

## DIGITAL DATA AND ARCHAEOLOGY: MANAGEMENT, PRESERVATION AND PUBLISHING

### 11 & 12 April 2015 COURSE DETAILS

Digital material can be extremely fragile and ephemeral. With the volume of information that exists in digital form increasing rapidly, there is a growing awareness of the importance of digital preservation and effective data management. In particular archaeological information in digital form is often the only record of archaeological work which cannot subsequently be repeated, and therefore of particular importance in the development of the archaeological record. Access to digital data is also extremely important. If data is not accessible or findable it cannot be reused to contribute to future research. As a result digital accessibility and preservation is now a major concern for all institutions that deal with data. Research Councils are increasingly demanding that digital data be archived in a suitable repository and policy frameworks require that archaeological organizations and practitioners must institute good practices to ensure the long-term preservation of and access to digital data.

This course will provide data creators and curators with the essential knowledge and skills necessary to carry out digital preservation and data management. The course will do this by highlighting the importance of digital preservation and data standards in archaeology, introducing best practices for data creation and management, and interrogating case study examples of digital archives. This course will also provide attendees with knowledge of online tools for data deposition, information on how to publish data online, and an understanding of how Linked Open Data can be used in archaeology.

#### ***Course aims and objectives***

The aim of this course, *Digital Data and Archaeology: Management, Preservation and Publishing*, is to improve participant's knowledge and understanding of digital preservation and available archaeological digital resources, while also improving participant's data management skills.

The course objectives are as follows:

1. To introduce the importance of digital preservation for the long term safety of archaeological data.
2. To provide practical guidance on how to prepare and curate digital data.
3. To provide practical guidance on how to deposit data and record events with the ADS using ADS-easy and OASIS tools.
4. To provide case study examples of online resources available for archaeological investigation.
5. To introduce open data and to provide guidance on data publishing for archaeology.
6. To introduce the use of linked data in archaeology.

#### ***Who is the course aimed at?***

The course is aimed primarily at archaeology data creators and data curators operating in national agency and local authority heritage environments. However this course will also be of benefit to professionals working in commercial, independent and research environments and to community groups utilising and creating archaeological data. The course will be of particular interest to those

who maintain large data sets and need to efficiently manage, effectively preserve, and provide access to, their data for the future.

### ***Why is it worth these people attending?***

Digital material can be extremely fragile and ephemeral. With the volume of information that exists in digital form increasing rapidly, there is a growing awareness of the importance of digital preservation and effective data management. In particular archaeological information in digital form is often the only record of archaeological work which cannot subsequently be repeated, and therefore of particular importance in the development of the archaeological record. As a result digital accessibility and preservation is now a major concern for all institutions that deal with data. Research Councils are increasingly demanding that digital data be archived in a suitable repository and policy frameworks require that archaeological organizations and practitioners must institute good practices to ensure the long-term preservation of and access to digital data. This workshop will provide data creators and curators with the essential knowledge and skills necessary to carry out digital preservation and good data management. Access to digital data is also extremely important. If data is not accessible or findable it cannot be reused to contribute to future research. This course will also provide attendees with key information on publishing data online, using linked data and the availability of online data resources for archaeologists.

### **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the course, participants will be expected to:

1. Have a working understanding of digital preservation techniques.
2. Have an appreciation of the importance of digital preservation and good data management practices.
3. Understand the principles of best practice in data management and curation and have a working knowledge of the Guides to Good practice.
4. Understand the application of digital preservation and data management for their own work.
5. Be able to deposit data and record events using OASIS and ADS-easy.
6. Know the extent of online resources for archaeologists.
7. Understand open data and how to publish data in archaeology.
8. Understand Linked Open Data for archaeology.

### ***Provisional Programme (subject to change)***

<b>Day 1</b>	
<b>9.30 am</b>	<b><i>Registration and coffee / tea</i></b>
<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Introduction: Digital Data and the Archaeological Record</b> Katie Green, ADS
<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Data Management Planning</b> Katie Green, ADS
<b>11.30 am</b>	<b><i>Coffee / tea</i></b>
<b>11.45 am</b>	<b>Current Issues in Archive Creation and Curation</b> Duncan Brown, EH
<b>12.45 pm</b>	<b><i>Lunch</i></b>
<b>1.45 pm</b>	<b>Archive Access Practical</b> Duncan Brown, EH
<b>2.45 pm</b>	Group Discussion
<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>Preparing Data for Deposit</b> Katie Green, ADS
<b>3.30 pm</b>	<b><i>Tea / coffee</i></b>
<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>ADS-easy Practical</b> Katie Green, ADS
<b>5.30 pm</b>	Round Up and Questions
<b>7 pm</b>	<b><i>Dinner</i></b>

<b>Day 2</b>	
<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Recap of Day 1 – Quiz</b> Katie Green, ADS and Duncan Brown, EH
<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Publishing Data on the Web: models and new direction</b> Judith Winters, Internet Archaeology
<b>11.00 am</b>	<i>Coffee / tea</i>
<b>11.15 am</b>	<b>Exploring Online Data Publications</b> Judith Winters, Internet Archaeology
<b>12.00 pm</b>	Group Discussion
<b>12.30 pm</b>	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>1.30 pm</b>	<b>Vocabularies as Linked Data: SENESCHAL and HeritageData.org</b> Keith May, EH
<b>2.30 pm</b>	Group Discussion
<b>2.45 pm</b>	<i>Coffee / tea</i>
<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>Linked Open Data in Heritage, Show and Tell</b> Keith May, EH
<b>3.45 pm</b>	Discussion and Final Comments
<b>4.00 pm</b>	<i>Course disperses</i>

### **Course Director**

Dr Katie Green, Communications and Access Manager, Archaeology Data Service

### **Speakers and Tutors**

Duncan Brown, Head of Archaeological Archives, English Heritage

Keith May, English Heritage

Judith Winters, Editor, Internet Archaeology

### **Contact Details**

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***Recommended Reading***

<http://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>

<http://intarch.ac.uk/authors/data-papers.html>

<http://www.heritagedata.org/blog/>

<http://hypermedia.research.southwales.ac.uk/kos/SENESCHAL/>