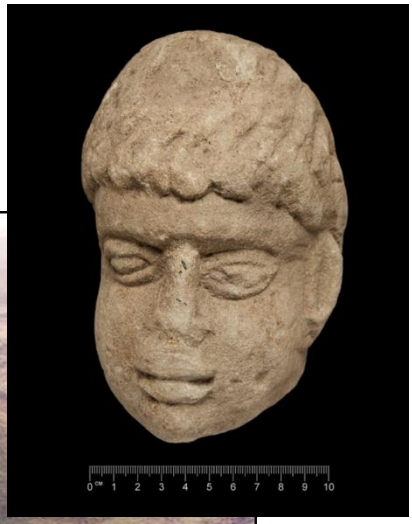
BELIEF IN THE NORTH-EAST

ACTIVITY PLAN



This document has been produced to accompany the Belief in the North-East Stage 2 funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, submitted in December2018.

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Part 1. General introduction

1.1 The purpose and philosophy of the Belief in the North-East project.

This project has been designed in consultation with local communities to engage local people with academic staff and students at the Department of Archaeology, Durham University, in the study of the fascinating heritage of religion throughout the north-east of England. It represents a genuine desire amongst staff at the University to share knowledge and expertise with local communities throughout north-east England.

Perhaps surprisingly, while numerous projects have studied particular aspects of the region's religious heritage over the years, and some places such as Lindisfarne and Durham Cathedral are of international renown, no project has previously attempted an overview of the topic, from prehistory to present. We know that aspects of this heritage are of great interest to numerous people throughout the region, and we expect hundreds of local people to play active roles in the project. The project is unique in that it will focus the resources of the Department of Archaeology at Durham University – an internationally renowned centre for archaeological research - and the efforts of hundreds of volunteers in jointly developing programmes of research, skills acquisition and interpretation at key sites. As outlined in section 2 of this document, high quality training and supervision, equivalent to that offered to undergraduate students, will be available to all project volunteers.

The ultimate mysteries of life have confused and inspired people from prehistoric times through to the present day, giving rise to a fascinating heritage that includes a wide range of sites and artefacts. From the mysterious rock-art of Neolithic times, through the rich epigraphic, sculptural and archaeological remains of Roman religions, to the internationally important heritage of the medieval church, north-east England shows evidence of a startling range of religions and belief systems. Even remains from the recent past, such as historic chapels and cemeteries attest to the vital importance of belief in local communities. The wide range of faiths that have been and continue to be followed in the north-east is testament to the cultural diversity that has been a hallmark of the north-east since the long before the advent of 'history' in the Roman period. By choosing the entire north-east region (as defined by HLF – Tees Valley authorities; County Durham; Tyne and Wear; Northumberland) as our area of study, we will be able to compare and contrast a range of sites from all periods, making the results of great interest to the region as a whole in addition to those particular areas in which fieldwork is concentrated.

The subject is of course extremely wide-ranging. HLF guidance states that Activity Plans should include a consideration of the current state of the heritage relevant to the project and of public engagement with it. However, the subject matter in this case is so wide-ranging, including a range of sites in different conditions and under different management regimes, that such an exercise would be huge in scale and of little value. The project will feature the archaeology of religion of all periods, for example through

presentations and workshops, but we have had to be selective in designing specific modules within which to structure fieldwork. Following consultation with prospective project volunteers, we have structured the project to focus on four particular elements of the region's religious heritage, as presented in Section 3 of this Activity Plan. The budget also provides for a fifth fieldwork module, but following discussion with HLF during the Development Phase, it has been decided to leave the subject matter of this as flexible for now, to be determined in consultation with volunteers once the Delivery Phase is underway. Including such a degree of flexibility in projects such as this is a positive thing; it may be that the resources held in reserve for this fifth module will be allocated to further work associated with one or more of modules 1 – 4, or to the study of something else. The decision will be taken in due course in consultation with project volunteers and HLF.

The project remains ambitious in scale, but by adopting a clear structure from the start we believe that it will prove to be popular, both amongst those playing an active role in it and the wider community that will be interested in the results. In addition to professional contributions funded through the project budget, there will be further contributions from staff and post-graduate students, many of whom have expressed a desire to help - these essential contributions will be provided at no cost to the project.

We have designed four main fieldwork modules to address topics that volunteers raised as of particular interest during the Development Phase. These are:

1. **Rock art landscapes.** This module will focus on the mysterious rock art (often called 'cup-and-ring marks') found in numerous places throughout the north-east. Though not accurately dated, this is thought to date mostly from the Neolithic (New Stone Age), from about 4,000 to 2,400BC. Our region contains many of the best examples of rock art to be found anywhere in Britain; nobody fully understands their meaning or purpose, but they offer clues to the belief systems of those who created them and offer an amazing resource for study by volunteers.
2. **Bronze Age burial mounds.** Hundreds of burial mounds from the early Bronze Age, mostly dating from the half-millennium between about 2,200 – 1700BC, are known throughout the north-east. Many have been excavated and finds from them can be found in several museums throughout the region and further afield. They display much variety in their form and in the nature of the burial rites associated with them. Collectively, they offer many clues to the religious beliefs of the people that built them and were buried within them, and they offer much potential for fascinating work by volunteers.
3. **Early medieval burial and the Northumbrian 'Golden Age'**. The centuries following the end of Roman rule witnessed a struggle between paganism and Christianity, eventually won by the latter, setting the scene for the 'Northumbrian Golden Age' of Oswald, Cuthbert and Bede. This module will concentrate on the investigation of an early medieval cemetery at Ford Westfield in north Northumberland, within the wider context of early medieval religion throughout the north-east.
4. **Medieval monastic landscapes.** It is hard to overestimate the massive influence of the Church during medieval times, following the Norman Conquest of 1066. This influence was not restricted to what we might describe today as 'religion', as the Church

owned vast swathes of land and exerted influence over all aspects of everyday life for many communities. Large tracts of the north-east were owned by the monasteries, in particular Durham but also several others. This fieldwork module will consider various aspects of these monastic landscapes, with fieldwork targeted principally at two sites closely related to the Durham monastery; the granges at Beaurepaire (Bear Park) in Durham, and Low Grange, Billingham, Stockton-on-Tees. Some work may also take place at other monastic sites, such as Newminster Abbey, Morpeth, which held extensive lands extending up to the Scottish border.

In addition to the main fieldwork modules, the project includes a programme of survey modules, designed in consultation with volunteers (see Section 4), and a wide-ranging events programme including some events specifically for project volunteers and others for a wider audience (see Section 5). It is intended that the project will have a strong and wide-ranging legacy of benefit to individuals and communities in the long term; this is considered in Section 6.

At the very heart of this project is the idea of co-production; staff at the University have consulted with local communities to design the project and identify those areas of the heritage of belief that mean the most to them. In addition to meeting the aspirations of local people, the project has been designed to address a number of priorities identified within the current version of the North-East England Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF), which highlights particular aspects of the heritage that currently demand more work to improve our understanding of them. NERRF is currently undergoing a major revision process that will be completed by the proposed commencement of this project's Delivery Phase. The main project aims, while remaining essentially as set out in this document, could be tilted towards addressing the most urgent and up-to-date research questions as defined in the new version of NERRF, which has itself included considerable input from local community groups. As originally planned, the project was intended to address management issues at a number of Heritage at Risk (HaR) sites, but detailed discussions with Historic England concluded there was little of value that the project could usefully do in this field. However, the project will undertake some survey work at HaR sites, the results of which will be of value to future management, and in some cases it may be possible for project volunteers to undertake some conservation work (such as removal of scrub from overgrown burial mounds as part of fieldwork module 2, and management work at Bear Park within fieldwork module 4). This will be further discussed with Historic England in the light of the results of project survey work.

Underlying all of the above is the simple notion that serious and important archaeological work designed to address matters of real academic import can be carried out effectively by local people working alongside Durham University. It is fundamental to the success of the project that participation is open to all (including some groups that are usually excluded from such initiatives), and that taking part will be good fun for everyone!

1.2 Durham University and community archaeology

The Department of Archaeology and *Archaeological Services* at Durham University have worked with local people to deliver several high-quality archaeological projects over recent years. This work illustrates a genuine desire to build effective links between local communities and professional archaeologists and create opportunities for people to get involved and receive training in practical archaeology. Most of these projects have been delivered in partnership with other organisations. They have included archaeological excavations and geophysical surveys in County Durham, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Cumbria and North Yorkshire. The *Belief in the North-East* project differs from most of these projects in that it has been conceived and planned within the Department of Archaeology, using the experience gained from numerous other projects such as those listed below, to give volunteers a high-quality learning experience while also undertaking research work of direct interest to them. Some of the recent projects we have conducted include:

Binchester Roman Fort: This was a nine-year project that brought staff and students from Durham University together with Durham County Council, Auckland Castle Trust, Stanford University (California, US), Texas Tech University (Texas, US), the Archaeological and Architectural Society of Durham and Northumberland along with hundreds of community volunteers to explore and excavate the outstandingly preserved remains of the Roman fort, civilian settlement and cemetery at Binchester. This was supported by funding from Durham University, Durham County Council, the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Roman Research Trust and British Archaeological Association. It has been widely recognised as a case study in best practice in community archaeology both regionally and nationally

Auckland Castle: Since 2017 Durham University has been working with Auckland Castle Trust on a new campaign of excavation on the remains of the former palace of the Bishops of Durham bringing students and community volunteers to uncover internationally important archaeological remains

Great Chilton survey and excavation: As part of the HLF-funded *Limestone Landscapes* landscape partnership and with funding support from the 4 Together Area Action Partnership, Archaeological Services, Durham University and local volunteers excavated a roundhouse and some enclosure ditches of an Iron Age settlement at Great Chilton (Co.Durham). Over two seasons of digs local people and schoolchildren became involved and there were presentations of the finds with the local History Society and also in school assemblies.

Long Meg stone circle: As part of the HLF-funded *Altogether Archaeology* project, staff from Archaeological Services Durham University supervised community archaeological work at the site of the famous prehistoric stone circle at Long Meg (Little Salkeld, Cumbria). This included carrying out geophysical and topographical survey followed by a programme of small-scale excavation.

St Botolph's Chapel, Frosterley**:** As part of the HLF-funded *Altogether Archaeology* project, staff from Archaeological Services Durham University worked with local community volunteers to unpick the archaeology of the enigmatic site of the medieval chapel of St Botolph in Upper Weardale. Fieldwork over two seasons identified an unsuspected Anglo-

Saxon phase of use, including the remains of an early stone cross and an unusual deviant burial of 10th century date.

Westgate Castle: Also part of the *Altogether Archaeology* the university ran excavations on the site of the Bishop of Durhams' hunting lodge at Westgate in Upper Weardale. Probably once used as the estate centre of the neighbouring episcopal hunting reserve, this work revealed substantial stone remains including part of a spiral stone staircase.

1.3 The Project Development Phase

In comparison with other HLF projects with comparable budgets, this project's Development Phase was on a relatively small scale. It consisted essentially of working the initial proposal up into a well-structured and realistically costed project, including consultation with potential volunteers and numerous potential partners. Given the combined experience of those involved in developing and delivering this project, it was agreed, inc consultation with HLF, that there was no need for a 'trial project' to develop and refine project methodology. Consequently, no actual volunteer training or fieldwork was included within the Development Phase. The Development Phase was completed over 18 months. Most work was undertaken directly by the Project Manager (David Petts) and Project Consultant (Paul Frodsham). This work included:

1. Publicity/recruitment, including the production of a basic website (to be greatly enhanced when the Delivery Phase is underway), production and circulation of a flier publicising the project, promotion of the project at numerous public events. Already, about 200 volunteers have registered to participate in the project; we anticipate this number to increase substantially once the Delivery Phase is underway.

2. Development of a volunteer database to hold data of all potential volunteers who have registered during the Development Phase, to be enhanced to function as the main volunteer database for the Delivery Phase.

3. Delivery of an initial dayschool for potential volunteers about the history of religion in the north-east, including presentations by several members of the Department of Archaeology who are experts in this field. This was designed to be an exciting event in its own right, while also providing a platform on which to build plans for project fieldwork. The event attracted approximately 100 potential volunteers, all of whom completed a questionnaire outlining things they would like to see included in the project – the results of which are built into this Activity Plan.

4. Discussion with potential partners including heritage agencies, local authorities, schools/colleges and local societies, and integrating with existing community archaeology projects to avoid overlaps and maximise collaboration, thus ensuring that the project maximises outcomes for all concerned.

5. Discussion with numerous colleagues within the Department of Archaeology, all of whom are keen to participate in the project, in particular to work with volunteers to help deliver fieldwork modules and events. The opportunity for volunteers to interact directly with academic staff and post-graduate students is a unique strength of this project; staff and students will make key contributions to all elements of the project. However, during the

Development Phase it was clarified with HLF that contributions by existing members of staff cannot be included within the project budget as 'in-kind' contributions. It would in any case be difficult to quantify these contributions in financial terms. Consequently, no mention of the involvement of staff and students occurs within the budget, although the involvement of these individuals will be absolutely fundamental to the success of the project.

6. A meeting was held with relevant officers of Historic England to assess the extent to which the project could help address management issues relating to sites on the Heritage at Risk (HAR) Register. It was agreed that this was not a main aim of the project; although survey work will be completed at a number of HAR sites that could help with their future management, the key project modules would be delivered without conservation work at HAR sites as a primary objective. It may be possible for project volunteers to help with management issues at some sites, such as the clearance of vegetation from overgrown sites, but this is not a key project aim. The potential for such work will be further discussed with Historic England staff once the Delivery Phase is underway.

7. We have given careful thought to the effective and meaningful integration of young people into the project. This is not an easy task. Where fieldwork is planned at particular sites (eg as parts of fieldwork modules 3 and 4), local schools have been contacted and invited to participate. For other work, where sites for detailed fieldwork have yet to be determined, schools will be contacted once decisions have been made regarding which sites to concentrate work upon, following on from initial survey work. There will of course only be opportunities to involve a small number of schools directly in the project. Consequently we have decided to produce an online education pack which will be available to all schools throughout the North-East; this will be trialled during the project with small number of schools and made universally available online upon completion of the project. It will feature key regional sites and will also explain to teachers how to find out about more local sites and integrate these into specific packages for their particular schools. We have also discussed the project with Young Archaeologist Clubs in north Northumberland and Durham, both of which will play an active role in the project.

8. We are particularly keen to involve visually impaired people, and other disabled people, in the project, as they are often inadvertently excluded from heritage projects. We know from previous work that blind people can gain immense pleasure from opportunities to participate in archaeological projects, in particular to handle tactile objects. During the project Development Phase, we have discussed these possibilities with staff at the Northumberland County Blind Association (NCBA). Further information is provided in Section 2.2 of this document.

9. We have held discussions with staff at the Faith Museum being developed by the Auckland Trust at Bishop Auckland. The curators of the Faith Museum have expressed requested discussions as to how the two projects can work collaboratively once the Delivery Phase is underway; such discussions will be held early in Delivery Phase. The proposed traveling exhibition to be produced by this project can be displayed at the Faith Museum once it is open, and some project events including public lectures can be based there. Depending on results, it may also be possible to display finds from project fieldwork at the

Faith Museum. Given the overlap in subject matter between the two, there may well be other things that the Faith Museum and this project can deliver in partnership.

10. We have up the Project Advisory Group and held two meetings. The next meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible after the commencement of the Delivery Phase.

11. Development of the outline project designs for main fieldwork modules included within Section 3 of this Activity Plan. (These are in outline only at this stage and will require refinement once the delivery phase is underway). We have also added in the survey modules in Section 4, the idea of which arose during consultation with volunteers. These will enable volunteers to engage with a variety of sites throughout the region, while also producing overviews of the nature and condition of these sites for the first time. They should prove to be a very effective way of gathering data about sites throughout the region, of use for research and management purposes.

12. Identifying and working with landowners to secure site access. Outline consent has been obtained from a number of key landowners, most of whom have expressed interest in and support for the project on their land. Landowners consulted over fieldwork modules 1 and 2 include the Duke of Northumberland, the Barningham Estate, and Lambton Estates. The owners for the sites proposed as main fieldwork locations in for fieldwork modules 3 and 4 have also given outline consent. All such landowner consents are subject to detailed discussion over fieldwork methodology and timing, as it was not thought sensible to engage in such detailed discussion at this stage as this could potentially risk wasting everyone's time if funding is not forthcoming. If the funding is secured, then we expect to firm up all such landowner consents in advance of receiving permission to start. Past experience and preliminary discussions lead us to believe that finalizing landowner consent will pose no great problems; indeed, as noted above, several landowners are keen for us to undertake proposed work on their land.

13. Plans for project fieldwork have been developed to minimise the need for legal consents, such as Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC), during Year 1. Where such consent is required for work in Year 1, we expect to secure it in advance of receiving permission to start with the Delivery Phase.

14. Designing an events programme linked to proposed fieldwork, for the benefit of participating volunteers and the wider public. Ideas for this are presented in Section 5 of this document. At this stage the proposals are flexible, and will be firmed up in consultation with volunteers once the project is underway. This is an essential part of the project, designed to engage with a wider audience in addition to those actively engaged as project volunteers.

15. We have given much thought to the project legacy, as outlined in Section 6 of this document. It is important that project leaves a strong long-term legacy, especially in relation to people and communities, so that those who have engaged with the project can continue to work actively in the field. We are particularly committed to the production of an education pack, as outlined above, which could turn out to be a key output in the long term,

with the potential to encourage thousands of children to engage with our region's religious heritage.

16. Production of this Activity Plan, designed to provide participating volunteers with an exciting and rewarding experience while also meeting priorities set out within the North East Regional Research Framework.

