



Spodden Valley Revealed (SVR)
Project Design for a Community Archaeology
Project

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Purpose of document

This document has been prepared as a Project Design for the 'Spodden Valley Revealed' Delivery Phase on behalf of Mid Pennine Arts. The purpose of this document is to provide an outline of planned fieldwork, aims and objectives of the work, and methodology to be employed to aid the design phase of a proposed new linear visitor destination incorporating ten heritage sites in a European inspired Eco museum. This ambitious community-based project provides an opportunity to explore and interpret the long history of settlement in the area. DigVentures accepts no responsibility or liability for any use that is made of this document other than by the Mid Pennine Arts (MPA) for the purposes for which it was originally commissioned and prepared. DigVentures has no liability regarding the use of this report except to MPA

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Project summary

DV project code and type	SVR17 Community Archaeology Project
National Grid Reference	SD8830518541
County	Lancashire
Parish	Whitworth
Title:	Project Design for Spodden Valley Revealed
Author(s):	Stuart Noon and Brendon Wilkins
Origination date:	01/09/17
Circulation:	Mid Pennine Arts
Reviewed by:	Manda Forster MCIfA
Approval:	Brendon Wilkins MCIfA

Social Value Act

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DigVentures is aiming to reduce its per capita carbon emissions.

Acknowledgements

We'd like to begin with a sincere thank you to Diana Hamilton and Nick Hunt of the Mid Pennine Arts and the Heritage Lottery Fund.



Executive summary

This document is submitted in support of a community archaeological project at Spodden Valley, carried out by DigVentures. The project fieldwork will take place in two stages; 6th to 11th March 2018 and 1st to 6th of May 2018. The first stage focuses on a prehistoric survey of the moors adjacent to Spodden Valley and the second involves archaeological investigation at Cowm Reservoir and Brown Wardle Farm. In combination with the archaeological investigation, a series of local history research events will be undertaken supported by educational activities over the span of the project. The information discovered during the project will be presented at Festival of British Archaeology Events in July 2018/19 and ultimately be collated into a dedicated SVR website. The proposed work is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund through Mid Pennine Arts and will take place as outlined in this document. This project design defines key archaeological research questions, roles, procedures, stages and outputs. The overarching aim of fieldwork is to provide baseline information to contribute to the future management, research and presentation of the site, creating multiple educational and participatory learning experiences for community participants. This will be achieved through a community-based archaeological research project designed to understand: prehistoric sites in the landscape, the developing landscape around Cowm Reservoir and upland settlement at Brown Wardle Farm ruins.

The results of a desk based assessment and fieldwalking survey have been completed in advance of the community investigation (Forster, Noon, and Wilkins. 2017). This Project Design provides an outline of the methodology and planned intervention to complete:

Targeted investigation An archaeological survey of prehistoric sites in the area, digital survey comprising 3D photogrammetry and aerial survey of key sites and targeted trenching.

Public engagement DigVentures will take a creative approach to community training and mentoring, using digital technology to help create an access step-change for learning and engagement. A live feed of video, photos, 3D models and archaeological data will stream to an off-site incident room, hosted in a pop-up museum. Community volunteers will be involved in the investigation at all stages.

Project background and research priorities	Detailed in Part 1 – this document
Methodology	Detailed in Part 2 – this document, with detailed method statement in Appendix 1 (separate document)
Relevant experience of project team	Detailed in Appendix 2 & 3 (separate document)
Organisational capability/quality assurance	Detailed in Part 2 and Appendix 3 & 5 (separate document) See also ClfA RO reference (ID No. 102)
Project costing	Detailed in Appendix 4 (separate document)

Table 1: Compliance matrix

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Figure 2 Proposed heritage routes and highlighted heritage features

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Spodden Valley Revealed

- 1.1.1 The Spodden Valley Revealed (SVR) Community Archaeology Project is proposed as a multi-staged research project, encompassing investigation of two key sites (Cowm Reservoir and Brown Wardle Farm), survey of the wider prehistoric landscape. Recommendations for further potential archaeological works will be provided if any significant archaeological remains are uncovered as a result of these investigations. This research will underpin the development of a new linear destination within the Study Area, exploring and celebrating its unique heritage. This will be achieved through a community-based archaeological project designed to define and characterise the nature and physical extent of specific archaeological sites within the valley, deliver a programme of research and non-intrusive investigation and obtain baseline data that will facilitate the future management of the archaeology in the valley. Fieldwork is scheduled to take place in two stages; a survey week between 6th to 11th of March 2018 and targeted archaeological investigations between the 1st to the 6th of May 2018.
- 1.1.2 This document provides a Project Design for delivery of multi-staged archaeological investigation, defining how DigVentures will deliver a project which benefits the local community and which contributes to the development of the planned ecomuseum. In addition, the Project Design will outline how research aims and participation targets will be met. The ambition of the project is to engage non-traditional audiences in archaeology, engaging groups of volunteers in activities which provide training and an opportunity to contribute to meaningful research about local heritage. One of the principle challenges of the project will be to stimulate the surrounding communities to become more involved with and enthused about the stewardship of their local heritage. This will be achieved through the combination of outreach events in the heart of these communities, alongside the community research and fieldwork programme.
- 1.1.3 The project is being managed according to Historic England's MoRPHE project model (Management of Archaeological Research Projects in the Historic Environment). This document defines that process, and is divided into two parts: '*Part 1: Description of the project*' provides the project context, including a brief summary of proposed methodology, key sources and activities required to support the delivery of the proposal outcomes. '*Part 2: Resources and programming*' identifies responsibilities of individual project staff members, outlines completion dates for specific tasks, with all costs itemised for transparency.

Part 1: Description of the project

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The Study Area (Figure 1) encompasses the Spodden Valley, which runs north to south along the route of the River Spodden. The 100ha site covers a central spine through the parish of Whitworth, extending from Britannia in the North, and snaking down through Shawforth, Millgate, Facit to the town of Whitworth, and linking up with Healey Dell nature reserve in the south. Prior to its industrial development, very little appears to be known about the early development of the area. The landscape in this part of northwest England is characterised by pastoral farmland, important coastal habitats as well as a number of exceptional prehistoric monuments finds, historic remains and properties. Though a naturally rich river valley, Spodden Valley has hitherto escaped systematic archaeological attention.

