# Sustainable futures: archaeology and social value

The following case studies showcase how archaeology is helping clients to meet social value outcomes through engaging with new audiences, community participation and through supporting opportunities for learning and skills development.

These can be found on our public benefit webpage alongside other examples here **https://bit.ly/4bjlb8L**.

Lower Thames Crossing: investing in communities


'We can see a castle from our classroom': Academy9 – an opportunity to deliver social value through archaeology along the A9 road corridor

Bones & Bytes: Raising public awareness about musculoskeletal research with digitised archaeological bone specimens

Cross Tay Link Road – community benefits and social value from archaeological work

The Ripple Effect

# Lower Thames Crossing: investing in communities

**Katrina Foxton, MOLA, and Steve Sherlock MCIfA, Lower Thames Crossing and National Highways**

The Lower Thames Crossing will connect the M2/A2, A13 and M25 and will be the longest road tunnel in the UK, stretching 2.6 miles. In total, it will involve the construction of over 14 miles of new road and around 50 new bridges and viaducts.


*Welcome to the UK English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) student in Bata Heritage Centre near Thurrock in Essex (All photos: MOLA)*

Well in advance of any construction starting, The Lower Thames Crossing is delivering an ambitious programme of wider investment in local communities and the environment. We have developed projects with a strong understanding of local needs and priorities, based on established relationships with stakeholders and delivery partners. As part of this work, National Highways has worked with Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) to deliver transferable skills training sessions with Welcome to the UK.

Welcome to the UK is a charity set up to help families from overseas to positively engage in their community. New arrivals from eastern Europe, Russia and Sri Lanka attended sessions to help them learn English and transferrable skills such as IT and social skills, building confidence and teamworking, as well as learning about the heritage of the area.

Following on from the skills sessions, which included classroom workshops and a site tour, the groups were tasked with documenting their experience by designing a flyer on local heritage for future groups, with top tips, travel information and points of interest. They also chose to set up a blog to tell others about their experience.

These sessions and activities are part of a wider community archaeology and heritage programme we are delivering for Kent and

Essex over the next two years, comprising workshops, training, community digs, guided walks, talks and heritage site visits. The purpose is to empower local people along the route of the Lower Thames Crossing to take an interest in recording, visiting and appreciating heritage and archaeological sites, as well as helping with wellbeing and enjoyment of their local area.

The Lower Thames Crossing project is also helping local people to discover their local heritage and archaeology at Shorne Woods Country Park in Kent, through a range of engagement activities and training. This is also part of the wider community archaeology programme we are delivering for Kent and Essex. The investment from National Highways Designated Funds has enabled the Kent community archaeology team, part of Kent County Council, to extend the work they started in 2006. Shorne Woods Country Park is a Kent County Council 300-acre country park near Gravesend and was historically part of the Cobham Hall Estate, comprising woodland and heathlands. The foundations of the 13th-century Randall Manor, home of Sir Henry de Cobham and his descendants, still survive below ground and this is one of the areas of focus for ongoing community archaeological digs.

Over the past 17 years, the team of volunteer archaeologists has unearthed many items of interest, including Mesolithic flints, the stone and chalk foundations of medieval buildings, medieval roof and floor tiles, and evidence for the clay workers and RAF personnel who used the site in the 20th century. These and many more finds are now displayed in Shorne Woods visitor centre.

## POSITIVE OUTCOMES

The Lower Thames Crossing project will also serve as a pilot for wider community engagement, using initial audience mapping to identify groups that live along the proposed route of the development but tend not to be represented in traditional archaeological activities. On a more strategic level, it provides an opportunity to explore how projects could be tailored to these under-represented groups.

A key benefit for National Highways was the ability to start conversations about the construction work in a neutral or even positive way, through participation in archaeology and heritage projects. The projects were instructive in putting archaeology at the forefront of community consultation and engagement about, and with, the Lower Thames Crossing. Working with local people proved to be a more positive way to engage communities living near the development than simply handing out leaflets. By developing a better understanding of their own environment, participants were also able to better understand the development. Exploring the relationships between communities and their home/environment supports us in building resilient societies who are connected to their landscapes, as well as helping to navigate sensitive conversations about the impact of developments on those landscapes.