17. Throughout the Development Phase we have been mindful of the need for the project to deliver substantial and widespread benefits for the heritage, for people, and for communities. These are not presented within a dedicated section of this Activity Plan, but underlie all proposed project work. They are set out within the relevant section of the HLF application form, and also presented in outline within the Action Plan that forms part of the application package.

1.4 Project structure and project management

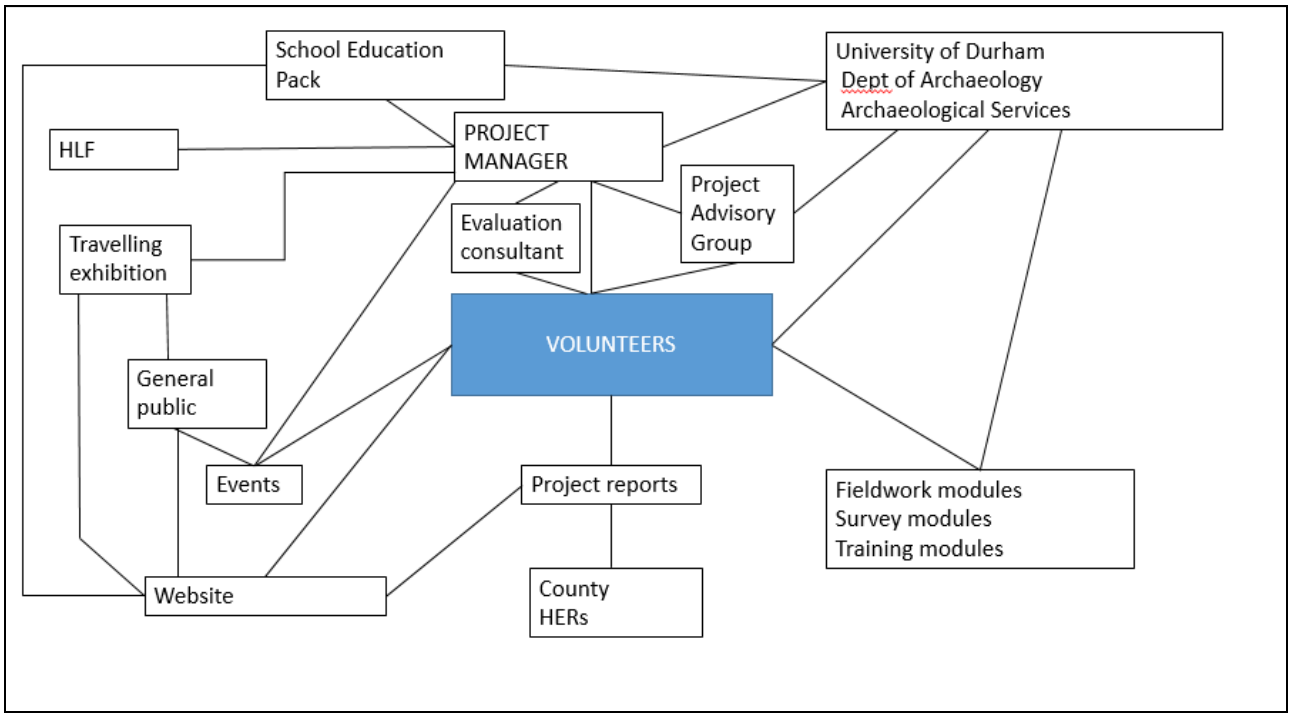
Dr David Petts will act as Project Manager, at no cost to the project. He has much experience in the delivery of community projects, having managed recent projects at Binchester Roman Fort and Lindisfarne. In 2007 he was appointed to the post of Lecturer in North East Archaeology and Director of Research for ASDU. He developed a programme of co-productive, participatory research in the region that united academic, commercial and public interests to enable local communities to reconnect with their regional history. In recognition of his work in this area, Dr Petts was awarded a Beacon North-East Fellowship Award for community engagement in 2012. In 2011 he was chosen as a winner of the BBC Radio 3 and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) inaugural New Generation Thinkers Scheme.

In order to deliver the Belief in the North East project, Dr Petts will be supported by an appropriately qualified and experienced community archaeology consultant. A Brief for the consultant contract is included in this document as Appendix 1. The reason for appointing a consultant rather than a member of staff is largely due to the flexible nature of the role; there will be some periods during which little is required of the consultant and others when continuous full-time work will be necessary over a couple of weeks or more. Also, by appointing a consultant we can be sure of getting someone of the highest calibre, with a demonstrated track record in the design and delivery of high-quality community archaeology projects. In terms of cost, once pension and add-on costs are included, appointing a member of staff would be no cheaper than a consultant.

Fieldwork will be managed by Peter Carne, manager of Archaeological Services Durham University (ASDU). ASDU is a commercial enterprise specialising in delivery of a range of field archaeological services within and beyond the north-east of England. Although primarily servicing the building and development sector, it also has an established track record in working alongside and supporting community archaeological initiatives, including projects funded by the HLF (see Section 1.2, above). There will also be contributions to individual field projects by university research staff and post-graduate students, with the most appropriate individuals appointed to act as academic directors for each particular piece of fieldwork (at no cost to the project). Academic staff who will be involved in some capacity include Dr Sarah Semple, Dr Ben Roberts, Dr Pam Graves, Professor Chris Scarre, as

well as a wide range of Post-Doctoral Research Fellows, PhD researchers and students of all levels. The Department runs highly respected Masters courses in Museum Studies and Global Heritage which require placement for students – this proposed project has capacity to bring in and engage with these students who will be able to provide specialist support in outreach and interpretation. Training sessions will be delivered by staff from the Department of Archaeology and Archaeological Services supported by post-graduate students. In addition, specialists may be brought in from elsewhere to help with some sessions.

Work will be overseen by the Project Advisory Group, set up during the Development Phase. This includes representatives from key regional heritage bodies and volunteer groups, together with academic staff and the Project Manager. Up to six project volunteers will also be appointed to the Advisory Group and will thus attend quarterly project management meetings and play an active role in decision making. In addition, volunteers will be offered the chance to play key roles in the management of individual fieldwork and survey modules, working alongside the Project Manager and Project Consultant.



Outline plan of project structure

1.5 Monitoring, measures of success, and evaluation

1.5.1 Project evaluation

Evaluation is a key part of any project – it reflects the need to ensure the project delivers on its targets and is value for money for its funders. Successful evaluation depends on a clear understanding of what is being measured, effective establishment of baseline data and a clear strategy for the on-going collection of data throughout the life of the project. The evaluation strategy for *Belief in the North-East* is based on the principles provided by the *Heritage Lottery Fund* in its guide to good practice in evaluation (August 2017). In addition to the evaluation data collected for the HLF, the project will also need to collect similar data to meet the internal 'impact' demands of Durham University. However, both these drivers have similar aims and the evaluation strategy will be been designed to capture data that will be of use to both HLF and Durham University.

Currently, the project aims to make effect change in three broad areas (i) the heritage itself (ii) volunteers (iii) the wider community. Given the different demands and evidential bases available for each area, a broad mixed-methods approach will be taken to the evaluation process, including qualitative and quantitative research acquiring data throughout the project

The evaluation plan as outlined here addresses each of the *Project Activities* mapped against the desired *project outcomes* (as listed in the initial project application for the delivery stage of the project). For each outcome, the output (activities; participation) of each stage is laid out and the short- medium- and long-term impacts highlighted. This will form a baseline against which we can show **what** will be measured, **how** it will be measured and **when** it will be measured.

1.5.2 Delivery of the evaluation

Leadership on the evaluation process will be contracted out to an experienced evaluation consultant, who will work with the project team to further tailor the evaluation strategy and work with the team and volunteers on data collection and the subsequent synthesis. Based on the HLF Evaluation guidance of an evaluation budget of 3-7% of the total project cost, we are costing the consultancy element of the wider project at £11k. An outline Brief for the consultant role is has been drafted (see Appendix 1) and the consultant will be appointed during Year 1 of the project , in accordance with the appropriate HLF and Durham University procurement guidelines.

1.5.3 Evaluation procedure: 'what difference will the project make for the heritage, for people, and for communities?'

The following examples illustrate potential ways in which the project could be evaluated. Decisions as to how exactly how the evaluation procedure will work will be discussed with the evaluation consultant and agreed with HLF during Year 1 of the project.

Activity	***Outcomes***	***Impact***	***Evaluation techniques***
Fieldwork modules	Heritage will be better managed	Improved understanding of the extent of site Condition survey created for all sites	**Condition surveys** **Stakeholder interviews with landowners/tenants/ local community**
	Heritage will be in better condition	Removal of undergrowth Repair and improvement of infrastructure (gates, paths, fences) where appropriate	**Condition survey**
	Heritage will be better interpreted and explained	Presence of on-site interpretation (during and after fieldwork) Creation of exhibition content On-line interpretation	**Visitor survey** **Website metrics; website survey**
	Negative environmental impacts will be reduced	Removal of undergrowth Reduction in vandalism/litter	**Condition survey** **Stakeholder interviews with landowners/tenants/ local community**
	More people and a wider range of	Engagement with volunteers,	**Volunteer self-survey**

	people will have engaged with heritage	community and schools	**Google Analytics data from website; websurvey** **Basic event metrics** **Social media metrics** **Website metrics; website survey**
	Local areas/communities will be better places to live/work	Engagement with volunteers Improved site condition	**Volunteer self-survey** **Stakeholder interviews with landowners/tenants/ local community**
	People will have volunteered time	Volunteer engagement	**Volunteer self-survey** **Basic event metrics**
Survey modules	Heritage will be identified and recorded	Historic Environment Record enhancement	**Baseline survey of number of recorded sites at the beginning of the project – quantitative record of new HER records and records enhanced**
	Heritage will be better managed	Creation of condition reports for all sites	**Condition surveys** **Stakeholder interviews with landowners/tenants/ local community**
	More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage	Volunteer engagement	**Volunteer self-survey** **Website metrics; website survey** **Social media metrics**
	People will have volunteered time	Volunteer engagement	**Volunteer self-survey**

			Basic event metrics
Training workshops	People will have developed skills	Volunteer engagement	**Volunteer self-survey** **Community focus group**
	People will have learnt about heritage	Volunteer engagement Exhibition creation	**Volunteer self-survey** **Community focus group**
	People will have changed their attitudes and behaviour	Volunteer engagement	**Volunteer self-survey** **Community focus group**
	People will have had an enjoyable experience	Volunteer engagement	**Volunteer self-survey** **Community focus group**
	People will have volunteered time	Volunteer engagement	**Volunteer self-survey** **Basic event metrics**
	More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage	Volunteer engagement	**Volunteer self-survey** **Community focus group** **Social media metrics** **Website metrics; website survey**
	Organisation will be more resilient	Increased autonomy by local groups – establishment of new heritage groups	**Community focus group**

Dayschools/lectures	More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage	Volunteer engagement	**Stakeholder interviews** **Community focus group** **Volunteer self-survey** **Basic event metrics** **Social media metrics**
Exhibition	More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage	Exhibition visits Volunteer engagement	**Visitor self-survey** **Record of visitor numbers where possible** **Social media metrics**

1.5.4 Discussion of techniques

Basic event metrics
Project organisers will keep a basic record for each event of (i) number of participants (ii) hours volunteered).

Community focus group
Community focus groups will be used for more in depth analysis of the project goals. Efforts will go to ensure a fair representation of the range and background of those involved. Where it is not possible to engage directly with a group in the forum of a focus group (e.g. school children) an appropriate representative (e.g. teacher) will be recruited if possible. An effort will be made to recruit from those who have volunteered and participated in a range of different events and activities.

Condition Survey
For each site being studied an initial condition survey will be carried out. This will record the current state of the site and its fabric, record evidence for current site use, identify evidence for problematic behaviour (litter, human/animal erosion, anti-social behaviour). This will be supported by photographs and plans. This will provide a baseline dataset to allow us to track future developments at the site. Although long-term monitoring cannot be part of this project, we will give some thought as to how some sites could be monitored in the long term, and provide recommendations where appropriate; it may be possible for some sites

to be ‘adopted’ by groups of volunteers who will inspect them on a regular basis following closure of the project.

Social media metrics: Base metrics for Facebook posts (likes/shares) and Twitter post (likes/retweets)

HER enhancement
Historic Environment Records are public databases of heritage assets and archaeological knowledge managed by most local authorities. They provide the nearest effective equivalent to a baseline dataset for known historical and archaeological sites within the region. For the survey modules baseline data will be accessed at the commencement of the work package identifying the number of known sites and identifying the current extent of knowledge. Contribution to knowledge will be evaluated quantitatively by recording the number of additional sites identified beyond the baseline data. The HERs will also be qualitatively enhanced by provision of supplementary data for existing entries. In the **short-term** the impact will be measured on the basis of the number of new entries identified and number of entries for which new data is supplied. It may take time for this data to be entered formally into the databases, so effective translation of the provided data into the open-access database will provide a measure of **medium-** and **long-** term success. Where appropriate, as part of the project legacy, the potential of encouraging volunteers to assist with data entry will be explored.

Self Survey
Volunteers and general public (where relevant) will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire. Basic information solicited will include age, gender, ethnicity, location (post-code), educational background. Depending on the event being evaluated, questions will be asked about pre-existing knowledge of the site, technique or topic (to establish baseline data) and then asked to assess how much their knowledge and understanding as improved as a result of participation of the event. There will also be the opportunity for free text comments.

After each event survey, a headline report will be completed, comprising basic metrics on number and background of volunteers, evidence of impact on knowledge and understanding and a synthesis of free-text comments. It will also include information on sample size and identify any areas of weakness or limitations in data collection. We will aspire to a response rate from each event of at least 50%. It will highlight areas of success and identify areas of weakness and where appropriate identify potential for change and development in the delivery in future delivery of similar initiatives.

Web site metrics: Google Analytics will be used to track number of unique visitors, pages viewed, geographic location of visitor etc

Web site survey: Pop-ups surveys will be used to selectively to solicit more detailed data on web use. These simple surveys will be aimed at eliciting similar information to that derived from the general self-survey forms to allow comparison.

1.5.5 Data Use

Highlight reports from each individual data collection stage will be circulated amongst the project team to allow the feedback to mould and shape the future delivery of specific activities. The Evaluation consultant will also prepare a mid-term report at the end of Year 1 which will be circulated to the Steering Group highlighting successes and best-practice, identifying areas for improvement and development and also reviewing the effectiveness of the evaluation process itself, allowing modifications to be made if necessary during year 2.

All personal data will be anonymised and handled according to the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation – the project manager has received training in this and will work closely with the Consultant to ensure that all public data is handled appropriately.

1.6 Health and Safety

All project work will be undertaken in strict accordance with health and safety law and *Archaeological Services Durham University* (ASDU) health and safety policy (copies of which are available on request). ASDU have managed numerous archaeological projects over the past 25 years, including many that involved large numbers of volunteers. This experience will be invaluable to the delivery of the BitNE project. All project work will be subject to a generic BitNE fieldwork risk assessment, in addition to which specific risk assessments will be produced, highlighting any issues deemed particularly relevant, for each element of fieldwork. All volunteers will be required to study these documents prior to taking part in any project fieldwork.

Part 2 Volunteer strategy and training opportunities

2.1 Introduction

The Belief in the North-East project has been designed in collaboration with local communities to provide meaningful opportunities for local volunteers to make important new discoveries while gaining skills and experience through working alongside professional archaeologists. It is important that participating volunteers feel ownership of the project from the start, able to influence project planning as well as participating in project work. Providing an effective link between academics working in the Department of Archaeology and local volunteers, of mutual benefit to both, is a key aim of the project.

Although this project is not sufficiently well-resourced to have a dedicated volunteer co-ordinator, it has been designed to maximise volunteer involvement. To this end it is envisaged that half-a-dozen volunteers will be appointed to the Advisory Team (which will meet quarterly throughout the life of the project) and thus contribute to management decisions and ensure that these are made in the best interests of volunteers. Each of the five main fieldwork modules will also have a small management group, consisting of the Project Manager and/or Project Consultant and a small number of volunteers who will contribute to the effective planning and delivery of fieldwork relating to that particular module.

The project will undertake important and exciting work, is open to everyone regardless of past experience, and should prove rewarding to all participants. Volunteers should find participation in the project to be a genuinely life-enhancing experience, as well as great fun!

The project will:

- offer a variety of innovative volunteering opportunities to enthuse, engage and enable local people to better understand and celebrate aspects of the archaeology of religion throughout the north-east.

- recognise the value of engaging local communities throughout the north-east with the study of their religious heritage, helping to foster community pride and a sense of ownership of this heritage.

- seek to help representatives of local groups gain new skills and experience, so that these become available to groups that may wish to design and deliver their own heritage projects in future.

- build effective sustainable relationships between the Department of Archaeology at Durham University and local communities throughout the north-east.

2.2 Volunteer Recruitment

Effective recruitment of volunteers is key to the effective functioning of this project (as recognised in the Risk Log). In terms of recruitment we have two overriding aims. First, building and enhancing the existing cadre of amateur archaeologists and heritage researchers that has been developed in the region under the aegis of earlier heritage projects (e.g. Altogether Archaeology; Binchester Research Project). Second, reaching out to new communities and demographics that have hitherto not engaged with this form of heritage research project.

Group 1: Existing Volunteers
A key element of the development stage of the project has been reaching out to existing individuals and groups who already have an interest in exploring the past. This has been done by directly approaching groups with whom we already have a working relationship (Altogether Archaeology; Archaeological and Architectural Society of Durham and Northumberland; CBA North), as well as wider engagement via social media (Twitter; Facebook; project website). A key part of this process was holding a highly successful initiation event consisting of a dayschool held in Durham in October 2017. This brought over 150 attendees with members of the research community from the Department of Archaeology from Durham University to hear about current thoughts about the archaeology of religion in the north-east.