2.2 Research context

- 2.2.1 Prior to its industrial development, very little appears to be known about the early development of the Study Area. Although there are no recorded prehistoric settlement sites, there are a large number of mesolithic sites have been recorded in the Rochdale area, and the density of sites indicates that the area was used by hunter-gatherer communities at this time. The density of sites is one of the highest in Europe. Lithic scatters found in the area point to extensive prehistoric activity on the moorland such as Knowl Hill, Rooley Moor, Hades Hill, Hamer Hill and Rushy Hill. There is a lack of known archaeological sites within the Valley, with only one site recorded prehistoric on HER data (Neolithic flint scatter at Rushy Hill). A potential prehistoric standing stone recorded during a survey weekend undertaken as part of this project.
- 2.2.2 The social and political structures of modern Rochdale have their roots in the medieval period (Pearson et al 1985). Several smaller hamlets made up Whitworth itself, including Cowm Top (which was removed to make way for Cowm Reservoir). Only four sites within the HER are dated to between the early medieval to 17th century, including three finds of early medieval quernstones and a newly recorded site of ridge and furrow located near to Cock Hall Farm. By the 15th century the production of wool was becoming a well-established industry. The town of Rochdale, as the market centre, was supplied by satellite hamlets which processed the wool themselves. The hamlets and small settlements dotted throughout the Spodden Valley would most likely have been part of this growing industry. A small number of sites listed on the HER relate to this period, including a small number of water-powered mills described as cotton mills and fulling mills. Most of the original buildings have now been demolished, with only Healey Dene Mill having extant building remains. The 18th century ruins of Brown Wardle Farm provide an important key to understanding this period of development within the valley.
- 2.2.3 The continuing industrial development of the area gives the valley a strong Victorian heritage, reflected in the large number of heritage assets relating to this period on the HER. The vast majority of the sites are 18th or 19th century in date, and number 133 sites of which 24 are mills of some sort, and 38 relate to quarry sites. Additional sites also relate to the infrastructure of the valley, including railway links and water management. One impressive monument is the Healey Dell Viaduct which was, and still is, the most impressive engineering work of the railway line, with eight stone arches and rising 105ft above the River Spodden.
- 2.2.4 Key research themes identified within the North West Archaeological Research Framework (see Section 5.2) have been highlighted as they hold direct relevance to this project – and help demonstrate the importance of the proposed archaeological fieldwork (Brennand 2007).

3 RESULTS OF PREVIOUS WORK

3.1 Earlier investigation



- 3.1.1 Earlier investigation by DigVentures, commissioned by Mid Pennine Arts (MPA), includes a desk-based appraisal and site visit to archaeological and heritage assets within Spodden Valley, Lancashire (Stage 1 of this project). A survey weekend visited specific heritage assets in the study area, enlisting the help of volunteers from the local community to complete a site visit report for each asset (held in December 2016). The result of these investigations are detailed in *Spodden Valley Revealed; an archaeological appraisal* which highlights the archaeological potential of the Spodden Valley area (Forster, Noon and Wilkins 2017). The investigations established the nature and extent of the known heritage sites within the valley and their relationship to the routes of proposed heritage paths (Figure 2), providing information and intelligence to aid the project team in designing the proposed fieldwork.
- 3.1.2 The desk-based research undertaken revealed very little synthesis of the historic development, archaeology or heritage in the study area, with only a handful of sites having been subject to limited research (such as those included in conservation areas). A HER search returned a significant number of sites within the study area (n=296). Only two sites recorded are of prehistoric date, and four HER assets are dated to the early medieval to 17th century. The remaining sites are overwhelmingly of 19th date and linked to industrial development and growth. A small number of pre-industrial buildings (such as farmsteads) are of 17th century date, and a group of earlier industrial sites dated to the 18th century. Of the more recent history, the only notable archaeological site relates to 20th century military activity – a pillbox at Ending, Whitworth. The area includes at least two conservations areas – Whitworth Square and Prickshaw and Broadley Fold – both of which include a number of listed buildings.
- 3.1.3 A number of sites are located along the line of, or near to, four routes proposed as potential heritage paths which have been identified previously by Mid Pennine Arts (see Figure 2). Sites considered to have potential to enhance the paths by providing historic and/or archaeological context, were designated a high or medium significance. Sites identified as being of 'high' significance (55 sites) included listed buildings or surviving sites with the potential to make a substantial contribution to local distinctiveness. Sites identified as having 'medium' significance (121 sites) are those where surviving heritage assets can be grouped by drawing out historical relationships with each other and the wider landscape, making a contribution to local distinctiveness – but less significant as individual elements. Site visits were undertaken over the course of a survey weekend (3 – 4 December 2016), providing the opportunity to explore the potential routes with local community members and undertake a basic site condition report for key sites identified.
- 3.1.4 The presence of visible archaeological remains (such as at Cow Clough, Cowm Reservoir and Brown Wardle) provides an opportunity for field based research activities; including landscape survey, 3D photogrammetry, aerial survey and excavation. Such activities will provide an opportunity to establish strong links within the local community, and engage volunteers in the fieldwork programme.
- 3.2 2017 Fieldwork proposals
- 3.2.1 The lack of detailed understanding of the historical development within the study area, provides a huge opportunity to involve community members in meaningful archaeological research, creating a resource for the enjoyment of the local area. It is crucial to investigate this archaeology to inform decisions on future research, management, and conservation of this area through the development of the planned ecomuseum in Spodden Valley. The field-based activities outlined in this document have been designed to build an audience, provide learning and new skills, and contribute to the development of an exciting new heritage destination. The archaeological investigation will provide an intense phase of field-based research focusing on three key areas; a detailed survey of the prehistoric landscape of Spodden Valley, a digital survey including 3D photogrammetry and aerial survey of the landscape and settlement at Cow Clough (Cowm Reservoir) and Brown Wardle Farm, followed by targeted excavation of the upland settlement at Brown Wardle Farm. Recommendations for further potential archaeological works will be provided if any significant archaeological remains are uncovered as a result of these investigations.

