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## Specialist Survey Results

### Introduction

This is the individual report focussed on the responses to the HERALD survey by specialists – those who classified themselves as Specialist (post excavation analyses) in the survey. This report will:

- Include all the responses from the survey and subsequent telephone interviews
- Highlight those areas that need to be addressed in a redevelopment project
- Contain preliminary recommendations

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## Survey Results

17 of the total 516 respondents defined themselves Specialist (post excavation analyses).

### Executive summary of key points

The response rate for this user group was low and there was some overlap with people sharing roles with those covered by the FAME survey (some specialists defined themselves as archaeological consultants). Respondents included individuals from geophysicists, illustrators, archivists as well as artefact and environmental specialists.

Whilst many of the general questions reflected a similar spread of views to the FAME survey there were also some specific specialist issues raised:

1. **Specialists would like to be able to upload their complete reports to OASIS for inclusion in the ADS grey literature library.**

This is for two main reasons: the entire reports they produce are not always included in the main project report and it would make it easier to locate artefact or ecofact specific reports which not usually in the public domain.

2. **Environmental sampling to be added to the OASIS form.**

Environmental archaeologists would like the OASIS form to record whether or not any environmental sampling has been carried out on a site or not to aid resource discovery of relevant reports.

### Preliminary recommendations from the Specialist returns

**Recommendation 1:** Investigate the possibility of updating the OASIS schema to record the presence/absence of environmental recording on a site.

**Recommendation 2:** Investigate the possibility of including a bespoke module to record specialist reports in OASIS and the ability to link them to other OASIS projects.

**Recommendation 3:** Consult with specialist groups about the above recommendations. Although the survey responses were positive and give a clear impression of the desires of the respondents the number of respondents was small. There needs to be further consultation with the user group to see if the survey findings reflect the wants of the whole community.

## Full list of important findings from the Specialist survey

1. Three quarters of the 17 respondents who defined themselves as post-excavation specialists responded as individuals ([Q1](#)) and all work in England with about a quarter also working in Scotland and Wales ([Q4](#)). The organisations represented were of all sizes from one person to over 250 employees ([Q5](#)).
2. 40% of respondents do not use OASIS but the rest use it for some of their projects at least. It was noted that although a respondent did not use it themselves others in their organisation did ([Q7](#)). The main motivations for completing the OASIS form was to add the report to the ADS Grey literature library, that it was part of their internal procedures or that they have been told to by the HER ([Q8 users](#)). Most respondents who knew when the OASIS form was completed said it was done after the report was complete.
3. All except one respondent (87%) said that over three quarters reports were uploaded for their projects ([Q11 users](#)) and the main reason for not uploading reports was client confidentiality ([Q12 users](#)). Respondents mostly make reports available by email or post but at least half also make them available online either on their own website or via the ADS Grey literature library ([Q15 users](#)). Three quarters of respondents think that the availability of grey literature online has positively affected their work ([Q17 users](#)).
4. Standards: half of respondents refer to research frameworks ([Q13 users](#)) and there was a wide mix of opinions on how OASIS has affected data standards ([Q14 users](#)). Only one respondent (12%) uses the FISH toolkit and almost 40% had never heard of it ([Q23 users](#)).
5. Awareness of the functionality of the OASIS form and where the data is used was mixed and would appear to reflect that some respondents were heavier users of the form than others ([Q18-21 users](#)). None of the users exported records from OASIS ([Q22 users](#)) but over 70% would like to be able to do bulk uploads of records into OASIS ([Q31 users](#)). The general feeling was that the interface was old and clunky ([Q24 users](#)) but that main problem was the time it took for some HERs to validate, therefore blocking reports from getting into the public domain ([Q25 users](#)).
6. Improvements to OASIS such as a building recording section, a specialist recording section, community archaeologist involvement and the recording of archive deposition with museums were all positively received ([Q26-30 users](#)). When asked if OASIS should have a section for recording specialist archaeological information ([Q27 users](#)) responses included:

*“It would be extremely useful to access the environmental results from the local area around the site we are working on to provide comparative material. Particularly where the results are not published elsewhere. The environmental work is generally not picked up by OASIS at the moment”*

*“This may well be useful where the report is a synthesised publication but the specialist data only exists as digital downloads on CD in report or where the PX funding is delaying the whole report but certain specialist areas have been completed and could be made available sooner.”*

There was also interest in better recording of transfer of finds to a museum ([Q30 users](#) and [Appendix 2](#)):

*“Very helpful to know when it [the project archive] has gone to the museum, so researchers can get at the Finds they need. It can be years before project archive is deposited, especially where museums are closed/nearly full, so Commercial units hold the finds and no one knows they are there.”*

7. Recording of the presence of environmental data in OASIS records was welcomed in responses to the survey ([Q36 users](#)), the telephone interviews and other comments received.

*“It would be great to be able to search for any reports with environmental work by phase and location”*

8. Communication: the OASIS email lists and the OASIS website were seen as the best means of keeping in touch with this user group ([Q37 users](#)).
9. Training: the respondents who had received training and those who had not were roughly proportional with knowledge of the OASIS system shown in the survey answers ([Q38 users](#)). The favoured training materials were a downloadable manual followed by online videos and a helpdesk service.
10. Respondents thought the best part of OASIS was the archiving and availability of grey literature ([Q40 users](#)), the worst things were the dated interface, slowness of data input and validation and most specifically for this survey the inability of OASIS to record if any environmental analysis was done on a project ([Q42 users](#)). Aside from improving the interface and HER interaction respondents were keen to see direct access to specialist reports and more recording of environmental analyses ([Q43 users](#)).

11. There was a very low number of responses from non-users of the OASIS form (only 5, falling to 3 for the later questions) and the main reason for not using it was a lack of training or it not being relevant to their role ([Q8 non-users](#)). As with other survey groups the non-users of OASIS seemed also to be respondents with less technical knowledge but responses to questions asking if specialist archaeological reports should be included in OASIS were positively received ([Q21 non-users](#)).

*“All pottery reports should be freely available to anyone who wants to see them - complete and unedited.”*

*“Just make the whole thing as simple as possible. Most of us haven't got the faintest idea about the sorts of IT arcana that seem to be inseparable from these big projects. We want to be able to get the reports and data tables in easy to use formats without a lot of hassle and especially without being told that we are copyright thieves.”*

## Appendix 1: Full Survey Results

### Section 1: General Questions answered by both users and non-users

**Question 1: Are you responding as:**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
An individual	76.5%	13
On behalf of an organisation	23.5%	4
<b>answered question</b>		<b>17</b>

**Question 2: Please select the option that most closely describes your primary role as an archaeologist / historic environment professional?**

There were 17 responses which defined themselves as Specialist (post excavation analyses).

