



# WAKING THE LEGIONS:

PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

JOANNE KIRTON

## Waking the Legions: Visitor Feedback

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2016 participants of the Waking the Legions project were asked to provide feedback regarding their experience of the event.

### Exhibition

Participants visited a free exhibition detailing the results of earlier excavations on Deanery Field, exhibiting finds from the dig and an introduction to the city's most famous archaeologist, Prof. Robert Newstead. Finds were loaned from the Grosvenor Museum and included painted plaster from the barrack blocks, Roman weaponry and armour, jewellery and much more. The exhibition was hosted on the top floor of the King Charles Tower, which is situated on the north east corner of the city walls. Visitors to the exhibition were also able to engage with a handling collection loaned by the Grosvenor Museum and partake in children's activities geared around Chester's Roman past. The exhibition continued until September 4<sup>th</sup>.

**The average number of visitors per day, throughout the exhibition, was 374. In total 18,700 people visited the exhibit over its lifetime.**



## Geophysical Survey

In addition to the exhibition, Big Heritage and Magnitude Surveys undertook a series of geophysical surveys across Deanery Field to reveal the archaeology below. We used three different techniques, Magnetometry, Resistivity and GPR, with the hope of revealing different information about the area. Together they will help us build a picture of what was happening at the Deanery Field in the Roman and later periods. We were joined by local volunteers, members of Chester Archaeological Society, students from the University of Chester and members of the Merseyside Young Archaeology Club. The latter also had the opportunity to partake in science experiments in order to help them understand how the geophysical instruments actually worked.



## Questionnaire

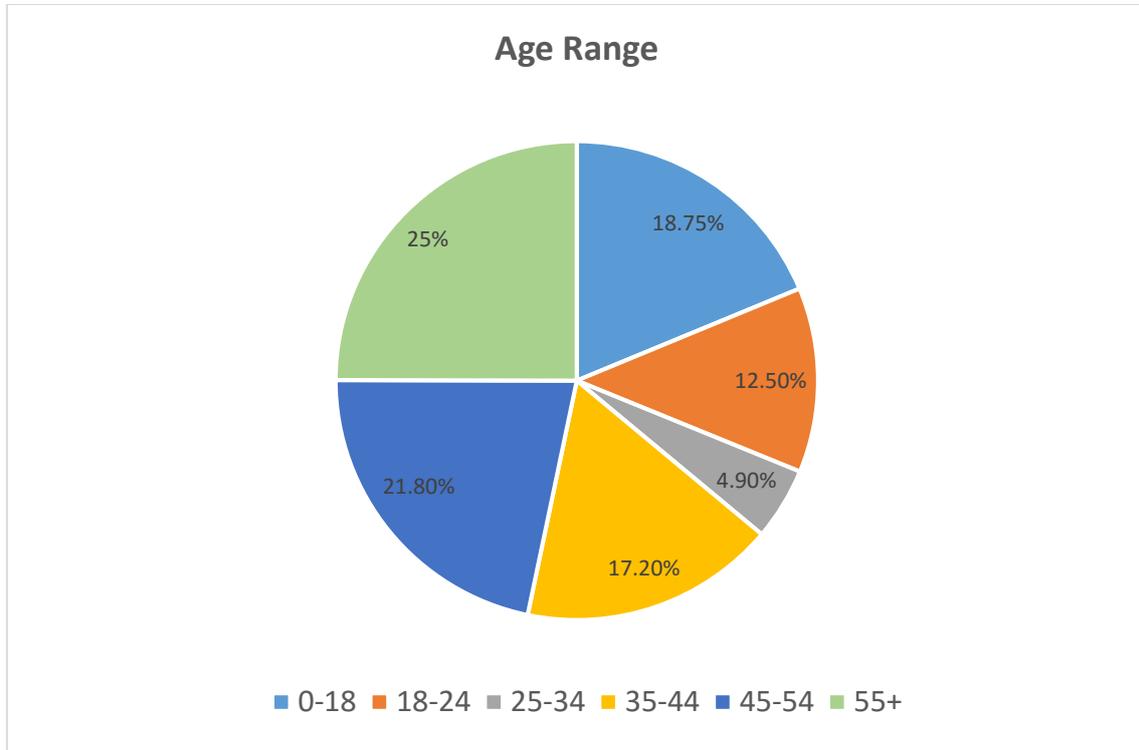
Participants were asked to fill out a hard copy questionnaire. We received 38 complete questionnaire responses. Some responded on behalf of multiple individuals, totalling 64 participants in total.

