



ARCHAEOLOGY
DATA SERVICE

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news

A photograph of an archaeological display case in a museum. The case is made of clear glass and contains a large, rectangular block of earth with visible horizontal layers of different colors and textures, representing an archaeological excavation. The background shows a museum interior with a yellow wall, a window, and a radiator.

Making Archaeology Open

Work by Leyla Cárdenas from the NEARCH exhibition. Photo © Holly Wright

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This newsletter is also available online at:
<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/about/newsletter>



DIRECTOR'S FOREWARD

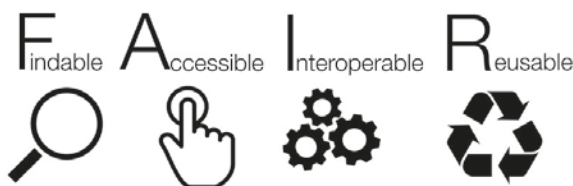
Making Archaeology FAIR

Professor Julian D Richards



In the world of digital data repositories there has been a lot of talk over recent years about making data FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable). The FAIR Guiding Principles arose from a workshop held in Leiden in 2014 which addressed current obstacles to data discovery and re-use. They were published by Nature in March 2016 ([doi:10.1038/sdata.2016.18](https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18)), and endorsed by the G7 Science Ministers meeting in Turin in September 2017. However, whilst there is clear high-level political support, archaeologists may be forgiven for not having heard of them. What do they mean for our sector, and how they are being applied by the ADS?

The principles apply equally to data and metadata about data, and although there are many aspects there are some key features. To be Findable, data must be assigned a globally unique and persistent identifier (such as the DOIs used by ADS), and they must be registered or indexed in a searchable resource, such as the ADS ArchSearch or Archives catalogue. To be Accessible, they must be retrievable, such as via our download options. To be Interoperable, the data/metadata must use vocabularies that also follow FAIR principles, and must include qualified references to other metadata. For ADS, in essence this implies our use of the MIDAS data standard and controlled vocabularies online at Heritagedata.org. Finally, to be Reusable, a key criterion is that there must be a clear and accessible data usage licence. Historically this has been a problem for heritage data. ADS had to develop its own data re-use licence but we are now adopting a Creative Commons open licence (CC-BY) as our default. Repositories and those who generate digital data have a clear responsibility to make their data FAIR. For many it is now a requirement of funding. It's worth considering if your data are FAIR and, if not, what you need to do next.



NEWS

New Look Website

Early this year the ADS launched a new look website. The main aim of the new website design is to make it easier for our users to access our searchable resources. With the launch of the ADS Library the ADS now provides three main heritage environment search tools. ArchSearch is for searching metadata records about monuments and historic environment events in the UK. The ADS Archives is the place to search for historic environment research data (such as images, plans, databases) and contains international and UK data. The ADS Library is a bibliographic tool for searching for written records on the historic environment of Britain and Ireland. Where possible, the record will provide a direct link to the original publication or report.

In order to make the differences between these search tools clear to users, and to make all three tools easy to find from our main website, we have introduced a new website menu with drop-down links that enable a user to go straight to each of our search resources. The new website also provides a new main search page that will explain the differences between each of the available search options and new help and FAQ sections.

We hope our users like the new design!

Northern Ireland Pilots OASIS

Northern Ireland is piloting the use of the OASIS to assist in the reporting of information from developer-funded archaeological fieldwork to the Historic Environment Division's Excavation Licensing Team, as part of the Division's statutory obligation to regulate archaeological excavation under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995. Data captured in the form will also be used by the National Monuments and Buildings Record for Northern Ireland for the purpose of curation of archaeological data. Find out more about OASIS and Northern Ireland here: https://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/N_Ireland

Staffing News

There have been a number of staff changes since our last newsletter. In January, Lei Xia, who had been an Applications Developer with ADS since 2009, joined the University of York's software applications team. Jo Gilham, who has been the external face of the HERALD project has now moved sideways and is working on the technical development, and Tim Evans has taken on its project management. Finally, we have been able to employ Leontien Talboom, a graduate of York's MSc in Archaeological Information Systems, as a trainee digital archivist, pending her taking up a PhD studentship in London in October.

