

Project Progress Report

Impact of the Archaeology Data Service (ADS): a study and methods for enhancing sustainability

JISC funded project involving York University, Centre for Strategic Economic Studies (Victoria University) and Charles Beagrie Ltd.

Project is progressing to plan, with online surveys and first round stakeholder interviews completed. A summary of the depositor and user survey results is attached. Key findings, to date:

- The online surveys attracted a strong response from both depositors and users of ADS data and services (i.e. a 34% response rate from depositors and a 20% response rate from users).
- Responses reflected a wide range of users in higher and further education, government, commercial and non-government sectors, as well as private/unaffiliated individual users.
- ADS data and services are important in users' academic, private and commercial research, heritage management, teaching and learning.
- 53% of users said that not being able to access ADS data and services would have a severe or major impact on their work, and a further 44% said it would have a moderate or slight impact.
- A clear theme is that users realise significant efficiency benefits from ADS data and services in terms of time and effort (e.g. from it providing a one-stop point of access, because the data would be expensive and/or beyond their capacity to collect themselves, etc.).
- While the contingent valuation questions were designed specifically for forthcoming economic analysis, it is clear from user responses that they place a considerable value on their ability to access ADS data and services, although many have a limited capacity to pay for such services.

Interviews and economic analysis are ongoing. The preliminary results of the analysis will be presented to the ADS Management Committee on 24 September.