The ACCORD Project (Archaeology- Community Co-Design and Co-production of Research Data): Reflections on Co-production of 3D heritage assets

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The ACCORD project explores the opportunities and implications of digital visualisation technologies for community engagement and research through the co-creation of three-dimensional models of heritage sites and objects. Traditionally techniques such as laser scanning, 3D modelling and 3D printing have remained firmly in the domain of specialists and expert forms of knowledge and/or professional priorities frame their use. Expressions of community-based social value are therefore rarely addressed through their application. ACCORD seeks to address this through the co-design and co-production of a permanently archived and open-access research asset which integrates co-produced digital models, user generated contextual data and statements of social value. With the support of ACCORD project partners (researchers and specialists at the Digital Design Studio, Glasgow School of Art; the RCAHMS, University of Manchester and Archaeology Scotland), community groups design and produce their own research assets, archived and reusable by all.

This contribution to the Connected Communities Heritage Network Symposium will reflect on the challenges, implications and opportunities engendered by the community co-production of 3D heritage records. Live issues in ACCORD of ownership, accessibility and copyright, and sustainability (particularly with regards to short-term funded projects) will be addressed. We will present our own experiences of taking part in ACCORD, and how this will affect our future practice as heritage professionals, digital visualisation technologists and practitioners in community engagement.

Funded by the AHRC, ACCORD is a 12 month partnership between the Digital Design Studio at the Glasgow School of Art, Archaeology Scotland, the University of Manchester and the RCAHMS.

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ACCORD is one of eleven projects across the UK to be awarded funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council’s Digital Transformations in Community Research CoProduction programme and is a partnership between the Glasgow School of Art, Archaeology Scotland, University of Manchester and the RCAHMS.