**Question 3: What historic environment organisation do you work for most of the time?**

	Organisation	Department
1	Stratascan Ltd	Sales & Administration
2	Archaeological Surveys Ltd	
3	YMT	Archaeological rationalization
4	Archaeological Solutions Ltd	Graphics
5	GSB Prospection Ltd	geophysics
6	Wessex Archaeology	Environmental Department
7	Wessex Archseology	Graphics
8	SPAB	
9	DISPERSE Project	Archaeology
10	Oxford Archaeology	Archive
11	Worcestershire Archaeology	
12	Archaeological Burials Company	Freelance researcher

**Question 4: Which parts of the UK do you work in?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
England	100.0%	17
Northern Ireland	11.8%	2
Scotland	23.5%	4
Wales	29.4%	5
<b>answered question</b>		<b>17</b>

**Question 5: How many staff are employed by your organisation**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1	33.3%	5
2 to 10	6.7%	1
11 to 49	26.7%	4
50 to 99	6.7%	1
100 to 249	13.3%	2
250+	13.3%	2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>15</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>2</b>

**Question 6: What is the main focus of your archaeological work**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
General fieldwork	6.7%	1
Geophysical survey	20.0%	3
Specialist post-excavation analyses	53.3%	8
Historic building recording	6.7%	1
Consultancy	6.7%	1
All of the above	6.7%	1
Other (please specify)	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>15</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>2</b>

**Question 7: When do you use OASIS to record your projects?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I do not use OASIS at all	40.0%	6
Only when it is specified in the brief	13.3%	2
I use it for a few of my projects	13.3%	2
I use it for most of my projects	13.3%	2
I use it for all my projects	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)	20.0%	3
<i>answered question</i>		<b>15</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>2</b>

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Other (please specify)



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | <i>I don't record anything on Oasis as others in organisation do</i> |
| 2 | <i>Fr</i>  |
| 3 | <i>I use for all projects reported after 2002</i>                    |

FINAL

## Section 2: Questions only answered by users of the OASIS form

**Question 8 (users): What is your MAIN motivation for filling in an OASIS form?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I have been told to by the HER	25.0%	2
It's part of our internal procedures	25.0%	2
I do it to inform the HER of my work regardless of location	0.0%	0
I do it to inform the HER only where the HER actively validates records	0.0%	0
I do it to add the report to the Grey Literature Library	37.5%	3
I do it to inform the English Heritage Archive (aka NMR)	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)	12.5%	1
<i>answered question</i>		<b>8</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

**Other (please specify)**

1 Others fill it in

**Question 9 (users): At what point in a project do you usually START an OASIS record?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
At the beginning of the project	0.0%	0
As soon as I have an HER No.	12.5%	1
Sometime after fieldwork but before the report is finalised	0.0%	0
I only fill it in once I have completed the report	50.0%	4
Other (please specify)	37.5%	3
<i>answered question</i>		<b>8</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

**Other (please specify)**

1 Others fill it in

2 During the archive process - almost always after reporting

3 Another member of staff fills in our OASIS records but I have no interest in how the specialists reports are recorded

**Question 10 (users): Who in your organisation completes or updates the OASIS form**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
The project's director/manager	12.5%	1
The project's supervisor/officer	12.5%	1
The archivist or post-ex manager	25.0%	2
Different people fill in different parts for a single project	0.0%	0
Everyone looks at it but only some people add information	12.5%	1
Other (please specify)	37.5%	3
<b>answered question</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

**Other (please specify)**

1	Administrator
2	One main member of staff for the organisation regardless of project
3	There is only me

**Question 11 (users): What proportion of your OASIS records have reports attached**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
None	0.0%	0
Between 1% and 25%	0.0%	0
Between 26% and 50%	0.0%	0
Between 51% and 75%	12.5%	1
Between 76 % and 100%	87.5%	7
<b>answered question</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

**Question 12 (users): What is the most common reason for NOT uploading a report?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Client confidentiality	62.5%	5
Technical problems like the file is too big to upload	12.5%	1
Awaiting traditional publication (including journal round-up)	12.5%	1

The HER doesn't want me to	0.0%	0
I don't want my report to go online	0.0%	0
We have our own online library	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)	12.5%	1
<b>answered question</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

**Other (please specify)**

1 Others do this so not sure

*Question 13 (users): Do you refer to research frameworks when undertaking your work?*

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	50.0%	4
No	50.0%	4
<b>answered question</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

*Question 14 (users): How has OASIS affected data standards (particularly the use of controlled vocabularies and thesauri)?*

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I believe it has made no difference	37.5%	3
It has made a positive difference but more work needs to be done	25.0%	2
It has made a huge difference	12.5%	1
The standards are inappropriate	0.0%	0
I don't use them	25.0%	2
<b>answered question</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

*Question 15 (users): How do you make grey literature available to your users (tick all that apply)*

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Online – via links to reports hosted locally i.e. on our organisation's servers/website	62.5%	5
Online – via links to ADS Grey Literature Library	50.0%	4

By email on request	87.5%	7
By post on request	75.0%	6
In person	0.0%	0
Via the HER	37.5%	3
Other (please specify)	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		<b>8</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

*Question 16 (users): Would you like to be able to archive other digital aspects of the projects via OASIS?*

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No, I've never thought about those options	37.5%	3
Yes, I would like to investigate how that could be achieved	50.0%	4
I'm not sure what you mean	12.5%	1
Other (please specify)		1
<i>answered question</i>		<b>8</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

**Other (please specify)**

1 *I'd like to upload the whole archive*

*Question 17 (users): How has the availability of grey literature reports online, through libraries such as the ADS Grey Literature Library, affected your work?*

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Accessing grey literature online has positively affected my work	75.0%	6
Accessing grey literature online has negatively affected my work	0.0%	0
Accessing grey literature online has had no effect on my work	25.0%	2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>8</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

*Question 18 (users): Are you aware that OASIS metadata has fed the Geophysical Survey Database since 2011 – formerly the English Heritage Geophysical Survey Database?*

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	50.0%	4
No	50.0%	4
<b>answered question</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

**Question 19 (users): Are you aware that each grey literature report is allocated a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) by the ADS? [What is a DOI?]**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No – I didn't know what a DOI was	37.5%	3
No – but I will record them now I do	0.0%	0
Yes – but I don't record the DOI	50.0%	4
Yes – and I use the DOI to link to the report	12.5%	1
<b>answered question</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

**Question 20 (users): Are you aware that users can also upload image archives to OASIS (England only) for deposition in the ADS archive?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	50.0%	4
Yes and I am planning to use it	0.0%	0
I wasn't but I am interested in using it	25.0%	2
No	25.0%	2
<b>answered question</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

**Question 21 (users): Do you upload a GIS boundary file to your projects in OASIS?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	0.0%	0
No, I choose not to	25.0%	2
No, I didn't know that I could	12.5%	1
No, I cannot create the format needed	25.0%	2
Other (please specify)	37.5%	3
<b>answered question</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

