EDITORIAL

p8

p14

p24

p33

ARCHAEOLOGY AND LEGACY

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This feature about legacy and archaeology started as a conversation exploring value and archaeological archives. Archaeologists instinctively understand why archives are retained: excavation is destructive, and records should be made accessible. What we have struggled to fully realise is the extent to which an archive retained *in perpetuity* is a valuable asset to future archaeologists and to the wider public. Does the existence of an archive ensure project legacy and is therefore valuable? What does legacy really mean in relation to archaeology, and is that limited to the archive? The articles which make up this edition of *The Archaeologist* consider archaeology and legacy from different and contrasting perspectives.

Importantly, there is a recognition that legacy must be seen through a wider lens. Sadie Watson is leading a new UKRI-funded Future Leaders Fellowship to initiate greater understanding of the potential of archaeology. She argues that we must move beyond archives as the pinnacle of project legacy and maximise public benefit at all stages of the archaeological project.. Brendon Wilkins, co-founder and Projects Director of DigVentures is currently engaged in PhD research investigating archaeology in digital and collaborative economies. Brendon discusses how, by reinventing the archaeological process for the digital age, our work can generate public support and participation which will have a long-lasting legacy.

Focusing on the final project archive a key vehicle for long term legacy, three projects are discussed which aim to ensure that the data and material retained are fit for purpose. CIfA's Selection Toolkit, discussed by Sam Paul and Katie Green, has created an online resource to help archaeologists formulate and implement archaeological archive selection strategies. Alison James and Aisling Nash outline how plans for a new OASIS will herald an age of connectivity between all those involved in the project life cycle. Manda Forster introduces the next phase of the Dig Digital project, supporting the implementation of better management and accessibility of digital data.

Moving from archive to museum, our three final articles explore legacy from the perspective of the repository. Beth Asbury highlights the unpredictable ways that museum collections can be rediscovered and reinterpreted to continue to resonate with people today, adding value to lives of individuals in ways that we cannot imagine. Holly Wright presents a case study in how technological advances can create unexpected reuse opportunities within digital archives. Finally, an important and cautionary essay from Gail Boyle: the developing process around archive creation may have unintended consequences. Archives are slowly becoming dehumanised, with the archaeologists involved in excavations quietly disappearing from the archaeological record.