We are aware that there is already a thriving amateur archaeology scene in the north-east potentially providing some competition for volunteer engagement, so in the unlikely event that we are unable to recruit enough volunteers, we will aim to reach out volunteers beyond the immediate boundaries of the north-east region; particularly North Yorkshire and the Scottish Borders. We also plan to reach out to those with a wider interest in the past, particularly local history groups, but who may not have specifically considered involvement in archaeological activities. The focus on digital techniques has wider application beyond traditional archaeology, so this is a USP we can use profitably to engage in further outreach.

Group 2: New groups
A fundamental aim of the project is to reach out to those who may not have traditionally been involved in community archaeology. Within this wider constituency we have identified three particular sub-groups. During the Development Phase we have made some progress contacting people form these groups, all of whom have expressed a wish to be involved

Schools and Young People.
Archaeological skills and approaches are increasingly visible in all aspects of the curriculum, although often embedded in other topics, particularly history and geography. We have reached out to particular schools to which we already have local links (e.g. Durham Johnson School); we are also engaging with schools in the immediate vicinity to our selected case study sites in order to identify site/project specific ways in which they may be able to get involved in our research. We anticipate making particular groups, such as those carrying out

Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme activities and local scout/guide groups as well as Young Archaeologist Clubs to reach out to interested young people outside of the traditional classroom setting. We have discussed the project with two Young Archaeologist Clubs, one in the north of the region and one in the south, both of which wish to be involved, and we will contact further groups and schools once the Delivery Phase is underway. In addition to the direct involvement of some children, the project will produce an education pack that will continue to be of value to schools and youth groups following completion of the project (see Section 6).

Community groups.
There are many local community groups with no specific interest in archaeology, but a keen engagement in their local area; these include residents groups, parish councils and development trusts. We will engage with representatives from groups in the vicinity of our case study sites in particular in order to develop plans that might engage them to get involved in site specific initiatives, as well as encouraging them to get more involved in the wider project.

Disabled groups.
Although there are limits to what we can do in this field with the resources available to the project, we are keen to engage with groups that are often excluded from heritage projects due to disabilities. We are particularly keen to offer opportunities for involvement to blind and partially sighted people. We know from previous work that blind people can gain immense pleasure from opportunities to participate in archaeological projects, in particular to handle tactile objects. In this project, prehistoric rock art and early medieval sculpture offer particular opportunities to engage with people suffering from sight loss. During the project Development Phase, we have discussed these possibilities with staff at the Northumberland County Blind Association (NCBA). Although details will not be worked out until the Development Phase is underway, we have committed to arranging events to enable blind people to examine and discuss a selection of sites and artifacts with University experts. We will also extend this possibility to members of other blind associations throughout the North-East region. While participation in these events may satisfy many members of such groups, it is possible that some individuals may wish to play a more active role in project fieldwork – working with experts at the NCBA and equivalent groups, we will do all we can to facilitate this. We will make contact with other groups once the Delivery Phase is underway and, wherever possible, we will provide opportunities for people to get involved.

2.3 Volunteer Training

At the very core of this project is the provision of heritage and archaeology research skills to volunteers, both to equip them with the skills necessary and appropriate for working on the fieldwork and survey aspects of *Belief in the North-East,* and to enable them to help develop and lever further projects in future. The range of training opportunities is based on feedback from those interested in the project gathered during our dayschool, direct feedback via volunteers contacting our website and informal conversations with potential volunteers. The overall tone of the feedback was that the greatest interest was in acquiring more advanced, technical skills, particularly those dealing with digital technology. However, it was clear that there was also a wider interest in 'revision' sessions for basic skills. It is also anticipated that new volunteers attracted to the project without existing experience in archaeology may require some basic skills training.

The training will be delivered by staff and post-graduate (doctoral) research students from the Department of Archaeology, Durham University, and professional staff from Archaeological Services, Durham University; where particular skills gaps are identified additional support may be bought in. Sessions will be delivered in a range of locations across the region, including Durham University, Queen's College (Stockton), and locations in Northumberland. In some cases, due to the need for access to technical or IT equipment, it may only be possible to deliver a course at Durham. In addition to specially arranged training workshops, some of which will be in the field, practical training and guidance is also an essential element of all fieldwork modules.

The range of courses outlined below are the minimum that will be provided; where additional training needs are identified in the course of the project every effort will be made to provide these sessions. Additional learning material for each course will be provided on the project website – this will include briefing sheets, links to external supporting material and best practice and where appropriate short training videos.

Archaeological Skills Passports (http://www.archaeologyskills.co.uk/) will be offered to all participants. These will allow volunteers to formally sign off on skills acquisition over the course of the project. Designated staff will be permitted to sign off these skills. The number, type and level of skills signed off by project staff will be recorded to provide a metric allowing the overall heritage skills enhancement provided for the volunteers to be measured and monitored.

2.3.1 Basic heritage skills

Archaeological excavation

Excavation is one of the key skills required for archaeology. The Department of Archaeology, and Archaeological Services Durham University have extensive experience of training volunteers in excavation skills, through initiatives such as the Binchester Research Project and working with external bodies such as the Auckland Castle Trust. This practical, field-based training will be provided through on-site training to volunteers participating in our fieldwork packages and delivered by staff of Archaeological Services Durham University. Key skills to be acquired will include basic excavation (tool use; health and safety; context identification and recording), finds recording and processing, basic surveying (use of site grids and 'dumpy' levels), sample taking and recording. Skills will be signed off, if requested by volunteers, on their individual Archaeological Skills Passports.

Photographing finds

There is more to photographing archaeological finds that taking a quick snap with a mobile phone. This course will provide participants with the opportunity to learn how to take good quality photographic images of archaeological objects. This will include gaining an understanding of lighting objects, composing images, use of cameras and image processing. Volunteers will particularly focus on photographing material recovered during the fieldwork packages but may also gain experience on objects recovered from other Durham University projects including Binchester Roman Fort and Auckland Castle. Training will be provided the Department of Archaeology (Durham University) photographic technician. Skills will be signed off on through use of Archaeological Skills Passports.

Drawing finds

Despite the regular use of photography to record finds, traditional drawing techniques are still important for bringing out fine detail and reconstructing fragmented or damaged objects. This course will allow volunteers to learn how to draw archaeological artefacts and will include learning how to select correct materials, shading and 3D representation, drawing conventions, scaling and drawing for publications. Training will be provided by Dr Cathie Draycott (Department of Archaeology, Durham University). Skills will be signed off on through use of Archaeological Skills Passports.

Introduction to geophysical survey

Use of geophysical techniques (magnetometry; resisitivity; Ground Penetrating Radar) are key skills for field archaeology. This course will provide volunteers with practical experience in carrying out geophysical surveys, as well as opportunities to learn how to process geophysical data and the key knowledge needed to interpret the data collected in surveys. The practical element of the training will be linked to the fieldwork packages, the training in processing will be held in the Department of Archaeology (Durham University) to allow access to the necessary software, and training in interpreting geophysical data will be held in venues outside Durham. Training will be provided by Dr Kayt Armstrong (Durham University) and staff from Archaeological Services Durham University.

Basic field survey
The recording of earthworks and upstanding remains is as important as excavating buried remains. This course will explore how to carry out these kind of records using a range of techniques from traditional analogue approaches (use of 'dumpy' levels, plane tables and tapes) to the use of more sophisticated techniques, such as use of Global Positioning Systems and digital survey equipment. Practical teaching in the field will be carried out as part of our fieldwork packages, and where necessary additional training will be provided in Durham and other venues). Training will be provided by Dr Kayt Armstrong (Durham University) and staff from Archaeological Services Durham University.

Using archives
Most archaeological research project requires the researcher to engage with documentary, cartographic and pictorial resources to supplement the archaeological data. Whilst much material is published, there is still much of interest that lurks in local archives and record offices. It is not always easy to understand how to use such archives, so this course aims to demystify archive work and introduce the volunteers to the range of resources available to the public. They will be shown how to identify and track down relevant material and how to use a range of analogues and digital finding aids. Training will involve a general introduction to archives and also a special session on using historic maps. Sessions will take place in Palace Green Archive, Durham University – training will be provided by Dr Ronan O'Donnell (Durham University) and the staff of Palace Green Library.

An introduction to resources for local archaeology
Much local archaeological research takes the form of studying the development and growth of historic landscapes. This course will provide an overview of the increasing range of easily accessible published and digital resources open to the amateur archaeologist, including on-line Historic Environment Records, digital mapping, and aerial photographic resources. Aimed at the beginner it will equip those attending with an introductory toolkit for exploring the archaeology and history of their local landscape. Sessions will take place in venues across the region. Training will be provided by Dr David Petts (Durham University).

2.3.2 Digital heritage skills

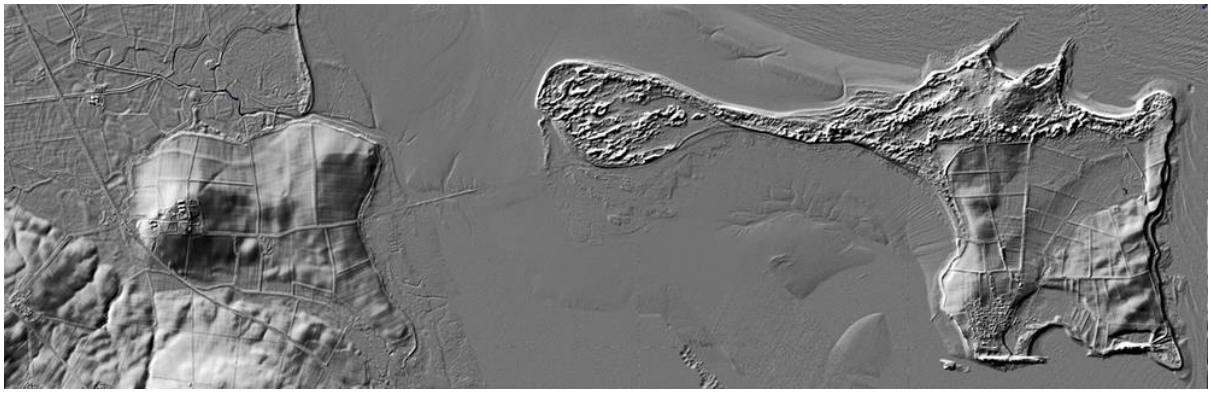
Introduction to QGIS
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are a computer applications that are designed to manage spatial data, such as maps, plans and aerial photographs. The use of GIS is a standard tool in the professional archaeological world. In the past, the computer programmes themselves were often too expensive and unwieldy to be used by non-professional researchers. However, in recent years a number of freely available free, open-source, cross-platform GIS applications have become available that allows access to free software that will run on most home PCs and laptops. The most widely adopted of these applications is QGIS (https://qgis.org). This training will provide introductory sessions for volunteers on how to use QGIS, starting from first principles. A number of sessions will be held allowing participants to familiarise themselves with the application before moving onto more advanced skills. The course will also explore how to obtain basic data from public sources. Training will take place at Durham University (to allow access to software/IT training facilities). Training will be provided by staff from Durham University.

Student and volunteers exploring the use of GIS applications

Introduction to using Lidar data

Lidar (Light detection and ranging) is a relatively new addition to the archaeological toolkit. It is a remote sensing technique that measures distance to a target by illuminating that target with a pulsed laser light and measuring the reflected pulses with a sensor resulting in high-quality topographic data, which has the potential to reveal archaeological features such as earthworks. Some of this data has been available to the public via the Environment Agency, but the coverage has often been patchy, focusing mainly on river valleys. However, the Environment Agency has recently announced plans to carry out total survey of England, with large areas of the north-east being the first to be covered in this way; the new data should come online during Year 1 of this project, and thus be available for volunteers to work with. Traditionally, this data has had to be processed using high-end computers, but increasingly it is possible to explore it using standard desktop PCs.

This course aims to introduce volunteers to this exciting new resource for the study of historical landscapes, exploring how to access the data, how to view and interpret and look at how it can be further processed and interpreted. Training will take place in Durham to allow access to IT training facilities and provided by staff from the Department of Archaeology, Durham University.



Lidar imagery of Lindisfarne- Holy Island

Introduction to photogrammetry: objects, trenches and buildings
Archaeologists are increasingly exploiting the potential of digital photography to record objects and create 3D models of them, moving beyond traditional 2D images. This technique can be used to record individual objects, excavation trenches, building and whole landscapes and just requires access to digital cameras and basic software. The resulting images are then easily shared and viewable via on-line websites (for some archaeological examples showing its use at a range of scales see https://sketchfab.com/digventures/collections/lindisfarne). Two sessions will be run under this heading – one focusing on imaging objects and artefacts and the other focusing on recording buildings and excavations. The object sessions will take place in Durham and one other venue in the region, whilst the landscape sessions will be integrated into the fieldwork and survey packages. Training will be provided by Dr Kamal Badrashany (Durham University) and other Durham staff.

Introduction to using Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI)
Photogrammetry is not the only new digital imaging technique that is now within the grasp of non-professional researchers in terms of cost and processing power. Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) is a related technique that allows the creation of images that can be viewed under varying lighting conditions revealing often difficult to see surface features. It is particularly effective in bringing out fine detail on flat surfaces such as gravestones and other carved objects. This training will be carried out as part of our survey projects and provided by Dr Nichole Beale (Durham University).

Digital recording of gravestones
Gravestones are wonderful source for information about genealogy, family history, as well as wider attitudes to death, burial and religion. Whilst many local churchyards and cemeteries have had basic surveys carried out, these often simply transcribe the information from the surviving inscriptions rather than try to record the physical appearance of the stones. This training course will equip volunteers with the skills to record all aspects of the appearance of gravestones, as well as the information recorded on them. The focus will be on using digital techniques and integrating the records with the existing Council for British Archaeology guidance. This training will be carried out as part of our survey projects and provided by Dr Nichole Beale (Durham University).

Recording a gravestone using RTI imaging

Social media for heritage groups

We live in a world where social media permeates all aspects of life. A huge number of people and groups of all ages and backgrounds use media such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to build networks and exchange information. This is as true of the world of archaeology and heritage as any other sphere of life. This training session will act as an introduction 'for the nervous' of the world of social media, looking in particular how it can be used to exchange and share information about local archaeology and heritage. Participants will be encouraged to share information about the *Belief in the North-East* project in this way. Training will be provided at two venues (including Durham) and provided by Dr David Petts (Durham University) with support from Doctoral Research Students.

Wikipedia

Wikipedia has become ubiquitous as an information source, but very few archaeologists have contributed to expanding or editing this, the single largest open access information platform available in the western world. The main aim of this training opportunity is to improve the online presence of the religious archaeology and heritage of north-east England - the theories, the people, the places, and the research. Participants will be shown how to create and edit articles as well as more advanced skills. Material and results from the fieldwork and survey elements of the project will shared through new Wikipedia entries. Training will be provided at Durham and one other venue by Durham University staff and students.

2.4 Volunteer Policy

This is a draft of a policy document that will be made available to all prospective project volunteers.

Policy statement
This policy is for volunteers participating in the Belief in North-East project (BitNE). Its purpose is to inform prospective participants of the available opportunities and to outline what would be expected of them as project volunteers. It is aimed at volunteers of all ages. Prospective volunteers should read this policy along with other information on the project website before deciding whether to register.

The policy defines what a volunteer is and outlines how we will recruit, manage and support volunteers throughout the project.

Please note that volunteers will be expected to have access to the internet and to have an email account, as communication will be largely by email and via the project website. It will be possible for people to volunteer without their own email address, but they will have to provide an email address of a friend or relative who will forward correspondence as necessary.

Requests for further information about any aspect of the project should be addressed to Dr David Petts (Project Manager).

What is volunteering?
The Compact Code of Good Practice for Volunteering (published in partnership with the Cabinet Office and Local Government Association in 2005) defines volunteering as:

…an important expression of citizenship and essential to democracy. It is the commitment of time and energy for the benefit of society and the community and can take many forms. It is undertaken freely and by choice, without concern for financial gain.

The BitNE project's volunteering principles are based on the Compact Code of Conduct which sets out principles and undertakings for both Government and the voluntary and community sector in England regarding the effective and meaningful volunteering in a range of different contexts. These principles may be summarised as follows:

Choice
People will be free to choose to volunteer; no one will be obliged to volunteer or to undertake any specific tasks they may not wish to do. Places will be made available for all volunteers who wish to participate in any particular element of the project, though in some cases this may necessitate the rationing of attendance to fewer days than hoped for in

order to offer participation to all. In some cases, where demand is particularly high, events will be repeated.

Diversity
Volunteering is open to all, regardless of background, race, age, disability, sexual orientation, faith or other factors. The project particularly wishes to attract volunteers with an interest in the heritage but who have not previously been involved in archaeological research, though it will also welcome experienced volunteers.

Mutual respect and benefits
In return for giving time, energy and skills to the project, volunteers can expect to gain new skills and experience along with a sense of genuine and worthwhile achievement. The project should also enable volunteers to make useful new contacts and have a great deal of fun! Volunteers will have a unique opportunity to work alongside and learn directly from University academics and other professional archaeologists in a way usually restricted to fee-paying paying students.

Recognition
It is hoped that everyone who inputs to the project will benefit greatly from it, in terms not only of enhanced awareness of the heritage but also through pride at having contributed to an important team effort. The contributions of all volunteers will be fully acknowledged in all project reports, which will be available on the website. Volunteers will thus be able to keep copies of these reports, demonstrating their individual contributions. For volunteers who may wish to maintain a structured record of their participation in the project, archaeological passports will be made available and will be signed as appropriate by project staff.