**Other (please specify)**

1	<i>Others do the uploading</i>
2	<i>Only if specifically requested in brief</i>
3	<i>I use ADS but do not fill our OASIS records, so am not familiar with this.</i>

**Question 22 (users): Do you use the XML or CSV download of records to import OASIS data into your own systems?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I don't download xml or csv	62.5%	5
I didn't know you could	12.5%	1
If I'd known about it I'd use it	0.0%	0
I use the xml or csv downloads infrequently	0.0%	0
I use the xml or csv downloads all the time	0.0%	0
I would use it if I had the tools to import it	12.5%	1
Other (please specify)	12.5%	1
<b>answered question</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

**Other (please specify)**

1	<i>I keep the printed version with our central file - might chnage to digital though now i know it can be downloaded</i>
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**Question 23 (users): Tell us about your knowledge of the Forum for Information Standards in Heritage (FISH) interoperability toolkit**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I have never heard of the FISH toolkit	37.5%	3
I am aware of it but have never used it	50.0%	4
I would like to use it but find it too technical	0.0%	0
I already use it	12.5%	1
<b>answered question</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

**Question 24 (users): Please give us your opinion of the different areas within the OASIS system. Content issues include the content of a section, questions asked and layout/design Technical issues include sections which produce errors and other technical issues experienced**

Answer Options	No problem	Content issue	Technical issue	Not applicable	Response Count
OASIS form: details section	5	1	0	1	7
OASIS form: location section	4	2	0	1	7
OASIS form: creators section	5	1	0	1	7
OASIS form: archive section	4	1	1	1	7
OASIS form: bibliography section	5	1	0	1	7
OASIS form: geophysics section	4	1	0	2	7
Report upload	5	0	1	1	7
Boundary file upload	3	0	0	4	7
Image archive upload	2	0	0	5	7
Search projects section	5	0	0	2	7
Manage projects section	5	0	0	2	7
HER information	5	0	0	2	7
Export project records	5	0	0	2	7
Notifications (emails)	6	0	0	1	7
<b>If you have specified an issue with any sections above please expand upon the problem below</b>					3
<i>answered question</i>					7
<i>skipped question</i>					2

**If you have specified an issue with any sections above please expand upon the problem below**

- 1 *In general terms, the layout and format of the form is rather cluttered and not particularly user friendly. I think if a redesign is due to be carried out; it would be beneficial to include more drop down menus to simplify the data input. The form is usable in it's current form - I just think it could be modernized to speed-up and simplify the process.  
Also, the upload speed of the reports is very poor and this slows down the process.*
- 2 *When filling in the location section sometimes the county / parish and district do not tally with our records*
- 3 *The form falls off the side of the screen because the boxes are too wide - really irritating having to scroll across.*

**Question 25 (users): Below are the list of stages that an OASIS record passes through in its lifecycle. Please let us know your experience of each stage.**

Answer Options	No issues	Problematic	Never noticed it	Response Count
Waiting for Contractor to complete	5	1	1	7
Waiting for Contractor to send report	5	1	1	7
Waiting for HER to validate	3	3	1	7



Waiting for HER to sign off	3	3	1	7
Still waiting for HER to validate (NMR validated)	3	1	3	7
Waiting for NMR to validate	3	1	3	7
Waiting for NMR to sign off	3	1	3	7
Waiting for Contractor to complete archive section	4	0	3	7
Waiting for HER to validate archive section	3	1	3	7
Waiting for NMR to validate archive section	3	1	3	7
If you have tagged any stage as problematic please let us know the nature of the problem				3
<i>answered question</i>				7
<i>skipped question</i>				2

**If you have tagged any stage as problematic please let us know the nature of the problem**

- 1 *I have sometimes seen that I am still expected to complete the record when I thought I had.  
I have sent the report to certain HERs and uploaded as requested but the HER hasn't validated years later.  
Although our email addresses are connected for communications, we don't have a way of contacted the relavent person at the HER.*
- 2 *It can sometimes take years for the HER to sign off and validate reports.*
- 3 *Some reports are sent many months before they are validated. In the past we have been criticised for not making reports available when in fact the problem was that they weren't validated and so not visible.*

**Question 26 (users): OASIS is occasionally used for building recording. Do you think that OASIS should include a bespoke section to record historic buildings information?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes (record only)	0.0%	0
Yes (record and report)	100.0%	7
No	0.0%	0
Expand further...		2
<i>answered question</i>		7
<i>skipped question</i>		2

**Expand further...**

- 1 *We have to do it for geophysical surveys so the same amount of work should*

- be for other disciplines too*
- 2 *Not that we would use this but i am sure some people would find this useful*

**Question 27 (users): Do you think that OASIS should include a bespoke section to record specialist archaeological information such as pottery or environmental reports etc**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes (record only)	0.0%	0
Yes (record and report)	100.0%	7
No	0.0%	0
Expand further...		4
<i>answered question</i>		<b>7</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>2</b>

**Expand further...**

- 1 *As above*
- 2 *as above*
- 3 *It would be extremely useful to access the environmental results from the local area around the site we are working on to provide comparative material. Particularly where the results are not published elsewhere. The environmental work is generally not picked up by OASIS at the moment*
- 4 *This may well be useful where the report is a synthesised publication but the specialist data only exists as digital downloads on CD in report or where the PX funding is delaying the whole report but certain specialist areas have been completed and could be made available sooner.*

**Question 28 (users): Do you think that OASIS should record the full range of event types (from the EH event types thesaurus)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	85.7%	6
No	14.3%	1
Expand further...		1
<i>answered question</i>		<b>7</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>2</b>

**Expand further...**

- 1 *overly complicated*

**Question 29 (users): Do you think that community archaeologists and independent researchers should use OASIS?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	100.0%	7
No	0.0%	0
Expand further...		2
<i>answered question</i>		7
<i>skipped question</i>		2

**Expand further...**

1	<i>Everyone recording archaeology should report their findings to a wider audience</i>
2	<i>Grey lit. is being ignored by far too many people.</i>

**Question 30 (users): Do you think the successful transfer of a project archive to a museum and museum curation should be included in the OASIS workflow?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	100.0%	7
No	0.0%	0
Expand further...		2
<i>answered question</i>		7
<i>skipped question</i>		2

**Expand further...**

1	<i>The OASIS form includes intended repository but not the date of transfer. We have no where to state current location of archive. Closed museums or tardy depositors can obscure their lack of provision this way. It would be beneficial for communication, and transparency of workflow, if the archive receipt were recorded by *the receiving museum* on the OASIS formj</i>
2	<i>Very helpful to know when it has gone to the museum, so researchers can get at the Finds they need. It can be years before project archive is deposited, especially where museums are closed/nearly full, so Commercial units hold the finds and no one knows they are there.</i>

