

Introducing the CBA's Reconnecting Archaeology Catalyst for Change Projects



As a key strand of the CBA's NLHF-funded Reconnecting Archaeology project (pages 18-21, this edition), we are working with four grassroots projects that are piloting and championing new approaches in archaeology, with the aim of driving positive social change and community participation.

Working with third sector partners and disadvantaged community groups across England, Scotland and Wales, these projects are centering equity, co-creation, and inclusivity as leading principles of meaningful and impactful

community engagement in archaeology.

Over the next 14 months, we will be working with them to share their learnings, challenges, and the successes of setting up their projects and engaging with new audiences who are facing specific barriers, such as low income, mental and physical health needs, ethnicity, low levels of confidence, and ill health.

We will be working with the project leads and volunteers to develop a set of principles for a reimagined approach to engaging new audiences that we can

share with the sector and ensure archaeology can broaden its appeal and social impact.

But before then, let us introduce the four projects and the incredible work they've been doing with their local communities. We asked them to tell us all about their projects, including who they work with and what they get up to, as well as what makes their project unique and what they're hoping to gain by being a CBA Catalysts for Change partner. Over the next eight pages find out what they had to say..

Above: CAER is a heritage themed project, but its underpinning objectives are focused on community

The CAER Heritage Project, Cardiff

By David Wyatt, reader in Civic Mission and Community Action, Cardiff University

Tell us about your project?

Nestled in the west of Cardiff, and surrounded by two large housing estates, is one of Wales's oldest and largest monuments: Caerau Hillfort. The Caerau and Ely Rediscovering Heritage Project (CAER for short) is forged from a unique partnership made up of Cardiff University, local community development organisation, Action in Caerau and Ely (ACE), local schools, and community members.

The project is focused on exploring the hillfort and its surrounding landscape, while involving local people of all ages in that discovery at every stage to improve health and well-being, and educational and life opportunities.

Since its establishment in 2011, CAER has developed a powerful combination of regular community archaeological digs (eight to date, plus a back garden dig project during lock down), historical co-research and co-created art, animation, poetry, exhibitions, and films, to showcase discoveries, working in close partnership with ACE, local schools, and heritage institutions.

Through a co-created National Heritage Lottery Grant, the project has also regenerated a disused Gospel Hall into a beautiful Community Heritage Centre, with trails, a playground, and garden (opened in 2021).



CAER [2]

Above: The incredible heritage of Caerau and Ely encapsulates over 6,000 years of Wales's history concentrated into just eight square kilometres

Below: CAER has instigated numerous co-research projects involving local school pupils



This hosts a vibrant programme of workshops, creative activities, post-excavation analysis, accredited adult learner courses, school visits, volunteer groups, heritage gardening, and much more, as well as displaying finds and interpretation from the archaeological discoveries in the heart of the community.

Who is involved in your project and what activities do they get involved in?

The underpinning values and principles of community co-production and inclusivity drive CAER's approach to researching the past, and these have very much been informed and learned from our community partners at ACE.

These include a positive asset-based approach, valuing equally the contribution of all participants, building trust through face-to-face contact and friendship, reciprocal and mutually beneficial partnerships, and collective effort, benefits and 'ownership'.

This means that local people of all ages are at the heart of pretty much all CAER's activities from archaeological discovery to historical research projects, to the co-creation of interpretation, heritage trails, exhibitions, art installations, films and animations and heritage gardens.

Volunteers are also involved in project decision making, funding applications, learning programmes, and even in the architectural design of our CAER Centre. This co-creative approach is perhaps best exemplified by our regular archaeological digs, which have involved many thousands of people as active participants over the span of the project.

In recent years, these has been focused on the discovery of an amazing Bronze Age settlement (the first known house in Cardiff) in Trelai Park, just half a mile from the CAER Centre.

Over three major excavations in 2022, 2023, and 2024, 961 community volunteers and 824 pupils from local secondary and primary schools have excavated, sieved, processed finds, recorded, and co-created artwork and exhibitions inspired by the discoveries.

Meanwhile 16,230 people from across Cardiff have visited the digs and resulting exhibitions, helping to break down barriers and challenge unfounded stigmas held about the communities of Caerau and Ely.

How do your community members benefit from being involved in the project?

Caerau and Ely constitute the largest social housing estate in Wales and are located on the western edge of the capital



Above: Local people of all ages are at the heart of pretty much all CAER's activities

city. Home to around 26,000 people, these communities were built on manufacturing industries that thrived in the early twentieth century but that collapsed throughout the 1980s and 90s.