## Overview of Results

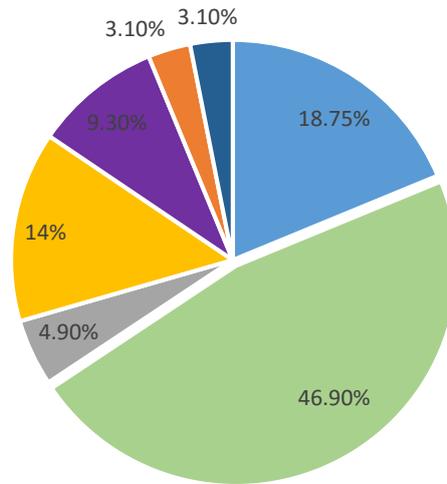
- Waking the Legions appealed to a cross-section of age-groups from 0-18 to 55+.
- Whilst participants from the North West of England and Wales are well represented, significant groups from Yorkshire and the West Midlands also partook of the project, with others from London, the North East and outside the UK involved in smaller numbers.
- Participants heard about the project in many different ways, suggesting the project was visible to different audiences in a number of formats. The most prevalent ways of hearing about the project were via direct email invitation, word of mouth, social media and through the Council of British Archaeology and/or the Young Archaeology Club (managed by the CBA).
- 100% of all people surveyed said they enjoyed the event and further 70% said that it had encouraged them to participate in more archaeology activities.
- People were attracted to the event for a wide number of reasons, some of the most popular included the opportunity to use the latest technology (e.g. the different types of geophysical instruments), which they had not had the chance to work with before and the general hands-on element of both the survey and the exhibition.

- The most enjoyable elements for most participants was the practical element to the event and the delivery of the teaching and organisation.
- The only suggested improvement besides free refreshments was that some participants would have liked the experience to have been longer. The organisers were unsure how long people would be interested in undertaking survey and were constrained by accommodating everyone. Based on the feedback we see scope for undertaking longer survey-style events.
- Overwhelmingly, participants would like to undertake more practical based activities.

## Results

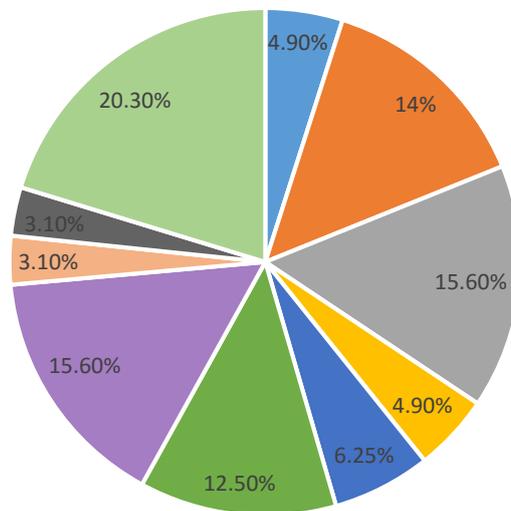


### Where do you live?



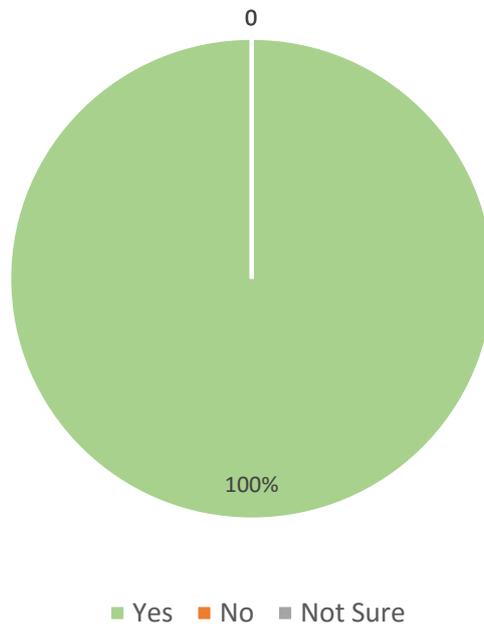
- Wales
- North West
- London
- Yorkshire
- West Midlands
- North East
- Outside the UK