4 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES



- 4.1 Research aims
- 4.1.1 The overarching archaeological aim of the Spodden Valley Revealed project is to define and characterise the nature and physical extent of the archaeological heritage of the valley through a programme of research and non-intrusive investigation, obtaining baseline data that will facilitate its future management.
- 4.2 Aim 1 – Identify the physical extent and character of prehistoric sites and survey the settlements at Cowm Reservoir and Brown Wardle Farm
- 4.2.1 This aim will involve comprehensive fieldwalking survey using a dGPS to record the location of any prehistoric flint scatters and new prehistoric sites (specific locations subject to access and permissions). A non-invasive digital survey (low-level aerial photography and photogrammetry) will aim to define and establish the precise physical extent and condition of settlements at Cowm Reservoir (Cow Clough) and Brown Wardle Farm, and facilitate our understanding of the wider landscape context of the archaeological remains. This will provide a 3D model of the topography of both settlement sites, and will be used to support plans for interventions and enable us to determine likely features for targeted trenching addressing the specific questions. These low impact tools will add further to our understanding of the sites by addressing the following questions:
- Q1. Can the spatial distribution and the layout of any prehistoric flint scatters, sites and any associated subsurface archaeology be determined by survey?
 - Q2. Can we identify any phasing in the surveys and indicative of an extended period of use?
 - Q3. Can we corroborate chronological phasing for the sites, including the presence of earlier and later features, as defined in Aim 1?
 - Q4. What are the typical and atypical features of the sites and did this influence the functions and activities that took place?
 - Q5. What is the landscape setting and character of the sites, and how did this shape their location, design and development?
- 4.3 Aim 2 – Understand the development of the site at Brown Wardle Farm
- 4.3.1 Targeted trenches will focus on the settlement ruins of Brown Wardle Farm and the relationship of the tenting posts. The purpose of the trenches will be to identify and investigate any archaeological features encountered, and obtain appropriate samples for archaeological, artefactual and palaeoenvironmental assessment. Historical and archive based research will also extrapolate the development of the site, and help provide a clearer picture of the development of the later settlement.
- Q6. Can we corroborate chronological phasing for the settlement, including the presence of earlier and later features and structures, as defined in Aim 1?
 - Q7. What are the typical and atypical features of the settlement and did this influence the functions and activities that took place?
 - Q8. What is the landscape setting and character surrounding the site, and how did this shape its location, design and development – and subsequently, how did this shape the development of the later settlement?
- 4.4 Aim 3 – Understand the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental conditions at Brown Wardle Farm
- 4.4.1 This aim will be achieved with an assessment of the samples as defined and recovered in Aim 2, using appropriate palaeoenvironmental and archaeological techniques to establish preservation and significance.

- Q9. What is the current state of the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental material across the site?
- Q10: How well do deposits and artefacts survive, and how deeply are they buried?
- Q11. Can the palaeoenvironmental data recovered from sampling in the trenches inform us about seasonal farming regimes, specialised food processing or industrial activities that may have taken place at the site?
- Q12. What is the range and spatial patterning of artefacts recovered from the settlement, and can this inform our understanding of the seasonal use of the landscape and utilisation of wider resources?
- Q13. Can we increase our understanding of the local environment and its wider environs (relating the rural zone to the industry in the valley?)

4.5 Aim 4 – Making recommendations, analysis and publication

4.5.1 This aim will require all data from Aims 1-3 to be collated, with an integrated analysis of the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental resource at the Site, making recommendations to conserve, enhance and interpret the heritage significance of the site.

- Q14: What can an integrated synthesis of the results of this work with previous studies of contemporary regional sites tell us about the Site and its setting?
- Q15: What recommendations can be made to protect, conserve and enhance the Site, in the light of the issues and opportunities identified under Aims 1 - 3?

5 BUSINESS CASE

5.1 SHAPE Sub-programme

5.1.1 In addition to the business case provided in the previously cited documents, the project accords with priorities articulated in Historic England's Action Plan 2015-18 (informing Heritage 2020, the successor to the National Heritage Protection Plan), detailing how heritage organisations will work together to benefit the historic environment. In addition to these priorities, the project drivers can also be articulated in accordance with the fundamental principles of SHAPE (Strategic framework for the Historic Environment Activities and Programmes in Historic England, 2008).

5.1.2 In line with Historic England working practice and the fundamental principles of SHAPE (Strategic framework for the Historic Environment Activities and Programmes in Historic England, 2008) to understand, manage, and promote archaeology, the project has a primary driver (SHAPE sub-programme number 11111.130) in addition to other research outcomes that will address other Historic England and sector priorities, delivering significant value added benefit.

5.1.3 The main aim of the project is therefore to increase our understanding of the character of the Site:

- SHAPE sub-programme number 11111.130: development of a sound evidence base for specific locales and historic assets in order to ensure appropriate management information is available and effective communication possible to community.

5.1.4 This research also has the potential to generate insight and recommendations with a local and national applicability, assisting the Client and Statutory Stakeholders in establishing best practice conservation and management measures.

- SHAPE sub-programme number 31521.110: building heritage issues into wider change-management considerations, taking account of conservation principles and heritage legislation whilst efficiently reducing management burden for given areas.

5.1.5 As a consequence of the innovative digital and cross-platform approach, there is a significant 'value added' dimension to this project:



- SHAPE sub-programme number 12212.110: developing wider understanding of the value of the historic environment; enhancing lifelong learning, encouraging support and enthusiasm for all aspects of heritage whilst contributing to quality of life.
- SHAPE sub-programme number 51311.110: increasing public awareness, building direct support and engaging enthusiasm from which multiple benefits flow; encouraging knowledge transfer through enjoyment.
- SHAPE sub-programme number 51332.110: high-profile outreach hitting potentially millions of people. Targeted to raise key issues or encourage wider understanding.