As a result, these neighbourhoods face a range of significant social and economic challenges, including higher-than-average unemployment, high levels of insecure or poorly paid work, barriers to educational opportunities and low numbers of young people entering into higher education.

Yet these are also communities with significant assets, including strong social networks, community activism, the skills, knowledge, experience, kindness, and talent of local people and, of course, a very rich and amazing heritage.

So, while CAER is a heritage themed project, its underpinning objectives are focused on community: they are about challenging unfounded negative perceptions of the area, improving well-being, and creating transformative educational and new life opportunities.

In practice, this can range from a welcoming, friendly space to have a cuppa, to the establishment of supportive volunteer groups, to activities that improve well-being, including art, archaeology, gardening, trips, and family fun days. CAER has also instigated numerous co-research projects involving local school pupils – helping to break down barriers to higher education.

It has established a programme of free accredited adult learners courses to

address learning needs as identified by the community and, with the help of Cardiff University, it has also implemented scholarship programmes with financial and pastoral support to help local young people and adults enter into higher education.

It has also secured significant investment to regenerate buildings and create safe and welcoming community spaces that value and celebrate both community and heritage.

What do you feel makes your project unique?

From a Neolithic causewayed enclosure to a Bronze Age settlement, to the massive Iron Age hillfort, a large Roman villa, a medieval castle, churches, and a deserted village, to a Civil War battlefield and twentieth century estates that were at the cutting edge of a social housing revolution.

The incredible heritage of Caerau and Ely encapsulates over 6,000 years of Wales's history concentrated into just eight square kilometres. That makes the project unique, maybe, but I think what is special about our project is the people and the community of Caerau and Ely, and indeed how CAER employs the exploration of this rich past to harness heritage into unlocking local creativity, talent, and community action.

This is best exemplified by responses to a recent survey of volunteers on what they think is the most significant change

that CAER has brought to their lives and community.

Here are a few responses to that question:

“Being involved gave me confidence. Whilst doing that, it brought back my self-esteem, my purpose and value... I keep involved with the project. It gave me an extended family, and we now all support each other non-judgmentally. I am now able to work.”

“The most significant thing for me was that the sense of community is quite high, which I'm quite surprised to be saying. Because it wasn't something that I came for. But I think it's a community with a purpose. I don't think that you could separate it, actually, because the community is the archaeology... Without the one, you haven't got the other.”

“For me, the most significant change is that there is more of a community feel in the Hillfort area because we all look after it, rather than treating it as a ‘dumping ground’ ... I feel that the project has revived the community.”

“For me the most significant change was being involved in the day we decided to plan for the new heritage centre ... I know if the Heritage Centre happens that I was part of making it happen.”

“It's like turning corners there is always something else to get involved in...”

“It's something to look forward to. When we get together it's exciting and I feel like I'm part of a wider community...”

What are you hoping to gain from being a Catalyst for Change partner?

The whole CAER team is passionate about collaborating with the CBA and our Catalyst Partners on this project. It will open up exciting co-creation opportunities and networks across the UK, bringing communities together to celebrate archaeology, and to share skills, while addressing contemporary challenges.

We are really looking forward to building a wider community, and new friendships and life opportunities, through inter-project activities and, hopefully, some return visits too.

We also value the opportunity to share our expertise, knowledge, and good practice, regarding our place-based community development, archaeological research and co-creation strategies with others, and are looking forward to seeing what exciting ideas and relationships will come from this. ■

The Chester House Estate Archaeology Project, Northamptonshire

By Sarah Scott, professor of Archaeology, University of Leicester, and Ben Donnelly-Symes, ARC curator, Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre

Tell us about your project?

The University of Leicester's Heritage Hub facilitates collaborations that combine cutting-edge university research, sector, and lived experience.

We support people and organisations across Leicestershire and the East Midlands to explore, investigate, and celebrate their heritage, co-creating inclusive and financially resilient projects and partnerships. We undertake data gathering and research to inform strategy and gain a nuanced and holistic understanding of the impact of engagement on communities and lives.

We collaborate with organisations of all sizes, including local authorities, community groups, museums, professional archaeological units, libraries and archives, education and health providers, emergency services, charities, and businesses.

Drawing on our collective experience and expertise we seek to identify and remove barriers to community participation, working through heritage to address inequalities – for example, in education and health.