**Question 31 (users): Would you find it useful to be able to upload your projects in bulk into OASIS from your system (using an API)?**

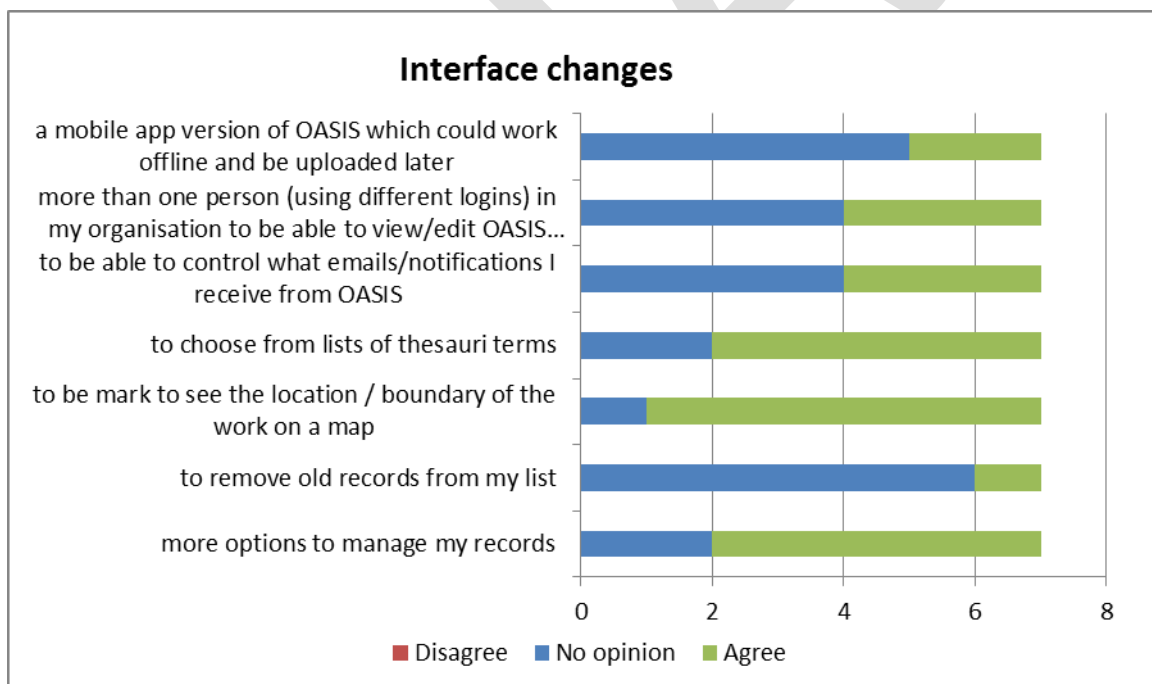
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
----------------	------------------	----------------

Yes	71.4%	5
No	28.6%	2
<b>answered question</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>2</b>

**Question 32 (users): Do you think that OASIS should be used to enable the upload of 'backlog' grey literature i.e. projects that predate current planning cases?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	100.0%	7
No	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)	0.0%	0
<b>answered question</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>2</b>

**Question 33 (users): In this section we'd like to know what INTERFACE changes you'd like to see to OASIS I'd like:**



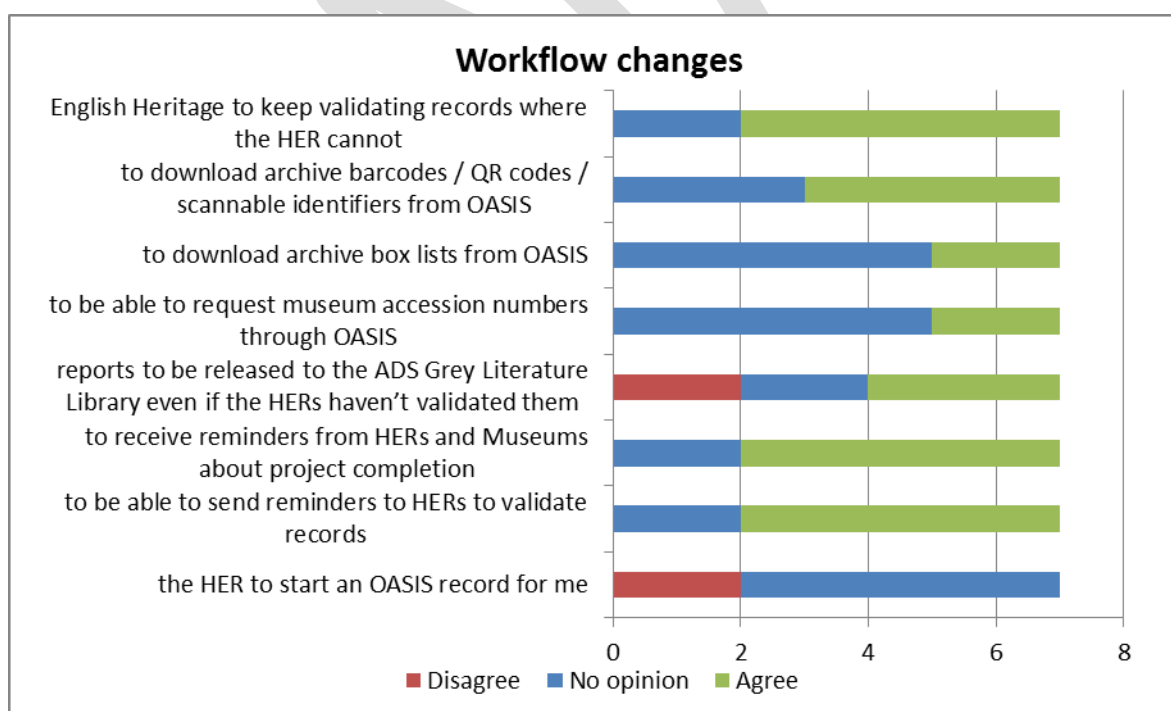
Answer Options	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Response Count
more options to manage my records	5	2	0	7
to remove old records from my list	1	6	0	7
to be mark to see the location / boundary of the work on a map	6	1	0	7

<b>to choose from lists of thesauri terms</b>	5	2	0	7
<b>to be able to control what emails/notifications I receive from OASIS</b>	3	4	0	7
<b>more than one person (using different logins) in my organisation to be able to view/edit OASIS records</b>	3	4	0	7
<b>a mobile app version of OASIS which could work offline and be uploaded later</b>	2	5	0	7
<b>Other suggestions</b>				1
<b><i>answered question</i></b>				7
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>				2

