

Community Archaeology with the PHLP

A summary from a talk by Danielle Knights as part of the PHLP Community Archaeology Forum

Danielle took part in the Malkin Tower Excavation (delivered by IFR and UCLan) in summer 2018 and became more interested in the Landscape Partnership area. She then applied for the summer internship in 2019, as part of the partnership between PHLP and UCLan's Undergraduate Research Internship programme, with the support of other partners including Ernest Cook Trust, Northern Archaeological Associates and In Situ.

The aim of the internship was to showcase that there is more to archaeology than 'just digging' and deliver a series of sessions and activities for a wide range of audiences.

Danielle delivered 11 events, with 190 participants (or around 450 if Clitheroe Food Festival interactions included).

3 school groups took part in a series of activities at Portfield (none of it involved excavation as this is a Scheduled Monument). These activities included 'What is Archaeology?'; handling and learning about different finds; and using a GIS App to map features across the sites.

We engaged with Carers Link and delivered a Prehistoric Pottery session at Whitehough Outdoor Education Centre. Participants were shown how to create different forms of pots, and then we took these to be fired at a kiln at the University, and they were returned after they were fired.

Danielle created a session with four different activities, which can be used at different locations, with different audience groups and delivered by people with little archaeology knowledge (doesn't have to be an archaeologist). These activities included:

- What's that pot? Encouraging participants to think about how archaeologists find artefacts, and how sometimes when they are in small pieces it can be very difficult to predict what the artefact was.
- Prehistoric Pottery Making. Making pots using clay.
- Interpreting Rubbish. Showing participants how sometimes archaeologists effectively find historic 'rubbish' and it can be hard to determine who used that rubbish.
- Dating the Romans. An activity involving roman coins and practicing the use of a key to identify how old the coins are.

This session plan was delivered to a group of Young Carers, at a Family Activity Day at Barrowford and adapted to be delivered at a series of summer holidays sessions in Pendle parks (in collaboration with other partners from around Pendle).

Connecting with other PHLP projects, Danielle delivered an archaeology themed session as part of the People Enjoying Nature (PEN) project. Thanks to a local farmer, we were able to use a box of different artefacts found over the years, and Danielle delivered a finds handling and cleaning session to showcase how archaeologists would do this. We also took a walk along the stretch of the Roman Road, and Danielle was able to explain more about the romans.

Alongside Danielle's internship, In Situ appointed an artist collective as part of the Gatherings. Lunchtime Practice (Hannah and Daisy) attended and supported many of the events in a more creative way. Danielle and Lunchtime Practice were able to work together to produce a number of resources, which will be used in future sessions.

Feedback from all the sessions was very positive and the project was a success in engaging more people with archaeology.

Portable Antiquities Service: People and Plague in the North West

A summary from a talk by Alex Whitlock (Finds Liaison Officer for Lancashire and Cumbria) as part of the PHLP Community Archaeology Forum

The Portable Antiquities Scheme was formed through a discussion document in 1996 focusing on how to record antiquities found by members of the public. It was conceived as a way of covering a gap for recording finds across the country and is a form of outreach for the British Museum. PAS covers England and Wales through 41 Finds Liaison Officers. In Lancashire and Cumbria PAS has a permanent office provided by Lancashire County Council's Museum Service, which is based at Museum HQ in Preston.

Usually, PAS holds Finds Events across Lancashire and Cumbria (which are hopefully going to restart in June). A huge range of objects can be recorded, but they are generally older than 300 years old (unless they are of local significance or are representative of under recorded object types). Recording is not compulsory unless it's classed as Treasure. It is legal requirement that anything made of a precious metal over 300 years old (plus prehistoric copper alloy in multiples) is legally reported. The Treasure Act is currently going through an overhaul and considering including objects of significance as well as value.

In general, the object needs to be 'portable' to be recorded in PAS, and each record adds more to the history of an area. Records are available to the public on <https://finds.org.uk/> though sensitive details are only available to authorised persons.

A number of artefacts have been found since March 2020 from each time period. PAS has been offering a remote recording service during Covid 19. For Lancashire and Cumbria, they produced DIY sheets that provide a step by step guides to skills such as artefact photography. These are designed so that satisfactory results can be obtained without the finder having to buy specialised equipment.

The law applying to Treasure has not changed during Covid 19. All cases of Treasure, or assumed Treasure, must still be reported within 14 days. Procedures on how to process the objects have been adjusted to account for prevailing rules on personal contact.

Since 16th March 2020, LANCUM has recorded:

- 827 objects
- In 306 records
- Of which half are already available to view

- There has been a higher proportion than normal of new finders who are not detectorists
- All, apart from 9 records, were discovered in Lancashire and Cumbria:
 - Mesolithic: 9
 - Neolithic: 10
 - Bronze Age: 14
 - Iron Age: 5
 - Roman: 51
 - Early Medieval: 9
 - Medieval: 95
 - Post Medieval: 105
 - Modern: 7
- 21 cases submitted as Treasure, comprised of 500 objects
 - Bronze Age: 2
 - Roman: 2
 - Early Medieval: 2
 - Medieval: 9
 - Post Medieval: 5

Even in a global pandemic, public finds have created a new page in the international history of the Bronze Age. A flesh hook was found in an area where they have never been found before – which may cause some re-evaluation on the types and distribution, and possibly chronology, of Atlantic flesh hooks in Europe.

You can find out more about the Portable Antiquities Scheme on www.finds.org.uk and visit the Facebook Page: Lancashire and Cumbria PAS.