Introduction

• The Archaeology Data Service
• Context: the historic environment and the UK planning system
• Survey and results
• Conclusions
• Next steps
The ADS: Who we are and what we do

- Founded 1996
- Department of Archaeology, University of York
- Collections
  - 1,100,000 metadata records
  - 41,354+ unpublished fieldwork reports
  - c1000 rich archives
- Guides to Good Practice
- DPC Decennial Award 2012
- Data Seal of Approval
Grey Literature and Archives

From castles to crucibles: 3000+ reports relating to buildings and structures.
Data and photographic archives

© Vernacular architecture groups
Archaeology in the Planning System

- Archaeology embedded in the English planning system since 1990
- Investigatory work is directed and overseen by local authority specialists, but undertaken by professional contractors retained by the developer (competitive tender process).
- c.3000 individuals working in contracting
- Recent moves to bring archaeology and historic buildings together: National Planning Policy Framework refers to the ‘Historic Environment’
Why so little buildings-related material?

• Is material generated in the first place?
• If so, what form does it take?
• Is material preserved elsewhere?
• How is the tradition & culture of data collection different to archaeology?
• Is there just a lack of awareness?
• Are there any barriers to deposition? Can these be quantified?
Survey

Participants by Primary Interest or Discipline

- Architect: 66
- Owner: 19
- Facilities Manager: 7
- Contractor: 5
- Project Manager: 8
- Building Surveyor: 7
- Structural Engineer: 4
- Buildings Archaeologist: 5
- Architectural Historian: 5
- Heritage Consultant: 1
- Town Planner: 1
- Conservation Officer: 1
- All Others: 1

Total: 125
Who defines the scope of work for Historic Building Investigations?

- Client/Building Owner
- Conservation Officers
- Amenity Society
- Funding Body
- Researcher for academic or personal interest
- Another member of the project team
- Other (please specify)

Legend:
- Usually
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never
‘Who knows? We cannot operate as the County Archive.’

‘Cynically, on a scratched out of date CD in the back of a cupboard in a probably damp vestry.’

‘If past experience is anything to go by, forgotten. Clients have short memories (including those who know better) and I cannot see archives and records being much of a priority in the public sector, certainly not a local level where cuts and closures are rife.’

‘Digital Scans (cloudpoints) are generally retained by the survey company; however we don't currently require them to hold this data (and curate it to ensure it remains legible to future software versions) for any period of time.’

‘We have projects 15 years old for which we no longer can read the electronic data.’

‘I am concerned that some Heritage Statements, which contain important new research are within reports primarily aimed at supporting Planning Applications and therefore look like advocacy documents so may not be archived.’

‘Quite possibly in our own archive, but not guaranteed.’
I do not think my client would agree to information being made available online

I would be worried about tackling intellectual property rights with my client

I would not have skills necessary to prepare data for deposition
I do not think I can convince my client to cover the cost of archiving

61.52

I would not have time/capacity to prepare data for deposition

54.57

My competitors could access reports and data

45.93
| Agree (86%) | Free and open access to historic building information would reduce costs |
| Agreed (95%) | Free and open access to historic building information would improve the quality of our work |
| Agreed (92%) | Free and open access to historic building information would enable us to respond to our clients’ needs more quickly |
Conclusions: Digital archiving and access is considered a good thing...

...but there are some hurdles to jump

...and playing fields to level
Next steps?

• Awareness raising
• Professional practice
• Better understanding of sector needs
• Oakleigh report (forthcoming) and the Heritage Information Access Strategy (HIAS)
Acknowledgements

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Full Project report: [http://bit.ly/2oCEp56](http://bit.ly/2oCEp56) or via the ADS blog: [http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/blog](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/blog)
Submit a report: [oasis.ac.uk](http://oasis.ac.uk)