Research Data

The ACCORD project is working together with communities across Scotland to co-design and co-produce 3D digital models of heritage places and monuments. ACCORD takes the technologies of 3D modelling and printing out of the domain of specialists and experts to work in partnership with community groups. Together we seek to explore how forms of community-based social value associated with sites and places are addressed and transformed through engagement with 3D digital technologies. The project actively engages community groups that have ongoing relationships to heritage places in the process of creating 3D records and models of those places.

Despite their increasing accessibility, techniques such as photogrammetry, laser scanning, 3D modelling and 3D printing have remained firmly in the domain of heritage specialists. As a result digital objects can lack meaning and relevance to the communities around the heritage in question, and subsequently are often not exploited to their full potential for research, communication and other expressions of social value. It is our belief that the coproduction of digital records can enhance and generate forms of social significance, adding distinctive value to existing heritage assets and our understandings of them.

ACCORD is creating a permanently archived open-access dataset of community co-produced 3D digital models of archaeological sites and monuments. Crucially, these are integrated with expressions of community-based social value and additional contextual information such as old photographs, stories and memories, creating a new and rich form of research object. Community groups are able to draw on the resulting digital datasets for various purposes, such as public presentation, education and tourism initiatives. We hope that the records and models resulting from the project will also provide important research resources for heritage managers and academic researchers as well as community groups in other areas.

Understanding how communities engage with these technologies is an integral aspect of ACCORD, examining the relationships between community groups, digital heritage professionals and the outputs they have created. This includes looking at any transformative aspects of the process and investigating changes in attitudes to 3D recording technologies during the life of the project, as well as the forms of significance, authenticity and value acquired by the resulting 3D objects. Ultimately, through the co-production of an openaccess dataset and the creation of a 'community of communities' engaged in sharing skills and experiences, ACCORD seeks to broaden capacity for the creation and reuse of digital visualisation technologies in community heritage activities and research.

For more info email Mhairi Maxwell (RA on the ACCORD project): [M.Maxwell@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:M.Maxwell@gsa.ac.uk)



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ACCORD is one of eleven projects across the UK to be awarded funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Digital Transformations in Community Research CoProduction programme and is a partnership between the Glasgow School of Art, Archaeology Scotland, University of Manchester and the RCAHMS.