Bringing people and organisations together through heritage, our mission is to spark innovative collaborations that make positive change in our region. Community archaeology is a core strand of activity, with local authorities as key strategic partners.

Who is involved in your project and what activities do they get involved in?

Our innovative and wide-ranging partnership with Northamptonshire Council (NNC) at

Right: The Archaeological Resource Centre aims to break down barriers to engaging with heritage



CBA (4)

the Chester House Estate exemplifies this approach.

The Chester House Estate is a unique free-to-enter heritage site with evidence for 10,000 years of human activity in the landscape. Within the estate lies one of the best preserved walled Roman small towns in Britain, known as Irchester. At present, much of this heritage is buried; the challenge is to bring it to life and tell its stories.

The Archaeological Resource Centre (ARC) is a state-of-the-art facility located within the Chester House Estate, which is the publicly accessible archaeological archive repository for the whole of Northants. This stretch of the Nene Valley in Northamptonshire is one of the richest parts of the country for archaeological investigation and archives.

Together, we are supporting more than 40 community groups and local businesses in the East Midlands, building strong regional networks and developing inclusive, sustainable and scalable models for working.

We run a wide range of activities throughout the year, including the Irchester Field, and a two-day Roman Festival in June and July every year.

Our collaborative school programme runs throughout the excavation,

engaging more than 3,000 students from local schools during 2023-2024.

These initiatives are designed to be cost neutral; this is critical given the financial pressures local authorities and universities are facing. Pioneering commercial ventures are enabling us to invest in the development and enhancement of programmes.

Community volunteers are fully involved in the design and delivery of activities, working alongside university students, with a wide range of training and mentoring provided to build confidence, skills, and capacity.

Volunteer contributions to on-site interpretation, the learning programme and events are encouraged and incorporated wherever possible. We are striving to promote social inclusion, and

to inspire and empower young people in particular, to explore the places where they live; for example, through archaeological experience days and work experience opportunities.

How do your community members benefit from being involved in your project?

All volunteers are offered the opportunity to participate in a wide range of research, learning, and enrichment opportunities, without any prior experience of archaeology. Over 90% live within 15 miles of the site.

Through our partnership, the volunteers at the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (ARC) and the Chester House Estate can access opportunities that would not otherwise be possible. This includes training in artefact analysis, interpretation and recording, and osteology.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive: “The hands-on learning ... was as always incredible. Teamwork and relationship development is so much of this experience. It’s uniquely rare and so vital. Understanding the process at the practical level is so rewarding here (volunteer, 2024).”

This training, in turn, has an impact on the ability of the ARC and the estate to deliver programmes for the wider public with the support of volunteers, such as tours and workshops.

Wider activities include pioneering well-being initiatives, such as Operation Phoenix, an innovative collaboration between Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue

Right: Within the estate lies one of the best preserved walled Roman small towns in Britain, known as Irchester



Service, the Archaeological Resource Centre, Stanwick Lakes Heritage Park, the University of Leicester, and Breaking Ground Heritage.

It started with a firefighter, who had a passion for archaeology and a desire to help his colleagues, and has resulted in a full-blown archaeology and well-being programme with the full support of the Fire Service.

Participants have had the opportunity to learn new skills, from archiving to traditional craft techniques: “This experience has been totally different. It’s taken me out of my comfort zone to try new experiences which I’ve enjoyed.”

We are working with an interdisciplinary team from the University to embed ethical and inclusive feedback gathering across all areas of activity, enabling us to capture and respond to visitor and participant feedback in real time.

What do you feel makes your project unique?

The people involved make our partnership unique, including our shared commitment to making archaeology accessible.

We believe that proactive engagement with the wider world is fundamentally important for a vibrant and more inclusive future for archaeology, and that creating caring and supportive communities of practice enables creativity and collaboration to flourish, ultimately changing lives.

We are enjoying working together to facilitate wider engagement with archaeological research and archives.

What do people want to know? How can we work with our communities to investigate new questions and tell new stories? How can we fund this work and reduce reliance on ad hoc pots of funding? What do people get out of engaging with archaeology?

We are excited by the challenges and opportunities which are causing us to work across sectors and disciplines, and to rethink and redefine the ways we work to maximise benefits for communities.

It is often working outside our traditional comfort zone that produces some of the most interesting, important and rewarding work.

What are you hoping to gain from being a Catalyst for Change partner?

Working with partners and communities is hugely rewarding and varied and can lead to a wealth of exciting new projects and opportunities.