*Welcome to UK ESOL student draws home village in Ethopia as part of her heritage*

*With credit to Kent County Council Community Archaeology Team.*

## KEY OUTCOMES/MESSAGES

- **using archaeology, it is possible to start conversations about construction and development work in a neutral or even positive way**
- **by gaining a better understanding of their own environment, people were also able to better understand the development**
- **archaeology and development can go hand in hand to improve wellbeing and enjoyment of local areas, even for groups who would not usually engage with archaeology**

# ‘We can see a castle from our classroom’: Academy9 – an opportunity to deliver social value through archaeology along the A9 road corridor

**Natasha Ferguson MCIfA, Elise Christensen PCIfA, and Kevin Mooney MCIfA, Jacobs UK Ltd**

Over the last two years we have been fortunate enough to work alongside colleagues to deliver ‘Academy9’, an educational initiative from Transport Scotland linked to the A9 Perth to Inverness Dualling programme.[1] Social value is at the core of Academy9, with its commitment to enhancing community benefits by reaching out to young people along the A9 Dualling corridor through Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)-related skills and experiences linked to road design and construction. Having a live infrastructure project on their doorsteps brings a unique opportunity for pupils to experience what jobs in the infrastructure sector could be like. With teams of engineers, surveyors, landscape architects, environmental scientists, ecologists and archaeologists in place to deliver the A9 Dualling programme, Academy9 provides opportunities for pupils to learn about STEM-related careers with real-life support and guidance from industry professionals.

[1] About – Academy9 (glowscotland.org.uk)


*Students road-testing potential careers in the infrastructure sector with the help of professionals (All photos: Transport Scotland)*

*Primary school pupils analyse lithics*

Academy9 activities engage pupils of all ages. Events such as Early Birds (ages 6–7) and Roadshow (ages 8–9) provide a real-life insight into the jobs of an ecologist, geologist and engineer/construction worker for primary school pupils. As part of the Apprenticeship Academy event, secondary school pupils (ages 13–14) tackle their own infrastructure project in a team environment. The Next Steps Conference (ages 16–18) helps prepare young adults for life beyond school with skills and knowledge needed to gain employment.

## HOW IS ARCHAEOLOGY INVOLVED?

It often comes as a surprise to teachers, and indeed other professionals, that archaeology should be considered a STEM subject. More accurately, archaeology can be described as a STEAM (A for Arts) subject[2], as it represents a broader and more inclusive range of interests that link into science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Through this STEAM framework we are more able to show that, at its heart, archaeology is a multidisciplinary subject which weaves its way between humanities and sciences to understand past human lives and experiences. Within an Academy9 context we are therefore able to demonstrate archaeology as a viable career with relevant and diverse applications in contemporary society. Through archaeology, we also aim to capture and reflect the story of the A9 Dualling corridor by connecting pupils to their local historic environment and creating a greater sense of place.

For example, as part of the Apprenticeship Academy, secondary school pupils are tasked

[2] STEAM at Jacobs | Jacobs

*Working with clay to reproduce pictish stones*

with building a bridge. During its construction, the pupils must also take into account engineering designs, environmental constraints, sustainability and stakeholder management. As part of this, pupils take part in a workshop designed to introduce the concept of the historic environment as a key consideration within infrastructure schemes. A peat landscape was selected as the focal point because it is a type of local landscape familiar to pupils and one that is likely to be encountered by the A9 Dualling programme. Furthermore, it touches on a range of relevant themes, including carbon storage and climate change, complex ecological habitats and sensitive archaeological landscapes. In this scenario, pupils learn how peat deposits are formed over millennia and how humans have interacted with them over that time. From a science perspective they learn about gathering data in the field by collecting peat core samples for paleoenvironmental material and how past environments can be recreated through an analysis of ancient pollen and insects and through radiocarbon dating.