Open Access Archaeology Fund Awarded

Chris Whittaker was awarded our first Open Access Archaeology fund after much deliberation and consideration by the panel of three independent judges. The judges felt that Chris' proposal – *Bredon Hill, Leicestershire: an archaeological investigation at the multi-period hilltop site* – was “an important site and methodically-collected dataset, which made good use of both Internet Archaeology and ADS, with the data having considerable potential for re-use to inform future fieldwork”. Chris's research will be published soon in Internet Archaeology and will link to a related digital archive deposited with the ADS. You can help support our next Open Access Archaeology Fund Award by donating here: <https://www.yorkspace.net/giving/donate/archaeology-fund>.

ADS Library Update

The ADS Library is now out of its beta stage and receiving over 200 visitors a day. Over the past year, two new full text journals have been added to the ADS collections: *Archaeology in the Severn Estuary* and the *Journal of Chester Archaeology Society*. 4,520 new reports have also been added, 4,487 of which have come from OASIS,. Other reports include the annual reports from the Moated Sites, Medieval Village, and Deserted Medieval Village Research Groups.

FIND US AT:

An ADS or Internet Archaeology representative will be attending the following events:

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Conference.

Brighton, 25-27 April 2018.

Digital Heritage 2017. Lund, 18-19 June 2018.

Open Science and the Humanities, Results, Practice and Open Issues.

Barcelona, 21 June 2018.

European Association of Archaeologists Conference.

Barcelona, 5-9 September 2018.

Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology UK.

Edinburgh, 26-27 October 2018.

Cultural Heritage and New Technologies.

Vienna, 12-15 November 2018.

To get up to the minute news follow us on Twitter:

@ADS_Update
@IntarchEditor
@oasis_data



IA NEWS

Internet Archaeology News

Judith Winters

I warned last year that *Internet Archaeology* might need more than half a page in the next newsletter as there was quite a lot of content in the pipeline. The prediction of having a lot to report has certainly materialised and a staggering 4 (and a bit) issues have been published since this time last year. Given that not so long ago, two issues a year was the norm, I hope I am allowed to give myself a small pat on the back - not least to say I made it through 2017 relatively unscathed!

Most of the issues published - all open access of course - have been thematic in nature. *Digital Creativity in Archaeology* (44) explored the interplay between creative practice and archaeology and provided an important argument for the relevance of interpretive and subjective modes of thought and practice within the discipline. Issue 46 on *Digital Co-Production in Archaeology* focused on exploring communication and collaborative construction of archaeological materials and interpretations. The most recent and very popular themed issue, funded by Cadw, was on *Iron Age Settlement in Wales* (48). Edited by Ken Murphy of Dyfed Archaeological Trust and with contributions from a blistering cast of

authors, it also contains a wealth of beautiful images provided by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales which contribute greatly to the overall presentation.

The general issue of 2017 (45) saw the usual eclectic mix and contained our first foray into publishing with a commercial archaeology unit (more of these please!), an article from the dark side of the web on a text analysis of posts made by the community of collectors of human remains on the social web, and the study of the archaeological publishing projects of the Victorian Charles Roach Smith, who was in many ways an early pioneer of crowdfunding. And as this newsletter goes to press, I am also about to release a new issue (49) based on last year's EAC symposium proceedings on the theme of *Dare to Choose. Making Choices in Archaeological Heritage Management* and the general issue of 2018 (47) is already in full swing.