Induction and training
All volunteers will be offered an induction at a start-up workshop. This will include discussion of the volunteer role, its requirements and expectations. It will help prospective volunteers to decide whether they do want to sign up, and which aspects of the project they would most like to concentrate on. The start-up workshop will include:

- Explanation of the opportunities available to volunteers and an outline of what is expected of volunteers in terms of commitment to the project.
- Opportunities to meet Dept of Archaeology staff, fellow volunteers, and the Project Advisory Team in an informal atmosphere.
- Discussion of health and safety arrangements, and the need for all volunteers to abide by these at all times.
- Opportunities for individual volunteers to discuss any areas of project work of particular interest to them.

All volunteers will be required to complete a Volunteer Registration Form and to maintain a timesheet recording time spent on project work.

Travel and expenses
Please note that it will not be possible to reimburse expenses incurred by volunteers attending project fieldwork and other events. Travel and subsistence are the responsibility of individual volunteers, other than in exceptional circumstances when it may be possible to help with expenses. Volunteers are encouraged to get to know fellow volunteers in their area and to share transport where possible.

Reference requests
Project staff will be pleased to provide volunteers with references that reflect their contributions to the project. These will be provided by the most appropriate member of the project team.

Health and safety
Durham University has a duty of care regarding the safety and well-being of project volunteers. This means making sure that appropriate precautions are taken to control and manage any risks, including providing appropriate training and information. Volunteers must take reasonable care for their own health and safety
and the health and safety of others who may be affected by their actions. Volunteers must comply with any requirements imposed by relevant health and safety laws. Volunteers will be expected wear appropriate clothing (e.g. waterproofs, boots) when taking part in project activities, but any Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) deemed necessary by project staff will be provided free of charge to volunteers.

A generic risk assessment covering all project fieldwork will be sent to all volunteers upon registration. In addition, there will be a specific risk assessment for each fieldwork module that participating volunteers will be required to read, sign and comply with.

Insurance
Project volunteers will be covered by the University's public liability insurance while engaged on project work.

Confidentiality and data protection
All volunteers will be made aware of their rights and responsibilities under data protection law. Volunteers must be aware that any information they produce during their time volunteering may be made publicly available under the General Data Protection Regulations.

Part 3. Main fieldwork modules

3.1 Introduction

This is the main part of the project. Fieldwork will be undertaken at a range of sites, spread throughout the north-east region, structured within five fieldwork modules. Each module consists of a block of fieldwork – this may include excavation, field survey, building recording and geophysical survey. A series of sites that can be allocated to these blocks have been identified. Sites have been chosen that will provide exciting opportunities for volunteers while also enabling us to address specific issues highlighted in the North East Regional Research Framework (NERRF) and, in some cases, to provide information about Heritage at Risk sites to help inform future management (though, as noted elsewhere, it has been decided in consultation with Historic England that conservation work at Heritage at Risk sites should not be a primary objective of the project). Although key sites have been identified within each of the proposed modules, there is a considerable degree of flexibility within modules 1 and 2. In each of these, an initial survey phase in Year 1 will lead to the detailed investigation of a small number of sites in Year 2, to be designated in the light of the results of the survey phase. For modules 3 and 4, details of the sites proposed for detailed investigation are provided here.

A degree of flexibility is essential when designing projects such as this, in order that we can respond to emerging results and also seek to incorporate the developing interests of volunteers as the project proceeds. For this reason, following discussion with HLF during the Development Phase, fieldwork module 5 remains unallocated. During Year 1 of the Delivery Phase, in consultation with volunteers and HLF, we will make a decision as to what to do about this. It may well be that results demand further work at one or more of the sites investigated within modules 1 – 4. Alternatively, a final module could be delivered on a subject chosen by the project volunteers.

The main fieldwork modules are as follows:

1. Rock art landscapes.
2. Bronze Age burial.
3. Early medieval burial.
4. Medieval monastic landscapes.
5. To be determined.

The project's research strategy has been derived from three main sources:

(1) Consultation within the specialist heritage community. This has included engaging with the North-East Regional Research Framework process to identify

clear academic priorities, as well as consulting with key heritage bodies (in particular, local government curators [county archaeologists'] and Historic England. We have had meetings or email communications with all the major representatives of these groups, which has helped us steer our aims with reference to wider heritage needs. Our initial intention to undertake much work at designated Heritage at Risk sites, to help remove them from the 'at risk' register, was considered inappropriate following detailed discussion with Historic England. We have, however, retained work at several 'at risk' sites within our programme; the proposed work at these sites, while not directly improving their management, will certainly help to inform their future management and is therefore of conservation value in the long term. In a few cases, it may be possible, following survey work, for volunteers to undertake conservation work (e.g. removal of undergrowth etc). Such decisions will be made in close consultation with Historic England.

(2) We have also consulted widely with the wider community of volunteers who have expressed interest during the Development Phase of the project, and with heritage groups throughout the region. A key element of this was the project dayschool at which all participants were encouraged to complete a questionnaire that aimed to elicit which areas people were most interested in exploring. About 100 questionnaires were completed on the day, and additional feedback was also solicited via emails and personal conversations.

(3) The Advisory Group was also consulted, drawing on their expertise in the delivery of a wide variety of community archaeology and heritage projects over recent years.

Together, these three consultation processes have steered our decisions regarding case study sites, alongside pragmatic concerns, such as site access and landowner permissions.

For each fieldwork module a comprehensive formal project design will be developed once the Delivery Phase is underway. These project designs will be fully MORPHE-compliant, regardless of whether any formal legal consent is required. Where legal consents are required, the project designs will form the bases of the necessary applications. It is not possible to complete these until nearer the time of execution as they will have to take into account access issues and timings which are contingent on weather, agricultural cycles, negotiations with landowners etc. this is standard procedure that has been used effectively in comparable recent HLF-funded projects such as Altogether Archaeology in the North Pennines.

Collectively, these fieldwork modules will provide hundreds of volunteers from throughout the north-east with exciting opportunities to undertake important archaeological work, while also contributing to the production of the first ever overview of 'Belief in the North-East' from prehistoric times through to the present day.

3.2 Fieldwork Module 1: Rock Art landscapes

3.2.1 Introduction

Arguably the most enigmatic archaeological sites in the north-east, the panels of 'cup-and-ring' rock art that litter some upland landscapes have been recorded over recent years by teams of volunteers, but remain poorly understood in terms of chronology and function. Most archaeologists that study them agree that the symbols must be linked in some way with the 'religion' of the people that made them, but trying to understand aspects of Neolithic 'religion' as distinct from other aspects of contemporary life, is fraught with difficulty. While much important work has been done by volunteer projects in recent years to locate, catalogue and monitor panels of rock art, there is unfortunately nothing that can be done to arrest natural erosion at many sites, so it is important that they are recorded as accurately as possible while they can still be clearly seen.

The North East Regional Research Framework and other recent publications stress the need to study our rock art within its landscape context, and move on from survey to carefully targeted small-scale excavation. The challenge is to find landscapes that not only contain rock art but also present opportunities to undertake small-scale excavations of rock art in context, offering a good chance of new and important information relating to chronology and function. In Year 1, this module aims to undertake detailed survey work in four landscape areas extending from North Northumberland to South Durham, thus maximising opportunities for participation by local people wherever in the north-east they may live. Several of the featured sites are on the Heritage at Risk register, and the results of the survey will help to inform their future management. The results of this survey work will then be used to choose one or two places for small-scale excavation in Year 2 of the project.

The project has been extremely fortunate in securing the services of Dr Stan Beckensall, doyen of north-east rock art for half a century, who has published numerous books and scholarly papers on the subject. Stan will act as an unpaid advisor to the project, attending meetings and contributing to decisions about where exactly to locate fieldwork. Professor Richard Bradley of Reading University, an international authority on rock art, has also kindly agreed to act as an advisor, and he will be consulted in particular with regard to the best place(s) to undertake excavation.

3.2.2 The North East Regional Research Framework (2006)

The first version of NERRF was published in 2006; a major revision is currently underway but the general conclusions and recommendations are unlikely to differ fundamentally from those in the 2006 version.

Within the Neolithic section of the NERRF 2006 Research Framework, rock art is identified as the first key research theme.

NB1. Rock art.

Rock art is one of the most distinctive aspects of the archaeology of the Neolithic and Bronze Age in the region. Future research should be carried out in three main areas:

i. Chronology. Recent work has illustrated the potential of small-scale targeted excavation for clarifying the chronological development of rock art sites.
ii. Rock art did not exist in isolation. More detailed survey of specific sites is needed. Their wider landscape context should also be a major research topic. Areas which might be particularly targeted include Roughting Linn.
iii. A better understanding of the processes of the decay and erosions of rock art is required. Future research might build on existing technical developments in recording and monitoring rock art sites.

This project is concerned primarily with i and ii on this list, although the results may well also prove to be of value to iii. Much work is being done with regard to the monitoring or rock art sites, notably through the Newcastle University based CARE project; all results generated by the BitNE project will be made available to those running that project, but the study of rates of decay and consideration of conservation methodologies are not primary aims of BitNE.

3.2.3 Heritage at Risk

The BitNE project has incorporated all the rock art sites currently on the north-east Heritage at Risk register. Although these sites should not be studied or managed in isolation, the project will do what it can to record them as accurately as possible and investigate ways in which their management could be improved. The sites are shown in Table 1. Following the survey phase, it may be possible, in collaboration with Historic England, for project volunteers to undertake some small-scale management work at some of these sites to improve their condition.

Site name	**SM number**	**Nature of risk**
NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND (Landscape area 1)		
Two incised rocks on Broom Ridge, Hunter's Moor, Ford.	1006554	Natural erosion – extensive.
Incised rocks, 500 metres north-west of Doddington Dean Wood, Doddington.	1006555	Natural erosion – extensive.
Two camps and cup and ring marked rocks on Dod Law, Doddington.	1002946	Plant growth.
BARNINGHAM MOOR, COUNTY DURHAM (Landscape area 3)		

A cairn, a carved rock and a rubble bank, in the south west corner of Scale Knoll Allotment, 800 metres south east of Far East Hope, Barningham Moor, Barningham.	1017431	Plant growth.
Carved rock and cairn in Rowley Intake, 410 metres south east of Cowclose House, Barningham Moor, Barningham.	1017422	Plant growth.
Carved rock and prehistoric enclosure on west side of Scale Knoll Gill, 410 metres south west of Haythwaite, Barningham Moor, Barningham.	1017440	Plant growth.
BALDERSDALE, COUNTY DURHAM (Landscape area 4)		
Area of carved bedrock, 120 metres south of The Rigg, Lartington	1018253	Natural erosion – extensive.
Carved bedrock with cups and grooves, 170 metres south-east of The Rigg, Lartington.	1018251	Natural erosion – extensive.
Cup, ring and groove-marked rock 170 metres south-west of West Loups's, Cotherstone Moor, Lartington.	1016595	Natural erosion – extensive.

Table1. Heritage at Risk sites included within the survey phase. (Information sourced from the North-East Heritage at Risk Register 2017)

In addition, the study area at Roughting Linn includes the adjacent earthwork enclosure (SM 106601) which is on the Heritage at Risk register, although the rock art site itself is not (though it is in worryingly deteriorating condition – see below). Also, some of the rock art at West Loups's, although not designated 'at risk', lies within a Ministry of Defence firing range so accidental damage is not beyond the bounds of possibility. The Barningham Moor rock art sites on the Heritage at Risk register are currently the subject of discussions between Historic England and the landowner, and may soon be removed from the register. However, the survey work proposed here will still be of value in informing their future management along with that of other sites in the vicinity.

3.2.4 Featured landscapes

For various reasons, mainly linked to recommendations in NERRF, the desire to include work at officially designated Heritage at Risk sites, the desire to include a range of landscapes throughout the north-east region, and the potential to generate meaningful results from carefully targeted fieldwork, it has been decided to concentrate survey work in four study areas.

North Northumberland: Roughting Linn, Broom Ridge and Doddington Moor.

Roughting Linn is the largest and most impressive decorated outcrop in the region, and one of the finest anywhere. Although not currently on the Heritage at Risk register, it is in deteriorating condition and demands accurate survey. Adjacent to it is a curious earthwork enclosure that is undated but could be contemporary with the rock art; this enclosure is on the HaR register and will be accurately recorded using topographic and geophysical survey. Also forming part of the Roughting Linn landscape are a waterfall and rock shelters (natural features of cultural significance), and a large burial cairn; these will all be included in the site survey. Some 500 metres north of Roughting Linn are the carved rocks at Broom Ridge which are on the HaR register. Doddington Moor, south of Roughting Linn, includes numerous examples of rock art, three of which are on HaR register, along with numerous other monuments (eg cairns and standing stones) many of which are potentially of Neolithic date. Collectively, these complex landscapes provide genuine opportunities to consider the rock art in relation to other, possibly contemporary sites.

Views of motifs at Roughting Linn.

Central Northumberland: Lordenshaw, Coquetdale.

The multi-period archaeological landscape at Lordenshaw, south of Rothbury, includes several decorated rock surfaces ranging from quite simple to very complex. It has been well recorded, but there is still scope for detailed recording, using various methods, of some of the decorated rocks. In addition, there are several places where geophysical survey and small-scale excavation may well be very revealing, allowing the rock art to be understood in relation to other, dateable features. (There are also several burial cairns here, some of which seem to be directly related to presumably earlier panels of rock art – the proposed work will overlap with that suggested within Module 2, below).

Lordenshaw is easily accessible, with on-site car parking and a very supportive landowner. It is in many ways an ideal site for a volunteer project.

Rock art at Lordenshaws – the 'Horseshoe Rock '(left) and 'main rock' (right).

Barningham Moor, Teesdale, County Durham

On the southern fringes of the north-east region, Barningham Moor (another area with a very supportive landowner) has about 140 recorded examples of rock art. As noted above, three of these are on the Heritage at Risk register, though no longer considered by Historic England to be at 'at risk'. Most of the Barningham art is quite simple in comparison with many Northumbrian examples, but some complex panels are also found here. The rock art is found in close association with many other monuments, including burial cairns and field systems, making it potentially of great value to this project. The survey phase will concentrate on two or three specific areas of Barningham Moor, recording the rock art and other features within these areas in great detail.

Rock art, Barningham Moor.

Baldersdale, County Durham

In comparison with the above three areas, the concentration of rock art in this area is relatively unknown. It consists mostly of quite simple panels, many consisting only of cupmarks with no rings or other embellishment. The study area includes the dramatic flat-topped summit of Goldsborough Rigg, the fascinating rock art complex of West

Loups's (including the Heritage at Risk site noted above), and the complex of cupmarked panels at The Rigg, Lartington (including two Heritage at Risk sites). The art here is thought by some to mark an ancient routeway between Teesdale and Cumbria, but no-one knows for sure why it is located here, or why different styles seem to occur in different places within the area.

3.2.5 Work to be undertaken by volunteers

Start-up workshop
This module will begin with a start-up workshop for potential volunteers. This will consist of presentations by experts, along with introductions to the sites at which the project will be working and introductions to the survey methodologies to be used.

Site visits
Each survey area will be visited by a team of volunteers along with experts who know the rock art sites well. This will present an opportunity to get to know the characters of the different landscapes, and begin to consider why the rock art is found where it is and how it might relate to other natural features and archaeological sites within these landscapes.

Landscape survey
For each of the four study areas, teams of volunteers will examine a range of sources including aerial imagery, historic maps, Historic Environment Records (HERs), and published and unpublished reports to gain an understanding of the rock art within its landscape setting.

Detailed survey
Building on the understanding of the study areas resulting from the survey work and initial site visits, detailed survey (including topographic survey, geophysical survey, photography, photogrammetry, and reflectance transformation imaging) will be targeted on a small number of specific sites within each study area. This work will be directed towards a better understanding of the rock art in relation to other landscape features, and will be undertaken with a view towards highlighting sites that might prove to be good targets for small-scale excavation (see below).

Survey results workshop.
Volunteers will present and discuss the results of all the survey work in the four different study areas, enabling comparisons to be drawn and differences highlighted. This workshop will also consider which sites would be good targets for excavation.

Excavation
It would be wrong to jump the gun and isolate one or more sites for excavation at this stage. Instead, thought will be given to the most appropriate sites for excavation during and after the survey phase, and one or more sites will be chosen on which to concentrate resources in Year 2. Details of any necessary legal consents for this work

will be discussed and agreed with Historic England at the earliest opportunity. It may be that excavations are concentrated within just one of the four landscape areas, or possibly spread across two. The decisions will be made in the attempt to maximise the results from what will be quite small-scale excavations. Wherever they take place, the excavations will be aimed at furthering our understanding of the rock art complexes, including hopefully recovering objects and samples that can be used to cast light on the manufacture and chronology of the art, leading possibly to new interpretations of what the motifs may have meant to our Neolithic ancestors. When drawing up detailed plans for excavation, due regard will be paid to recent comparable projects in Scotland, some aspects of the methodology of which could be replicated here. The budget has been calculated to allow two weeks in the field. Post excavation work and report production will be completed as soon as possible after completion of fieldwork.

Final results workshop

All participating volunteers will be invited to a results workshop, at which results will be presented and discussed. Volunteers will be encouraged to use the results of fieldwork to develop their own interpretations of the 'meanings' of the carved rocks and how they may have featured in the mythologies and belief systems of those who made and used them.

Project reports

Interim reports will be written on all elements of this module as soon as possible after completion of fieldwork, and these will be integrated into a comprehensive final report upon completion of the module. Volunteers will be encouraged to contribute to report writing. In addition to providing volunteers with unique experiences to work in a field of great interest to many, it is hoped that the final report will represent an important contribution to rock art studies.