A particularly enjoyable element of the workshop is giving the pupils the space to apply the scientific knowledge they already have – in this case, the preservation of organic material within anaerobic conditions. Bog bodies preserved with clothing, tools and personal objects are, of course, a popular subject and a dynamic case study to describe this process. Armed with their newfound expertise, pupils move quickly beyond the initial 'ick' and into a critical line of thinking by asking questions and interpreting the evidence. From there they are encouraged to think like archaeologists by


*Inspiring young students to think innovatively and broadly about how they can use their skills and interests for future works of social value*

gathering data and building a narrative, telling the story of who that person was and how they lived, using the material remains available. When moving on to the bridge-building stage of the Apprenticeship Academy, the environment the pupils have to interact with as engineers has become more complex, but they now have the skills and curiosity to navigate and mitigate those challenges.

## MAKING THE PAST RELEVANT

Personalising the past and making it relevant in contemporary society and to communities in general is a key component of archaeology and social value. Through Academy9 we have had the opportunity to help young people form a long-lasting relationship with and an active sense of stewardship towards their local historic environment; an important national aim within Our Past, Our Future: The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment.[3] We also have the power to highlight the diversity of the modern world of work and to inspire young people to think innovatively and broadly about how they can use their skills and interests.

As Transport Scotland states "We recognise the importance of social value within major infrastructure projects and actively integrate community benefits through our Archaeology Services Framework. In the Framework, contractors are required to provide specific proposals describing how social value will be secured through the delivery of community benefits such as:

- Open days and site visits by schools
- Work placements
- Physical/multimedia digital exhibitions
- Active participation of local communities in investigations and post-excavation services

These activities all contribute to fulfilling our social value commitments by creating engagement programmes for local communities and schools."

*With credit to Transport Scotland, the Academy9 team and all pupils engaging in Academy9 along the A9 road corridor.*

## KEY OUTCOMES/MESSAGES

- **social value is at the core of Academy9, with its commitment to enhancing community benefits by reaching out to young people along the A9 Dualling corridor**
- **Academy9 provides opportunities for pupils to learn about STEM-related careers with real-life support and guidance from industry professionals**
- **archaeology can be described as a STEAM (A for Arts) subject, as it represents a broader and more inclusive range of interests that link into science, technology, engineering and mathematics**
- **storytelling, personalising the past and making it relevant in contemporary society and to communities in general is a key component of archaeology and social value**
- **archaeologists can use their unique perspective on time to stimulate further thought on climate change, pollution and sustainability**
- **the social benefit of archaeology and the sense of wellbeing it brings is tangible and immediate**

[3] Our Past, Our Future | Historic Environment Scotland | History

# Bones & Bytes: Raising public awareness about musculoskeletal research with digitised archaeological bone specimens

**Flora Gröning, Senior Lecturer in Anatomy, University of Aberdeen, and Bruce Mann MCIfA, Archaeologist, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service**

During the Covid lockdowns, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service gave support and advice to the Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health and the University of Aberdeen on a project to raise public awareness about musculoskeletal research using digitised archaeological bone specimens. According to the World Health Organization, musculoskeletal conditions such as arthritis, low back pain and fractures are the leading contributor to disability worldwide. These conditions impair quality of life and are associated with significant socio-economic burden. The project aimed to raise public awareness about musculoskeletal conditions and promote the world-class research that is conducted at the Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health (ACAMH) to improve diagnosis, prevention and treatment, in this case through the use of medieval and post-medieval human remains from Aberdeen.

*Skull in microCT scanner (All photos: University of Aberdeen)*


*Patients can now learn more about their condition with the help of 3D models.*

A multidisciplinary team of clinicians and researchers, including rheumatology, orthopaedics, discovery science, anatomy, epidemiology, primary care and health services research, alongside archaeologists and museum curators, identified examples of archaeological human bone specimens with clear signs of skeletal pathologies in the extensive specimen collection held by the university's museums. The specimens were all from skeletons recovered and analysed as part of developer-led excavations, some of which had been completed many years ago. These included excavations at the Carmelite Friary in Aberdeen in 1994 and at St Nicholas Kirk in Aberdeen in 2006, undertaken by Alison Cameron MCIfA of Cameron Archaeology and Judith Stones, and at Whitefriars in Perth between 2014 and 2017, undertaken by Derek Hall MCIfA. These were then subjected to 3D photogrammetry and micro-computed tomography (microCT) to create photo-realistic and high-resolution digital 3D models and 3D prints of these specimens.