We are keen to work collectively to champion inclusion, fair pay, recognition and reward, and to ensure that we effectively and holistically capture the impact and value of the brilliant community archaeology projects that are undertaken throughout the country.

We are looking forward to building new links and to learning from some amazing projects and like-minded teams across the UK. We are always looking to learn from best practice and the Reconnecting Archaeology project offers a unique opportunity for us to develop new partnerships, share knowledge and experience, and help build a supportive community of practice. ■

Below: Exploring features in the landscape



The Scottish Crannog Centre, Highlands of Scotland

By Mike Benson, director, and Rachel Backshall, assistant director, The Scottish Crannog Centre

Tell us about your project?

The Scottish Crannog Centre has built a new museum, using locally sourced materials, local skills, and developing and sustaining local resources.

Since fire destroyed the reconstructed Crannog in 2021, the SCC has been on a journey to survive, moving to a new site, with seemingly insurmountable challenges – a flood, rising costs, funding bids, illness, building delays, electric delays, and others.

Yet in under three years we open our doors to the public with a new museum, built by a community, designed by and for the communities we serve – local schools, local charities and organisations, apprentices, refugee groups, mental health groups, our partners, and by MGS, HES, and others.

We have championed sustainability, being brave and relentless, not backing down when pushed to choose less sustainable options.

This is supported by our four pillars of sustainability: To be a place of choice to work and grow; a trusted partner that individuals and organisations want to work alongside; a special place people

Right: The Centre was built by volunteers and prides itself on being welcoming



CBA

want to visit and support; and a place that belongs in, and cares for, its landscape.

Our sustainable ecology has led the thinking, design, build, and launch, with 1,000 fingerprints and 1,000 voices over everything we do.

Who is involved in your project and what activities do they get involved in?

Our legacy is embedded in the programme of training within the development, to maximise employment and improve opportunities in an access-deprived rural area.

Four apprentices aged 16-21 are working on the build, and we are supporting other organisations to deliver apprenticeships. We have designed and delivered a new NPA qualification, working with the SQA, so that we have the skills needed to maintain and develop the site in the future.

A craft fellow is learning thatching, dry

stone walling, green woodworking, and turf building, and producing maintenance plans for all buildings, to ensure the project's legacy.

We pride ourselves on being welcoming, a place for anyone to contribute. We are a Disability Confident (DC) Leader and playing an advisory role for other museums, including V&A Dundee, to gain their DC badge. We hold the Young Person's Guarantee and are a Fair Work Employer. We employ four apprentices currently, three with additional support needs, and their apprenticeship is individually tailored with personal mentors to ensure they grow and thrive.

With visitors, we deliver spoken tours that are accessible and adapted to suit the needs of each group. We offer a unique form of personalised customer service and accessibility – not just physical access but any accessibility – judging the group, tailoring the tour, no scripts, the delivery is tailored to age,



Left: Building a Iron Age style ronnmbouse

CBA

interests, styles of learning, additional needs, and individual conversations.

This is reflected in our ongoing relationships, customer feedback, and Trip Advisor reviews. This approach to shared learning creates a democratic space, trying to turn on its head the notion of the curator knowing all.

How do your community members benefit from being involved in your project?

Our work with our communities and strategic partners is the same, we have opened ourselves up to their knowledge of the needs of their service users, and of their organisations, leading us, it's a two-way conversation that is constantly changing.

All of our strategic partners have helped in the build, so they not only have ownership of the site, but are also able to tailor the design process, change and influence how we build, and what we can do with it. This connects back to the values of the organisation, so the village does not just create simple reconstructions, but is inspired by the original crannog dwellers, and our modern Crannog community today. It's all about embracing the power of uncertainty, and a fierce belief in what we can achieve collectively when we trust each other.

We have a water bore providing all the water we need, we are growing our own food and developing coppice sites on the local hillsides, working with local farmers and landowners.

All the materials for the village have been built from resources within travelling distance for Crannog people. We have a local and sustainable procurement policy, café furniture handmade by Scottish craftspeople, sourcing local food in the café, and local goods in the shop. The museum buildings will be reused in phase 2 of the museum development, becoming incubator units for micro businesses and artist workshops.

What do you feel makes your project unique?

Feltness! The feelings of place, the location, the people, and the way of work – feeling part of it, feeling valued, heard, understood, feeling able to lead – 'feltness' is inherent to what we do at the Crannog Centre.

