

# Durham University: Using archaeology to engage new audiences



# Archaeology and the public

Increasingly high  
public profile of  
archaeology in public  
mind

*Time Team*  
*Digging for Britain*



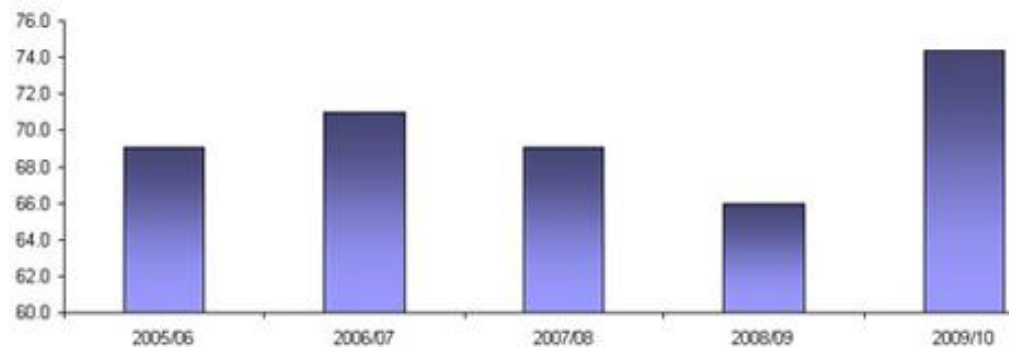


# Archaeology and the public

Heritage attractions  
(2.5 million visitors  
in North-East in  
2009)

74.4% of adults in the  
North East have  
visited a heritage  
site in the last 12  
months

(figures from English Heritage)



Percentage of adults in the North East who have visited a heritage site at least once in the last 12 months

# Archaeology and the public: from consumer to producer

At least 2,030 voluntary groups and societies active in the UK that interact with archaeological heritage

This represents approximately 215,000 individuals.



Community archaeology at Hungate, York

# Community Archaeology

A focus is increasingly on facilitating active participation in the *practice* of archaeology by the public

Need to provide support and training





# Universities and outreach

## Motivations

- Pragmatic (“Impact”; research)
- Moral



# Community engagement in archaeology at Durham

Developed through existing relationships

- Department of Archaeology
- Archaeological Services
- Durham County Council
- *Durham and Northumberland Archaeological and Architectural Society*





# Community engagement in archaeology at Durham

Developing smaller projects – Sedgefield

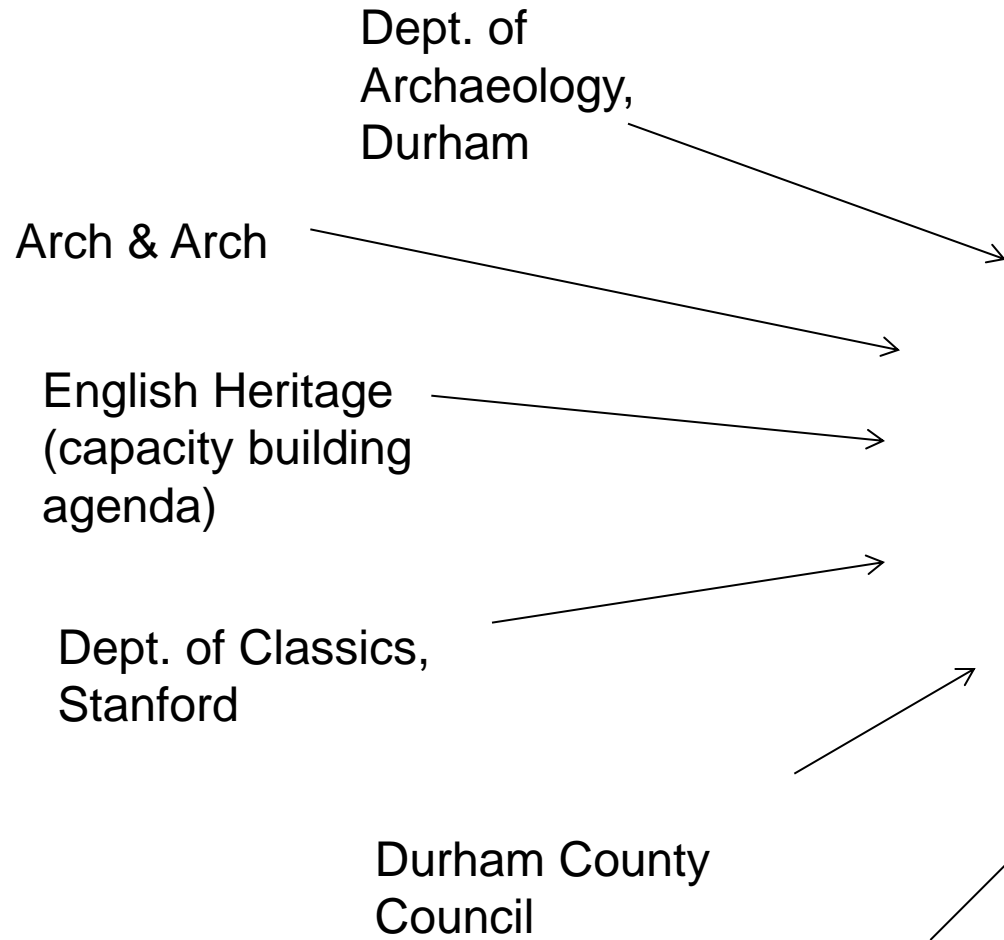
Gaining experience with community work - Coquetdale