5.2 Research frameworks

5.2.1 Listed below are a number of research themes and specific questions from the North West Archaeological Research Framework (Brennand 2007) which have particular relevance to this project. They demonstrate the importance of the proposed archaeological fieldwork within the wider research context of the northwest region. They include:

- aerial survey and field survey programmes, linked to targeted excavation in both lowland and upland environments. this will contribute to understanding 'gaps' in knowledge for particular sites in, for example, the iron age and roman periods
- application of scientific dating techniques to understand and establish chronologies across the region
- targeted survey of mesolithic sites, including inter/intra-regional comparisons of mesolithic flint sources, and analysis of museum collections. the identification and investigation of stratigraphically secure mesolithic assemblages is noted as being imperative
- examination of individual dispersed settlements, especially those indicative of medieval settlement expansion (eg placenames including hey, among others)
- early development of industry, including investigation relating to landscape setting and detailed investigation of mill sites, especially fulling mills, and including consideration of water management systems.
- regional survey of farmstead creation and abandonment, and excavation of abandoned farms and cottages should be a high priority, especially where the ownership or tenancy is documented, in order to study the material culture of individual households
- study and compare material culture of industrial workers households in rural and industrial communities with those of farm labourers to identify and explain similarities and differences, and possibly ethnic as well as cultural affinities
- map settlement change from 1770 to present day, to promote understanding of the current rural settlement pattern to that of the 18th century to provide a more secure basis for regressive projections of earlier settlement patterns

6 INTERFACES

6.1.1 This project will interface with a series of other projects, stakeholders, and initiatives, summarised in the table below:

Interfaces	Description
<i>Remote sensing team</i>	Initial field and photogrammetry survey will be carried out by DigVentures, who have completed numerous research assessments, invasive and non-invasive surveys. and supported with an aerial photogrammetry survey by Adam Stanford (Easter Island Project; Stonehenge Riverside Project; Marden Henge Project) ensuring that this multidisciplinary approach remains at the forefront of current remote sensing research.

Interfaces	Description
<i>Academic Advisory Board</i>	An academic advisory group of subject area experts (in prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeology) will be formed to ensure that the project remains pertinent to relevant research questions and agendas, interfacing with other teams working in similar landscapes in the UK. This will build on the core team's existing connections with UCL, University of Bradford, Durham University and Leicester University.
<i>Core Project Team</i>	The core project team and specialist staff have consulted widely during the project planning and will continue to build on this as the project develops, forging strong links with local, national and international professionals and institutions actively engaged in a broad range of multi-period sites.
<i>Local Stakeholders</i>	The project will interface with active research projects currently being undertaken in the immediate vicinity, and the project team will liaise with Peter Iles (Lancashire County Council); and Brian Redhead Manchester City Council) to ensure that all project outputs remain relevant and opportune. Local Archaeology Societies and interest groups will be invited to participate, ensuring the project interfaces with all local initiatives.

Table 2: *Project interfaces*

7 COMMUNICATIONS

7.1 Project team

7.1.1 The following section details specific staff responsibilities, drawing on terminology devised by Historic England for the MoRPHE project management framework. The overarching project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and overseen by Mid Pennine Arts (Project Sponsors). Project Assurance will be undertaken by the Project Executive (Lisa Westcott Wilkins, DigVentures) who will monitor compliance against the deliverables detailed in this document, with formal and informal progress reports submitted to Mid Pennine Arts.

7.1.2 The project team have all worked closely together before (at Flag Fen 2012, Leiston Abbey 2013, 2014 & 2015, Barrowed Time 2016 and Elmswell: Seasons Through Time 2017). Stuart Noon (Project Manager) and Brendon Wilkins (Project Director) will undertake day-to-day Project Management). There will also be three core DigVentures community archaeology fieldstaff throughout the fieldwork Chris Casswell (Head of Fieldwork), Maiya Pina-Dacier (Community Manager) and Johanna Ungemach (Community Archaeologist) will liaise with and coordinate volunteer and visitors to the site. Core staff will remain consistent and retained throughout the post-excavation phase of the project. All core staff are employed in line with ClfA guidelines, and are practicing field archaeologists at PCIfA level or above. Senior project staff are both Members of ClfA in good standing.

7.1.3 The Expert team is drawn from various university departments and laboratories with a considerable range of experience in the undertaking and delivery of similar research projects. The Academic Advisory Board provides an extra layer of expertise to help advise as the project progresses.

7.2 Project management

7.2.1 The Project Manager will produce Monthly Status Reports for the Project Executive and Project Team throughout this Execution Stage up to the review of the Assessment Report/UPD. This will present an overview of progress, list tasks completed or part completed, including any on-going work and issues affecting progress. The Project Manager will also be responsible for ensuring that the project runs to schedule, keeping track of key resources (notably staff time) on the basis of weekly Work Records. The Project Team will have a project meeting at each milestone described to ensure that all major tasks are briefed/debriefed as necessary. Provision will be

made for the project in 'Basecamp', which is a web-based project communication package used by DigVentures, enabling project participants to generate and record notes, tasks, milestones and other project-related communication.

- 7.2.2 DigVentures operates a computer-assisted project management system. Projects are undertaken under the direction of the Project Director who is responsible for the successful completion of all aspects of the project. All work is monitored and checked whilst in progress on a regular basis, and the Project Director/Managing Director checks all reports and other documents before being issued. A series of guideline documents or manuals form the basis for all work.
- 7.2.3 The Project Manager, Stuart Noon, is a full member of the Institute for Archaeologists (MCIfA). DigVentures is an ClfA Registered Organisation (No. 102), and fully endorses the Code of Conduct, the Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, and the Standards and Guidance documents of the Institute for Archaeologists. All DigVentures staff are employed in line with the Institute's Codes and will usually be members of the Institute.