Throughout reviews, conversation, and our work, people refer to the feeling

Right: The centre has a local and sustainable procurement policy, café furniture handmade by Scottish craftspeople, sourcing local food in the café, and local goods in the shop



of the place, a feeling of being home, being welcome. One autistic team member said that after 52 years she had found a place that 'accepted her for who she was'.

For over 200 volunteers, craftspeople, partners, and the organisations involved, the social space created through designing and building together becomes a place where people can find their own way of working, leading, and making change. Everyone involved has deeply connected to the build – we are working with Queen Margaret University lecturer and PhD in Public Sociology, Linnea Wallen, to explore the full implications of this.

The new museum and Iron Age village are not just a reconstruction. Using materials from within travelling distance of an Iron Age person – timber from Drummond Hill, heather from Glen Lyon and Dun Coillich, stone from the castle, turf from golf course, hazel from the borders and Fife – this supports a sense of place that is felt, promoting ways of living sustainably in nature that we can learn from today.

Built by a community, for a community, it is a living, feeling place, created by 1,000 people, influenced by 1,000 voices, and constantly able to adapt to new needs.

Feltness comes from being in a social space. This connects back to the values of the organisation so that the

village is not just simple reconstructions, but inspired by the original crannog dwellers, and our modern Crannog community today. It's all about embracing the power of uncertainty, and a fierce belief in what we can achieve collectively when we trust each other.

What are you hoping to gain from being a Catalyst for Change partner?

We have learnt from the fire that even a place as powerful as a museum can be vulnerable, and that this is a strength. Being vulnerable in handing over power to those outside to contribute to its story, and vulnerable in not knowing everything, allows more people to contribute to the stories the museum shares.

This has meant we have connected more deeply to the communities we serve, especially from feedback from those who have experienced trauma, such as RILA and PWA. We want to continue this learning as we move forward into the next stages for the museum, working with new organisations with new ideas, and being able to share what we do beyond our doors.

The aim is to create a sector that welcomes, listens, responds, a person-centred approach that looks at individual needs and challenges and that is active to the change we need to see. ■

Uncovering Roman Carlisle, Cumbria

By Nick Henderson, economic development officer, Cumberland Council

Tell us about your project?

Uncovering Roman Carlisle (URC) is an ongoing programme of community archaeological investigations, engagement, and exhibitions, exploring the internationally significant Carlisle Roman Bathhouse on Hadrian's Wall: World Heritage Site.

URC seeks to enhance participants' well-being, create community, and provide opportunities to participate in heritage to benefit Cumberland's residents and visitors.

The project is run by a partnership of:

- Carlisle Cricket Club.
- Cumberland Council.
- Wārdell Armstrong LLP: Archaeological branch of an engineering, environmental, and mining consultancy.
- Tullie: Museum and Art Gallery in Carlisle.
- The final currently unconstituted group who are vital to the project are The Diggers – our volunteer community.

The project grew from humble beginnings when Wārdell Armstrong LLP were commissioned by Carlisle Cricket Club to undertake an evaluation for a new pavilion in 2017 and discovered an unknown Roman Bathhouse, including an inscription to Empress Julia Doma (170-217).

Since 2021, we have been able to return every year with volunteers to excavate, engage, and exhibit. Hundreds of volunteers have made this happen, and 10s of thousands have visited the exhibitions, attended talks, and joined in the education program.

It is the largest known building on Hadrian's Wall (60m x 50m) and discoveries point to a connection to the Severan Dynasty (193-235).

The site has produced a vast quantity of significant finds: Unique monumental carved heads, a lump of Imperial Tyrian Purple dye, 70 Intaglios (carved



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Top: Volunteers took part in a wide range of activities

Above: A pottery find

gemstones for signet rings), hundreds of hairpins, militaria (such as weapons and armour), over 700 coins, and even a Roman doll's foot.

Who is involved in your project and what activities do they get involved in?

Volunteers of all ages and abilities have assisted in every stage of the project delivery. Most volunteers are local, about 70%. Of those, around 23% are from deprived wards in Carlisle. A slight majority of volunteers are women, and about 8% of The Diggers identify as having a disability.

Of the 2024 volunteers, a third had never taken part in archaeology; a quarter were experienced, and the rest had experienced archaeology through past phases of URC. Part of the success of URC is that volunteers are welcome to

give as much or as little of their time as they want to, or are able.

On the site itself, there are 12 broad types of activity offered to ensure the needs of volunteers are provided for and aligning with BAJR skills.