Members of the public, in particular patients suffering from the modelled musculoskeletal diseases, can now learn about what is affecting them through the 3D models and associated information. ACAMH is using the data to improve diagnosis and the models are now part of the teaching course for students both of medicine and archaeology. The data is also being used to inform future research in this area.

The project illustrates how the results of archaeological excavation in advance of development work can continue to have significant social value, in this case contributing to medical research, many years after the original work was completed. The work has also contributed to research into female experiences of physical impairment and disability in medieval Scotland.

*With credit to the collaborative work between the Aberdeen University Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health and Archaeology Departments, Bruce Mann MCIfA, Regional Archaeologist for Aberdeenshire and the original excavators, Alison Cameron MCIfA (Cameron Archaeology), Judith Stones (Carmelite Friary and St Nicholas Kirk) and Derek Hall MCIfA (Whitefriars, Perth).*

## KEY OUTCOMES/MESSAGES

- **this case study illustrates the creation of new knowledge and understanding from archaeological research in advance of development. In this case, human remains excavated between 1994 and 2017 have contributed to multidisciplinary medical research long after the end of the excavations**
- **by raising awareness of arthritis and other musculoskeletal conditions, the work contributes to UN Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 4: Goal 3, 'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages'; Goal 4, 'Quality Education'**

# Cross Tay Link Road – community benefits and social value from archaeological work

**Warren Bailie MCIfA, GUARD Archaeology Ltd, and David Strachan MCIfA, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust**

The Cross Tay Link Road project is the largest infrastructure project ever delivered by Perth and Kinross Council. It delivers improvements to local road infrastructure, which facilitates sustainable development, improves air quality and reduces journey times and congestion within the Perth area in Scotland. During these works, Broxy Kennels fort and souterrain was excavated by GUARD Archaeology; the excavation was one of the largest of an Iron Age fort in Scotland in a generation.

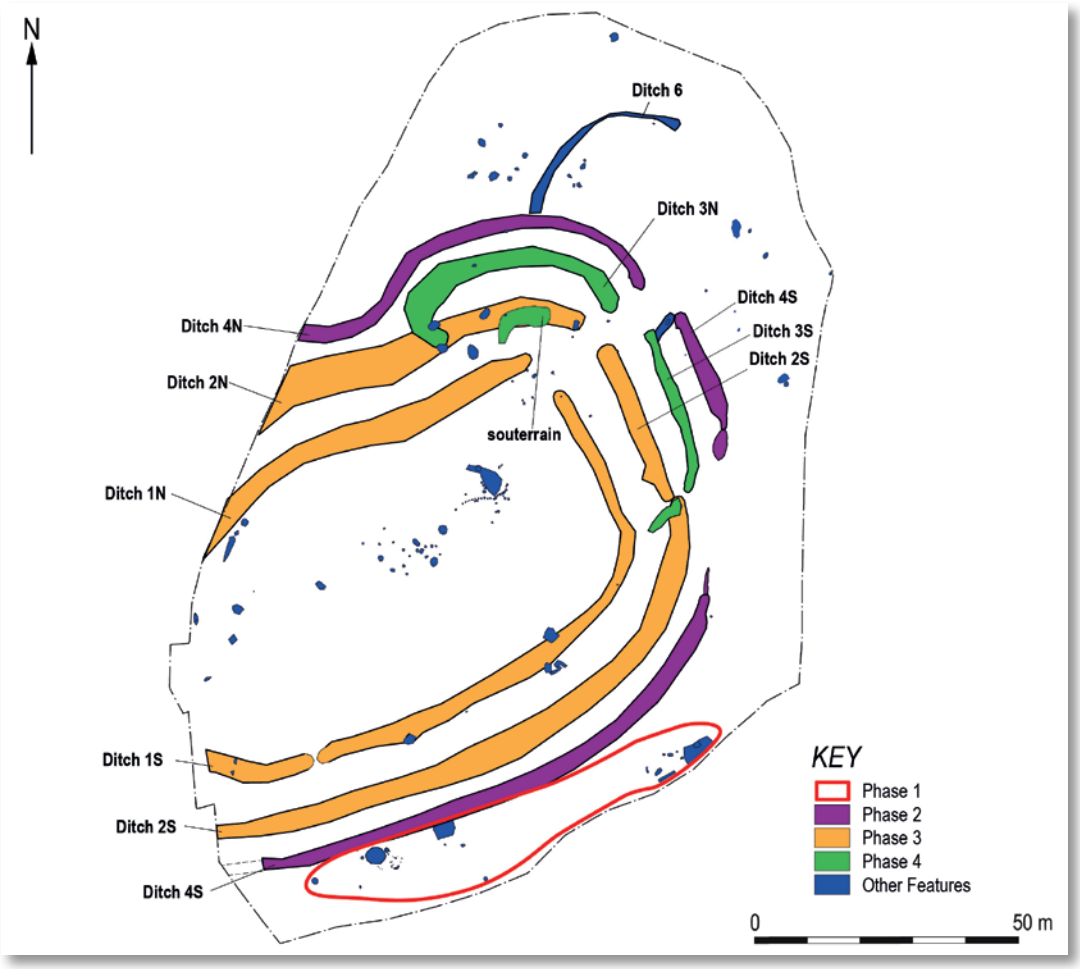
*Members of the public on an Open Day, adjacent to the souterrain (All photos: GUARD Archaeology)*