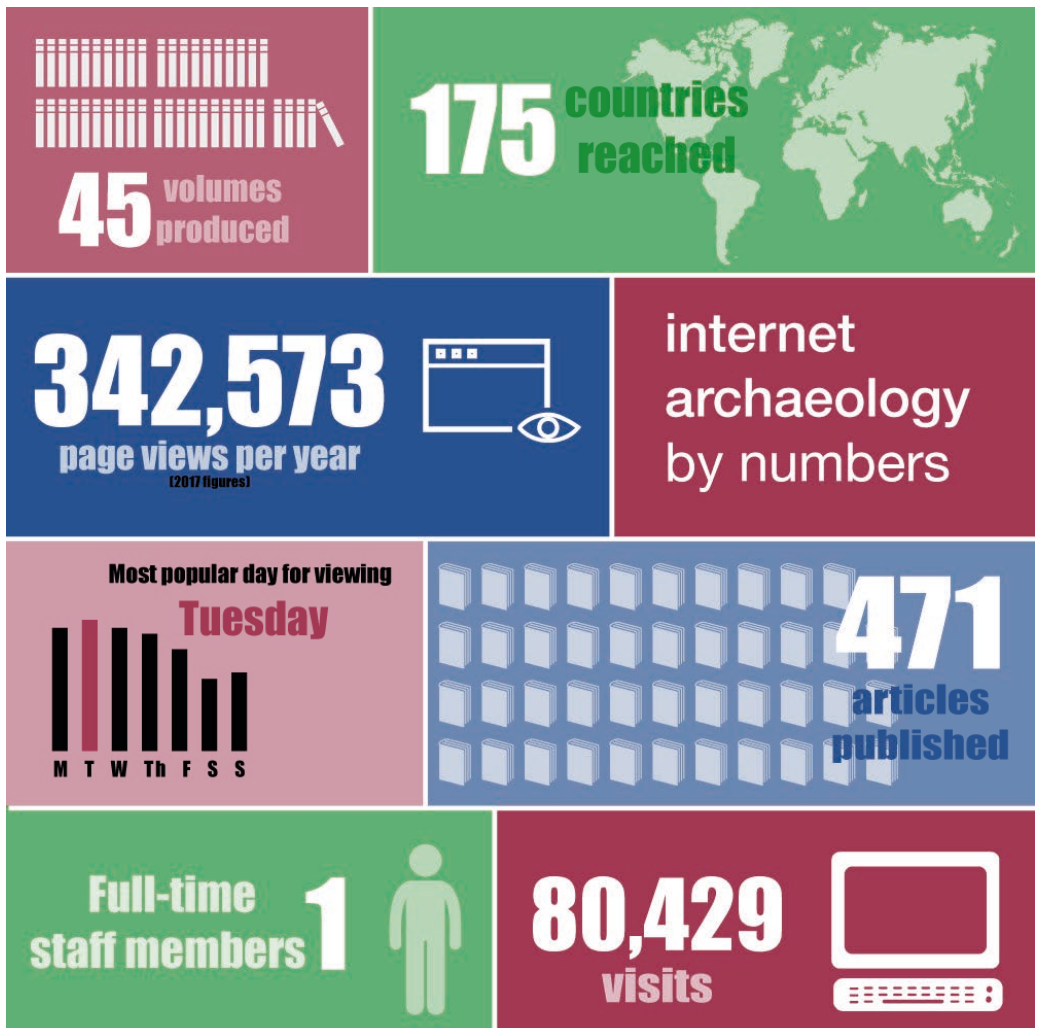
The Open Access Archaeology Fund also launched to celebrate Internet Archaeology and ADS's joint 20th anniversary <http://intarch.ac.uk/about/donate.html> has had a fantastic first year and we have already raised over £1300 which will go towards supporting

IA News

the publishing and archiving costs for projects submitted by those who do not have the means of institutional support. We have been able to earmark funds for the first publication and archive too (see who was awarded this on p. 5).

There are lots of our gorgeous USB trowels to send out with every donation over £25 so we hope that you will continue to support this fabulous initiative.

<http://intarch.ac.uk>



COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

The following collections are a small sample of archives released over the past year. To get up to the minute information on all our new releases follow us on twitter @ADS_Update or Like us on Facebook.

Nantwich Waterlogged Deposits Digital Archive

<https://doi.org/10.5284/1046737>

The nationally strategic aim of this Historic England funded project was to develop and test a scientifically rigorous methodology for characterising and monitoring historic buried remains in urban waterlogged deposits so that bespoke management plans could be designed to secure the long-term conservation of such remains. The archive includes digitised reports, photographs, borehole logs, and example plots of data and Excel spreadsheets.



St John's Street, Coventry, excavation image from the BUFAU archives © University of Birmingham



Late Iron Age Calleva: The Pre-Conquest Occupation at Silchester Insula IX

<https://doi.org/10.5284/1046734>

The excavation in Insula IX of the Roman town of Silchester presented the potential to explore an area of some 3025 m² within the defended core of the Iron Age oppidum which preceded the Roman town. This archive contains the tabular data compiled during the various analyses of artefactual and environmental evidence from the late Iron Age phase of occupation c.10BC to c. AD43.