### Other suggestions

1 A clear section on whether there was any environmental work carried out

**Question 34 (users): In this section we'd like to know what WORKFLOW changes you'd like to see to OASIS I'd like:**



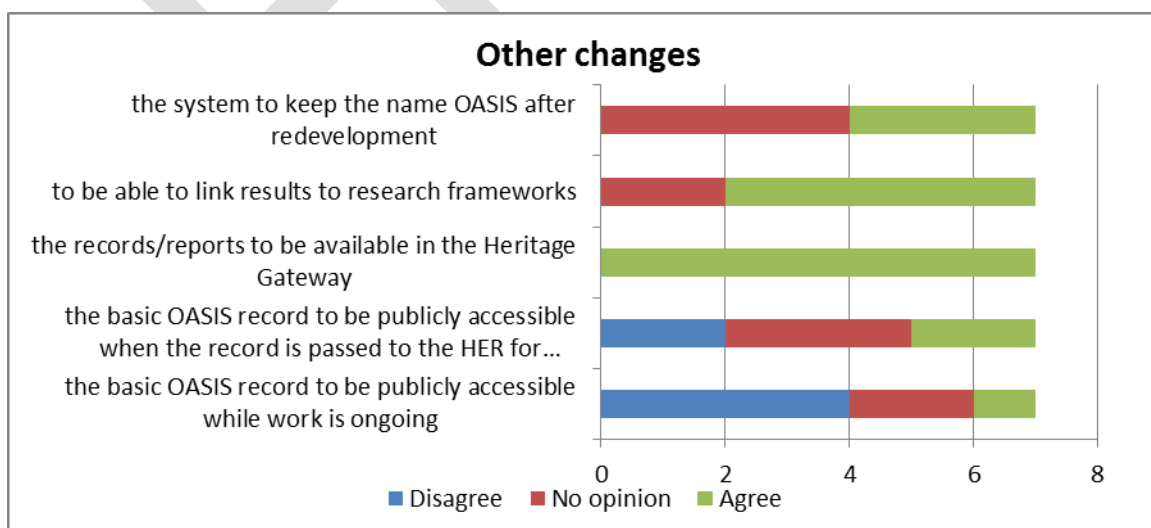
Answer Options	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Response Count
<b>the HER to start an OASIS record for me</b>	0	5	2	7
<b>to be able to send reminders to</b>	5	2	0	7

<b>HERs to validate records</b>				
<b>to receive reminders from HERs and Museums about project completion</b>	5	2	0	7
<b>reports to be released to the ADS Grey Literature Library even if the HERs haven't validated them</b>	3	2	2	7
<b>to be able to request museum accession numbers through OASIS</b>	2	5	0	7
<b>to download archive box lists from OASIS</b>	2	5	0	7
<b>to download archive barcodes / QR codes / scannable identifiers from OASIS</b>	4	3	0	7
<b>English Heritage to keep validating records where the HER cannot</b>	5	2	0	7
<b>Other suggestions</b>				1
<b>answered question</b>				7
<b>skipped question</b>				2

**Other suggestions**

- 1 *Not all museums issue accession numbers prior to receiving the archive. I'm not sure how useful it would be.*

**Question 35 (users):** *In this section we'd like to know what other changes you'd like to see to OASIS I'd like:*



Answer Options	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Response Count
the basic OASIS record to be publicly accessible while work is ongoing	1	2	4	7
the basic OASIS record to be publicly accessible when the record is passed to the HER for validation	2	3	2	7
the records/reports to be available in the Heritage Gateway	7	0	0	7
to be able to link results to research frameworks	5	2	0	7
the system to keep the name OASIS after redevelopment	3	4	0	7
Other suggestions				0
<i>answered question</i>				7
<i>skipped question</i>				2

*Question 36 (users): What additional functionality or outputs would you like to see from the OASIS system? (Tick all that apply)*

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
additional functionality in the interface	42.9%	3
additional searches on my records	42.9%	3
additional searches on all records	57.1%	4
searches for the public	57.1%	4
additional ways to access OASIS data	42.9%	3
I don't want additional outputs from OASIS	0.0%	0
Please expand on your answer below:		1
<i>answered question</i>		7
<i>skipped question</i>		2

**Please expand on your answer below:**

1 *It would be great to be able to search for any reports with environmental work by phase and location*

*Question 37 (users): Keeping in touch about OASIS – we are trying to keep you up to date about OASIS, how can we best do that? (Tick all that apply)*

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Emails to OASIS email lists	100.0%	7
OASIS Blog	14.3%	1
Facebook	14.3%	1

Twitter	14.3%	1
Traditional publications	14.3%	1
The OASIS website	42.9%	3
A bi-annual survey	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)	0.0%	0
<b>answered question</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>2</b>

**Question 38 (users): Tell us about your training in OASIS (Tick all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I have had OASIS training	42.9%	3
I am aware that there is an OASIS user's manual	28.6%	2
I use the FAQs within OASIS	14.3%	1
I have not had OASIS training	42.9%	3
Other (please specify)	0.0%	0
<b>answered question</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>2</b>

**Question 39 (users): What training would you like to be available for OASIS? (Tick all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I would use online training videos	28.6%	2
I would like group workshops	14.3%	1
I would like individual training sessions	14.3%	1
I would like a manual available to download	85.7%	6
I would like a telephone/email helpdesk available	28.6%	2
Other (please specify)	0.0%	0
<b>answered question</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>2</b>

**Question 40 (users): What are the best things about the OASIS system in your opinion?**

**Response Text**

1	The basic framework of the system is good.
2	Linking reports to ADS so that they can be easily downloaded for future reference.
3	Ability to interconnect sites
4	n/a
5	The best thing about OASIS is being able to see the grey literature



- 
- 6 *It being a central repository*
  - 7 *Getting grey literature reports online and searchable*
- 

**Question 41 (users): What are the worst things about the OASIS system in your opinion?**

**Response Text**

- 1 *The interface is not particularly intuitive or user friendly.  
In a commercial organisation, the system is very time consuming which is prohibitive in a commercial environment.  
The upload speed is very poor and this is again prohibitive in a commercial environment.*
  - 2 *Waiting for client to let us know when to upload to OASIS, and also the time it takes to fill in the OASIS questionnaire each time.  
Not knowing which projects to upload and when as much of our work is pre-planning.*
  - 3 *.*
  - 4 *It seems very out of date - which is why i guess you are asking opinions though!*
  - 5 *The lack of a clear question on whether there was any environmental work on the site. Generally environmental work and archive material is not recorded on the oasis forms at the moment.*
  - 6 *Timing out after 30 minutes and having to start section again.*
  - 7 *takes a long time to get things validated and online.*
- 

