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
How did we envision OASIS helping?

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

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 stage 1

- 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 told 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
Who else did we talk to?

• Museums workshop has captured the needs of the community
• AMIE assessed for building terms
• Specialists within HE and beyond identified for consultation on geophysics, historic building and landscapes recording (stage 2).
Where are we now?

- HERALD Stage 1 Report – March 2015
- BIAB Stage 1 Report – September 2015
- DES-OASIS Project Grant Application – Sept 2015
- HERALD Stage 2 Project Design inc. BIAB – approved April 2016
- OASIS Redevelopment April 2016 onwards
- ADS Library – winter 2016