8 PARTICIPATION AND TRAINING

8.1 Outreach and engagement

- 8.1.1 The community-based and outreach aspects of this project will be undertaken in collaboration with Mid Pennine Arts. The 'Spodden Valley Revealed Project', is an HLF supported outreach and excavation initiative, aiming to expand the usual audience and opportunities for public participation in archaeology, increasing awareness, teaching new skills, art and digital multimedia projects and building heritage capacity around this previously under researched valley. During the Delivery Phase of the project, this will include a dedicated educational and local history research, exhibition and events programme designed with the ultimate aim of increasing local awareness of the Spodden Valley and amplify this with a coordinated social media strategy. This will be measured with an audience evaluation of all site visitors to establish baseline data and assist with future management strategies and promotion.
- 8.1.2 In addition to daily site tours, we will be running a programme of local history research and education events in order to research and collate existing archaeological and historical information held by local historical societies and in Museums, Public Libraries, reference Papers and local history books supported by educational activities over the span of the programme. The information discovered during the programme will be presented at a Festival of British Archaeology Event in July 2018 and ultimately be combined into a future dedicated SVR website. For the excavation, special activities and trench tours will be offered, as well scheduled lunchtime chats with the archaeological team. The project will be widely advertised locally on radio, newspapers and the parish council newsletter, and flyers will be distributed through the existing heritage networks as well as in pubs, shops, businesses and venues. Signposts will also be erected on main roads leading to the Site to encourage passing traffic to visit.

8.2 Community excavation

- 8.2.1 DigVentures specialises in delivering participatory archaeological projects in collaboration with communities, researching and recording the past to professional standards. We have delivered a number of high profile projects, delivering value and impact from archaeological research in collaboration with partners and using innovative solutions to engage audiences. Recent projects, including Oldbury Camp, Lindisfarne and Leiston Abbey, have involved archaeological excavation working with volunteers of mixed experience, including school children and Young Archaeologists, many of whom have never been involved in an archaeological dig before. To date, we have involved 1500 schoolchildren in learning about archaeology using our innovative tool CyberDig, delivered either in the classroom or alongside one of our field projects.
- 8.2.2 All our excavations include an appropriate ratio of DigVentures team members to participants, meaning sufficient supervision and mentoring is available to ensure confidence for both those taking part and for our clients. Senior team members are all Members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, and are experienced professional archaeologists. In addition to being skilled

in archaeology, our team are exceptional communicators experienced in working with non-specialist volunteers. As a ClfA Registered Organisation and Fieldschool, we ensure that all archaeological work is undertaken to recognised professional standards and that community participants receive the best experience possible.

- 8.2.3 As a social enterprise with a deeply embedded culture of using digital tools for both excavation projects and community engagement, we have developed the Digital Dig Team (see Appendix 5) recording programme to help us deliver great projects. A dedicated project microsite will be developed for the project and hosted on the DigVentures website. This combines the site database and archive with social profiles for all community participants, project publications, excavation blogs, timelines, social media content. Examples of Digital Dig Team microsites can be found here:

- Under the Uplands – included survey, excavation and development of an online museum resource <https://digventures.com/under-the-uplands>
- Lindisfarne – a community excavation on Holy Island <https://digventures.com/lindisfarne>
- Leiston Abbey – our biggest project to date, exploring the medieval abbey across two sites <https://digventures.com/leiston-abbey>

8.3 Training and mentoring community participants

- 8.3.1 Excavation provides an excellent opportunity to deliver substantial training for all participants. Since we launched our first project in 2012, we have trained over 500 volunteers in archaeological skills, and we are currently developing online training materials to help support our participants. DigVentures is the only ClfA Registered Organisation which is accredited to deliver field schools which meet the standards of the professional body. We have piloted a scheme to deliver vocational training for archaeological field skills, and are currently the only archaeological organisation accredited to do this. All our field training, irrespective of certification, is therefore designed explicitly in line with National Occupational Standards (NOS) and we encourage all participants to record their progress in learning new skills. This means participants are able to use tools such as the CPD Skill Passport to track progress, and have the potential to build this into a vocational training programme or qualification (such as an apprenticeship or NVQ). Through our partnership with Higher Education bodies (including University College Suffolk, Durham University and University of Bradford) we are also able to offer courses accredited on the ECTS grading scale, enabling participants to contribute course credits to the award of a university degree.

- 8.3.2 To help encourage participants, we have developed tools to use whilst in the field (such as our on-site manual and toolbox cards) which help support volunteer's skills development during excavation. Skills learnt on-site allow the co-production of the archaeological record by volunteers working alongside practitioners, using our innovative Digital Dig Team recording system to provide an online and real-time archaeological database. Using Digital Dig Team, our participants not only learn new skills and experience archaeology first hand, but also make a genuine and meaningful contribution to the archaeological archive.

8.4 Engaging the wider community

- 8.4.1 Running alongside any community archaeology project, DigVentures aims to provide a dedicated and appropriate educational programme, which could include school visits, training sessions and events designed to increase local awareness of the site's archaeology and heritage. Engagement will be amplified with a coordinated digital and social media strategy, delivered via the dedicated microsite and augmenting offline activity. On most excavation projects, we achieve an average daily reach of between 60,000 and 120,000 on our social media streams. An evaluation of our previous work delivering projects in this format has demonstrated a far wider range of community engagement than would usually be found in similar projects, especially with groups typically considered to be hard to reach. The microsite will be used to communicate daily on the findings of the excavation, using twitter, Facebook and blogs to provide exciting and accurate content based on the investigations. For an example of our site timelines, you can visit our recent excavations at Lindisfarne: <https://digventures.com/lindisfarne>

- 8.4.2 Beyond the fieldwork element of a project, we aim to involve people in the post excavation analysis, to include people in the full process. This has included the laboratory based micro-excavation of a cremation urn being streamed to Facebook Live, where we were joined by 12,000 viewers online. Some of our recent blogposts from specialists working on our sites demonstrate our approach to breaking down some of the traditional barriers between technical and scientific reporting, to more audience focused summaries of post excavation findings:

- <http://digventures.com/2017/02/from-the-lab-these-bones-may-be-first-clues-to-lindisfarnes-anglo-saxon-cemetery/>
- <http://digventures.com/2017/01/site-diary-what-we-found-inside-the-morecambe-urn/>

8.5 Reaching bigger audiences

- 8.5.1 DigVentures has an established background in traditional media planning and delivery (print, television and radio), advertising and outreach, and we have a particular specialism using these social media and digital methods to amplify content. Archaeological projects often include a particularly compelling history, with the potential to provide snapshots of social history that are both newsworthy and relevant to local and regional media interests. To achieve this aim we tailor a programme of marketing support to ensure the widest coverage possible for the project on an on-going basis (i.e., not limited to the duration of excavation). This will include:

- News updates on relevant third-party blogs likely to be read by our target audience, amplified through all major social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Flickr and Instagram).
- An audit of local and national social media influencers who will support and promote opportunities to participate and can be leveraged to grow the project's following rapidly.
- News articles in Current Archaeology (UK) and Past Horizons (UK) and British Archaeology (UK)

- 8.5.2 Local broadcast/print media coverage, based around newsworthy dig 'events' (such as the photogrammetry workshops) or post-excavation discoveries and stories, which can be 'drip-fed' (supported by press release and engaging images).

