archaeological investigations produced annually in the UK is both a problem and an opportunity. Planning laws and associated guidance require that any development likely to impinge on archaeology must be the subject of an archaeological investigation before building can be undertaken. In the 10 years since they came into force, these planning guidelines have given rise to some 28,000 archaeological investigations, at an annual cost of around £35 million, largely funded by commercial developers (Darvill and Russell 2002). The trend is towards growth and the implications for the archaeological profession are profound. For small excavations, surveys, desk-top evaluations and watching briefs, the lack of any formal publication means that it is often difficult to find out about the archaeology of a site at anything but a cursory level. Ironically, it can be harder to obtain a 20-page excavation report than a 10-volume set (Kilbride and Hardman 2004). Without sophisticated mechanisms for capturing this data, like those provided by OASIS, future generations of heritage professionals and the public will be denied access to this invaluable archaeological resource.

OASIS is essentially a large database. Access to enter information into this database on-line is given to those carrying out fieldwork. Subsets of appropriate information can then be made available to various interested bodies. Archaeological units, researchers or amateur interest groups can enter information about their fieldwork, attaching a copy of any grey literature report. The entry is validated by the HER and NMR entered into the appropriate regional and national historic environment records. A copy is provided to ADS for inclusion in its online catalogue, ArchSearch. This enables users to search for the latest information pertaining to a particular site and to follow web links through to the grey literature report. Reports are also being made available directly through the ADS Library, where it is possible to search and retrieve literature based on a variety of different data fields, all based on data originally input into the OASIS system.

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REFERENCES
Kilbride, W and Hardman, C 2004. ‘It’s the small things that count: digital preservation and small-scale research projects in the UK’. *CSA Newsletter* 18, No. 1