University of Winchester
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Speightstown Project

Digital Heritage Generation Barbados 2016

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Dr Niall Finneran
Reader in Archaeology
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Niall.Finneran@winchester.ac.uk
1 Introduction and project context

The Department of Archaeology has been involved in leading archaeological and heritage research in Barbados annually since 2010 (apart from in 2014 and 2015 when work focused upon the small St Vincent Grenadine island of Bequia). The Barbados-based project started out as the Speightstown Community Archaeology Project (SCAP) in 2010, and from 2011 to 2013 focused upon underwater archaeology, buildings archaeology and excavation of the 17th-19th century military fort at Maycocks Bay. This work involved undergraduate and postgraduate students from the University of Winchester, and in some cases the work undertaken formed the basis of undergraduate and postgraduate dissertation work, a real example of ‘live’ research impacting upon our student community. In addition, collaborations with the University of the West Indies, the Barbados National Trust and the Barbados Museum and Historical Society have ensured a strong community and knowledge transfer element.

SCAP was formally wrapped up in 2015. The following research papers, publications and outputs have derived from this phase of work, some of which contributed to the 2014 REF:


2013. 'This islande is inhabited with all sortes' Creolising the townscape: towards an archaeological biography of Speightstown Barbados. *Antiquaries Journal* 93: 319-351.

2016. ‘Slaves to sailors: the archaeology of traditional Caribbean shore whaling c. 1850-2000. A case study from Barbados and Bequia (St Vincent

Public and academic lectures

*The Speightstown Community Heritage Project.* University of Winchester RKE session February 3rd 2011.

*The Speightstown Community Heritage Project.* University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Faculty Research Seminar September 13th 2011.

*Becoming and being ‘creole’: recent work at Speightstown, Barbados.* Seminar in the arts and archaeology of Africa and the Americas. SOAS, London, 1 November 2012.


*Recent archaeological fieldwork in Barbados.* Petroc College, Barnstaple, Devon, 26 April 2013.

*The Archaeology of the Post-Emancipation Experience, Barbados and Bequia.* University of York EUROCAST seminar, May 1 2013.

*Barbados and Bequia: shared elements of historical archaeology.* University of Winchester Centre for Applied Archaeology and Heritage Management research day, May 2 2013.

*Recent research in Barbados.* University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Research Seminar, September 16th 2013.
Creolisation of the townscape. Invited lecture, University of Chester, March 3\(^{rd}\) 2014.

The Speightstown Community Archaeology Project: Retrospect and Prospect. Barbados Museums and Barbados National Trust lecture, September 14\(^{th}\) 2014.

An archive of yearly reports, similar to the present document, is also held on the University of Winchester Archaeology Department website:

2010. The Speightstown Community Heritage Project Sept 2010. Report submitted to the University of West Indies Cave Hill; Barbados Museums; Barbados National Trust.

2011. The Speightstown Community Heritage Project Sept 2011. Report submitted to the University of West Indies Cave Hill; Barbados Museums; Barbados National Trust.

2012. The Speightstown Community Heritage Project Sept 2012. Report submitted to the University of West Indies Cave Hill; Barbados Museums; Barbados National Trust.

2013. The Speightstown Community Heritage Project Sept 2013. Report submitted to the University of West Indies Cave Hill; Barbados Museums; Barbados National Trust.

2014. The Speightstown Community Heritage Project Sept 2014. Report submitted to the University of West Indies Cave Hill; Barbados Museums; Barbados National Trust.

2015. The Speightstown Community Heritage Project/Bequia Heritage Project Sept 2015. Report submitted to the University of West Indies Cave Hill; Barbados Museums; Barbados National Trust; St Vincent National Trust.
In 2015 it was decided to refocus the Speightstown project to reflect wider multi-disciplinary concerns. In 2014 NF had been in contact with a British author and historian Rachel Lichtenstein whose work focused upon the history and heritage of the old Jewish East End of London. Her work has been widely published (see http://www.rachellichtenstein.com/) and her wider interest focuses upon memory and landscape, as well as Jewish material culture. She had become interested in the history of the small Jewish mercantile community in Speightstown and contacted NF to see if there was scope to collaborate on what would ultimately become a much wider and diverse approach: the new Speightstown Project.