### How did you hear about Waking the Legions?

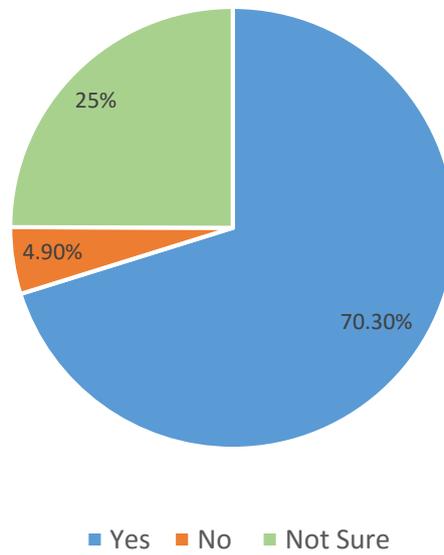


- Local Media
- Social Media
- Invitation
- Web Search
- Local Archaeological Society
- CBA/YAC
- Word of Mouth
- Local Museum/Heritage Site
- Tourist Information Centre
- Other

### Did you enjoy Waking the Legions?



### Has Waking the Legions encouraged you to participate more in archaeology?



## What attracted you to the event?

- A brilliant chance to be involved in an archaeology project
- **Technology that you wouldn't normally get to see**
- **Something in archaeology that I hadn't done before**
- I wanted to try the survey
- Hands on time with GPR experience with geophys equipment
- **Learning something new and seeing the latest technology**
- **I have always had an interest in archaeology but didn't know that I could volunteer**
- **My children wanted to come after hearing about it from YAC**
- Archaeology Roman link
- Interest
- Chance to talk to knowledgeable people
- **Opportunity to experience something new with a view to getting more involved in archaeology**
- While walking the wall
- Children's attention
- GPR opportunity for Chester Arch Society members to hear about geophysics
- Interest in Roman heritage
- A day out with archaeology
- Opportunity to try out the equipment and be part of the event
- The scientific element of archaeology
- Volunteer with Chester arch soc opportunity to widen my knowledge
- **A chance to see technology in action in archaeology**
- It is an opportunity to gain experience with hardware I have not used before
- Discovering more about local history
- History
- Family friends daughter attends Chester university studying archaeology
- the porter and signs
- General interest
- The opportunity to see and feel bits of history in person
- Love of history
- Experience in survey study
- General interest
- **As an archaeology student any opportunity to extend my knowledge is excellent**
- Geophysics experience
- Learning a new skill and branch of archaeology
- Experience to support my degree
- Opportunity to use geophys equipment, beautiful site
- Understanding of archaeological process and investigation
- Interest in Romans

What did you enjoy most about the event?

- **The hands on element**
- Explanations of the technology were very helpful
- **Very informally informative**
- The radar was quite interesting
- **Using the equipment and interaction with the geophys professionals**
- **Patience of the teaching**
- **The people, the knowledge passed across, the whole time spent together**
- The fact that the children got to use the machines
- Getting to use the equipment
- Everything
- Learning about the excavations
- **Bringing to life and making history relevant**
- Children's activity
- GPR
- Learned a lot
- opportunity for hands on the equipment
- **Practical experience**
- Learning new skills
- **All of it**
- The learning experience
- **Provided means of marrying up theory delivered in lectures with practical use**
- Using the electronic machines
- Using the geophys technology
- **Written displays and actually being told factual details of the excavations**
- the history and examples of artefacts
- The pickup and handle the artefacts and seeing the photographs
- **Everything, lovely staff, pottery to touch**
- Very informative
- Gaining more knowledge and experience in the field
- Hands on
- Working with the team of specialists
- **Practical attributes. Being out and about**
- Being outside
- Speaking to professionals
- **Quality of explanation and hands on**
- **Meeting the course leaders and the venue of the course (Deanery Field) Well done you all**
- Activities and staff

## What improvements could be made?

- Examples of geophys to see what it looks like
  - Could be longer
  - It would be nice if event lasted longer than one hour
  - More time
  - Free refreshments
  - Longer
  - Longer time
  - More time, more gadgets
- 
- Nothing, it was well organised
  - No improvements needed
  - None, it was excellent
  - None, first rate organisation