9 PROJECT EVENTS, TIMETABLE, OUTCOMES, TARGETS AND EVALUATION

9.1 Project events

- 9.1.1 Throughout the course of the project, a number of events and engagement activities will be delivered. These include:

- Prehistoric survey to identify prehistoric sites around the valley and identify concentrations of Mesolithic flint scatters.
- Understanding the developing landscape around Cowm Reservoir by Aerial 3D and photogrammetrical survey.
- Understanding upland settlement; by photogrammetrical survey and field school training excavation at Brown Whardle Farm. The field school will involve 50+ participants and also offer school visits and trench tours, as well scheduled lunchtime chats with the archaeological team
- Festival of British Archaeology Exhibition Event in July 2018/19 to present the results of the historical and archaeological research.
- Local history research events to collate existing historical information in the archived materiel at Whitworth Museum. The research themes include the Landscape Before Industry, Our Industrial Heritage and the Archaeology of the War

9.2 Events timetable

Phases	Description	Task	Completion Date
Phase 1	Prehistoric Survey	To identify prehistoric sites around the valley and identify concentrations of Mesolithic flint scatters.	6 th to 11 th of March 2018
Phase 2	Digital Survey and Targeted Excavation	To understand the developing landscape around Cowm reservoir and upland settlement at Brown Whardle Farm	1 st to 6 th May 2018
Phase 3	Festival of British Archaeology Exhibition Event	To present the results of the historical and archaeological research.	July 2018
Phase 4	Local Historic Research Events	To collate existing historical information in the archived materiel at Whitworth Museum	September – December 2018
Phase 5	Festival of British Archaeology Exhibition Event	To present the results of the historical and archaeological research	July 2019
Project close			July 2019

9.3 Project outcomes

9.3.1 The lack of detailed understanding of the historical development within the study area, provides a huge opportunity to involve community members in genuine archaeological research, in creating a resource for the enjoyment of the local area, and curating a new ecomuseum. The activities outlined above provide heritage based activities designed to build an audience, provide learning and new skills, and contribute to the development of an exciting new heritage destination. Specific outcomes are detailed below: -

- Activities provided which give visitors more insight into the landscapes history
- Activities provided which enable participants to become involved in the development, maintenance and management of the ecomuseum.
- New skills learnt - both research and field work.
- Learning about the archaeology of the Valley - from a prehistoric landscape through to the archaeology of the war.
- Learning linked to National Occupational Standards wherever possible and at a range of levels.
- Opportunities provided for volunteers to learn skills which enable them to sustain the ecomuseum in the future.
- Engagement with the heritage onsite, live, uncovering potential new findings.
- New information will have been unearthed ready to be documented and displayed either digitally, through interpretation onsite and/or as objects to be displayed at either Whitworth Museum (if appropriate) or Touchstones in Rochdale.
- Opportunities provided for volunteers to learn skills which will contribute to their personal and social development.
- A team developed – that will have worked together to discover new heritage for the Valley.
- Local people valuing the heritage of their landscape and participate in maintaining and looking after it.

9.4 Targets and measure of success



9.4.1 The project will deliver a number of targets which will be met through the vents listed above. These include:

- Local people engaged with the archaeology activities as both participants and as audiences.
- Local increased knowledge of the archaeology of the Spodden Valley.
- New specialist knowledge of the archaeology of the Spodden Valley - in particular domestic industry (potential tenter posts) at Brown Wardle and the Mesolithic flint scatters and for this to be shared - both academically, professionally and through interpretation for the ecomuseum audiences.
- Local schools engaged with the archaeology project (2 per year).
- Improved local expertise with a core group of volunteers and at Whitworth Museum and Historical Society.
- Widened profile of participants/audiences of ecomuseum by targeting young people and families through the Explorers Club and residents of the Green Vale House Estates.

9.5 Methods of evaluation

9.5.1 Understanding how the project has had an impact on participants in an important aspect of the work. DigVentures will work with MPA to provide data contributing to an evaluation of the project outcomes. This will include;

- Baseline data gathered from volunteers on their expectations, levels of experience and skills, what they would like to experience from the project.
- Feedback forms and anecdotal data collected following training to understand how their experience has met their expectations, what new skills they have learnt, what can be delivered better/differently.
- A database of volunteers will be managed and monitored by MPA to ensure regular engagement, to gather feedback and measure retention.
- Surveys online and at events to gather data on visitors existing and newly gathered interpretation of the heritage of the Spodden Valley destination sites. Data also gathered on visitor experience and what can be improved.
- Documentation of events, training and participation in the form of photography, film and blogging by DigVentures, education specialists and MPA.