Volunteers take part in:

- Physical fieldwork (barrowing, mattocking, spadework);
- Other archaeological fieldwork (trowelling, brushwork, etc);
- Surveying;
- Find processing;
- Cataloguing and data entry (including high quality photography);
- Working with visitors;
- Supervising and mentoring;
- Researching and interpreting finds;
- Conservation and care of finds;
- Leading engagement sessions and delivering the learning program;
- Creating displays, information, and exhibitions;
- Digitisation.

Offsite volunteers have been integral to the development of the exhibitions, creating the interpretation, object mounts, and 3D scans of objects.

Volunteers have had the opportunity to provide:

- Interviews for media and comms;
- Assistance managing social media;
- Developing merchandise and branding;

- Support running conferences;
- Talks for societies;
- Planning and running social events;
- Participating in workshops to steer the projects future; Expertise establishing a URC charity.

How do your community members benefit from being involved in your project?

Community members have benefited from being involved in Uncovering Roman Carlisle through improvements to their health and well-being and growing their skills and knowledge.

Carlisle faces unique challenges, with high levels of deprivation presenting barriers to engagement, and limited opportunities to engage in archaeology before the project began. 1-in-10 of Carlisle's population are in the 10% most deprived communities in the UK, and over half are classed as being financially stretched, or in urban adversity by the Office of National Statistics.

We run an in-house survey every season to get volunteer feedback, and the 2024 survey represented 25% of URC 2024 Diggers:

- 99% enjoyed themselves and had fun.
- 95% of volunteers reported improved well-being.
- 69% felt fitter and healthier.
- 97% connected with people.
- 76% felt better about themselves.
- 95% would like to volunteer on a similar project again.
- 97% of volunteers reported they know more about Carlisle.
- 70% were local volunteers – 23% from deprived wards.

The variety of activity encourages volunteers to be active and now more local people are excited about archaeology, care about their Roman heritage and have had an active engagement with it.

Volunteers have benefited through opportunities to engage with research, give talks, and initiate projects, for example: Geophysics; cleaning Roman stone in a nearby park; exploration of Roman sites; and hosting events.

When it comes to skills, 56% reported they gained skills for future employment, study, or volunteering. Five of the volunteers have gone on to work in archaeology directly due to the project.

What do you feel makes your project unique?

URC feels unique due to the nature of

Right: Some of the finds from the recent excavations



the site, the archaeology itself, and the people involved. URC has been the only urban, free, easy to access, community archaeology project on Hadrian's Wall.

The location has made it uniquely accessible and able to tap into groups who typically struggle to engage due to constraints on physical accessibility, time, and finances.

URC does well in attracting volunteers from areas of high deprivation, those identifying with a disability, and those who have never engaged with a heritage. People can come and give whatever they want or can.

Everyone will feel this way about their projects, but the community it has created and the level of engagement and excitement it has garnered both locally and internationally feels unique. URC has highlighted Carlisle in international media, such as appearing in *Digging for Britain*. This has allowed wider engagement and further, global appreciation of Carlisle as a destination.

The level of excitement and subsequent in-kind support the project has generated among the community feels different.

The project has created a whole new community, as is often the case, but The Diggers themselves feel like a totally unique group, a close-knit village or extended family. So many have given so

much to the project; the in-kind support amounted to more than double the project's budget.

Experts have offered support worth 10s of thousands in conserving, processing, and studying collections, in 3D scans of the site, use of machinery and plant equipment, in support of writing the book for the project, and more.

What are you hoping to gain from being a Catalyst for Change partner?

Through being a Catalyst for Change partner, we hope to connect with other similar community archaeological projects, and their teams and volunteers, across the UK, to provide opportunities for our volunteers to engage in new and different activities, and to take part in interesting projects.

We hope to learn new models of events and activities, and to benefit from, and contribute to, the knowledge sharing of the project.

URC is now a recognized heritage asset for Cumberland, featuring in council branding and adverts for the area. URC is a lesson in how heritage and conservation impact diverse lives positively, and continues in the stories, actions, and experience gained by those who continue to make it happen. This is something we want to share and to learn from other similar projects.

Any way that we can learn how to reduce barriers and improve engagement and resilience for Uncovering Roman Carlisle and this kind of community archaeology more broadly is something we're interested in.

The Council for British Archaeology has been a great supporter of Uncovering Roman Carlisle, and we hope to support the CBA in what will be a significant and a great project. ■