



*Community Excavation at Kidderminster,  
for Kidderminster Civic Society*

# How can we work with you and your society?

If your society are considering a project on the history, buildings or archaeology of your area and are thinking of applying for funding, please have a chat with us to see if we can help. Over the years we have successfully worked in partnership with archaeological, historical, civic and parish groups. Our input to each project is different depending on what the group wants. In some cases we have provided support and advice on areas such as community engagement and IT needs and in others we were contracted to do specific pieces of work such as community excavation, digitisation of documents and maps or training days.

## *Applying for money*

We have experience of using a wide range of funding sources, including the Heritage Lottery Fund, and we are familiar with the process and what funders are looking for. Our initial advice is free. If you want us to be involved in your project there will be a charge for staff time, but this can be built into a bid.

# Types of projects we could help you with:

## 1. Community Research

A core part of many projects is encouraging local people to find about their community's past and helping them take pride in their local area. We hold a wealth of resources and our staff have a wide range of specialist skills. We can help you with historic digital mapping, historic environment recording and run workshops on how to use our sources for local history research. Looking into local history can also form part of creative and arts projects, and research by groups can then be used in work by storytellers or artists to create stories, plays or communal artwork. We can also advise how groups can get involved with our existing projects and contribute towards countywide research through local research if they wish.

Here are some examples:

**Worcester Archive Source Project** – we worked with older people's groups, after-school clubs, community groups and college groups on projects based on their local area.

**Grow With Wyre** - managing volunteer research for Wyre Forest Landscape Partnership (HLF).

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/archaeology/historicwyre](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/archaeology/historicwyre)

**Historic Map Projects** - we have digitised historic maps and provided community research opportunities for local groups including Badsey, Hagley, Hanley Castle and Stourport-on-Severn.

<http://www.unlocking-stourports-past.co.uk/>

[www.worcestershiremaps.org.uk](http://www.worcestershiremaps.org.uk)

## 2. Community Archaeology

Getting involved in archaeology is great fun as well as helping to uncover information about an area's past. We have worked with local groups and provided opportunities for the people to get involved, including those who have never taken part in an excavation before:-

**Stourport-on-Severn** - for Stourport Civic Society.

<http://www.unlocking-stourports-past.co.uk>

**Hanley Castle** - for The Hanleys Society.

<http://hanleyswan.net/2012/10/15/community-dig-news-week-3/>

**Dig Bromsgrove** - for Bromsgrove District Council.

<http://digbromsgrove.blogspot.co.uk/>

**St Mary's Kidderminster** - for Kidderminster Civic Society.

<http://digminster.blogspot.co.uk/>

**Grow with Wyre** - landscape survey and environmental sampling of pollen for Wyre Forest Landscape Partnership (HLF).

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/archaeology/historicwyre](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/archaeology/historicwyre)

**The Commandery, Worcester** - for Worcester City Museums.

**The Butts, Worcester** (site of the Hive).

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/pdf/pdfbuttseport.pdf>



*Working with local community on Historic Environment project*



*Recording WWII remains on Ronkswood Meadows*

### 3. Oral History (including intergenerational working)

We have experience of running and managing oral history projects, as well as providing training for people who are doing their own. Recording people's memories is very important, and there are many techniques to consider. We can help you to look at these when you draw up a project. The finished interviews can then be deposited within the archive here for future generations to use. Some of the projects we have already completed have been intergenerational, getting young and older people working together and allowing them to learn from each other. The interviews, in some cases, were then turned into plays to be performed, helping to pass on the stories to a wider audience.



*Training volunteers to carry out oral history interviews*

**Harvesting the Past** – intergenerational oral history and arts project in Martley for Worcestershire County Council's Adult & Community Services.

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/archive-and-archaeology/news-and-features/featured-collections/oral-history/harvesting-the-past.aspx>

**World War II Memories** – interviews and training carried out for Worcestershire Record Office project.

**'Beyond the City Walls'** – oral history events in Worcestershire Libraries for Worcestershire Libraries and Learning Service.

**Engineering the Past** (Redditch) – oral history training for Jestaminute Community Theatre (HLF).

<http://jestaminute.co.uk/#/engineering-the-past/4575992002>

### 4. Working with Young people

We have over 25 years experience of workshops and activities for schools and young people's groups, helping them to discover history through maps, photos, documents and archaeological objects. Activities can also be provided for museums and at open days, allowing children to get 'hands on' with archaeology, archives and history. We also have an awareness of the importance of evaluating outreach activity and showing the impact of a project upon people and the local community, and how to assess this.

**Worcester Archive Source Project** – artwork, plays, school visits and open days carried out with a wide variety of schools, children's groups, community groups and college classes around Worcester.

**Unlocking the Past** (gravel sites in the County).

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/archive-and-archaeology/learning-and-outreach/unlocking-the-past/school-packs.aspx>

**Bells in the City** – we have designed and delivered school visits about the history of bells for Old St Martin's, Worcester.

<http://oldstmartinsbells.co.uk/>

**Worcestershire Young Archaeologists Club** – regular archive & archaeology based activities carried out for the club.

<http://www.wyac.co.uk/northwick>



*Discovering Victorian Worcester through the archives*



*Creating maps of their community with a Kids Club*

## 5. Working with your archives

Our team can create high resolution digital images of documents and photographs from your collections. Creating copies protects the originals and makes the information more accessible, allowing them to be used for all sorts of purposes (exhibitions, publications, web sites and handling collections). In addition we have a conservation service which can advise you on caring for your collections and can carry out conservation work for you. Both these services can be funded as part of a lottery bid. We are accredited by The National Archives and our services are used by other Record Offices, local groups, members of the public and other professional services.

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/archive-and-archaeology/commercial-services/digitisation-and-microfilming.aspx>

So if you are thinking of doing a project or applying for funds then please let us know so we can discuss ways in which our professional skills could help you.



*Map of St Andrew's parish, Worcester, inspired by working with Worcester City Archives*



*19th century glass negative digitised by our staff*

**Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service**  
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**[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/waas](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/waas)**

# TheHive

a partnership between



University  
of Worcester



worcestershire  
county council

This publication can be made available in other formats (including large print, audio tape, computer disc and Braille) on request from the Archive & Archaeology Team on telephone number 01905 766352 or by emailing [explorepast@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:explorepast@worcestershire.gov.uk).

Find out more online:  
**[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/waas](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/waas)**

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