A previous geophysical survey and evaluation had already identified parts of this cropmark site and a metal detecting survey preceded the excavation, revealing a range of medieval artefacts within the topsoil. The topsoil was then stripped, uncovering four large ditches encircling the summit, and a stone-lined souterrain cut into one of the fort's ditches. For more detail, there is a video summarising the excavation on GUARD Archaeology's YouTube Channel **https://bit.ly/3K6TKmu**

The client, Perth & Kinross Council, ensured there was a requirement within this contract to prioritise and maximise social value and community benefits, leaving a project legacy in the local community. One of the deliverables on the contract was an outreach strategy, in accordance with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012. This Act calls for all public sector commissioning to factor in economic, social and environmental wellbeing in connection with public services contracts.

It was therefore imperative that the value of all aspects of the project, including archaeology, were carried out with the highest level of professionalism while maximising social value to the local and wider community.

GUARD Archaeology Ltd is a CIfA Registered Organisation (CIfA RO). The project was managed by a MCIfA accredited GUARD archaeologist and all site works were led by ACIfA accredited GUARD archaeologists. The excavation team comprised other staff




*Possible phases of development at Broxy Kennels fort and (below) an aerial photo of the site with the A9 beyond, which is being realigned for the construction of the link road.*

with PCIfA accreditation and also a fresh intake of new graduates working towards achieving PCIfA accreditation through GUARD Archaeology's CIfA Approved Training Plan. All work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation that adhered to the CIfA *Code of conduct* and CIfA's Standards and guidance.

## COLLABORATION

A collaborative approach to the excavation was taken with local curators Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (CIfA RO), AMS Ltd (CIfA RO), Perth & Kinross Council, BAM Nuttall, GUARD Archaeology and other external specialists in the preparation and updating of a research framework and sampling strategy as the excavation progressed, to guide the team investigating the site. Regular meetings were held which included the site director, project manager, representatives of the client, principal contractor, consultant, curator and relevant specialists where necessary. This ensured that all decisions were made collaboratively and that all parties were aware of new findings, progress and programme.

The fieldwork team received training on specific sampling techniques with assistance from specialists and through a series of toolbox talks. The souterrain at Broxy Kennels is probably the most detailed, sampled excavation of this type of site ever undertaken in Scotland and included the sampling of the entire floor level using a grid system to provide opportunities for detailed analysis and interpretation. The collaborative approach ensured that the entire archaeology team was on board and aware of the broader aims of the investigation while also focusing on their day-to-day excavations; as a result, the team was more invested in the project.