**Question 42 (users): Please tell us any changes that would improve the OASIS system for you.**

**Response Text**

- 1 *General update to the interface to make the data-input more intuitive.  
Simplify the interface to speed-up the data input.  
Improve the upload capabilities (bulk upload etc may be helpful)*
  - 2 *An easier way to upload details.  
Not having to send a printed copy to the HER (which they lose), why can't they just see it, download it and validate it from OASIS.*
  - 3 *.*
  - 4 *Better user interface.*
  - 5 *Making a clear section on the form on whether there was any environmental work on the site and making this data searchable by phase and location (not either or) so you can see any other environmental work done by any organisation, who has submitted an OASIS form, in the area.*
  - 6 *Being able to upload a PdfA of the archive records as well as images in addition to the report*
  - 7 *A shorter turn around time from record creation to online accessibility.  
More searchable.  
Direct access to the specialists reports, searchable using technical terms?*
-

**Question 43 (users): Would you be willing to be contacted further?**

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>For clarification of any of your answers</b>	100.0%	2
<b>For a short telephone interview (no longer than 20 mins)</b>	50.0%	1
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>2</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>7</b>

FINAL

## Section 3: Questions only answered by non-users of the OASIS form

**Question 8 (non-users): Why don't you use OASIS? (tick all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I didn't know it existed	20.0%	1
I don't know how it works	20.0%	1
I haven't had any training	80.0%	4
The HER hasn't asked me to use it	40.0%	2
I don't have the time	40.0%	2
I don't have a login or have forgotten my login details	40.0%	2
I've tried but it doesn't fit into our workflow	0.0%	0
I've tried but found it too hard to use	40.0%	2
I don't like using internet data entry systems	0.0%	0
I haven't been told that I have to use it so I choose not to	0.0%	0
I don't think it improves the flow of information so why would I use it.	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)	20.0%	1
<i>answered question</i>		5
<i>skipped question</i>		1

**Other (please specify)**

1 I produce maps and GIS analysis as part of Irager projects.

**Question 9 (non-users): Do you refer to research frameworks when undertaking your work?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	20.0%	1
No	80.0%	4
<i>answered question</i>		5
<i>skipped question</i>		1

**Question 10 (non-users): How do you make grey literature reports available to your users (tick all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Online – via links to reports hosted locally i.e. on our organisation's servers/website	0.0%	0

<b>Online – via links to ADS Grey Literature Library</b>	0.0%	0
<b>By email on request</b>	0.0%	0
<b>By post on request</b>	0.0%	0
<b>In person</b>	33.3%	1
<b>Via the HER</b>	0.0%	0
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	66.7%	2
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>3</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>3</b>

#### **Other (please specify)**

- 1 *don't know how the project does it*
- 2 *As a specialist employed by archaeological contractors I contribute to grey lit reports but have no influence on how or even if they are disseminated. In addition my local HER (SYAS) has an aggressive policy which restricts access to the grey literature on the grounds that allowing them to be used may constitute an offence under copyright legislation so I have largely abandoned attempts to disseminate reports of any kind*

**Question 11 (non-users): Would you like to be able to archive other digital aspects of the projects via OASIS?**

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>No, I've never thought about those options</b>	33.3%	1
<b>Yes, I would like to investigate how that could be achieved</b>	33.3%	1
<b>I'm not sure what you mean</b>	33.3%	1
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>3</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>3</b>

**Question 12 (non-users): How has the availability of grey literature reports online, through libraries such as the ADS Grey Literature Library, affected your work?**

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>Accessing grey literature online has positively affected my work</b>	33.3%	1
<b>Accessing grey literature online has negatively affected my work</b>	0.0%	0
<b>Accessing grey literature online has had no effect on my work</b>	66.7%	2
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>3</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>3</b>

**Question 13 (non-users): Are you aware that OASIS metadata has fed the Geophysical Survey Database since 2011 – formerly the English Heritage Geophysical Survey Database?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	33.3%	1
No	66.7%	2
<b>answered question</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>

**Question 14 (non-users): Are you aware that each grey literature report is allocated a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) by the ADS? [What is a DOI?]**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No – I didn't know what a DOI was	66.7%	2
No – but I will record them now I do	0.0%	0
Yes – but I don't record the DOI	33.3%	1
Yes – and I use the DOI to link to the report	0.0%	0
<b>answered question</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>

**Question 15 (non-users): Are you aware that users can also upload image archives to OASIS (England only) for deposition in the ADS archive?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	33.3%	1
No	66.7%	2
<b>answered question</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>

**Question 16 (non-users): Are you aware that you can upload a project boundary file to an OASIS project?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	0.0%	0
No	100.0%	3
<b>answered question</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>

**Question 17 (non-users): Are you aware that you can download OASIS records in XML or CSV for import into other systems?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	0.0%	0
No	100.0%	3
<b>answered question</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>

**Question 18 (non-users): Having read the preceding questions, do you think that your fieldwork should be recorded in the local and national databases (HER, NMR etc) via the OASIS form**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	33.3%	1
No	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)	66.7%	2
<b>answered question</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>

**Other (please specify)**

- 1 up to the project director
- 2 Again, as a post-ex specialist (pottery), I have little or no input into publication policies. In my view everything should be freely available to anyone who wants to see or use it without restriction but I am aware that this is not a view that most bueaucrats, lacking any experience of research, even understand.

**Question 19 (non-users): Tell us about your knowledge of the Forum for Information Standards in Heritage (FISH) interoperability toolkit**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I have never heard of the FISH toolkit	66.7%	2
I am aware of it but have never used it	33.3%	1
I would like to use it but find it too technical	0.0%	0
I already use it	0.0%	0
<b>answered question</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>

**Question 20 (non-users): OASIS is occasionally used for building recording. Do you think that OASIS should include a bespoke section to record historic buildings information?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes (record only)	0.0%	0
Yes (record and report)	100.0%	3
No	0.0%	0
Expand further...		2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>3</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>3</b>

**Expand further...**

- 1 any easily accessible record is useful
- 2 Knowledge is power so we should be disseminating knowledge as much as possible

**Question 21 (non-users): Do you think that OASIS should include a bespoke section to record specialist archaeological information such as pottery or environmental reports etc**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes (record only)	0.0%	0
Yes (record and report)	100.0%	3
No	0.0%	0
Expand further...		2
<i>answered question</i>		<b>3</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>3</b>

**Expand further...**

- 1 as above
- 2 All pottery reports should be feely available to anyone who wants to see them - complete and unedited.