## What kind of events would you like to partake of in the future?

- Anything involving history
- Lectures and hands on
- Practical, not just demonstrative
- Hands on
- All things archaeology
- Any that the kids can have hands on
- Anything to do with history or art
- Small group or individual events as son struggles with large groups
- Lectures, digging, exhibitions, geophys
- Lectures, digs
- Digs
- Hands on activities
- Informative visits
- Public archaeology, excavations
- Digging
- Interactive events
- Site/field experience
- Practice fieldwork
- Unusual interest. Not offered by the university
- Digs, walks
- Dig sessions

## Any further comments

- **I think it is an excellent chance to get the time with practical archaeology, it complements the academic work I do**
- I loved all of this, it was great
- Good to have the cameraman. Very well organised. Thank you
- It has been an eye opening experience into history and the connection of archaeology to bring history to relevance
- Thanks to all of the experts and volunteers who made this event possible
- **Well organised, good instructions**
- The displays were very factual and demonstrator was very knowledgeable of items on display and what they were demonstrating during the afternoon, excellent
- **Brilliant day, great fun, was worth the trip, thanks**
- All brill, keep up the good work
- Very good event, thank you
- **Great idea, well organised, friendly**
- **This is a wonderful initiative that compliments the whole history of a city**

## King Charles Tower Comments Book

A comments book was made available for visitors throughout the duration of the exhibition. Comments ranged from observations about the venue, the exhibition and Chester generally.

- **A wonderful exhibition, enlightening and informative. Well presented.**
- Lovely exhibition, very informative and guides able to answer any questions. Wonderful exhibition, well worth a visit!
- Pretty darn cool - vendi, vidi, disci  
^ You're a dork but this was pretty awesome
- **Thank you, for me this chance of witnessing and touching these wonderful ancient historical treasures! - 24/7/16**
- I loved looking at the very old Roman stuff - Callum age 11, 26/7/16
- Wow, so cool - Adam & Ele, Ipswich, 28/7/16
- Very interesting! - Conel, Chris & Matthew
- Charming gentleman, thank you for interesting information - Angela & David Nightingale, Newcastle Upon Tyne, 29/7/16
- Lots of info, very educational, great view - 1/8/16
- It's lovely - Elisha Tran, Manchester, 3/8/16
- Interesting - Lauren Austin, Manchester, 3/8/16
- Interesting and informative, very good - Eleri, Rosemarie & Daryl Harries, 4/8/16
- Fascinating, very good guide too - Linda Carisson, Farnborough
- This is cool
- Cool
- Very disappointing, as Chester is a city I would have expected to see far far more exhibits. - 24/7/16
- I think that the whole thing is great
- Mums birthday, this is awesome
- It is interesting
- We love it
- Fascinating
- Most informative
- Very interesting, well worth the visit
- It's interesting
- Very well done, love history - Meg Kane & Charles Kane
- It was very interesting - Eddie & Harriet Hodgson, 10/8/16
- It's soooo interesting - Daisy
- Amazing
- Amazing and great to see - Stuart & Sheila Millar
- Brilliant, thank you - Barry & Sue Guest
- Amazing
- Lovely view nice history - Durham
- Wonderful to see tower open and being put to use. Great exhibition, love the use of finds from the local artefacts and the information - Ian Moran, Chester, 14/8/16

- Fabulous exhibition! Wonderful staff, knowledgeable and welcoming, thanks! - Joshua, Chester
- Absolutely lovely - Elis
- Awesome! Thanks for having us. We are from Canada! - St & R Johnston
- Really interesting, wish I had more time!
- **For many years passed this tower, so nice to be able to go inside and see some interesting history.** Thank you - Joanne, Ellesmere port
- Amazing! - Todd & Jenna Parker, Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada
- Enjoying visiting where Granddad was born - Anna & Nathan
- Superb
- Wonderful history
- FAB
- Very interesting! - Marie Jo
- Beautiful - Emily
- Nice and peaceful
- Absolutely incredible, thank you
- Informative and peaceful
- I thought it was very interesting
- Very good
- Interesting history, ty!
- Wonderfully interesting
- Very informative and interesting! - C.A, S.A, K.M
- Thank you for a really good range of geophysics activities and the display in the Kings Tower. - 24/7/16