3.2.6 Provisional outline timetable

Task	Max no of volunteers	No of days	Approx dates
Start-up workshop	100	1	May 2019
Initial site inspection visits (x4)	100 (25 per area)	4	May 2019
Survey fieldwork – area 1	25	3	June 2019
Survey fieldwork – area 2	25	3	July 2019
Survey fieldwork – area 3	25	3	Aug 2019
Survey fieldwork – area 4	25	3	Sept 2019
Survey results workshop	100	1	Oct 2019
Excavation 1 (site to be determined)	50 (20 per day)	7	Apr 2020
Excavation 2 (site to be determined)	50 (20 per day)	7	May 2020
Final results workshop	100	1	Sept 2020

3.3 Fieldwork Module 2: Bronze Age burials

3.3.1 Introduction

Circular burial mounds are amongst the most common prehistoric sites known from our region. In the uplands they are usually built of stone and are known as cairns; on lower ground they tend to be of soil and are referred to as barrows. When ploughed flat, as many are, they are often only detectable from the air, with a circular ditch (from which the mound material was originally excavated) showing up as a cropmark; in such cases the monuments are often classified as 'ring-ditches'.

Several hundred barrows and cairns, the vast majority of known or presumed early Bronze Age date (between about 2,400 and 1500BC), are recorded on the Durham and Northumberland Historic Environment Records. Many of these are in isolation, while others are grouped together in cemeteries. Many were dug in the nineteenth century and the finds, including often very attractive burial urns and other grave goods, are now in museums throughout the region and elsewhere (eg the British Museum). These monuments hold many clues to the religious beliefs of the people who lived in our region four thousand years ago. A comprehensive catalogue and fascinating interpretation of early Bronze Age burials throughout the north-east has recently been published by Chris Fowler of Newcastle University, the acknowledged expert in this field, who has kindly offered to work with project volunteers in an advisory capacity to help plan and deliver this module.

During the Development Phase it became clear that this is a subject of particular interest to volunteers, partly due to vast amount of material available to study, including sites out in the landscape and a range of finds in local museums. This module has been designed to encourage volunteers to take an active role in furthering our understanding of these monuments and of the kind of belief systems that may have existed in our region during the early Bronze Age. Volunteers undertaking survey of sites within this module will be encouraged to consider ways in which the sites interact with the landscape, and the possible implications of this to our understanding of the people who built the monuments.

The structure of this module is similar to that of Fieldwork Module 1, and, as discussed below, there may well prove to be considerable overlap between the two. Fieldwork will concentrate initially (during Year 1) on the detailed survey of selected sites, including major cemeteries such as those at Holystone Common (Coquetdale, Northumberland) and Burnt Scar, above Middleton-in-Teesdale, County Durham. Survey work will include geophysics of some cemeteries to ascertain whether buried features can be identified in the 'empty' areas between the visible cairns/barrows; recent such work in Scotland has generated some fascinating results. A number of sites on the Heritage at Risk register will also be surveyed, providing information that will help inform their future management. Where appropriate, in close collaboration with Historic England, beneficial management work, such as clearance of scrub, may be undertaken by volunteers following survey work.

Once the survey phase is complete, one or two sites (ideally two, one in the north and one in the south of the region) will be chosen for small-scale excavation. The choice of sites for excavation will be based on the results of the survey work; if appropriate the excavations will be designed to investigate monuments under serious threat of damage or destruction, perhaps including one or two on the Heritage at Risk register.

3.3.2 The North East Regional Research Framework (2006)

The first version of NERRF was published in 2006; a major revision is currently underway but the general conclusions and recommendations are unlikely to differ fundamentally from those in the 2006 version.

Within the NERRF 2006 Research Framework, Bronze Age burial mounds are highlighted as in need of further work. While the contribution that this project can make is necessarily limited in scale, it can make a useful contribution and will also hopefully help to raise public interest in the subject leading in due course to further work.

The NERRF Research Agenda includes the following recommendations:

NB4. Cairns.

Large numbers of stone cairns survive in the upland regions of the North-East, including field-clearance cairns and burial cairns. Further research should include:

iv. Detailed field survey of cairns and groups of cairns in order to record their precise form and place them in their wider landscape context.

v. The excavation of a representative sample of cairn types, building on the results of survey. Previous excavation on cairns has demonstrated the complexity of even apparently very simple structures, so, where possible, excavation should be total. It is important that scientific dating accompanies fieldwork.

vi. Synthetic work on cairns in the North-East. The sheer range in their form and function has led to a reluctance to attempt this kind of task, which should be preceded by an attempt to refine definitions. The synthesis should draw on new field survey and excavation, and collate the evidence form earlier archaeological excavation.

This project is concerned largely with survey work relating to i on this list, although some progress could also be made with regard to ii and iii. Since the publication of NERRF back in 2006, a major step forward with regard to synthesis has been taken by Chris Fowler of Newcastle University through his publication referred to above. However, there is still much still to do and volunteers will be encouraged to get involved with this.

3.3.3 Heritage at Risk

The BitNE project has incorporated all 18 Bronze Age burial mound sites currently on the north-east Heritage at Risk register. As will be appreciated from Table 1 (below) these are spread throughout the region, though with something of a concentration in Coquetdale and the Cheviots. The capacity to undertake conservation work at these is limited, but volunteers will visit all these sites and undertake basic survey work, recording the sites within their landscape settings and also noting their condition and in particular any visible threats. Although these sites should not be studied or managed in isolation, the project will do what it can to record them as accurately as possible and investigate ways in which their management could be improved. Following the survey phase, it may be possible, in collaboration with Historic England, for project volunteers to undertake some small-scale management work at some of these sites to improve their condition. In some cases small-scale excavation may also be justified, especially in cases where sites are being damaged or threatened with damage.

Site name	**SM number**	**Nature of risk**
COUNTY DURHAM		
A cairn, a carved rock and a rubble bank, in the south west corner of Scale Knoll Allotment, 800 metres south east of Far East Hope, Barningham Moor, Barningham	1017431	Plant growth
Cairnfield partly enclosed by a bank, on the east side of Woodclose Gill, Scale Knoll Allotment, Barningham Moor, 550 metres south of Hurst Hill, Barningham	1017435	Plant growth
Carved rock and cairn in Rowley Intake, 410 metres south east of Cowclose House, Barningham Moor, Barningham	1017422	Plant growth
Ring cairn 350 metres east of Haythwaite, Barningham Moor, Barningham	1017424	Plant growth
NORTHUMBERLAND		
Round barrow 520 metres WNW of Quarry Cottage, Bamburgh	1014503	Animal burrowing – moderate.
Benthall round cairn, Beadnell	1008430	Animal burrowing – moderate.
Two cairn cemeteries west of Willie Law, Chatton / Chillingham	1006451	Forestry
Round cairn 790 metres west of Smithy Strip, Ilderton	1016248	Forestry
Ellsnook round barrow, 175 metres north east of Heiferlaw Bridge, Rennington	1006564	Forestry
Cairn, 900 metres north east of Old Rothbury hillfort, Rothbury	1008757	Plant growth
Two round cairns, 590 metres and 610 metres east of Burn Brae, Whitton and Tosson	1017197	Plant growth
NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK		
Cairnfield, unenclosed hut circle settlement and area of	1020250	Bracken

cord rig 190 metres north east of Pigdon's Leap, Alnham, Northumberland		
Reaveley Hill cairn cemetery, Ingram, Northumberland	1006469	Bracken
Northern ring cairn on Coldsmouth Hill, Kilham, Northumberland	1009531	Vandalism
Southern ring cairn on Coldsmouth Hill, Kilham, Northumberland	1009530	Vandalism
NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK		
Round barrow on Codhill Heights, 860 metres south east of Codhill Farm, Guisborough, Redcar and Cleveland	1016574	'Other'.
REDCAR AND CLEVELAND		
Bowl barrow,1 kilometre north west of High Court Green, Guisborough	1011285	Stock erosion – extensive.
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE		
Dewley Hill round barrow and associated features, 350 metres north west of Dewley Farm	1018678	Animal burrowing – extensive.

Table1. The 18 sites of probable Bronze Age burial mounds included within the 2017 Heritage at Risk register. (Information sourced directly from the North-East Heritage at Risk register 2017).

A couple of the sites listed here, on Barningham Moor, include both cairns and rock art, hence they also appear in the Heritage at Risk table in fieldwork module 1. This coincidence of rock art and burial cairns in the same landscapes, which also occurs in other places, is an intriguing phenomenon that is considered further below.

3.3.4 Featured sites

Because Bronze Age burial mounds are so common throughout parts of the north-east, we have opted for a considerable degree of flexibility at this stage in choosing where to focus fieldwork. This is so that we can discuss possibilities with volunteers and, where appropriate, focus on sites of particular interest to them, perhaps on sites close to where several volunteers live. We will undertake basic surveys at all the Heritage at Risk sites listed above, which are spread throughout the region. These, however, are not a representative sample, having been chosen for management reasons rather than on any academic basis. In addition, we will undertake larger-scale survey work at up to four landscapes which contain several burial mounds, in some cases including what have been termed 'cairn cemeteries'. These will allow us to begin to consider some of the issues highlighted in NERRF, such as why cemeteries occur in particular places and not in others, and how they relate to other elements of the contemporary landscape. While not committing ourselves to any particular sites prior to discussions with volunteers, the following three sites are examples of places where potentially exciting work could take place. Final decisions will be made consultation with volunteers at an early stage in the Delivery Phase, possibly at the start-up workshop.

Holystone Common. The very impressive 'Five Barrows' cemetery on Holystone Common, Upper Coquetdale, Northumberland, actually includes many more than five cairns. A recent walkover survey suggests there may be more than fifty. Some were excavated in the nineteenth century and the finds are in the British Museum. The entire complex demands detailed survey using modern techniques, including geophysics.

Lordenshaw. This area, also in Coquetdale, has already been mentioned within fieldwork module 1 on account of the intriguing rock art here. It also contains a wide variety of cairns, some of which have been excavated. In some places, these cairns demonstrate some kind of relationship with the rock art, and the nature of this relationship requires detailed investigation. This may well be a place where fieldwork linked to fieldwork modules 1 and 2 is combined. An archaeological landscape survey of the area was completed a couple of decades ago, providing a useful context for the detailed surveys of individual cairns proposed here. Of particular interest here are the so-called 'tri-radial cairns', which some authorities maintain are post-medieval sheep-shelters, while others claim them to be a newly recognised form of Bronze Age burial cairn. A few years ago the Northumberland National Park Authority had plans for a community project to investigate these tri-radials, but the work never took place. The Park Archaeologist is still keen to see it happen, and would offer logistical support.

Towards the southern edge of the north-east region, at **Burnt Scar on Crossthwaite Common**, above Middleton-in-Teesdale, a fine cemetery of barrows or cairns was recorded in the 1980s by the local antiquary Denis Coggins. He describes the site as *'a relatively level area with at least eight turf covered cairns, three of which are quite large. ….This recently noticed site is likely to be an important one requiring detailed survey and excavation.*' This survey work has yet to take place, and represents an ideal option for this project. Geophysics could be useful employed here as well as topographic survey.

View over one of the 'Five Barrows' cairns at Holystone Common (left).
A burial cist exposed within a cairn at Lordenshaw (right).

3.3.5 Proposed fieldwork to be undertaken by volunteers

Start-up workshop
This module will begin with a start-up workshop for potential volunteers. This will consist of presentations by experts, along with introductions to the sites at which the project will be working and introductions to the survey methodologies to be used. The workshop will cover the range of Bronze Age cairns, the kinds of finds that have been recovered form them, and the extent to which we can reasonably approach an appreciation of the 'religious' beliefs of the people buried in them. Discussion will focus on a small number of recent excavations and also the large number of cairns excavated in the nineteenth century.

Site visits
A selection of sites will be visited by volunteers along with experts who know them well. There will also be at least one visit to a local museum to inspect at first hand some finds, such as burial urns, from excavated sites. This will present an opportunity to get to know the characters of the different landscapes, and begin to consider why the rock art is found where it is and how it might relate to other natural features and archaeological sites within these landscapes.

Survey
As noted above, all 18 Heritage at Risk sites will be visited by volunteers, ideally by volunteers who live locally to them, and a basic survey, including a condition survey, completed for each. More detailed survey, using a range of techniques including geophysics, will be undertaken at up to four places where concentrations of cairns are known to exist. For each of these areas, teams of volunteers will examine a range of sources including aerial imagery, historic maps, Historic Environment Records (HERs), and published and unpublished reports to gain an understanding of the cairns within their landscape settings. This work will be directed towards a better understanding of the cairns in relation to other landscape features, and will be undertaken with a view towards highlighting sites that might prove to be good targets for small-scale excavation (see below).

Survey results workshop.
Volunteers will present and discuss the results of all the above survey work in the company of experts. This workshop will also consider which sites would be good targets for excavation.

Excavation
As with the rock art sites in fieldwork module 1, it would be wrong to jump the gun and isolate one or more sites for excavation at this stage. Instead, thought will be given to the most appropriate sites for excavation during and after the survey phase, and one or more sites will be chosen on which to concentrate resources in Year 2. Details of any necessary legal consents for this work will be discussed and agreed with Historic England at the earliest opportunity. It may be that excavations are concentrated on one

or more Heritage at Risk sites, to enable the recovery of information about sites threatened with damage or destruction. A further possibility is that excavations could be combined with those designed to investigate rock art, at one or more landscapes in which roc art and cairns exist in close proximity (for example Lordenshaw or Barningham Moor). The excavation of cairns can be complex and expensive, especially if burials and associated grave goods are encountered. The excavations undertaken by he project can only be small-scale in nature, and will be designed in an attempt to maximise potential results with the available budget, while also providing volunteers with a rewarding experience. When drawing up detailed plans for excavation, due regard will be paid to recent excavations of burial mounds in the north-east and elsewhere. The budget has been calculated to allow two weeks in the field, though there is potential for this to be extended depending on eventual decisions relating to the proposed fieldwork module 5. Post excavation work and report production will be completed as soon as possible after completion of fieldwork.

Final results workshop
All participating volunteers will be invited to a results workshop, at which results will be presented and discussed. Volunteers will be encouraged to use the results of fieldwork to develop their own interpretations of the nature of belief systems in the early Bronze Age, and the roles that the round cairns may have played in peoples' perceptions of their lives and their landscapes.

Project reports
Interim reports will be written on all elements of this module as soon as possible after completion of fieldwork, and these will be integrated into a comprehensive final report upon completion of the module. Volunteers will be encouraged to contribute to report writing.

3.3.6 Provisional outline timetable

Task	**Max no of Volunteers***	**No of days**	**Approx dates**
Start-up workshop	100	1	May 2019
Survey work – HaR sites – 18 sites (unsupervised on site)	90 (5 per site)	1 per site	July 2019
Detailed survey fieldwork – area 1	25	3	Oct 2019
Detailed survey fieldwork – area 2	25	3	Oct 2019
Detailed survey fieldwork – area 3	25	3	Oct 2019

Detailed survey fieldwork – area 4	25	3	Oct 2019
Survey results workshop	100	1	Dec 2019
Excavation 1 (site to be determined)	50 (20 per day)	7	June 2020
Excavation 2 (site to be determined)	50 (20 per day)	7	Aug 2020
Final results workshop	100	1	Oct 2020

** In cases of exceptional demand, it should be possible to raise these numbers, but participation (eg numbers of days on site per person) may have to be rationed, in part for health and safety reasons.*

3.4 Fieldwork module 3: Anglo-Saxon Cemetery

3.4.1 Introduction

This site consists of a set of poorly understood cropmarks lying in the Milfield Basin in North Northumberland (NT 939 365), an area of river gravels that is famous for the quality of cropmarks that can have been recorded in its environs. It is clear from the cropmarrks that there are a number of different elements indicating multiple phases of occupation. The Scheduled Ancient Monument description of the site notes that there is a probably prehistoric or Romano-British settlements. Nearby, rows of pits, most likely to be graves can be seen. Given what we know about prehistoric and Roman period burials in North Northumberland, it is unlikely to be the remains of a Roman or pre-Roman cemetery. However, the level of organisation and the probable use of inhumation seems to imply that it is a cemetery of early medieval date on analogy with other similar sites known in the area (including Sprouston and Yeavering). The site is currently under arable crops.

If this does turn out to be an early medieval cemetery then it is of very great importance. Compared with other parts of Anglo-Saxon England, North Northumberland (indeed the entire Tweed Basin) is notable for the relative paucity of early medieval burials, although a small number are known from other parts of the Milfield Basin. This project will not enable its complete excavation, but merely the sampling of a sufficiently large area to enable its nature and chronology to be established. If it isn't early medieval in date, then it is potentially of even greater rarity. If early medieval in date, it will be helpful to distinguish whether it is of early Anglo-Saxon (5^{th}-6^{th} century AD date) or later (possibly 7^{th}-8^{th} century AD). Either way, it is a potentially very important site, the nature of which must be established to enable appropriate resources to be allocated to its future management and possible further investigation.

Aerial photograph of the possible cemetery at Ford Westfield – with probably grave area indicated within red circle

3.4.2 North East Regional Research Framework (2006)

The NE Regional Research Framework highlights early medieval cemetery studies as one of its key period-based research themes (NERRF 2006, 156). The burial archaeology of the North-East is clearly a priority and the early medieval period has produced significant skeletal assemblages, although few from the north of region apart from assemblage at Bowl Hole, Bamburgh. These provide substantial bodies of data for both basic osteological analysis as well as forming useful resources for exploring more complex scientific analyses. The North-East was open to many cultural influences, British, Anglo-Saxon, Scottish, Irish and Viking, making it an ideal area to explore the complexity of the relationship between burial rites and social and cultural identity, a research topic that could make use of traditional archaeological analysis as well as cutting-edge scientific techniques, such as single isotope analysis. There are still clear regional gaps in the distribution of known early medieval burial sites, particularly in the north of the region. However, this may be partly due to the poor conditions for skeletal preservation, but it is also possible that some burials may simply not be being identified as early medieval.