Life, Work and Death in Birmingham, AD 1100-1900

<https://doi.org/10.5284/1046277>

The overall aim of this project has been to provide a holistic overview of the archaeological remains recorded in Birmingham City Centre within the study area and complement the *Birmingham Archaeology (BUFAU) Digital Archives* (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/1959/>).

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

National Historic Seascape

Characterisation Consolidation

<https://doi.org/10.5284/1046273>

This project consolidated the eight existing HSC implementation projects into a single national database. The project provided a single, consistent National HSC database, with accompanying guidance documents, making it a streamlined and efficient evidence base for managing the marine and coastal historic environment.

Defended Small Towns of Roman Britain

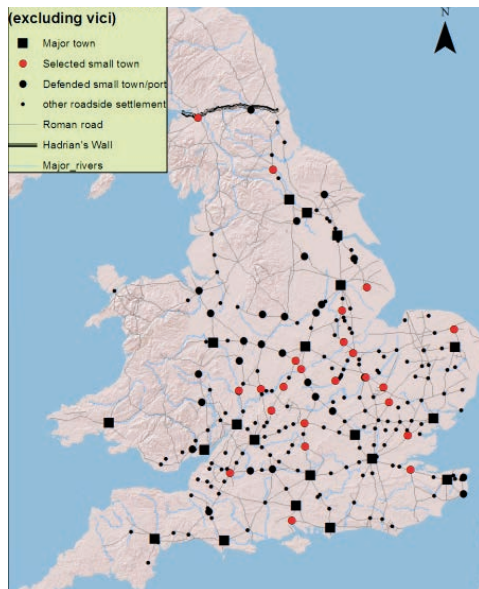
<https://doi.org/10.5284/1046751>

This archive complements the *Roman Rural Settlement Project* archive (<https://doi.org/10.5284/1030449>), which originally excluded defended small towns. However, a generous donation by Paul Chadwick, later enabled a sample of such data to be collected. Twenty-three defended small towns were included in analyses of the Romano-British economy, lifestyles and ritual practices. A total of 209 records from the 23 settlements are included in this digital resource.

Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society

<https://doi.org/10.5284/1046285>

First published in 1857, the journal has now been made digitally available via the ADS Library. Issues cover subjects such as Chester's city walls, the Rows, and the charters of the earldom of Chester.



Distribution map of nucleated settlement in Roman Britain, with selected defended small towns highlighted in red © University of Reading

COMING SOON!

ForSEAdiscovery

ForSEAdiscovery is a European funded project that combines dendrochronology, archaeology, and history in a multi-disciplinary approach to understand timber supplies for the construction of early modern vessels in the Iberian Peninsula. The archive will consist of diver video, underwater photos, topside photos, site reports, dive administration, and underwater photogrammetry.

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Excavating the Archives: High Speed 1 revisited

Ray Moore

With the passage of the High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Act 2017 in February last year the development of High Speed 2 (HS2), a high-speed rail connection between London and Birmingham, looks set to become a reality. Behind the scenes at the ADS we have been working for a few years on revitalising one of our largest collections, the archive associated with the precursor to HS2, the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL), or as it would later be known High Speed 1 (HS1), deposited with us in two parts in 2002 and 2008.

As you might expect time doesn't stand still and in the ten or so years since those original depositions our internal procedures, workflows and processes have changed somewhat, so in 2014 we began work to align the archive with our current practices to facilitate ongoing management and improve accessibility. This work was completed earlier this year due, in no small part, to some excellent work by our trainee Digital Archivists, Georgie Field and Leontien Talboom.

So what's new? To those familiar with the archive probably very little outwardly seems to have changed, but behind the scenes we have turned each of the individual sites into separate archives,



Saltwood, Byzantine bowl being excavated and post excavation © High Speed 1

each with a unique metadata record and discrete DOI. Most of the work, however, has happened behind the scenes where we have reorganised file structures in line with current practice and carried out necessary file migrations. At the same time we have taken the opportunity to reorganise the layout making it much easier to navigate the archive.

By carrying out this work we hope that more people will begin their own 'excavations' into the archive in advance of the opening of HS2 in 2026. Explore the collection here: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1000230>.

