

The Local Community Archaeological Training and Equipment Project is a partnership between archaeologists at BU and the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA). Working with archaeological societies and community groups from across Dorset and Hampshire, the project provides access, training, and support for the use of advanced survey equipment that would otherwise be hard to get access to. LoCATE aims to support the research that local groups already do by extending the range of techniques and skills they can use. Our goal is to enable an even greater contribution to the understanding of the rich archaeological heritage of our region.

LoCATE – development and success



LoCATE
Geophysics



@LoCATE_Survey



We started in 2015 with a Geoscan Research FM36 followed a year later by a RM15. Most recently a total station has joined the equipment pool, funded through the Heritage Lottery Funding (Our Past and Our Future, Landscape Partnership Scheme) and the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society. Access to the equipment is managed through the New Forest's volunteer system. LoCATE members are given access to free training using a variety of expertise situated across the partnership, and LoCATE members sign up to a code of responsible survey and data sharing. Open data is a core value, and LoCATE encourages members to use open access materials and software. Inter-partner support is fostered through a variety of means including shared prospection activities, and project social media channels.

LoCATE provides a new model for community engagement in archaeological prospection projects. In an era where the integration of techniques and data are central themes, it is perhaps timely to also consider the integration of people, and how we best work with a variety of different communities to create a shared understanding of our collective past.



LoCATE nominated for the 2019 Park Protector Award and the very first Year of Green Action Awards for National Park projects from the Government's Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Case Study - The Fordingbridge Barrow Group



Avon Valley Archaeological Society (AVAS) is a typical local archaeology group operating in the vicinity of the Hampshire Avon. The Society was eager to investigate and validate a number of sites discovered through aerial photography, but lacked the budget and technical skills to undertake geophysical survey. The LoCATE project was able to transform this situation.

The society has been able to survey a remarkable concentration of monuments in the Fordingbridge area, confirming the presence of two previously unrecorded Neolithic long barrows as well as an oval barrow and double ring ditch. This has been complemented by the discovery of another long barrow on Cranborne Chase which is a staggering 112m in length - longer than the pitch at Wembley!



Affiliations

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Other Groups and Organisations participating in the LoCATE Project

The Christchurch Antiquarians
 Dorset Diggers Community Archaeology Group
 East Dorset Antiquarian Society (EDAS)

Local History Broadmayne
 New Forest History and Archaeology Group
 New Forest National Park Authority Volunteers