Collecting and Validating Data

The HERALD Project

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Overview

- History of OASIS
- The HERALD Project
- Progress to date
- What’s next?
The History of OASIS

Diagram showing the relationships between Investigator, Researcher, and Decision-maker.
How did we envision OASIS helping?

Fieldwork input → Print out → Post → Backlog → Local Archive → govt

National agency → Backlog → Post → Print out →
What is an Event?

“Any activity undertaken with the explicit intention of gathering information about, and understanding of, a Heritage Asset, and the creation of an information source to record that information and understanding”.

- MIDAS Heritage
What information does OASIS collect?

Site details:
- Project name
- Description
- Project dates
- Event type
- Monument and artefact
- Associated Identifiers
- Other event info

Location:
- Site name
- County
- District
- Parish
- Grid reference
- Postcode

People involved:
- Project brief originator
- Project design originator
- Project director or manager
- Project supervisor
- Funder
- Organisation

Archive:
- Archive recipient
- Archive identifier
- Archive contents
- Media available
- Archive notes

Report details:
- Title
- Author(s)
- Date
- Issuer or publisher
- Place of issue or publication
- Description
- URL
- Report number
Where did information come from and go to?

Initially the process looked like this...
OASIS is like a transit lounge...

(... and currently about this old too!)
...and these are the arrivals and departures
Back to the transit lounge

We have some things to resolve – the age of the system.
Unfortunately we have to deal with some problems too...

There’s a problem of flow in and out of the transit lounge

And in some places it isn’t used enough!
HERALD project

• HERALD Stage 1 built on Pye Tait Survey 2012
• User needs survey:
  • Online questionnaire & telephone interviews
• Product:
  • detailed specification for a redeveloped OASIS system based on survey results
• ALGAO & CBA were partners in the project
• Finished March 2015
What the survey tells us:

- Ongoing communication, engagement and training
- Flexible workflows
- Different levels of interaction
- Archiving and dissemination of reports
- Inclusion of Museum curators
- Record specialist data when appropriate
- Move focus from archaeology to historic environment
- Include simple to use import and export systems
Different for almost everyone:

- some want to start and complete the record
- some want units to do it
- some want a mini record
- some want a very rich record
- some want access to richer records but may not use them
- some want the museums involved....

...so no one size fits all!!
Records remain ‘OPEN’ with alerts when core fields are completed

- **Environmental**
- **VAG**
- **Geophysics**
- **Other modules: BIG ANCHORS**
- **Pottery**

**Bibliographic record & Report uploaded by HERs or contractors**

- Constitutes a basic HER record
- Creates a rich metadata record for specialist / project specific recording
The Library of Unpublished Fieldwork Reports

Currently 34538 reports in the library.

They are linked to by HERs and Units.

Every report has a DOI

Future integration with BIAB and Journal Collections
New Field in OASIS Standard to indicate environmental sampling
Collection of Specialist Metadata

- What?
- Where would it go?
  - BABAO, Geophysics, C14 index
Where are we now?

- HERALD Stage 1 Report – March 2015
- BIAB Stage 1 Report – September 2015
- DES-OASIS Project Grant Application – Sept 2015 (from April 2016 if successful)
- HERALD Stage 2 Project Design inc. BIAB – November 2015
- OASIS Redevelopment 2016 onwards
Work Package Tasks Completed

• Museums workshop has captured the needs of the community
• AMIE assessed for building terms
• Specialists within HE and beyond identified for consultation on historic building and landscapes recording
Work Package Questions Outstanding

- When should OASISLite be used and what are the minimum requirements?

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<td>County, district, parish (generated from grid reference)</td>
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Work Package Questions Outstanding

• Historic Buildings and Structures
  • Should they have a separate ‘module’?
  • Does the proposed content cover the information required?
What’s next?

• Submission of HERALD Project Design to Historic England in late November.