Digital Dig Team is the biggest innovation in how archaeology is done since PPG16: the world’s first mobile digital archaeological recording system to also allow primary data to be available online in real time.

Entered straight from the trenches on iPads, tablets and smartphones, data is instantly accessible via open-access on a dedicated website. Through Digital Dig Team, archaeology is able to utilise the best of time-saving, financially efficient and socially inclusive technology, with community participation at the heart of every project.

The system was built as part of a ground-breaking £100k digital project supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project also comprises a further £18k raised through a successful crowdfunding campaign, a community excavation at Leiston Abbey, Suffolk in July 2014, and a children’s version of the system, called CyberDig, will be rolled out to schools in early autumn 2014.

Our participants and funders comprised a local, regional, national and international community, with over 200 funders and 142 people joining us on site to learn archaeological field skills. Local impact and profile-building for the site has been very significant as well, with just under 2,000 people visiting during our excavations, of which nearly 60% indicated that the dig was their main reason for visiting.

The innovation of Digital Dig Team extends past just data accessibility to a bespoke, user-friendly interface designed specifically for community archaeology projects. Underpinned by the archaeological database, community-driven sections including profile pages, a ‘live dig’ timeline, daily blog and YouTube broadcast stream open up participation in both excavation and post-excavation processes to a worldwide volunteer community, removing traditional barriers to participation.
By seamlessly blending this information with existing individual and group social media activity, Digital Dig Team enables a previously unattainable level of visibility and detail about community participation to emerge.

**What's next for Digital Dig Team?**

The system, including CyberDig, was purpose-built to enable community-based, collaborative archaeology projects to better manage, document, and make available their archaeological archives, as well as to facilitate, share and quantify public engagement and impact.

Digital Dig Team is most powerful when utilised as part of a heritage-led regeneration and place-making process, and can be tailored to fit any project.

A Digital Dig Team project package includes a bespoke archaeological archive website, site-branded recording system, community management system, suggested evaluation framework, and procedure for digital social output. It is our hope that through future delivery partnerships and collaborative working that the Digital Dig Team system will be widely adopted across the UK and beyond.

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**Contract Title**

Digital Dig Team

**Contract Value**

£100k

**Start**

April 2014

**Finish**

April 2015

**Referee**

Sophie Button

Grants Officer, Heritage Lottery Fund

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“HLF is delighted to support this exciting use of innovative technology, which allows people to get involved in excavation as well as post-exavcation assessment and analysis - really engaging participants with the heritage of this fascinating site.”

- Robyn Llewellyn, Head of Region, East of England, Heritage Lottery Fund