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

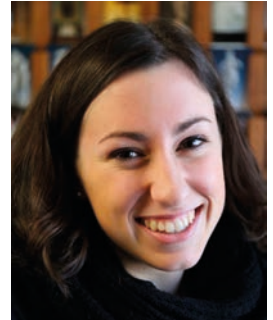
The Wonders of the ADS Exhibition

Carlotta Cammelli

The ADS is working with Carlotta Cammelli, an MA student at the University of Leeds, who, as part of her Master’s degree in Art Gallery and Museum Studies, is creating a digital exhibition of ADS archive content.

The aim of this exhibition is to help people discover the treasures that the ADS contains. At the moment, the ADS is used mainly by researchers with specific interests in mind. The structure of the ADS into individual archives also means that sometimes interesting material can be buried within the vast quantity of the ADS holdings. With the creation of an easy and accessible exhibition, more people would be exposed to the wonders of the ADS archive.

The idea of a digital exhibition is important, not only to help the public explore the ADS and its content, but also to help people from different parts of the world to access, learn, and make more use of the ADS.



The digital exhibition will feature some of the most interesting and appealing records that are stored in the archive. The exhibition will begin this summer and will also feature a feedback page, that will help us improve the gallery.



A wonder from the archive. An enamel detail from the San Vincenzo 5 Archive © Prof R A Hodges, Sarah Leppard, & John Mitchell.

PROJECTS

HERALD

HERALD is the overarching title for the project that is actively redeveloping the OASIS system, where archaeological and heritage practitioners provide information about their investigations to local Historic Environment Records (HERs) and respective National Heritage Bodies. The redevelopment of the OASIS system is a key component of Historic England's Heritage Information Access Strategy, and a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a resource that will work optimally for everyone involved in heritage management.

The project is now in Stage Two, the build phase, leading up to the release of a beta version of the new OASIS system in March 2020.

The following, are the key upcoming milestones, to look out for:

- **September 2018:** Basic draft of OASIS form and application framework in place.
- **Autumn 2018:** Pre-Alpha testing.
- **March 2019:** OASIS+ modules in place: Historic Building recording, Geophysical survey, Human bones, Burial Spaces.
- **Spring 2019:** Alpha testing and feedback from users.
- **March 2020:** End of Stage 2 build, and Beta release.

Communicating HERALD

One of the key aspects of the HERALD project is communication. Communication efforts will focus on making the existing community aware of opportunities HERALD will provide, and how specific concerns and issues with the old system are being addressed. It is also an opportunity to engage those who have not used OASIS. To accomplish this, a broad strategy has been developed for communicating news of the project to the community. This will include:

- Regular updates on the OASIS wiki pages (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) and blog (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/blog/oasis>).
- Project team members will be attending conferences, workshops and meetings as much as possible ready to answer your questions.
- Paper-based literature about the project will be produced and disseminated at events.
- New electronic publicity material will be produced which will be available for others to reproduce.
- A greater presence on ADS and partner social media.

If you have any questions about the project or require any information that is not available on the main OASIS wiki then please email the team (herald@ads.ac.uk).

PROJECTS

Discovering Englands Burial Spaces (DEBS)

DEBS is an Historic England funded project based at the ADS which is working with community groups to develop new tools for burial space research and dissemination. The DEBS project aims to develop several free digital resources:

- Desktop software and a Mobile App to use for fieldwork recording and data entry.
- An OASIS form for burial spaces.
- Training materials for groups embarking on a research project or preparing existing data for archiving.
- A Burial Space Research Database hosted by the ADS.
- A digital addition to Harold Mytum's Practical Handbook: Recording and Analysing Graveyards published by the CBA.

- A website to provide guidance on developing research projects for burial space researchers.

