

## Introduction: The Community Archaeology Project

### **Rob Hindle, Project Manager**

This teaching pack has been developed out of the experience of participants in the WEA South Yorkshire Community Archaeology Project. The Project, with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, has provided opportunities for over 100 people to take part in archaeological activities over the past two years. For many of these people — adults with learning difficulties, mental health service users, people with physical disabilities — educational activity has presented a variety of challenges. For all participants the project has given new opportunities to further their interest.

Archaeology can be an excellent vehicle for engaging learners, whatever their experiences or needs. It is primarily practical, with a wide range of activities which can be accessed at all levels of ability. Vitally, it also engenders a sense of exploration and discovery which fires the imagination.

The emphasis of the Project, therefore, has been on how participants can engage in archaeology in ways which develop a sense of enthusiasm and achievement. This pack aims to provide some indication of the approaches used and the skills and experiences they offer to learners. The materials have been developed by members of the teaching and support team, whose skills, commitment and willingness to 'give it a go' have been the foundation for the Project's success.



## Introduction to the Tutor Pack

### Justin Hughes, Project Co-ordinator

The Council for British Archaeology has a motto 'Archaeology for All'. This resource pack was compiled with this sentiment in mind but also as a result of an HLF funded community project delivered by the Workers' Educational Association from 2007 - 09. A range of courses in practical archaeology in the classroom and in the field were developed in response to a very perceptible demand for provision from individual learners and educational organizations in the South Yorkshire area. The pack contains 3 modules and is intended to be used to give self-sufficiency in teaching all levels of ability. The CD-ROM is especially useful for the resources and links it provides for delivering individual sessions.

The content of each Module comprises 10 sessions which introduce learners to the basic concepts and processes of practical archaeology; but inherent in this are opportunities for progression.

The primary aims of the sessions are to widen participation in learning through practical archaeology, and to enable learners to engage in what is a stimulating and rewarding subject.

Module 1 concentrates on simple concepts by exploring the physical local environment and images and objects from the past and present.

Modules 2 and 3 concentrate on archaeological processes, from site location to recording by survey and excavation and to analyzing the results in the field.

All three modules are designed to develop observational, verbal and written skills, taking into account the most appropriate and relevant methods of learning for individual participants.

- The resources contained in this teaching pack are for the use of WEA tutors delivering courses for adult learners in the community.
- The resources are divided into three modules aimed at different levels of learning entry:
  - Module 1 is aimed at NCF Pre-Entry and Entry Level.
  - Module 2 is aimed at NCF Levels 1 and 2.
  - Module 3 is aimed at NCF Level 3 (an optional course with the main resources available for tutors in the pack CD-ROM).
- **Each module** is designed for a course of ten weeks, with two hours for each session. This can be adapted in response to the needs of learners and the opportunities for field activities locally.
- The **individual sessions** are designed to develop individual and team skills, using practical archaeology to give learners the opportunity to explore their local environment past and present.

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- The **case studies** are intended to give tutors and learners ideas for carrying out work in the field.
- The section on **learning support** is designed to give tutors support in their planning for specific learning needs identified prior to and during the delivery of courses in practical archaeology.
- The section on **opportunities for progression** is designed to assist tutors when they are discussing further possibilities for individual learners.
- The section on **links** is for tutors and learners and is included to give opportunities for all to engage with the wider community of heritage and education.
- Materials on the CD-ROM offer a range of approaches from PowerPoint presentations to worksheets: tutors will want to select resources, and develop their own, according to the needs and interests of their learners.

**Please note that images and worksheets are strictly for educational use only.**

## Acknowledgements

Firstly, a big thanks to those members of the teaching and support team who have contributed to this pack: Victoria Beauchamp, Nicola Thorpe, Sally Rodgers, Abigail Hackett and Barbara Firth. Thanks also to the other tutors on the Project, Lisa Staves and Beatrice Greenfield, and to Mo Stride for specialist support with the Adwick group. We would also like to mention the support of volunteers, particularly Sally Rodgers and Chris Sykes for their contribution prior to their more formal input.

We would like to acknowledge the support and advice of the archaeologists we worked with, whose willingness and expertise ensured that participants in the Project had a rich and enjoyable experience, and so in turn informed the development of materials gathered together here: Colin Merrony, University of Sheffield; Helen Fenwick, University of Hull; Chris Sykes, geophysical surveyor and all round star; Mick Cusworth, Dearne Archaeological Services. We would also like to thank the many partners and services who have supported delivery of the Project's activities in all kinds of ways.

Thanks, too, to the Project's Advisory Group - Wendy Goodhind, Sharon Watson, Linda Croft and Colin Merrony - and to WEA staff, particularly Trish Land and Justine Walker, who kept us in good order throughout.

The pack itself would not have been possible without the expertise and patience of the WEA's designer, David Pittaway.

We are also indebted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for its support for both the Project and the production of this pack.

Finally, our thanks go to all the learners who have participated in the Project. It has been a great experience for all concerned, due in large part to the student groups, whose enthusiasm and commitment to archaeology provided above all a sense of achievement and possibility. We hope this pack reflects this, and would like to dedicate it to them:

**Adwick Group, Doncaster**

**Bradbury House Group, Catcliffe**

**Doncaster Group**

**Longley Park Group, Sheffield**

**Goldthorpe Group, Dearne Valley**

**Moncrieffe Road Group, Sheffield**

**Park Lea Group, Rotherham**

**Rivelin Parent and Child Archaeology Group**

**Rotherham Group**

**Rotherham Integrated Group**

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## List of Organisations

- **Archaeological Services WYAAS**                      [www.arch.wyjs.org.uk](http://www.arch.wyjs.org.uk)  
Consultancy archaeology service based in Morley, West Yorkshire
- **Association of Local Government**                      [www.algao.org.uk](http://www.algao.org.uk)  
Archaeological Officers
- **BBC Website**    [www.bbc.co.uk/history/archaeology](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/archaeology)
- **Council for British Archaeology**                      [www.britarch.ac.uk](http://www.britarch.ac.uk)
- **Current Archaeology**    [www.archaeology.co.uk](http://www.archaeology.co.uk)  
Leading UK archaeology magazine
- **East Riding Archaeological Society**                      [www.eras.org.uk](http://www.eras.org.uk)
- **English Heritage**    [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)  
Lots of information on education (including organising visits for educational groups – FREE to all EH sites) and community archaeology
- **Heritage Lottery Fund**    [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)
- **Huddersfield and District Archaeological Society**                      [www.huddarch.org.uk](http://www.huddarch.org.uk)
- **Institute for Archaeologists**    [www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net)
- **North Yorkshire County Council**    [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)  
Archaeological advice/community heritage information
- **Scarborough Community Heritage**    [www.scarborough-heritage.org](http://www.scarborough-heritage.org)  
Initiative Project of Scarborough and District Archaeology and History Society
- **South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS)**    [www.sheffield.gov.uk](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk)  
Advice on management of archaeological sites in South Yorkshire
- **West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service**    <http://www.archaeology.wyjs.org.uk/index.asp?pg=indexhome.htm>
- **York Archaeological Trust**    [www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk)  
Charitable organisation behind Yorvik and DIG in York; publishes Yorkshire Archaeology Today
- **Yorkshire Archaeological Society**    [www.yas.org.uk](http://www.yas.org.uk)
- **Yorkshire Museum**    [www.yorkshiremuseum.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiremuseum.org.uk)  
Website includes a section on community archaeology