3.4.3 Heritage at Risk

Although not listed as Heritage at Risk, and protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, this site is regularly under plough. Given the potential importance of the site, combined with the fragile nature of buried human remains, a better understanding of the state of the buried archaeology at this site would help its longer term management.

3.4.4 Start-up workshop

This module will begin with a start-up workshop for potential volunteers. This will consist of presentations by experts, along with introductions to the sites at which the project will be working and introductions to the survey methodologies to be used.

3.4.5 Detailed survey

Initially a small-scale geophysical survey would take place over the site, allowing a better understanding the nature and extent of the site to be better mapped. This will allow comparisons to be drawn with other similar sites and the subsequent excavation to be most effectively targeted. As a Scheduled Ancient Monument, geophysical survey at this site will require Section 42 consent from Historic England

3.4.6 Excavation

This is a Scheduled Ancient Monument so any fieldwork will require Scheduled Monument Consent for any intrusive work to take place. This will be agreed with the landowner and Historic England before any excavation. The budget has been calculated to allow two weeks in the field. Post excavation work and report production will be

completed as soon as possible after completion of fieldwork. Recovery of any human remains will require a Home Office licence,

3.4.7 Final results workshop

All participating volunteers will be invited to a results workshop, at which results will be presented and discussed. Volunteers will be encouraged to use the results of fieldwork to develop their own interpretations of the significance of any burial traditions identified in co-operation with Durham University researchers.

3.4.8 Project reports

Interim reports will be written on all elements of this module as soon as possible after completion of fieldwork, and these will be integrated into a comprehensive final report upon completion of the module. Post-excavation work on any human bonewill be carried out by MSc Palaeopathology students at Durham University supporting volunteer investigation. Volunteers will be encouraged to contribute to report writing.

3.4.9 Provisional outline timetable

Task	**Max no of Volunteers***	**No of days**	**Approx dates**
Start-up workshop	100	1	March 2020
Initial geophysical survey	10	4	April 2020
Geophysical survey results workshop	100	1	April 2020
Excavation	50 (20 per day)	7	August 2020
Final results workshop	100	1	Sept 2020

** In cases of exceptional demand, it should be possible to raise these numbers, but participation (eg numbers of days on site per person) may have to be rationed, in part for health and safety reasons.*

3.5 Fieldwork module 4: Medieval monastic granges (Bearpark and Bewley)

3.5.1 Introduction

This fieldwork module focuses on two similar sites, the monastic granges at Bearpark (Co. Durham) and Low Bewley (Teesside), both of which once belonged to the Priory of Durham. These were small dependencies which provided accommodation for senior members of the ecclesiastical community, as well as acting as an estate centre for the Priory's farms in the surrounding area.

Bearpark

Although this site is now open to the public its isolated location means it suffers from vandalism and it is on the Historic England *Heritage at Risk* register. The proposed work set out here is considered to be a priority by Historic England, who have specifically requested that it be included within the Belief in the North-East project.

The site includes the remains of the Prior's House and chapel of Beaurepaire or Bear Park, built by Prior Bertram (1244-58), later destroyed by the Scots and rebuilt, c.1346. It was intended as a retreat for the monks and priors of Durham Cathedral. By the middle of the 17th century it was in a poor state of repair, and by 1787 was ruinous. The remains consist of the ruined walls of a U-shaped building which following excavation also have the foundations of the earlier E-shaped building, and the earthworks of other buildings to the North. There were probably associated fishponds.

The site was excavated in the 1980s but this work remains largely unpublished. The excavators produced a plan of the earthworks to the north, south and east of the mansion. The E-plan house, situated on the upper edge of the river cliff of the River Browney, has been consolidated and left exposed; it is in the care of Durham City Council and together with the earthworks to the north, representing the remains of the further buildings and courtyards, has been fenced off. The field to the east is ploughed regularly, and those earthworks shown on the plan are reduced to vague swellings and depressions. Those depressions and terraces to the south of the excavated house, shown on Clack's plan occupy the steep slopes of the river cliff. There are problems over the interpretation of this area; it is clear that there has been considerable activity here and some of this is probably contemporary with the 13-14th century house. However, some quarrying has taken place and some of the channels may have been drainage from the field above. Much of what is shown on the plan is natural or a modification of the natural. The relationship of this series of enigmatic features to each other, and their function, may only be recoverable by a detailed large scale plan.

Low Grange, Bewley, Billingham

Like Bearpark, Low Grange Billingham was also a dependency of Durham Priory. The Priory was granted land in the Billingham area in the late 11th century and a grange (farming estate centre) is known to have been present by the mid-12th century, if not earlier. A manor house was built at the site between 1258 and 1273 by Prior Hugh de Darlington. This was a substantial structure, and important enough to have had a clock there in the 14th century.

Documentary records also attest that the House comprised a great hall, private rooms and kitchens, and there was an associated farm with barns, stables, byres; whilst a fishpond, dovecot and a water mill were known to have stood nearby. However, the complex went out of use in the 17th century and was reduced to a simple farm. Aerial photographs from the site, before the surrounding area was developed show the presence of earthworks and medieval ridge and furrow field systems as well as the surviving farm buildings. Elements of medieval fabric and architectural details were survived in some of the farm buildings, but these were demolished in the 1960s and the area is now maintained grassland, although earthworks clearly survive in the area.

3.5.2 The North East Regional Research Framework (2006)

These two sites have the potential to meet the call by the NE Regional Research Framework for a better understanding of both secular and ecclesiastical architecture, combining both high-status structural elements with more functional agricultural buildings. At Bearpark, there are surviving standing buildings, whilst both sites may preserve sub-surface remains of structures.

3.5.3 Heritage at Risk

The Grange at Bearpark is designated as 'Heritage At Risk' by Historic England and declining in condition. The main problems are vandalism, but there are also ongoing issues with undergrowth and shrubs damaging the standing remains, although the latter is being dealt with by a new phase of engagement through a local supporters group.

3.5.4 Start-up workshop

A separate start-up workshop will be held at each site to initiate the fieldwork at these locations. These will serve to outline plans for research, share existing knowledge and recruit volunteers from new audiences.

3.5.5 Fieldwork at Bearpark

As the previous excavations on the site remain unpublished, it is not proposed to carry out much further excavation at this site, although Historic England have recommended that small-scale excavation is necessary to clarify some aspects of the earlier excavations. The main focus will be on carrying out a range of digital recording techniques. Digital photogrammetry will be carried out on as much of the structure as possible. This will provide a base point to allow damage and erosion of the site to be monitored and support management plans for the site. Working with the volunteers, a programme of remote sensing will also take place, including geophysical survey and Lidar analysis. This will be supplemented by digitisation of historic maps and topographic images held in Palace Green Archives, Durham University. Together this project will result in a GIS database recording the hinterland and setting of the Scheduled Area, and digital images of the standing structure itself. Given the proximity of Bearpark to Durham Johnston School it is proposed to work in particular with the school's 6th form on this project. We will also work with the local Dream Community Charity who have been engaged in a new campaign of conservation work and research

at the site who will provide us with links with the local community. The site is designated as a Grade II Listed Building and a Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Know fieldwork will take place within the curtilage of the site without the requisite permissions from Historic England (Section 42; SMC). Fieldwork outside the curtilage will just require landowner permission.

3.5.6 Fieldwork at Low Bewley

There is a need to much basic research on the site to build up a basic portfolio of background information and to support future site management decisions. Priorities are proper earthwork survey, building on existing Lidar data and incorporated into a GIS system. There is also need for a program of geophysical survey across the site. Both these tasks are capable of being carried out by community volunteers. At this site we plan to particularly liaison with the local Friends of Daffodil Park and local schools to help broaden our engagement with new audiences. We have also had the support of local councillors in developing this aspect of the project. Subsequent small-scale targeted excavation work would be possible, with community involvement in both excavation and post-excavation stages. Up to two weeks of excavation have been budgeted for. Subsequent post-excavation analysis will be carried out by volunteers supported by staff and students from Durham University.

3.5.7 Final results workshop

All participating volunteers will be invited to a results workshop, at which results will be presented and discussed. Volunteers will be encouraged to use the results of fieldwork to develop their own interpretations of the 'meanings' of the carved rocks and how they may have featured in the mythologies and belief systems of those who made and used them.

3.5.8 Project reports

Interim reports will be written on all elements of this module as soon as possible after completion of fieldwork, and these will be integrated into a comprehensive final report upon completion of the module. Volunteers will be encouraged to contribute to report writing. In addition to providing volunteers with unique experiences to work in a field of great interest to many, it is hoped that the final report will represent an important contribution to rock art studies.

3.5.9 Provisional outline timetable

Task	**Max no of Volunteers***	**No of days**	**Approx dates**
Start-up workshop x 2	100 at each	2	March 2019
Fieldwork at Bearpark	50	7	June 2019
Fieldwork at Low Bewley	50	7	July 2019
Final results workshop x 2	100	2	Sept 2019

** In cases of exceptional demand, it should be possible to raise these numbers, but participation (eg numbers of days on site per person) may have to be rationed, in part for health and safety reasons.*

3.6 Fieldwork module 5: to be decided

A final fieldwork module, timetable for June-August 2020 is being deliberately left empty at this stage. This is to allow the project to respond dynamically to the developing interests of the volunteers as well as allowing for the potential for the project to respond to unexpected outcomes of the initial phase of fieldwork in 2019. A range of potential sites will be identified in Autumn 2019 and the final decision on which site to focus in on for further fieldwork will be made with consultation from the volunteers and final sign off by the advisory group.

Task	**Max no of Volunteers***	**No of days**	**Approx dates**
Start-up workshop	100	1	March 2020
Fieldwork	50	14	June-Aug 2020
Final results workshop	100	1	Sept 2019

** In cases of exceptional demand, it should be possible to raise these numbers, but participation (eg numbers of days on site per person) may have to be rationed, in part for health and safety reasons.*

Part 4. Survey Modules

4.1 Introduction

This element of the project has been introduced following discussion with volunteers during the Development Phase. It will enable volunteers to become familiar with specific classes of 'religious' sites, while also undertaking very useful survey work that will be of academic value as well as helping to contribute towards effective future site management. The site types for these surveys have been chosen for a range of reasons, a key factor being their distribution throughout the north-east. Surveys of some of them were particularly called-for in the North-East Regional Research Framework; for example, surveys of medieval crosses and holy wells are mentioned as priorities, and it is also noted that such surveys would represent ideal projects for local volunteers.

Most of the proposed work will be done directly by volunteers, after an initial training session. Each module will be overseen by an appropriate expert from the Department of Archaeology; volunteers will therefore have access to the most up-to-date thinking on the particular subject, and, should they so wish, will be encouraged to undertake further details study relating to one or more of the sites surveyed. A small group of volunteers will be encouraged to take 'ownership' of each survey module, working with team members to allocate sites and collate results; although responsibility for this lies ultimately with project staff, volunteers will be encouraged to undertake as much of it as possible themselves.

Participation in this work will be open to all project volunteers. Each of the modules will begin with a workshop, based at the University, at which the nature of the particular subject will be discussed. There will be presentations by academic staff, and the survey methodology will be discussed. The numbers of sites allocated to each volunteer (or group of volunteers) will be dependent on the numbers taking part; where possible, volunteers will be allocated sites close to where they live – or in other areas they may wish to get to know better.

Following the workshop, one or more site visits to appropriate sites will be arranged. These will provide further opportunity for volunteers to discuss sites with experts and will also enable them to trial the survey methodology. Where appropriate, two such visits will be arranged, one on the north of the region and one in the south.

For each of the modules, a pro-forma will be created, enabling volunteers to record appropriate information in a standard format; thus comparable information will be recorded about sites throughout the region. This will include background information form a range of sources together with the results of field inspection, including information about the current condition of sites and any observed threats. In addition to completing the pro-forma, volunteers will be encouraged to think about the

possible original purpose of each site, and record their thoughts within a ‘discussion’ section of each form.

Once field visits for each survey module are complete, a results workshop will be held at the university. This will enable volunteers to present and discuss their individual results, amongst themselves and with appropriate academics, and will also enable the presentation and discussion of an overview, taking all results into account. There will also be a final ‘survey modules’ discussion workshop, where all the results will be presented and discussed together. This may throw up intriguing relationships between, for example, hoards and holy wells, or holy wells and crosses, which could be worthy of further investigation. This work may well help to inform general discussion about how a site becomes ‘sacred’, something that is of particular interest to many volunteers.

When undertaking surveys like this, it is important to ensure that results are collated and presented in a meaningful way and made widely available for the benefit of anyone who may wish to consult them now or in the future. For each of these modules, a comprehensive archive of the results, and an interpretive report, will be produced and published on the project website. Volunteers will be encouraged to participate in the production of the archive and report. The results will thus be available to anyone contemplating future research, to those responsible for the management of the heritage, and to anyone who may have just a general interest in the subject and may wish to find out more about it. They will certainly be of value to local groups who may wish to set up projects to investigate particular aspects of their local heritage.

4.2 Standing stones

Map generated from Keys to the Past website, showing location of standing stones throughout Durham and Northumberland.

Some of the earliest monuments in our region that are classified as 'ritual monuments' consist of standing stones, some in apparent isolation, others in pairs, and a few in the form of stone rows or stone circles. These monuments always attract much interest from the public, but are very poorly understood. Very few have been investigated in our region, although it is generally assumed that they date from the Neolithic or early Bronze Age (roughly between 4000 and 1500 BC). They may have been erected for a range of different reasons, but for now there is not a single example for which we can state with certainly why it exists.

Volunteers will visit all the known standing stone sites in the region to record not only the visible form of the monuments, but also their landscape setting. Depending on the results of this survey work, one or more sites may be chosen for further analysis later in the project.

Examples of standing stones in Northumberland and County Durham. In addition to recording details of these enigmatic monuments and their current condition, volunteers will be encouraged to consider what their original purpose may have been to the people who constructed and used them.

4.3 Ritual hoards

Map generated from Keys to the Past website, showing location of hoards throughout Durham and Northumberland.

From Bronze Age times onwards, for reasons we do not understand, people have deposited high-status objects in the ground, often in wet places such as bogs and rivers. In many cases, several objects are found in the same place, suggesting that the place of deposition may have been no less important than the objects that were deposited. The objects were often metal; although they may have been deposited along with other things that do not survive, it is usually only the metal objects that we are left to study. In the past, much attention has been paid to these objects, but relatively little to the places in the landscape where they were found. In general terms, many hoards, which can include a range of objects such as weapons (e.g. swords, spearheads) and tools (e.g. axes), are found in wet places that may once have been bogs or pools; many were found during drainage operations. Some were found in the nineteenth century, while others were only found very recently, sometimes through metal detecting. This project will include study of the objects but will focus primarily on the places where these hoards were found; are there patterns that can be identified, beyond the general observation

regarding wet places? And how do these places relate to other elements of the archaeological landscape? Volunteers will study the objects from each known hoard, and visit the findspots, making a comprehensive photographic record of these within their landscape context.

By way of example, a few well-known hoards from different parts of the north-east region will be briefly described. From a few kms north of Rothbury, the Whittingham (Thrunton) hoard, consisting of three spearheads and two swords, all of bronze and dating from about 900BC, was found while digging drains through a moss in about 1847. From a little further south, the Wallington hoard was found while draining a swamp in 1879; it includes 28 bronze objects including swords, spearheads and axes. The Heathery Burn hoard, arguably the most extraordinary hoard from northern England, was found in the mid 19th century in a cave above Stanhope, through which a stream flowed. More than a hundred objects, including two of gold, were found; most of the finds are now in the British Museum. Not far from Heathery Burn, a hoard of fifteen bronze objects of similar date, now lost, was found near the village of Eastgate, in 1812. From the south of the region, an amazing hoard of 123 bronze objects was found in 1980, during drainage works in a field near the village of Gilmonby in Teesdale; the findspot was close to a spring. There are many more examples in addition to the few mentioned here; together they make a fascinating corpus for project volunteers to study in the attempt to try and work out why people effectively 'threw them away'. Were they 'gifts to the Gods' as is often supposed? Or are there other explanations?

Objects of late Bronze Age date from the Heathery Burn hoard, Weardale, County Durham. © British Museum.

4.4 Holy wells

Map generated from Keys to the Past website, showing location of holy wells and associated sites throughout Durham and Northumberland.

Holy wells are an enigmatic and poorly understood feature of medieval and post-medieval religious landscape of the region. They may even have their origins in pre-Christian religious activities, and religious activity associated with wells and other 'wet places' is certainly known from the Roman period, most notably the large deposition of votive items found at Coventina's Well at Carrawburgh on Hadrian's Wall. Some may even have origins in pre-Roman times.

A small number have seen architectural elaboration and remain clearly visible in the landscape. For example, Lady's Well, Holystone (Northumberland) is substantial enough to be legally protected as both a listed structure and a scheduled ancient monument. Elsewhere, they remain simply as springheads or marshy areas, while evidence for some exists only in the form of place names (Holy Well, Halliwell, Lady's Well etc).

The aim of this project is to carry out the first formal survey of probable and possible holy wells throughout the north-east of England. Drawing on HER data, published and unpublished sources and maps held in regional archives, a handlist of candidate sites will be compiled by volunteers. Volunteers will receive initial training in RTI photography, desk-based research skills and provided with a pro forma on which to record details of each site. Individuals or groups of volunteers will then be allocated groups of wells to visit, record and research. This work will also record any recent or current 'New Age' activity associated with them. The results workshop will include discussion not only of the results, but also of potential follow-up projects to improve understanding (and, in some cases, the condition) of these little-studied sites.

The Durham University staff member providing academic and technical lead on this project will be Dr David Petts

Lady's Well, Holystone, Northumberland.

4.5 Medieval crosses

Map generated from Keys to the Past website, showing location of known medieval cross sites throughout Durham and Northumberland.