Community excavation at Harehaugh:  
Archaeological Services / Northumberland  
National Park



# Pushing in the same direction



Binchester Roman Fort



# Roman Binchester



Durham  
University



# Roman Binchester

Community involvement from outset

- written into project design from get-go



# Roman Binchester

## Underlying philosophies

- involvement in all stages of project
- not just participation but training and education (sustainability agenda)





# Roman Binchester

Involvement in excavation

-alongside Durham and  
Stanford students



# Roman Binchester

Post-excavation work  
-finds processing





# Roman Binchester

Training in  
environmental  
archaeology

- Alongside Durham  
UG students



# Roman Binchester

Involvement in blog: <http://binchester.blogspot.com/>



The screenshot shows a Blogger interface for a blog titled "ROMAN BINCHESTER". The post is dated "WEDNESDAY, 11 AUGUST 2010" and has the title "Season Two: Day Forty-Three". The main text begins with "More from David M. \*A fresh batch of volunteers arrived, so the number of workers was greatly increased and showed the popularity of the excavations amongst the local community. Only the fort was open and the vicus looked a sad prospect with no-one actually there, after so many weeks in which it was a hive of activity. Matty ensured that the volunteers had plenty to explore and it was in the eastern section, that had previously provided a number of hob nails, in which the largest number of volunteers were deployed. At long last the 'mystery"

ROMAN BINCHESTER

This blog will share information about the major new field project at the Roman fort of Binchester (Co. Durham), run jointly by Durham County Council, the Dept. of Archaeology, Durham University and Dept. of Classics, Stanford University. It will communicate news, events, and once the field season starts a daily update of the discoveries on site. To find out more visit our website



# Roman Binchester

## Community and research





# Roman Binchester

## Dissemination

- Short lecture series
- Day schools
- Media (*Weardale Mercury* to BBC2)



# Roman Binchester

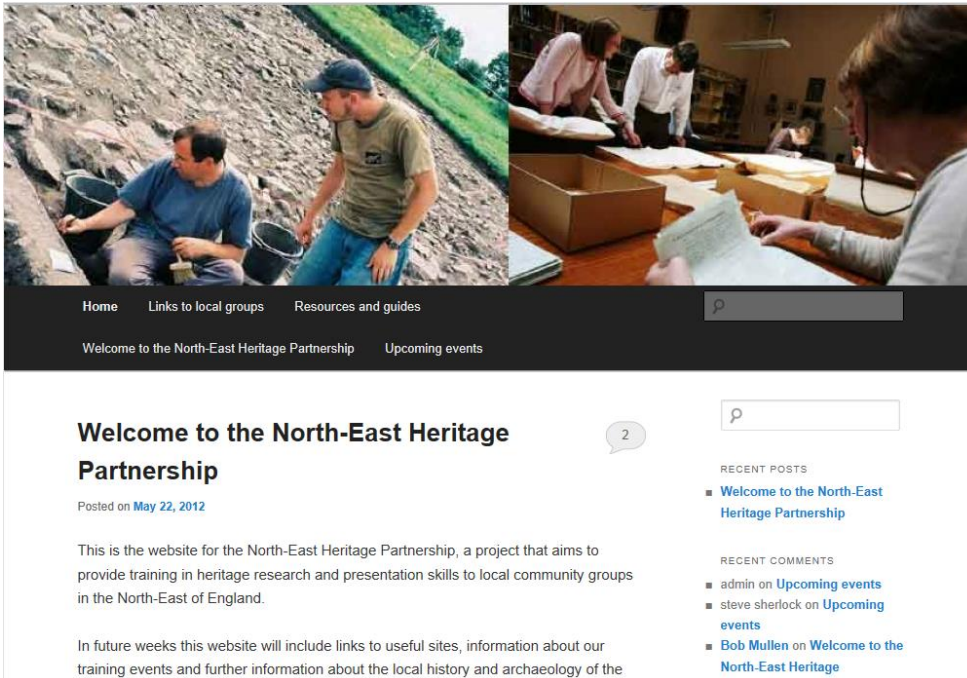
Open day involvement

Festival of British  
Archaeology

Work with schools



# On-going developments



NE Heritage mailing list:

Ne-heritage@jiscmail.ac.uk

[www.ne-heritage.org.uk](http://www.ne-heritage.org.uk)