## WIDER ENGAGEMENT

A key part of the work was to offer additional value in the form of public engagement and other outreach activities during the course

*The souterrain from the east end*

*Archaeology team's excavation allowed ten placement students the opportunity to join in the fieldwork*

of the excavation – no easy task on what was a live construction site just off the A9, one of Scotland's arterial transport routes. Nevertheless, GUARD Archaeology facilitated visits from three local primary schools and provided site tours to local heritage groups and students and lecturers from the universities of Aberdeen and Glasgow. Four open days held during the course of the excavation allowed 400 members of the public to meet the GUARD Archaeology team and see first-hand what was being discovered on-site. Regular updates on progress and findings were also provided to the local press and council website. Following the excavation, GUARD Archaeology engaged with a local Young Archaeology Club in Dunkeld in November 2023 and gave a lecture to the Dunkeld Historical Society. GUARD Archaeology also presented at a project open day in October 2023 and gifted a 'Behind the Scenes Tour' of the post-excavation works at their lab as part of a charity auction in aid of a local mental health charity, The Lighthouse for Perth. A second project open day is planned for April 2024, with further lectures and public engagement planned for 2024 and beyond. In terms of a legacy for the archaeological works on this project, GUARD Archaeology are assisting BAM Nuttall and Perth and Kinross Council to reconstruct the souterrain discovered at Broxy Kennels fort in an accessible area so the public can view it for generations to come.

The excavation also offered the opportunity for ten placement students from the University of the Highlands and Islands to gain experience in archaeological fieldwork, using bespoke training plans in core skills for archaeological fieldwork linked to Pathway to PCIfA standards. Each student also earned a Heritage Hero Award, courtesy of Archaeology Scotland, for their participation.

## A FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE

Careful planning, collaboration, coordination and a professional approach led to the successful delivery of the excavation to the standards expected by CIfA, as well as it being undertaken in tandem with an exceptional programme of outreach activities that sets a high bar for future development projects. Demonstrating the delivery of public benefit is increasingly important within development-led archaeology and programmes of archaeological work provide can provide an excellent opportunity for clients and developers to deliver social value outcomes.

This is why GUARD Archaeology now includes specific reference in all our method statements to the need to deliver public benefit and social value through the archaeological works we undertake. This inclusion is in accordance with the CIfA Standards and the guidance published by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers Scotland, which is linked to the National Planning Framework 4 and embeds outreach as part of Archaeology Conditions in the planning system.

*With credit to Perth and Kinross Council, AMS Ltd, BAM Nuttall, GUARD Archaeology Ltd and Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.*

## KEY OUTCOMES/MESSAGES

- **this large infrastructure project has provided significant community benefits, including an exceptional programme of outreach activities, in accordance with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012**
- **the collaborative approach ensured that the entire team were more invested in the project**
- **careful planning, collaboration, coordination and professionalism led to the successful delivery of the excavations to the standards expected by CIfA**

# The Ripple Effect

**Leigh Chalmers, Heritage Inclusion Manager, and Pippa Treavett, Communications Manager, Wessex Archaeology**

Wessex Archaeology partnered with the Environment Agency and artist James Aldridge to deliver an innovative, two-year heritage wellbeing project, The Ripple Effect. Taking inspiration from and working alongside the Environment Agency's flood and environmental improvement project, the Salisbury River Park Scheme, the project enabled participants to gain unique insights into the ambitious flood prevention scheme and the impact of environmental change on this habitat.


*A chance for all to develop a deeper understanding of the Environment Agency's work at Hengistbury Head (All photos: Wessex Archaeology)*

Drawing on the interconnectivity of people and place, the project drivers were improving wellbeing and fostering behavioural changes through positive engagement with experts. Closely aligned with the key objectives of the scheme, our project encouraged public participation. This led to the participants – guardians of the river – developing connections with the landscape and each other and a deeper understanding of the Environment Agency's work. By exploring the themes of heritage, archaeology and ecology, participants gained a stronger sense of community and belonging through their shared experiences. A participant who had recently moved to the area said, 'I feel more part of the city. This feels like my home.'

*'It's felt like a real privilege to be included and involved. We've been given a personal insight into the work being undertaken and how this is going to benefit Salisbury for the next half century.'* – Participant


*A creative panel of the resulting Ripple Exhibition*

*A walk along the riverbank to discover how the scheme will improve resilience to flooding*

*'Blue' and 'green' therapy can improve mental health*

## PROJECT STRUCTURE

The Ripple Effect was designed with two core phases. Our project methodology and evaluation framework were formed around the New Economics Foundation's Five Steps to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning, Give.