10 PROJECT REVIEW

10.1.1 The project will be continually reviewed by the Project Executive and Project Director, with a formal review undertaken at the end of each Stage as follows:

Stage	Description	Review Point	Completion Date
Initiation	Consideration of Project Proposal	RV1 – Assemble Project Team and liaise with stakeholders	Completed
Stage 1	Project Start-up, finalising Project Design and definition of scope	RV2 – Sign-off on MoRPHE Project Design, and liaison with stakeholders and landowners	Completed - October 2017
Stage 2	Archaeological Fieldwork – First Phase Prehistoric Survey Second Phase Digital Survey and targeted Excavation	RV3 – assemble site archive and distribute pertinent data to specialists	March 2017– May 2018
Stage 3	Assessment Report & Updated Project Design	RV4 – critically review findings, making recommendations for further work or closure	December 2018

Stage	Description	Review Point	Completion Date
Stage 4	Analysis & Publication	RV5 – final publication sign-off, and prepare archive for accession	January 2019
Closure			February 2019

Table 3: Project review stages

11 PROJECT DISSEMINATION AND ARCHIVE

11.1 Dissemination and reporting

11.1.1 Rapid dissemination of the results to, and involvement of, stakeholders of the project is vital throughout. This will take place through multiple channels, addressing a multitude of established and new audiences. Dissemination outlined below will all be undertaken during 2017, and will include, but not be limited to:

- Dedicated website with news and research updates on a blog and all major social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Flickr and Instagram) amplified through third-party coverage by the networked blogging community.
- Dedicated digital archive of the excavation data.
- Wide circulation of the project assessment and the final report, and links to the OASIS record.
- Site publication in an appropriate local/national journal commensurate with the final results.
- Wide circulation of Assessment and Final Report, Updated Project Design and links to the OASIS record.
- Final site publication in an appropriate local/national journal commensurate with the final results.
- It is intended that all the results of the investigation will presented at a Festival of British Archaeology event and be ultimately combined into a future dedicated SVR website.

11.2 Project Archive

11.2.1 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with the Whitworth Museum Archive Guidance, and in line with DigVentures guidelines for Archive Preparation, following Appendix 1, P1 of MoRPHE PPN 3 (English Heritage 2012), fulfilling the Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990). All reports produced by the project will be openly and freely disseminated through County Council Historic Environment Record, Archaeological Data Service, OASIS portal and Scribd website. Copyright on all reports submitted will reside with DigVentures, although a third party in-perpetuity licence will automatically be given for reproduction of the works by the originator, subject to agreement in writing with DigVentures.

12 HEALTH AND SAFETY

12.1.1 DigVentures will undertake the works in accordance with Health and Safety requirements and a Health and Safety Plan. This document will take account of any design information pertaining to above and below ground hazards. DigVentures will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with its company Health and Safety Policy, to standards defined in *The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974*, and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and in accordance with the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (1996).

Part Two: Resources and Programming

13 PROJECT TEAM STRUCTURE

13.1 Team and responsibilities

13.1.1 DigVentures' Project Team will be as follows. A summary CV, setting out the skills and expertise of DigVentures core team members is set out in Appendix 1, with CVs for the wider specialist team available on request.

Name	Initials	Project Role	Key Responsibility
Lisa Westcott Wilkins	LWW	Project Executive	Overall project responsibility, budget responsibility and project assurance
Brendon Wilkins	BW	Project Director	Budget responsibility, digital specialist, overall project responsibility, training, project design and liaison with project partners.
Stuart Noon	SN	Project Manager	Project responsibility, budget responsibility, training, project design, management and liaison with project partners, project team, partners and Stakeholders; archaeological direction (on and off-site),
Chris Casswell	CC	Archaeological Site Director	Archaeological co-direction (on and off-site), liaison with project team, partners and Stakeholders
Manda Forster	MF	Programme Manager	Programme management, Post excavation management
Maiya Pina-Dacier	MPD	Community Manager	On-site field-work, and post-excavation assessment
Johanna Ungemach	JU	Community Archaeologist	On-site field-work, and responsible for field school
Adam Sandford	AS	Expert – Photography	Aerial photography

Table 4: Team and responsibilities

15 METHODOLOGY

15.1 Introduction

- 15.1.1 The methods reflect the project Stages set out above (Section 11), and a task list, with allocation of staff time and team members in Section 13 below, along with a GANTT chart, setting out a provisional programme. Detailed method statements relating the specific techniques or approaches included below can be found in Appendix 1 at the end of this document.

15.2 Stage 1 – Project start-up and design

- 15.2.1 A Project Design (this document) has been prepared (Review Point 2).

15.3 Stage 2 – Archaeological fieldwork

- 15.3.1 Stage 2 fieldwork will take place in two stages between the 31st of October to the 5th of November 2017 and the 2nd to the 7th of May 2018. The first stage will focus on a prehistoric landscape survey of the moors adjacent to Spodden Valley, and the second stage will comprise community-based archaeological investigation at Cowm Reservoir and Brown Wardle Farm. This will comprise the first fieldwork stage required to meet Aims 1 and 2 (see Section 4 above), and will entail a combination of 3D photogrammetry survey, historical research and targeted trenching. It will aim to answer the following research questions:

- Q1. Can the spatial distribution and the layout of any prehistoric flint scatters, sites and any associated subsurface archaeology be determined by survey?
- Q2. Can we identify any phasing in the surveys and indicative of an extended period of use?
- Q3. Can we corroborate chronological phasing for the sites, including the presence of earlier and later features, as defined in Aim 1?
- Q4. What are the typical and atypical features of the sites and did this influence the functions and activities that took place?
- Q5. What is the landscape setting and character of the sites, and how did this shape their location, design and development?
- Q6. Can we corroborate chronological phasing for the settlement, including the presence of earlier and later features and structures, as defined in Aim 1?
- Q7. What are the typical and atypical features of the settlement and did this influence the functions and activities that took place?
- Q8. What is the landscape setting and character surrounding the settlement, and how did this shape its location, design and development – and subsequently, how did this shape the development of the later settlement?

- 15.3.2 Specific archaeological intervention will include field survey, digital survey (3D photogrammetry and aerial survey) and targeted excavation.

15.5 Stage 3 – Assessment report & updated project design

15.5.1 This Stage will address Aim 3, culminating in Review Point 4, and focusing on answering the following research questions:

- Q9. What is the current state of the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental material across the site?
- Q10: How well do deposits and artefacts survive, and how deeply are they buried?
- Q11. Can the palaeoenvironmental data recovered from sampling in the trenches inform us about seasonal farming regimes, specialised food processing or industrial activities that may have taken place at the site?
- Q12. What is the range and spatial patterning of artefacts recovered from the settlement, and can this inform our understanding of the seasonal use of the landscape and utilisation of wider resources?
- Q13. Can we increase our understanding of the local environment of the sites and its wider environs (relating the rural environment to the industrial valley?)