## Lessons learnt (1)

It takes time-

- start small and get bigger

Don't get disappointed by early knockbacks



## Lessons learnt (2)

Focus on relationships

Look for areas of existing activity: existing active societies, groups. people



## Lessons learnt (3)

Build on existing strengths and projects





## Lessons learnt (4)

Don't impose your ideas of success

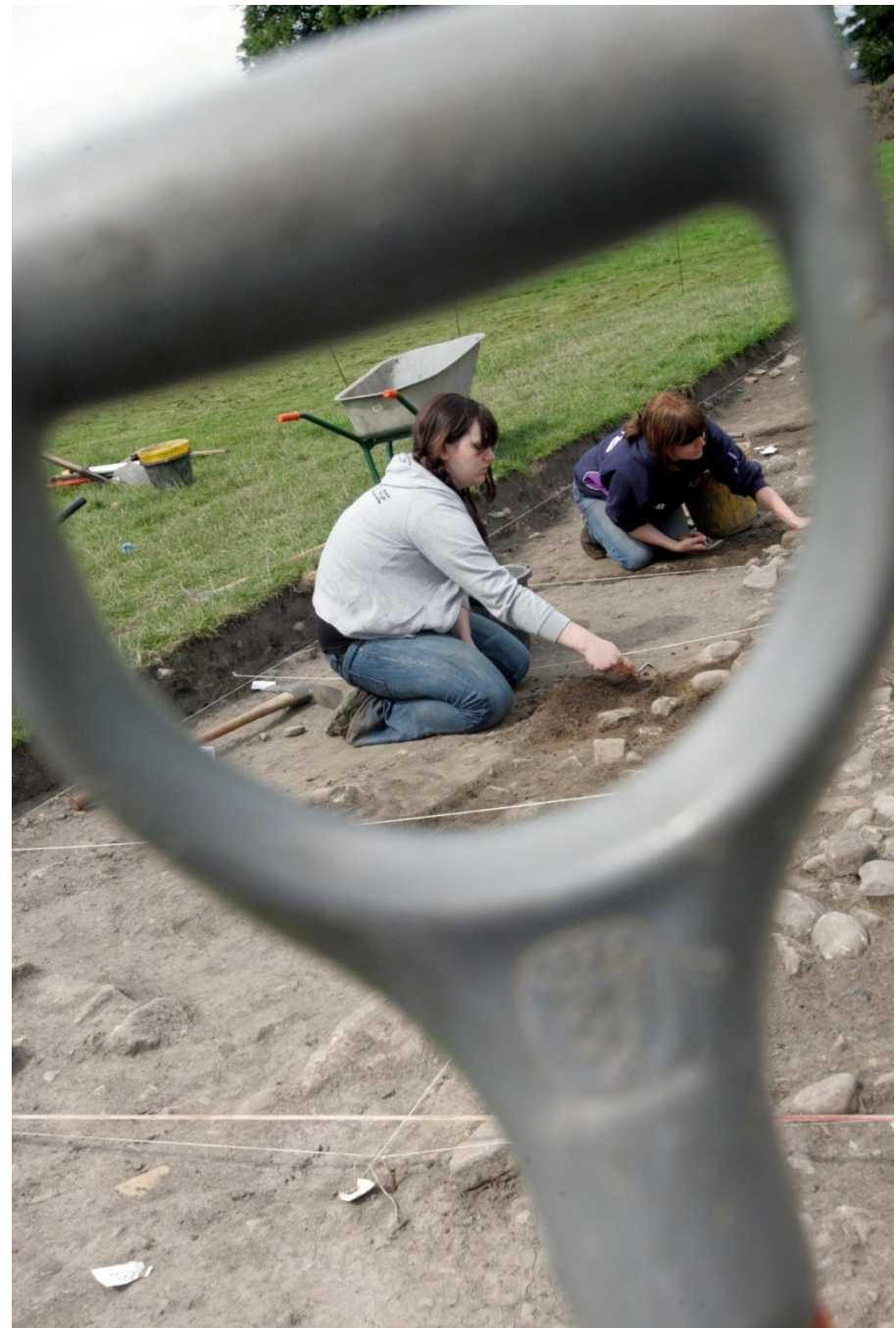
- expectation management of others and yourself



# Future threats

Downsizing of Cont. Ed

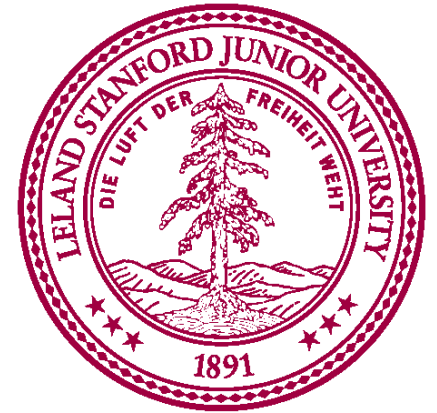
Impact of cuts agenda  
on supporting bodies  
(local councils; English  
Heritage; Knowledge  
Transfer)





Durham University

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES  
DURHAM UNIVERSITY



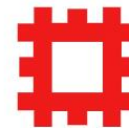
The Architectural & Archaeological Society  
of Durham & Northumberland



ROMAN RESEARCH TRUST



Durham University



ENGLISH HERITAGE