Community-generated archaeological content

Developing ways to improve access to information and synthesis of knowledge
What is OASIS?

OASIS is a data collection form for historic environment investigations – above and below ground.

Upload grey literature – becomes available Open Access.

Widely used by UK archaeological community.
Issues

- Multiple communities of users
- Encouraging new user groups
  - Community fieldwork groups
  - Buildings recording
  - Amenity groups
  - Graveyard recording
- No “one size fits all”
- Validation of content
HERALD-OASIS

HERALD – OASIS major redevelopment project 2016-18
What happens now...

- FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers)
- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland
- Historic Scotland Alba Aosmhior
- Radiocarbon Dating Recording Form
- Geophysical Survey database
- Grey literature library
- Research projects
- General public
The Library of Unpublished Fieldwork Reports

- Currently 38000+ reports in the library
- They are linked to by HERs and Units
- Every report has a DOI
- They are widely used by public and archaeological profession

http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk
OASIS is like a transit lounge…

(... and currently about this old too!)
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!
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 community groups say it is too complicated
- some want the museums involved….

...so no one size fits all!!
How will the new OASIS be different?
Records remain ‘OPEN’ with alerts when core fields are completed

Bibliographic record & Report uploaded by HERs or contractors or community groups

Constitutes a basic HER record

Creates a rich metadata record for specialist / project specific recording
Archaeological contractors
Historic building specialists
Academics
Community groups
Post-excision specialists

More projects from more widespread sources

OASIS
HERs
Dealing with the issues

- OASIS lite
- Multiple tailored versions of the OASIS form – branding e.g. buildings recording
- Accommodate multiple workflows, rather than “top-down” imposition
- Allow release of unvalidated reports, appropriately tagged
- Promotion and training
But how do these fieldwork recording events get back into the research domain?
ADS Library will be available from Autumn 2016

The redeveloped OASIS will be available in 2018
Keep up with developments

http://oasis.ac.uk
oasis@ads.ac.uk