**Question 22 (non-users): Do you think that OASIS should record the full range of event types (from the EH event types thesaurus)?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	100.0%	3

No	0.0%	0
Expand further...		1
<i>answered question</i>		3
<i>skipped question</i>		3

**Expand further...**

1 *I have no idea what the 'EH event types thesaurus' is so saying 'Yes' is taking bit of a leap in the dark - but openness is all so why not record these event types?*

**Question 23 (non-users): Do you think the successful transfer of a project archive to a museum and museum curation should be included in the OASIS workflow?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	100.0%	3
No	0.0%	0
Expand further...		1
<i>answered question</i>		3
<i>skipped question</i>		3

**Expand further...**

1 *And the fate of the archive should be recorded as some units are now chucking stuff away to save on archiving costs which threatens the very basis of archaeology under PPG16/PPS5/NPPF in which 'preservation by record' is fundamental. If only we had some idea of what is chucked away on site ...*

**Question 24 (non-users): Would you find it useful to be able to upload your projects in bulk into OASIS from your system (using an API)?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	66.7%	2
No	33.3%	1
<i>answered question</i>		3
<i>skipped question</i>		3

**Question 25 (non-users): Do you think that OASIS should be used to enable the upload of 'backlog' grey literature i.e. projects that predate current planning cases?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	66.7%	2

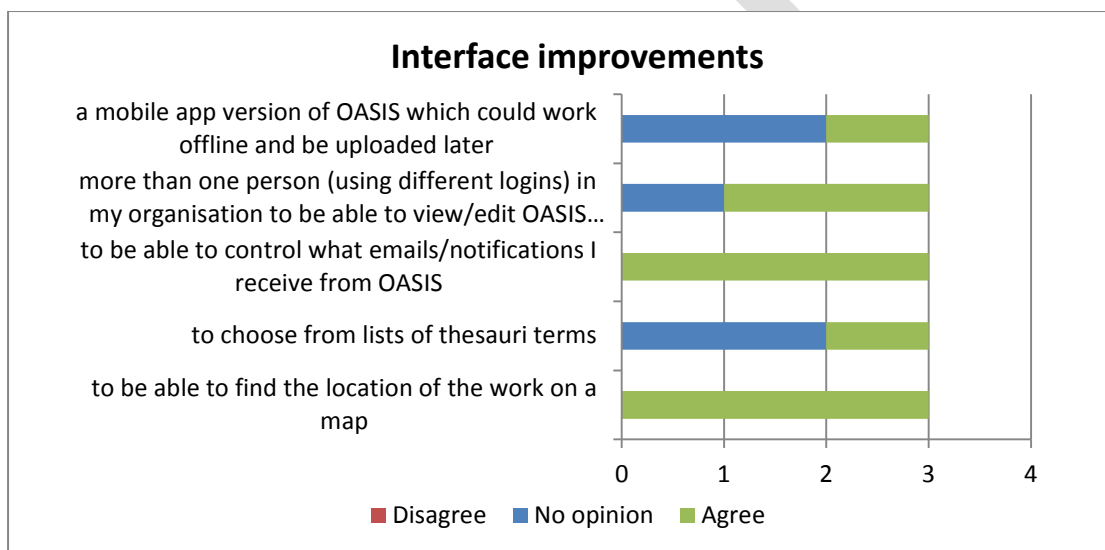


<b>No</b>	0.0%	0
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	33.3%	1
<b>answered question</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>

**Other (please specify)**

1 this could make the information held to large and access may become more difficult depends on the index system used

**Question 26 (non-users): You are not a current user of the OASIS system but please comment on these potential INTERFACE improvements to the system I'd like:**



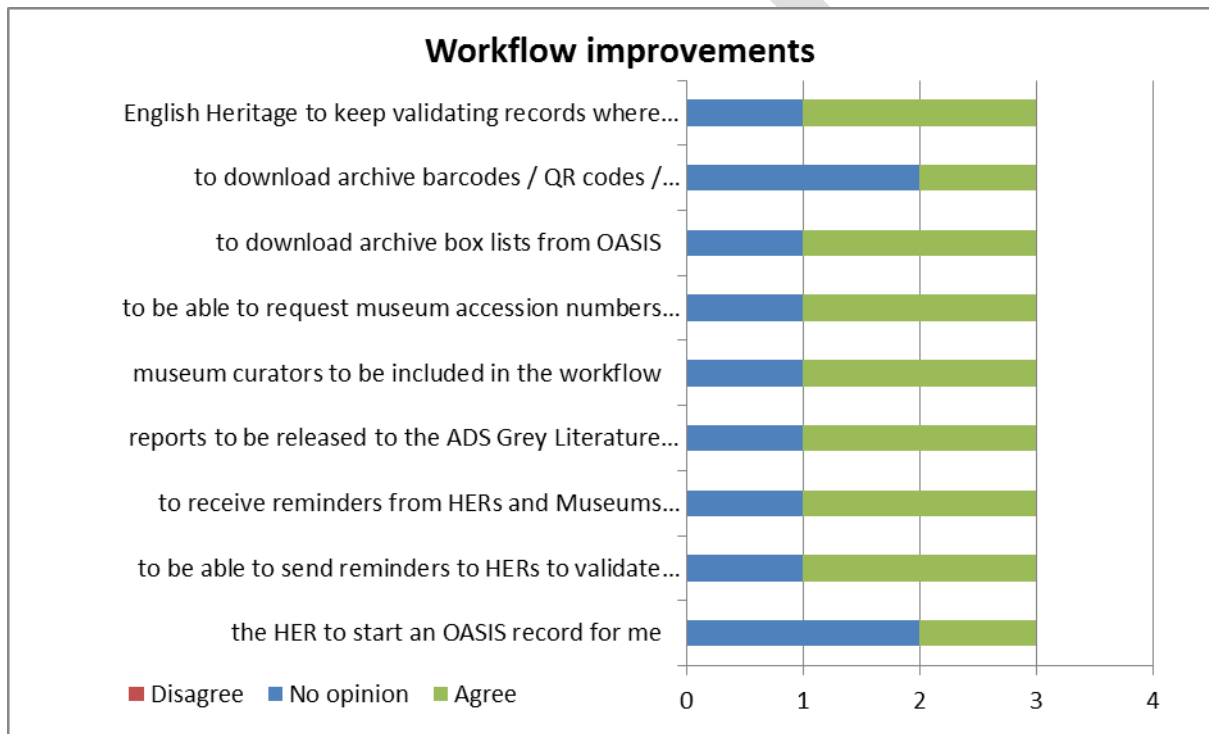
Answer Options	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Response Count
to be able to find the location of the work on a map	3	0	0	3
to choose from lists of thesauri terms	1	2	0	3
to be able to control what emails/notifications I receive from OASIS	3	0	0	3
more than one person (using different logins) in my organisation to be able to view/edit OASIS records	2	1	0	3
a mobile app version of OASIS which could work offline and be uploaded later	1	2	0	3
Other suggestions				1

<b>answered question</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>skipped question</b>	<b>3</b>

**Other suggestions**

1 I want to be able to get details of sites excavated in a given area by date range, site type and so on. Knowing what other projects have been undertaken in a given area is a vital first step to tracking down the pottery reports which are needed for comparative purposes even in commercial work, quite apart from research.