To find out more about the DEBS project visit the website at:

<http://debs.ac.uk>

Monument in Greyfriars Kirkyard
© Nicole Beale



ArchAIDE

Archaeological Automatic Interpretation and Documentation

of cERamics is an Horizon 2020 funded project which aims to help archaeologists, who may not have access to a pottery specialist, identify their pottery (archaide.eu). While not designed to replace the vital knowledge of the specialist community, ArchAIDE seeks to complement by speeding time consuming tasks, providing support for non-specialists, and helping students learn more about pottery recognition. As part of the project workpackage centred on communication, public engagement and innovation, the ArchAIDE partnership presented a discussion workshop in York on 7 December 2017, hosted by ADS, the UK partner for ArchAIDE. The workshop was held mid-way through the three-year project and represented one of the two major points to invite feedback from the research community on the direction of the project, and the development of the ArchAIDE app. The workshop was fully subscribed and very successful, with representation from diverse perspectives, including academic archaeologists, contract archaeologists, representatives of national heritage agencies, and freelance pottery specialists. A full synthesis of the day can be found at: archaide.eu/blogs.

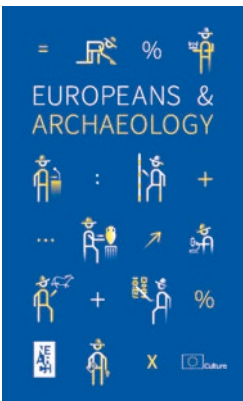
PROJECTS

NEARCH Coming to a Successful Close

Five years of thoughtful and creative ideas, hard work and wonderful camaraderie will wind down at the end of May 2018, with the completion of the NEw scenarios for a community involved ARCHaeology (NEARCH) project. The flexibility within the EU Culture funding provisions meant that the products of the project, while following an agreed-upon structure, still had room to develop along the way with the benefit of the expertise and enthusiasm of the partnership and their broader networks, resulting in richer and more effective outcomes.

Highlights have included the series of surveys on public perceptions of archaeology within each of the partner countries (France, UK, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Netherlands, Spain and Italy), which have been synthesised into an easy to read and understand publication

Europeans and Archaeology: A survey on the European perception of archaeology and archaeological heritage (doi.org/10.5284/1043770).



DAY OF ARCHAEOLOGY

After successfully expanding participation in the digital Day of Archaeology (dayofarchaeology.com) into more NEARCH partner countries, all the blog posts created from 2011 to 2017 are being archived with the ADS, providing a snapshot of archaeological practice for future researchers. Other significant outputs of the project are being made available from a dedicated NEARCH archive (doi.org/10.5284/1041589).

ADS also participated in several innovative and important initiatives, including leading one of 10 working groups within the NEARCHing Factory held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain in 2017. The NEARCHing Factory (nearching.org/) was an attempt to create a collective workspace for discussing the major problems in archaeology, and to test a variety of communication and presentation formats for future use.



PROJECTS

At the end of August 2017, NEARCH partners gathered in Maastricht in the Netherlands for the European Association of Archaeologists conference, which was preceded by the opening of the NEARCH exhibition *The Materiality of the Invisible*. This ambitious collaboration was organised by NEARCH partner the Jan van Eyck Academie, consisted of an exhibition over three locations across the city, and featured works created by the NEARCH artists-in-residence, including several superb works by Leyla Cárdenas. Leyla is from Bogotá, Columbia and was paired with ADS as her archaeological partner, in order to inform her creative process within the NEARCH project. Leyla came to York twice during the residence period, working and communicating with many archaeologists at ADS and the wider Department of Archaeology at York, even joining the first-year undergraduates during fieldwork. As the five years of the NEARCH project come to a close we have much to celebrate, not least the firm

friendships we have built, which include everything from new collaborative ideas and projects to welcoming more than one new baby to the NEARCH 'family'. While NEARCH was successful in furthering how we might create new and better relationships between archaeology and its wider communities, there is still much to do, and we hope to pursue further work in this vein.



One of several works by Leyla Cárdenas from re:weave, part of the NEARCH exhibition. Photo © Holly Wright.



www.nearch.eu



Culture

Spot the Difference

Can you spot **eight differences** between these two drawings of a painted inner surface of a mummy case found in Thebes in 1835. The digital image can be found in the *Society of Antiquaries of London Catalogue of Drawings and Museum Objects* archive (<https://doi.org/10.5284/1000409>). To enter the prize draw to win a trowel usb stick, send the completed puzzle to the ADS at the address above with your name and contact details, or email a photograph or scanned image of the completed puzzle to help@archaeologydataservice.ac.uk. Entries must be received by the 10th December 2018. The winner will be announced on the 11th of December 2018.