Carved stone crosses once formed an important part of the religious landscape of north-east England. They could be found in market squares and churchyards, as well as marking paths and routeways, often in remote locations. Some are Anglo-Saxon and many are medieval. Some have seen extensive damage, repair and renovation over the centuries and now comprise complex multi-period monuments

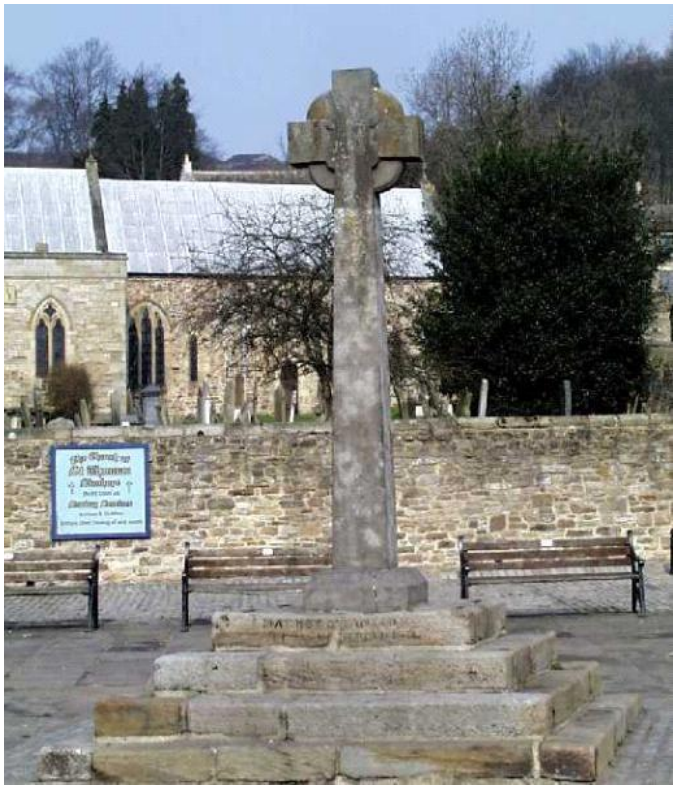
This disparate group of monuments is poorly understood, both on a regional and national basis. A survey of stone crosses in County Durham and Tyne and Wear was completed in the mid-1990s a part of English Heritage's Monuments Protection Programme (MPP). This focused on a subset of crosses that could be shown to be still in their original positions. Its methodology will be adapted for the current project. No equivalent survey has taken place for Northumberland or Teesside.

The aim is to train small groups of volunteers to visit and record all stone crosses listed on the regional Historic Environment Records and record them using 3D recording methods, as well as carrying out map based, archive work drawing on the available resources held in the Palace Green Library, Durham University and other regional archives. This will provide updated information for the Durham/Tyne & Wear crosses,

enhancing the record with new imagery, as well providing new data for Northumberland and Teesside. The resulting corpus of information will be collated and deposited with the regional HERs in an appropriate format.

Volunteers will receive initial training in RTI photography, desk-based research skills and provided with a pro forma on which to record details of each site. Individuals or groups of volunteers will then be allocated groups of crosses to record and research.

Training will be provided by the staff at Durham University with particular support from the *Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture* based at Durham University.



Medieval market cross, Stanhope, Weardale (County Durham)

4.6 Church Graffiti

As well as being the sites of formal monuments and memorials, the extent of informal writing, carving and drawing in the form of graffiti surviving in our parish churches is becoming increasingly apparent. Sometimes incised on the fabric of the building itself, but also often found on fittings, such as choirstalls and pews, and freestanding and wall mounted memorials , this graffiti can take the form of names, monograms, devotional symbols (crosses; Marian imagery), gaming boards and a host of other images and designs. They form an important record relating to the lives and beliefs of those who worshipped and used our local churches.

Elsewhere, there have been major projects recording and collating examples of this, most notably the Norfolk Medieval Graffiti project (www.medieval-graffiti.co.uk/), which has worked successfully with volunteers to develop methodologies for recording this material. The Department of Archaeology Durham University also has particular expertise in developing digital methodologies for recording historic graffiti, developed as part of the major research project by Dr Pam Graves on the medieval graffiti preserved in the Prior's Chapel at Durham Cathedral https://www.dur.ac.uk/archaeology/research/projects/all/?mode=project&id=707

There are far too many parish churches in the region for the *Belief in the North-East* project to survey them all, so work will focus on churches in three sample areas (one in North Northumberland; one in the Tyne Valley and one on Teesside). Using methodologies based on those developed by the Norfolk Medieval Graffiti project and following the Historic England Guidelines on recording historic graffiti, groups of volunteers will be trained in recording methodologies before being allocated groups of churches to investigate and survey. On completion of the survey records and processing of all digital image data copies will be provided to the church communities themselves, as well as being integrated into a formal database.

Support for this work package will be provided by Dr Pam Graves, Mr Jeff Veitch (Photographic technician) of the Department of Archaeology, Durham University.

Medieval graffiti in the Prior's Chapel, Durham Priory (© Durham Univ).

4.7 Sites and landscapes demonstrating long-term sacred continuity

In addition to survey work discussed above, a special module will be designed to focus on ‘sacred places’ that seem to have been of special significance to many generations of people, often extending from prehistoric times through into the Christian era. This is something of great interest to many project volunteers, but which is rarely discussed in a meaningful way. What is it that makes such places so special? And why in some cases, having been so special, were they apparently abandoned and forgotten about? How do these places relate to aspects of the natural landscape? Can we see how and why they were ‘adopted’ by early Christianity, and their importance reinforced? The classic such place in the north-east region is perhaps Yeavering, near Wooler, but there are several others that we will also consider. This module will also consider whether we can recognise ‘sacred places’ in the landscape that are (and perhaps never were) embellished through the construction of monuments.

Exactly how this module will be structured has yet to be resolved, but it will start with a workshop to discuss possibilities with volunteers. It will be delivered in a way that involves as many project volunteers as possible. The results will be of widespread interest, within the north-east and elsewhere.

Many people today describe Yeavering, a beautiful place with archaeological evidence of ‘religious’ activity extending over at least four millennia, as a ‘special place’, even though it has no church or other conventional ‘religious’ monument. What is that makes places like Yeavering so special?

5 Other events carried out as part of the project

5.1 Practical training events for volunteers

The full overview of training events has been outlined in Section 2.3. In summary there will be a combination of practical 'hands-on' training carried out on site as part of the fieldwork and survey modules, and the more desk-based training, with an emphasis on digital skills being carried out through training courses taking place in Durham and elsewhere. The training will be supported through the provision of on-line learning resources, peer-group led support and training films. Acquisition of particular skills will be recorded via the Archaeological Skills Passport scheme. Training will primarily be delivered by Durham University staff and students but there will also be some capacity to bring in external experts where necessary or to meet a particular demand from our volunteers.

5.2 Events for volunteers

In additional to formal structured training there will be a series of additional events open to the volunteers planned with the intention of improving and widening their understanding of religion, ritual and belief in past societies.

A key element of this will be a series of day schools held at a range of venues across the region focussing in on particular periods. These will be structured to have a range of talks from researchers exploring the ritual behaviour of these eras, looking at general thematic topics, as well as focussing in on specific sites or artefacts. It is planned to have a day school for each period (prehistory; Roman; early medieval; medieval; post-medieval). It is expected that the bulk of speakers will be drawn from Durham archaeology staff and students, but where appropriate other speakers will be sourced.

Prehistory – leader to be confirmed.
Probable location: Durham. Spring 2019

Roman – led by Professor R. Hingley
Probable location: Stockton Summer 2019

Early medieval – led by Professor Sarah Semple
Probable location: Newcastle Autumn 2019

Medieval – led by Dr Pam Graves
Probable location: Durham Spring 2020

Post-medieval - led by Dr David Petts
Probable location: Berwick upon Tweed Summer 2020

In addition to practical training workshops, the project will deliver lectures on aspects of the archaeology of religion in the north-east by acknowledged experts, including Durham University staff and others. These will concentrate not on practical work, but on particular topics of relevance to the archaeology of religion. A programme of at least six such lectures will be delivered each year; it is proposed that each lecture will be delivered twice, once in the south of the region (eg Durham) and once in the north (eg Alnwick). The first year's programme will be decided by the Project Management Team; volunteers will be consulted over the content of the second year's programme.

The kind of topics to be covered by the lecture programme include:
What is religion and why do we have it?; What can we learn from ethnographic studies of the nature of religious belief in traditional non-industrial communities (eg Australian aborigines and native Americans) and are such studies of relevance to understanding prehistoric 'religion' in our area? The relationship between Christianity and pagan beliefs in the north-east since Roman times. Patterns of burial in the north-east from prehistory to present.The different religions practiced today throughout the north-east.

Finally, there will be a series of site visits and fieldtrips. A programme of site visits to a range of relevant sites and landscapes, accompanied by appropriate experts, will be delivered. Where places have to be limited, priority will be given to signed-up project volunteers, but should places be available then others will be welcome to attend. These events will enable participants to examine sites and landscapes at first hand and discuss them with experts. Sites to be visited will be agreed in consultation with project volunteers. Potential sites include include Heritage at Risk sites, and medieval churches, as well as the chance to visit more recent, post-medieval sites, such as the chapels of Weardale and Teesdale and the historic cemeteries of Newcastle. We will capitalise on the wide range of interesting sites which can be explored in Durham, including not just the Cathedral, but its impressive but under-appreciated parish churches (e.g. St Oswalds, St Mary the Less, St Giles). We also hope to broaden the scope of these visits to include trips to visit contemporary sites of worship, such as local mosques, and synagogues. We will also liaise with the Oriental Museum at Durham University to share information and expertise about exploring the wider non-Christian heritage of the NE of England. Other possible destinations include Lindisfarne, Durham Cathedral, Neolithic rock art sites, Yeavering, Auckland Castle, the Great North Museum, and possibly also relevant sites just outside the north-east region. At least four site visits will be arranged each year.

5.2.1 Public events linked to project fieldwork

While fieldwork is in progress, guided tours of the sites under investigation will be advertised locally and project staff and volunteers will explain what is being done and the significance of results. Where fieldwork is on publicly accessible sites, a volunteer will be designated each day (or half-day) to explain the project to visitors. Also, events at appropriate local venues, such as village halls, will present the results of project fieldwork to local communities. These are essential elements of each fieldwork module and have not been separately costed.

5.3 Educational events in partnership with schools

The project has already developed links with a series of local schools, particularly in and around Durham (Durham Johnston; Durham Bluecoats) and will also build links with other schools particularly those in the vicinity of field sites, for example building on schools that have expressed interest in engagement with the Low Grange, Billingham project. The Project Team will work closely with teachers within these establishment to identify targeted activities that mesh with the demands of the delivery of the curriculum and the pragmatic limitations of the timetable. The precise nature of these activities will by necessity have to be defined once the final timetable for fieldwork is put in place as they will be contingent on other activities and priorities within the schools.

As well as working with schools, we also plan to work with local Young Archaeologists Club. We've had expressions of interest in working with us from the Flodden and Auckland Castle YAC groups as well as the Durham Museum Arch. We will also work with Durham University's own Durham Archaeology Explorers club (www.dur.ac.uk/oriental.museum/whatson/events/dax/) based at the Oriental Museum. As well as involving these groups in fieldwork we will also work with them through finds handling and processing and a range of other activities that can be delivered by Durham staff and students.

It will of course only be possible to involve a small number of schools directly in the project, but there will be potential for all schools throughout the region to benefit from the project in the long–term through the education pack that will be available online following project completion. Exactly how this will be structured has yet to be determined, but the costs of production will be negligible, consisting largely of 'in-kind' contributions from academic staff and the Project Manager who collectively have much experience of delivering archaeological work with schools. It will include material for children of different ages, and will be discussed in detail with those schools actually participating in the project. It will be designed to offer opportunities for children to engage in a meaningful way with the heritage on a regional and local basis. It is intended that this education pack will be a key resource within the project's long-term legacy.

5.4 Events in partnership with 'new audiences'

A key aim for our project it to embrace new audiences and reach out beyond our existing volunteer base. Whilst we have committed volunteers, these are largely drawn from an established cadre of groups and individuals. Whilst they are absolutely core to our plans, we also want to reach further and encourage people who may never have previously thought about developing an interest in history or archaeology. One strategy will be widespread advertising of the project in its launch phase, using Durham University's marketing department to share the information about its work and making contacts with local media, particularly our existing contacts with BBC local radio.

We will also particularly use two of our medieval sites to reach out to new local audiences. Bewley and Bearpark are ideal to use of as particular outreach sites for a number of reasons. First, we plan to also work with local schools, so this will give us a chance to encourage their parents to also get involved in the project. Both areas are in areas that are relatively

populated but have social challenges, including lower than average educational attainment and higher than average unemployment. Despite this, they both have active residents groups and other organisations with whom we will make contact through our existing links with local councillors and groups.

As discussed elsewhere in the document, it is proposed to deliver specially designed events specifically for disabled groups such as people with sight loss. These will be designed and delivered in partnership with appropriate experts, such as the staff of the Northumberland County Blind Association. These will be delivered as essential elements of the project. Subject to agreement with relevant partners, the project will deliver at least four such events each year and hopefully many more. Where possible, provision will also be made for disabled people to take part in project fieldwork.

The fieldwork opportunities at the two sites can be used as 'hook' to encourage non-traditional heritage audiences to explore their local heritage. Both sites are in areas of open ground often used by local residents for a variety of leisure activity such as dog walking meaning that our practical fieldwork will have a clear local visibility.

5.5 Exhibition

A travelling exhibition will be produced featuring the work of the project within the context of the archaeology of religion in the north-east. It is envisaged that this will be produced towards the end of Year 1 and will be exhibited a range of venues throughout the region during Year 2 and beyond. It is hoped that it can be displayed within a number of churches, especially those close to places where project fieldwork is taking place. Other potential venues include libraries, museums, village halls, shopping centres and any other venues that may like to have it. The curators at the new Faith Museum at Bishop Auckland have requested it, and this could be one of its first venues. The exhibition will consist of a number of panels and will include references to the project website where much further information will be available for anyone who wishes to find out more. It is proposed to produce two ort three copies of it, so that it can be exhibited concurrently in different places.

5.6 Final project conference

The completion of the project will be marked by a final conference held at a central venue within the region. This will explore the highs and lows of the project, reviewing what new knowledge has been accrued and asking what new questions have arisen as a result of the work carried out by the volunteers. It will also provide an opportunity for the exhibition panels to be displayed. All those who have been involved in the project over its lifetime, including volunteers, school groups and Durham University staff and supervisors. A key aspect of this final event is that it will be, wherever, possible volunteer-led; they will give the talks about the fieldwork and survey and lead on discussion and debate. The conference will also be used as a final opportunity for direct evaluation of the scheme, as well as a chance to look forward to possible future research projects (academic and community led) that have come out of Belief in the North East.

Part 6. Project Legacy

This project must have a long-term sustainable legacy. Although in some ways difficult at this stage to predict, this legacy should include the following important benefits.

6.1 Enhanced skills within local communities

A key legacy of the project will be enhanced levels of skills and experience within local communities, giving local groups the ability to develop and deliver their own heritage projects in future. This should lead to follow-up projects, led by local community groups, in particular areas. Where appropriate, Durham University will assist in the development and delivery of such projects.

We also anticipate that our wider programme of community engagement will bring in new volunteers who had not previously thought about exploring local heritage. We hope that this continued engagement may be expressed through increased membership of existing heritage groups, and possibly also the founding of new groups in areas where they don't currently exist.

6.2 Enhanced awareness of local heritage

The project should leave a lasting impact in the form of increased local engagement with archaeology and heritage across the region. This should apply not only to individuals and groups who have engaged directly with the project, but also to local people who have an interest in the heritage but may not be able, for a range of possible reasons, to participate directly in such work. Support for heritage work among the wider community can only be a good thing from the point of view of future heritage management.

6.3 Enhanced Historic Environment Records

Results of all project work will be passed in due course to the relevant local authority for incorporation into the relevant Historic Environment Record. Results will thus be available to those wishing to undertake further research in future, as well as to those charged with future heritage management including development control.

6.4 Improved site management

In some cases, project results will be of value to the future management of sites on the official Heritage at Risk register. In a few cases it is expected that volunteers will undertake work (such as scrub clearance) to directly improve the management of such sites, possibly enabling them to be removed from the Heritage at Risk register.

6.5 On-line resources

The project website will be maintained by Durham University after completion of the project. It is hoped that a small team of volunteers will contribute to the maintenance and updating of the website. All reports generated by the project will be available as pdfs on the website, as will much other relevant material. It is hoped that this website will be a key resource for the foreseeable future for anyone interested in the archaeology of religion throughout the north-east.

6.6 Education pack for local schools

This will be a key element of the online resources available following project completion. It will be trialled by a small number of schools during the lifetime of the project. It will feature key regional sites and will also explain to teachers how to find out about more local sites and integrate these into specific packages for their particular schools.

6.7 Long-term sustainable links between Durham University and community groups.

The project should result in enhanced links between the University and local groups which will be of long-term value to both. Such links will be of value to future project planning.

6.8 Travelling exhibition

The travelling exhibition about the project should continue to be of value after project completion, and could be loaned out to schools, churches, and a variety of community groups. This will integrate closely with the proposed online resources, including reports of all work completed by the project.

6.9 Project publication

Following recent fine examples set by other HLF-funded projects in the region (e.g. Perigrini Lindisfarne, Flodden 500), it is proposed that a popular book, highlighting the results of project fieldwork within the context of the archaeology of religion throughout the north-east, is published. This will include contributions by project volunteers and will represent the first ever overview of the archaeology of religion throughout the north-east. It will be produced in partnership with a local publisher and will without doubt prove very popular to people throughout the region. It is proposed that external funding for this will be secured once the project is underway, enabling the production of a high quality and very attractive volume. Should sufficient funding not be secured then the volume will be produced as a pdf, downloadable from the project website.