**Question 27 (non-users): You are not a current user of the OASIS system but please comment on these potential WORKFLOW improvements to the system I'd like:**



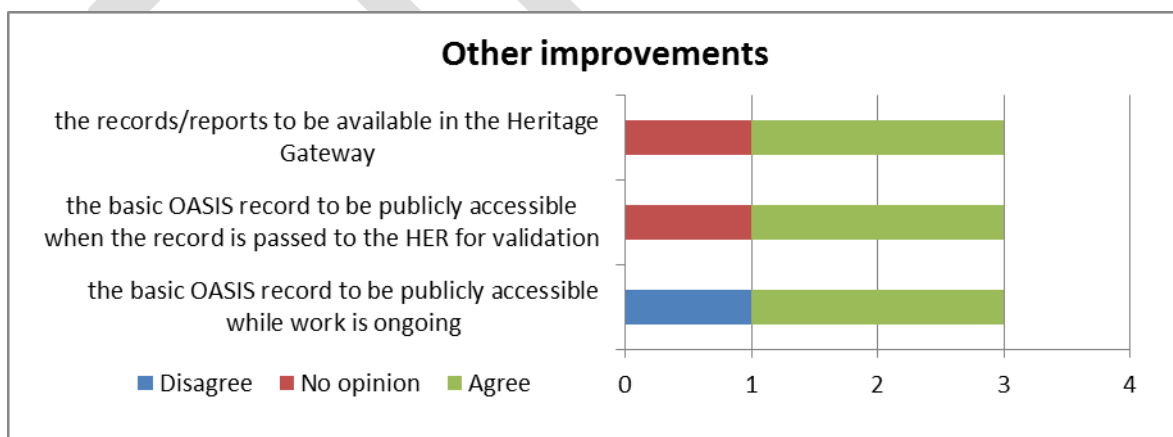
Answer Options	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Response Count
the HER to start an OASIS record for me	1	2	0	3
to be able to send reminders to HERs to validate records	2	1	0	3
to receive reminders from HERs and Museums about project completion	2	1	0	3
reports to be released to the ADS Grey Literature Library even if the HERs haven't validated them	2	1	0	3

<b>museum curators to be included in the workflow</b>	2	1	0	3
<b>to be able to request museum accession numbers through OASIS</b>	2	1	0	3
<b>to download archive box lists from OASIS</b>	2	1	0	3
<b>to download archive barcodes / QR codes / scannable identifiers from OASIS</b>	1	2	0	3
<b>English Heritage to keep validating records where the HER cannot</b>	2	1	0	3
<b>Other suggestions</b>				1
<b><i>answered question</i></b>				<b>3</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>				<b>3</b>

**Other suggestions**

1 *We need to know where the archives are, how much has been chucked away (on site and after reporting), if they are available for consultation and the facilities that the musums have for looking at them (table space, light, photographic facilities, etc) as well as getting full ciopies of the pot reports. I'd imagine much the same would go for other artefact categories. It would also be advantageous to get complete matrices for the sites but of course fewer and fewer units are bothering to compile them these days.*

**Question 28 (non-users): You are not a current user of the OASIS system but please comment on these potential other improvements to the system I'd like:**



<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>No opinion</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>the basic OASIS record to be publicly accessible while work is ongoing</b>	2	0	1	3
<b>the basic OASIS record to be publicly</b>	2	1	0	3

accessible when the record is passed to the HER for validation				
the records/reports to be available in the Heritage Gateway	2	1	0	3
Other suggestions				1
<i>answered question</i>				<b>3</b>
<i>skipped question</i>				<b>3</b>

**Other suggestions**

- 1 Just make it simple for us to download the reports and find out where the archives are stored,]. And make sure your systems are compatible with Linux and all sorts of non-Microsoft programmes (especially Mozilla Firefox)

**Question 29 (non-users): Keeping in touch about OASIS – we are trying to keep you up to date about OASIS, how can we best do that? (Tick all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	
Emails to OASIS email lists	66.7%	2	
OASIS Blog	66.7%	2	
Facebook	33.3%	1	
Twitter	33.3%	1	
Traditional publications	66.7%	2	
The OASIS website	100.0%	3	
A bi-annual survey	33.3%	1	
Other (please specify)	0.0%	0	
<i>answered question</i>			<b>3</b>
<i>skipped question</i>			<b>3</b>

**Question 30 (non-users): Have you had any training in OASIS?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	
Yes	0.0%	0	
No	100.0%	3	
<i>answered question</i>			<b>3</b>
<i>skipped question</i>			<b>3</b>

**Question 31 (non-users): What training would you like to be available for OASIS? (Tick all that apply)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
----------------	------------------	----------------

<b>I would use online training videos</b>	33.3%	1
<b>I would like group workshops</b>	0.0%	0
<b>I would like individual training sessions</b>	33.3%	1
<b>I would like a manual available to download</b>	100.0%	3
<b>I would like a telephone/email helpdesk available</b>	66.7%	2
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	0.0%	0
<b>answered question</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>

**Question 32 (non-users): The OASIS system allows heritage information to flow between interested parties in the heritage sector. Please tell us what you think the OASIS system could do to further this aim in your area.**

#### **Response Text**

- 1 *Increased applicability for historic buildings recording would be beneficial.*
- 2 *I don't know*
- 3 *Just make the whole thing as simple as possible. Most of us haven't got the faintest idea about the sorts of IT arcana that seem to be inseparable from these big projects. We want to be able to get the reports and data tables in easy to use formats without a lot of hassle and especially without being told that we are copyright thieves. When I say 'we' I mean 'I' but I suspect that a lot of people agree with me, judging by the conversations I have with my colleagues.*

## **Appendix 2: Telephone Interviews**

Two telephone interviews were undertaken for the post excavation specialist community.

### **Interview 1: self-employed pottery specialist - OASIS non-user.**

The interviewee completes pottery reports for contractors who contact them as part of the post excavation processing. Generally the interviewee does not release information from any report written until it has been published by the contractor – unless given specific permission. The interviewee doesn't use OASIS but would like to upload full reports to share knowledge. They would also like to be able to upload data to OASIS (a spreadsheet) along with the report. They have problems accessing information through their local HER and so find it difficult to get information on pottery from other sites. The main way of accessing specialist reports is by contacting known individuals which means it is rather a closed community. They would rather share information and encourage more people to work in the field. The interviewee also mentioned that updating the Medieval Pottery Research Group via OASIS would be a beneficial.

### **Interview 2: self-employed artefact specialist / archaeological consultant – OASIS non-user**

The interviewee receives work from contracting units and also contacts fieldworkers in areas where there might be appropriate finds. They store reports in Dropbox currently but would like to be able to upload them to the ADS grey literature library and have them archived. They feel that OASIS would be a good tool for specialists to use and would like to access information on ongoing work. There was some concern that artefact specialisms would be lost if the data was not shared and also that it is difficult to find and access archival artefact collections. They would welcome more information on where archives are stored and what they contain.