15.6 Stage 4 – Analysis and publication

15.6.1 Addressing Aim 4, this is the main reporting and recommendation stage of the project, culminating in Review Point 5 and focusing on the following research questions

- Q14: What can an integrated synthesis of the results of this work with previous studies of contemporary regional sites tell us about the Site and its setting?
- Q15: What recommendations can be made to protect, conserve and enhance the Site, in the light of the issues and opportunities identified under Aims 1 - 3?

16 STAGES, PRODUCTS, TASKS AND BUDGET

16.1 Methodological linkages

16.1.1 Following an assessment of the scope of works (as detailed in Section 7 of the Project Brief), it is anticipated that the project will be undertaken in four stages. These are set out in the table below and are set against the project aims and questions that will be met at each stage, the products that will be produced and the tasks undertaken.

Stage	Description	Project Aims/ Questions	Products	Task & ID Number
Stage 1	Project Start-up and Design	Aim 1-4 Q1-13	1. Permissions (planning application & stewardship derogations) 2. Finalised PD & Risk Log 3. Educational Plan & Information Pack 4. Digital Communication Plan 5. Risk Assessment & Health and Safety Plan	1. Consult with wider project team and stakeholders to define milestones and delivery timetable. 2. Core Archaeology Team Meeting. 3. Design project database. 4. RV2 – Sign off on MoRPHE

Stage	Description	Project Aims/ Questions	Products	Task & ID Number
Stage 2	Archaeological Fieldwork	Aim 1 Q1-3 Aim 2 Q4-6	6. Field Archive 7. Survey Archive 8. 3D Survey Archive	8. Site Preparation 9. Fieldwork (remote sensing, survey & excavation) 10. RV2 - 5 – assemble site archive & distribute to specialists
Stage 3	Assessment Report & Updated Project Design	Aim 3 Q7-11	9. Stratigraphic & Assessment Report	13. Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental assessments 14. Integrated assessment report 15.RV8 – recommendations for further work
Stage 4	Analysis and Publication	Aim 1-4 Q1-13	10. Final report 11. Publication 12. Completed and accessioned archive	18. Specialist analysis 19. Finalise report and publication 20. Prepare data and archive for deposition 21. RV9 – final sign-off 22. Closure

Table 5: Stages of Work

Task ID Number	Aims	Task Description	Performed by:	Timetable
1	1	Project management and liaison	SN	July 2017 – January 2019
2	1	Consult with wider project team and stakeholders to define milestones and delivery timetable.	SN, BW LWW	October 2017
3	1	Set up project microsite and project database and GIS. RV2 – Sign Off on MoRPHE Project Design	BW	October 2017
4	1 & 2	Community research & survey programme	SN, CC, JU & MPD	March 2018 – May 2018
5	1 & 2	Site visit: Aerial and 3D photogrammetry survey	AS	May 2018
6	3	Manage and train community volunteers to assist with post excavation.	SN and wider specialist team	March May 2018

Task ID Number	Aims	Task Description	Performed by:	Timetable
7	3	Complete research & survey assessments	CC, SN & JU	November 2018
8	3	RV4 – Review Assessment reports and recommendations	BW, MF	November 2018
9	3	Complete Excavation Analysis	SN, MF	November 2018
10	4	Prepare Final Publication	SN, CC, BW, MF	December 2018
11	4	Prepare data and archive for submission.	BW, CC, MF	January 2019
12	4	RV 5 – review project performance in line with MPA objectives, and contribute to HLF evaluation report.	LWW, BW	January 2019
13	4	Submit Project Report & Design Draft	BW, SN	February 2019

Table 6: Programme of Works

Task ID Number	Person days	Task Description	8 hour day rate	Cost
1	30	Project management and liaison	£240	£7,200
2		Digital outputs (set up microsite & web site hosting for 12 months x £45 per month) Project website digital content production		£2,800
3	2	Training for community volunteers	£240	£480
4	2	Local Historical Records Search	£240	£480
5	36	Surveys and excavations field staff	£180	£6,480
6	14	Surveys and excavations Director	£240	£3,360
7		Survey and excavation support costs and materials		£3,000
8		Training materials		£2,000
9	5	Education support activities including Festival of British Archaeology Event		£1,200
10	2	Site Visit Aerial photogrammetry Survey		£1000
11		Production of photogrammetry models		£2,200
12		Staff and volunteer travel and refreshments		£1,000
13		Publicity and Promotion		£1,000
14	30	Complete Survey & Excavation Assessments	£180	£5,400
15	5	Complete Excavation Analysis	£240	£1,200
16	1	RV4 – Review Assessment reports and recommendations	£240.00	£240
17	3	Produce Project Report	£240.00	£720
18	1	Prepare data and archive for submission, review project line with MPA objectives, and contribute to HLF evaluation report performance in line with MPA objectives, and contribute to HLF evaluation report	£240.00	£240
19		Submit Project Report & Design		
Total				£40,000

Table 7: Budget

17 OWNERSHIP

- 17.1.1 The Copyright on all reports submitted will reside with DigVentures and Mid Pennine Arts, although a third party in-perpetuity licence will automatically be given for reproduction of all products. The original copyright holder will retain copyright in pre-existing data.

18 RISK LOG

Risk number	1	2	3	4
Description	Inclement weather - prolonged periods of rain	Exceptional weather (drying exposed archaeology)	Absence of core team member	Absence of specialist team member
Probability	Medium	Medium-low	Low	Low
Impact	Delay programme of work	Slow progress	Delay programme of work	Delay programme of work
Countermeasures	Provision of site hut, and planned indoor archiving tasks with flexible programme	Provision of water bowser + spray	Reallocate responsibilities or appointment of alternative	Reallocate responsibilities or appointment of alternative
Estimated time/cost	3 Days	None	Minimal if done by adjustment	Minimal if done by adjustment
Owner				
Risk number	5	6		
Description	Equipment theft/breakages	Serious site injury		
Probability	Medium	Medium		
Impact	Delay programme of work	Delay programme of work		
Countermeasures	Removal of finds material and digital equipment from site	Detailed H&S Risk Assessment + daily safety briefing		
Estimated time/cost	3 days	3 days		
Owner				

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