6.10 Project evaluation report

A comprehensive evaluation of the BitNE project will be undertaken by an appropriate consultant, whose report should be of value to anyone planning comparable projects in the north-east or elsewhere. One thing that has been dropped from the original project

proposal is a long-term programme of site monitoring, which was deemed unfeasible during Project Development. The main reason for this is that a monitoring programme focussing just on religious sites would be awkward to justify, especially as several sites are already covered by existing monitoring programmes. That said, consideration will be given to the long-term monitoring and management of sites featured in the project, and appropriate recommendations will be provided to the relevant authorities.

Appendix 1: Action Plan

Activity description (see Activity Plan for details)	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Costsin project budget	Timetable	Targets and measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
Start-upworkshops(1 inDurham,1innorth Northumberland)	Prospective volunteers	Explanationofaimsandobjectives of project; chance for prospective volunteerstoaskquestionsandsign up.	Informed and enthused volunteers.	Project Manager 1 day Heritage Consultant 1 day Durham staff/students 2 days	£850 Archaeological skills passports	April 2019	Target of 100 volunteers per event. Success measured by attendance and feedback.	Attendance register. Feedback forms.
Enhancement and ongoing maintenance of project website and social media	Project volunteers. General public.	Informationaboutprojectfor volunteers. Information about project for everyonewithaninterestinthe archaeology of the north-east.	Informed volunteers. Enhanced knowledge amongst people of the north-east and others around the world with an interest in the region.	Project manager 1 day set up 3 days/year after that Costs: domain name and hosting	£500 domain name, hosting, web design	April 2019 and throughout project	Success measured by numbers of articles and reports placed on website, andnumbersofvisitorsto website.	Automatic calculations of numbers of website visitors.
Fieldwork module 1. Rock art landscapes. Start-up workshop.	Volunteers.	Opportunityforvolunteerstofind outaboutthismoduleandsignup.	Informed and enthused volunteers ready to participate in survey phase (below).	Heritage Consultant 1 day Volunteers 1 day each Durham staff/students 1 day	Space in-kind from Durham University	Apr 2019	No of participants. No of volunteers signing up for this module.	Attendance register. Feedback questionnaires
Fieldworkmodule1. Rockartlandscapes. Survey phase (4sites)	Volunteers.	Meaningful and enjoyable experience for volunteers.	Results of importance in themselves, but also crucial to planning of excavation phase (below). (Possibly also directly improved managementofsomeHeritageat Risk sites through scrub clearance).	Heritage Consultant 16 days Volunteers Durham staff/students 10 days	£3k fieldwork £300 geophys hire (in kind) £300 GPS hire (in kind)	June-Aug 2019.	Nos of sites surveyed. NosofHeritageatRisksites surveyed. No of participating volunteers. Quality of experience of participating volunteers.	Project reports. Volunteer attendance registers. Feedback questionnaires.
Fieldwork module1. Rock artlandscapes. Excavationphase(2 sites)	Volunteers.	Meaningful and enjoyable experience for volunteers. Results of widespread interest throughouttheregionandfurther afield.	Enhancedknowledgeofparticular rock art site(s) and provision of information of general use to futuremanagementofallrock art sites.	Arch Services: 14 days Heritage Consultant: 10 days Volunteers Durham staff/students 5 days	£9k fieldwork £640 travel £240 consumables £288 tool hire (in kind)	June-Aug 2020.	No of participating volunteers. Quality of experience of participating volunteers.	Project reports. Volunteer attendance registers. Feedback questionnaires.

Fieldwork module1. Rock art landscapes. Resultsworkshop.	Volunteers. Others who may be interested.	Discussion and celebration of results.	Enhanced awareness and understanding of this poorly understood but iconic aspect of north-east heritage.	Heritage consultant 1 day Volunteers Durham staff/students 1 days	£3k post-ex costs £240 archiving	Sept 2020.	No of participants. Quality of experience of participating volunteers.	Attendance register. Feedback questionnaires.
Fieldwork module2. Bronze Age burials. Start-upworkshop.	Volunteers.	Opportunity for volunteers to find out about this module and sign up.	Informed and enthused volunteers ready to participate in survey phase (below).	Heritage consultant 1 day Volunteers Durham staff/students 1 days	Space in-kind from Durham University	April-May 2019	No of participants. No of volunteers signing up for this module.	Attendance register. Feedback questionnaires
Fieldwork module 2. Bronze Age burials. Survey phase. (Several sites)	Volunteers	Meaningful and enjoyable experience for volunteers.	Results of importance in themselves, but also crucial to planning of excavation phase(below). (Possibly also directly improved management of some Heritage at Risk sites through scrub clearance, or repair of erosion scars).	Heritage consultant 18 days Volunteers Durham staff/students 5 days	£3k fieldwork £320 travel £300 geophys hire (in kind) £300 GPS hire (in kind)	June-Aug 2019.	Nos of sites surveyed. Nos of Heritage at Risk sites surveyed. No of participating volunteers. Quality of experience of participating volunteers.	Project reports. Volunteer attendance registers. Feedback questionnaires.
Fieldwork module 2. Bronze Age burials. Excavation phase (1 site).	Volunteers	Meaningful and enjoyable experience for volunteers. Results potentially of widespread interest throughout the region and further afield.	Enhanced knowledge of one particular burial site and provision of information potentially of value to future management of other sites, including Heritage at Risk sites.	Arch Services 14 days Heritage consultant 10 days Durham staff/students 5 days Volunteers	£9k fieldwork £640 travel £240 consumables £288 tool hire (in kind)	June-Aug 2020.	No of participating volunteers. Quality of experience of participating volunteers.	Project report. Volunteer attendance registers. Feedback questionnaires.
Fieldwork module 2. Bronze Age burials. Results workshop.	Volunteers. Others who may be interested.	Discussion and celebration of results.	Enhanced awareness and understanding of this important aspect of north-east heritage.	Heritage consultant 1 day Volunteers Durham staff/students 1 days	£3k post-ex costs £240 archiving	Nov 2020	No of participants. Quality of experience of participating volunteers.	Attendance register. Feedback questionnaires.
Fieldwork module 3. Early medieval cemeteries. Start-up workshop.	Volunteers	Opportunity for volunteers to find out about this module and sign up.	Informed and enthused volunteers ready to participate in excavation (below).	PM 1 day Durham staff/students 1 days Volunteers	Space in-kind from Durham University	April-May 2020	No of participants. No of volunteers signing up for this module.	Attendance register. Feedback questionnaires
Fieldwork module 3. Initial survey + workshop	Volunteers	Meaningful and enjoyable experience for volunteers. Training in geophysical survey	Informed and enthused volunteers ready to participate in excavation (below).	Arch Services 5 days Volunteers Durham staff/students 2 days	£3k fieldwork £300 geophys hire (in kind)			

Fieldwork module 3. Excavation phase.	Volunteers	Meaningful and enjoyable experience for volunteers. Results potentially of widespread interest throughout the region and further afield.	Greatly enhanced knowledge of this particular site and provision of information potentially of value to future management of other sites under the plough, including Heritage at Risk sites.	Arch Services 7 days PM 3 days Durham staff/students 7 days	£9k fieldwork £640 travel £240 consumables £300 GPS hire (in kind) £288 tool hire (in kind)	June-August 2019	No of participating volunteers. Quality of experience of participating volunteers.	Project report. Volunteer attendance registers. Feedback questionnaires.
Fieldwork module 3. Results workshop.	Volunteers. Others who may be interested.	Discussion and celebration of results.	Enhanced awareness and understanding of this important aspect of north-east heritage.	PM 1 day Durham staff/students 1 days	£3k post-ex costs £240 archiving	Jan 2020	No of participants. Quality of experience of participating volunteers.	Attendance register. Feedback questionnaires.
Fieldwork module 4. Medieval monasticism. Start-up workshop x 2	Volunteers	Opportunity for volunteers to find out about this module and sign up.	Informed and enthused volunteers ready to participate in fieldwork (below).	PM 2 days Volunteers Durham staff/students 2 days	Space in-kind from Durham University	April-May 2019	No of participants. No of volunteers signing up for this module.	Attendance register. Feedback questionnaires.
Fieldwork module 4. Medieval monasticism. Sub-module 4a. Bear Park.	Volunteers	Meaningful and enjoyable experience for volunteers. Much improved experience for visitors to the site.	Better understanding and management of this important Heritage at Risk site.PM Improved awareness of the site within local community.	Arch Services 7 days PM 3 days Volunteers Durham staff/students 10 days	£6k fieldwork £320 travel £120 consumables £300 GPS hire (in kind)	June-August 2019	No of participating volunteers. Quality of experience of participating volunteers. Improved management of Heritage at Risk site.	Project report. Volunteer attendance registers. Feedback questionnaires.
Fieldwork module 4. Medieval monasticism. Sub-module 4b. Low Grange.	Volunteers	Meaningful and enjoyable experience for volunteers.	Better understanding and management of this important yet little-known site. Improved awareness of the site within local community.	Arch Services 7 days PM 3 days Durham staff/students 10 days Volunteers	£6k fieldwork £320 travel £120 consumables £300 geophys hire (in kind) £288 tool hire (in kind)	June-August 2019	No of participating volunteers. Quality of experience of participating volunteers.	Project report. Volunteer attendance registers. Feedback questionnaires.
Fieldwork module 4. Results workshop.	Volunteers. Others who may be interested.	Discussion and celebration of results.	Enhanced awareness and understanding of this important aspect of north-east heritage.	PM 2 days Volunteers	£3k post-ex costs	Sept 2019	No of participants. Quality of experience of participating volunteers.	Attendance register. Feedback questionnaires.
Fieldwork module 5. Decisions on nature of activity to be made in consultation with volunteers.	Volunteers	Delivery of further fieldwork in Year 2, chosen by volunteers. See Activity Plan for provisional arrangements.	To be agree in consultation with volunteers	Arch Services 14 days PM 2 days Consultant 2 days Durham staff/students 10 days	£16k fieldwork £640 travel £240 consumables £3k post-ex costs £240 archiving	Jan 2020–Oct 2020	No of participating volunteers. Quality of experience of participating volunteers. Improved management of Heritage at Risk site.	Project report. Volunteer attendance registers. Feedback questionnaires.

				Volunteers	£300 GPS hire (in kind) £288 tool hire (in kind)			
Survey module 1. Standing stones.	Initially project volunteers, but also the general public via the website.	Enhanced awareness among volunteers and others of this important element of the region's heritage.	Enhanced awareness of the resource amongst heritage curators, enabling more informed future management.	Heritage consultant 4 days Volunteers Durham staff/students 2 days	£1k pub prep work Space in-kind from Durham University	June 2019–June 2020	Target is for at least 25 volunteers to participate. Target is to complete basic surveys of all ?? sites on the list, along with others that may come to light once project is underway.	Nos of participating volunteers. Nos of sites surveyed. Feedback questionnaires.
Survey module 2. Hoards	Initially project volunteers, but also the general public via the website.	Enhanced awareness among volunteers and others of this important element of the region's heritage.	Enhanced HER records of use to those managing and researching the heritage, both now and in the future.	Heritage consultant 4 days Volunteers Durham staff/students 2 days	£1k pub prep work Space in-kind from Durham University	June 2019–June 2020	Target is for at least 25 volunteers to participate. Target is to complete basic surveys of all ?? sites on the list, along with others that may come to light once project is underway.	Nos of participating volunteers. Nos of sites surveyed. Feedback questionnaires.
Survey module 3. Holy wells	Initially project volunteers, but also the general public via the website.	Enhanced awareness among volunteers and others of this important element of the region's heritage.	Enhanced HER records of use to those managing and researching the heritage, both now and in the future.	PM 4 days Volunteers Durham staff/students 2 days	£1k pub prep work Space in-kind from Durham University	June 2019–June 2020	Target is for at least 25 volunteers to participate. Target is to complete basic surveys of all ?? sites on the list, along with others that may come to light once project is underway.	Nos of participating volunteers. Nos of sites surveyed. Feedback questionnaires.
Survey module 4. Medieval crosses.	Initially project volunteers, but also the general public via the website.	Enhanced awareness among volunteers and others of this important element of the region's heritage.	Enhanced HER records of use to those managing and researching the heritage, both now and in the future.	PM 4 days Volunteers Durham staff/students 2 days	£1k pub prep work Space in-kind from Durham University	June 2019–June 2020	Target is for at least 25 volunteers to participate. Target is to complete basic surveys of all ?? sites on the list, along with others that may come to light once project is underway.	Nos of participating volunteers. Nos of sites surveyed. Feedback questionnaires.
Survey module 5. Church graffiti.	Initially project volunteers, but also the general public via the website.	Enhanced awareness among volunteers and others of this important element of the region's heritage.	Enhanced HER records of use to those managing and researching the heritage, both now and in the future.	PM 4 days Volunteers Durham staff/students 2 days	£1k pub prep work Space in-kind from Durham University	June 2019–June 2020	Target is for at least 25 volunteers to participate. Target is to complete basic surveys of all ?? sites on the list, along with others that may come to light once project is underway.	Nos of participating volunteers. Nos of sites surveyed. Feedback questionnaires.
Survey module 6. Site and landscapes demonstrating long-term sacred continuity.	Initially project volunteers, but also the general public via the website.	Enhanced awareness among volunteers and others of this important element of the region's heritage.	Enhanced HER records of use to those managing and researching the heritage, both now and in the future.	Heritage consultant 4 days Durham staff/students 3 days Volunteers	£1k pub prep work Space in-kind from Durham University	June 2019–June 2020	Target is for at least 25 volunteers to participate. Target is to complete basic surveys of all ?? sites on the list, along with others that may come to light once project is underway.	Nos of participating volunteers. Nos of sites surveyed. Feedback questionnaires.

Survey modules – summary workshop.	Project volunteers.	Opportunity for volunteers engaged in particular survey modules to discuss results with colleagues engaged in others. Awareness among volunteers of the nature, condition and research potential of a range of sites relating to the archaeology of religion.	Enhanced HER records of use to those managing and researching the heritage, both now and in the future.	Heritage consultant 3 days PM 3 days Volunteers	Space in-kind from Durham University	June 2020	Target is at least 100 participants.	Nos of participating volunteers. Feedback questionnaires.
Practical training programme for volunteers.	Project volunteers.	Delivery of quality training leading to enhanced skills amongst volunteers, enabling them to contribute effectively to this project and others.	Volunteers enthused and enabled to help deliver project field work of the highest quality.	PM 20 days Heritage Consultant 20 days Durham staff/students 20 days Volunteers	£6k delivery £7.2k films £6k supportive materials	Starting June 2019 and continuing throughout Year 1 of the project.	Target is for 200 volunteers to undertake at least one training session. Sessions to be designed to meet volunteer demand, but target is to hold at least 20.	No of sessions held. Nos of participating volunteers. Feedback questionnaires.
Events for volunteers and public. Events throughout the region.	Volunteers and others.	Enhanced awareness of various aspects of the religious heritage of the north-east.	Greater public concern for effective heritage management. More people joining local heritage groups.	PM 10 days Heritage Consultant 10 days Durham staff/students 10 days Volunteers	£1500 publicity Space in-kind from Durham University	Starting April 2019 and continuing throughout the project.	Target is for delivery of at least 12 events per year, including period-specific workshops in Year 1.	No of sessions held. Nos of participating volunteers. Feedback questionnaires.
Events in partnership with schools.	School children – the archaeologists of the future!	Improved understanding of archaeological techniques; Enhanced understanding of the religious heritage of the north-east	Enhanced awareness and understanding local heritage	PM 5 days Heritage consultant 5 days	Space in-kind from Durham University £1k publicity [rolled into fieldwork activities]	Starting April 2019 and continuing throughout the project.	Starting April 2019 and continuing throughout the project.	Target is for at least three schools and two YAC clubs to become involved (with at least 10 children in each group)
Events in partnership with 'new audiences'.	People not previously engaged with archaeology.	Improved understanding of archaeological techniques; Enhanced understanding of the religious heritage of the north-east	Enhanced awareness and understanding local heritage	Heritage consultant 10 days	Space in-kind from Durham University	Starting April 2019 and continuing throughout the project.	Starting April 2019 and continuing throughout the project.	Target is for at least two groups with no previous experience of archaeology to become involved (at least 10 individuals in each group)
Travelling exhibition	General public.	Greater awareness of, and enthusiasm for, local archaeology.	Quality exhibition that will continue to travel the region after completion of project.	Heritage consultant 10 days	£10k Exhibition creation and tour	September 2019 and indefinitely thereafter.	Target is to visit at least 20 venues during lifetime of project; many more beyond.	Nos. of venues visited by exhibition. Feedback – questionnaires and/or via website.
Project celebration conference	Volunteers and others.	Feelgood factor amongst volunteers at having completed an important and exciting project. Opportunity for volunteers to discuss results with academics and professional archaeologists.	Appreciation of value of community archaeology. Improved understanding of overall contribution of the project. Enthusiasm for further community heritage engagement	Heritage consultant 2 days PM 2 days	£1k conf costs	April 2021	At least 200 attendees. Nos of presentations by volunteers.	Nos of attendees – volunteers and others. Feedback questionnaires.

Project evaluation	Everyoneinvolvedin the project. Anyone planning comparable work in future	Better understanding of success and failure of overall project as well as effectiveness of individual components. Help develop ‘best practice’ for further community archaeology projects	Accurate overview of the project, including discussion of volunteer benefits and value of project results to future heritage management	Evaluation consultant 25 days	£12k consultancy fees	April 2019-April 2021	Completion of comprehensive project evaluation including contributions from volunteers	Completed evaluation report made available on project website