In 2022 the group explored the theme of 'Telling the Story of Salisbury's relationship with the River Avon, through people, place and purpose.' In the second year, the theme was 'Becoming a good ancestor', which included sessions with The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. The process of walking, observing, recording and mapping in creative ways raised awareness of the environment, the participants' wellbeing and how they recorded their responses to what they were experiencing.

From observing fish 'rescues' and vole releases as part of the scheme's environmental management to holding Palaeolithic handaxes and discussing deep time with our geoarchaeologists, woven into the design of every experience was the theme of personal resilience and recovery, which directly mirrors that of the environment.

The themes also allowed participants and project staff to immerse themselves in the finer details of the scheme to understand how it will improve resilience to flooding in Salisbury. Access to and engaging with experts meant people heard first-hand from risk management authorities about the importance of the work and what direct action they can take to raise awareness within the community.

*'From the sessions, I have been informed of The River Park Scheme in a way I could never have imagined. Being taken to the source. Meeting those involved and having the scheme explained from the horse's mouth as it were.'* – Participant

## REAPING THE BENEFITS

Using archaeology and heritage to engage the group resulted in more understanding of the area's history, how the landscape has changed through time and how, over thousands of years, people have changed with the river. Sessions included walks through the scheme site, with geoarchaeologists discussing how the landscape has changed to 'river dipping' – identifying and drawing the species that help ecologists identify how healthy a river is. To embed their sense of place and responsibility participants were invited to share their experiences and memories of the River Avon and other rivers. Developing this personal connection to the project engendered a sense of improved wellbeing, in line with research that shows that engagement with 'blue' and 'green' therapy can improve mental health.

Throughout the project, we encouraged participants to document their experiences creatively, using art, photography, film and the written word to make sense of what they were learning and what they wanted to achieve. Art gives people the time and space they need to process their thoughts and consider their actions. This creative process enabled us to disseminate our learning to the wider community – the ripples of the project – where we were able to share the positive impacts of the scheme by reaching people that the project team would not otherwise have been able to engage with. The participants took it upon themselves to share what they know about the scheme online, as well as sharing their personal journeys with family and friends.

*'Making art helps Ripple Effect participants to explore their existing relationship with the River Avon and how that might change over time as the river itself changes. Sharing memories of previous experiences of the river has given us a chance to explore our emotional connection with it and how the life of the river is interwoven with our own lives through everyday experiences and key life events. As we continue as a group to record what we notice about the river's ecology, and we learn about the potential impact of climate breakdown on its communities of life, we start to imagine how our own lives will change as a result and the actions we might take to better take care of the river and each other.'*– James Aldridge, artist

Andy Wallis, Salisbury River Park Senior User, Environment Agency, explains *'A lot of the focus around this scheme is on the flood risk reduction it will provide, but it is about so much more than that. The Ripple Effect is showcasing all the other reasons to be doing the project, including ecology, heritage, amenity and art. It has been brilliant to see the group's interest in the Salisbury River Park Scheme develop and to be able to explain the reasons why we are doing the work. This had been a challenging period for us to engage fully with the local community, so it is especially rewarding to see the group sharing this knowledge as ambassadors for the scheme. This will bring much wider benefits and we will be definitely looking to do something similar on other projects.'*

When participating colleagues were asked for their feedback, one said *'The Ripple Effect made me think a lot more about how we can convey often complex information to a range of different audiences. I have to admit that I was partly sceptical at the outset, never having worked on a project such as this, but it completely changed my view. Archaeology can be used as a vehicle to engage people with environmental projects such as river restoration. I think we are great storytellers in archaeology and I can see this approach being applied to other environmental projects. It really made me think about the work I do in a new way and how I present it.'*

*Developing a relationship with the River Avon through art: cyanotype prints*

*Reaping the benefits of interactive learning: handling the real collection as part of a discussion about deep time*

*With credit to James Aldridge, artist and facilitator.*

## KEY OUTCOMES/MESSAGES

- **using archaeology and heritage has engaged people and resulted in more understanding of the area's history, fostering a sense of community and a feeling of responsibility towards the river**
- **more positive engagement with the experts has led to more understanding of the development work and its benefits**
- **developing a personal connection to the project has engendered a sense of improved wellbeing in the participants**