In addition, it was noticeable that through the work of one of our present MA Cultural Heritage and Resource Management (CHARM) students, Lucy Willans, a number of opportunities in the areas of digital heritage and education were arising. Both Lucy and NF had collaborated (and continue to do so) with a Barbadian artist Annalee Davis whose Freshmilk initiative aims to bring artistic interpretations onto the problematic issues of interpreting the story of slavery and Barbados’ sugar industry (https://freshmilkbarbados.com/). Out of this idea, Lucy developed, in conjunction with Dr Matthew Reilly, a US archaeologist from Brown University, a small-scale project based at Walkers Plantation (Annalee’s base) entitled ‘unearthing voices’ which has become part of the wider digital heritage initiative. The follow up to this collaboration, our new and wide-ranging Barbados Digital Heritage Generation 2016 is discussed below.

2 The Speightstown Project

Within the wider context of Caribbean historical archaeology, the focus has tended to be upon the excavation and analysis of the plantation as a representative of the industrial economy. Little attention however has been paid to Caribbean urban life, the stage of a more socially and culturally dynamic mix of slaves, freed and unfree, non-conformists, poor whites, wealthy merchants, Jews and the Planter class. It was always the intention to
study Speightstown in this way, to see the complex interplay between different layers of Barbadian society from the late 17th century. In addition, Speightstown is an important historic site, a place with important implications for heritage preservation and management. As such our study focuses upon archaeology, heritage and history.

With the collaboration with Rachel Lichtenstein, who has since undertaken teaching on the CHARM programme and who has also been involved with NF on a wider project on the heritage of Caribbean Jewry and also a localized heritage project on Sandys Row Synagogue, Spitalfields, London, the project has taken a wider and more imaginative perspective. Our new incarnation of the Speightstown Project retains an archaeological and heritage management element, but with the addition of Rachel’s expertise adds in social history and oral history. Her work also emphasizes psychogeographic approaches, and as such we believe that the new Speightstown Project can act as a new and refreshing intellectual and methodological template for the study of the history of Caribbean towns.

In 2016 the team working at Speightstown comprised NF (as archaeological director), Rachel Lichtenstein, Jonathan Wells and University of Winchester archaeology undergraduate students Hal Laverty, Adam Shea, Rory Coduri, Charlotte Judge, James Badger and Connor Thompson Webb. We decided to identify sites within the town that would allow us to access evidence for 17th-19th century housing as well as the site of the town’s former synagogue. Small test pits were undertaken at the site of the Methodist School and a larger excavation took place in the garden of a house off Church Street; this yielded evidence of an extensive building with indications of 18th-19th century activity. As the archaeological work unfolded, Rachel undertook extensive oral history research among older residents of Speightstown. We are very encouraged by our initial results here and the strategy to take the project forward is discussed below.

3 Barbados Digital Heritage Generation 2016
2016 marks the fiftieth anniversary of Barbados’ independence from the UK. Heritage education has been an important factor in helping the island develop a new cultural identity for the 21st century, but Barbados’ cultural heritage largely remains unrecorded, unprotected and lacking in interpretation. This project seeks to help build a local and sustainable capacity for heritage management using imaginative and effective digital approaches fit for a new generation of Barbadian heritage consumers starting from 2016. Using a digital application (app), the project seeks to develop the capacity to allow anyone to record and interpret their heritage and to place it on a new digital platform: Barbados’ (and the Caribbean's) first digital Historic Environment Record (HER). The project involves close liaison between UK-based heritage professionals and local heritage professionals, NGOs and other stakeholders. The first phase of the project seeks to identify training and capacity building needs, and then seeks to develop a digital heritage outreach plan for Barbados fit for the 21st century.

In the UK digital management of heritage assets is a familiar and recognised part of Cultural Heritage Management practice. Digital Historic Environment Record (HER) databases exist at local government level and are excellent tools for making a wide range of heritage information available to professionals and nonprofessionals alike. These records, widely and freely accessible through resources such as Historic England’s Heritage Gateway and Pastscape, can serve as important sources of information for planning, policy and research, and are built upon decades of field visits, archival research, map analysis, aerial photograph study and chance finds by members of the public. The present writer has been working in Barbados annually since 2010, and having had many discussions with individuals associated formally or informally with the heritage sector (from Barbados Museums, the National Trust to local civic societies and primary school history teachers inter alia) it became clear that there was no means for coordinating and recording the management of heritage assets on the island. These sites encompass a broad range of historical events and typologies: pre-Columbian settlements on varying scales, sugar plantations, slave villages and slave graves, historic churches, forts, barracks, synagogues, non-conformist chapels, burial grounds, shipwrecks
and mundane industrial and domestic structures of much more recent vintage but all with some form of intrinsic meaning and value.

With the fiftieth anniversary of Barbados’ independence from the UK in 2016, it seems a good point to take stock of where the next generation of Barbadian heritage practitioners can go. Logically, capacity building in digital heritage management should be the way forward, but the crucial issues are ease of access, affordability and ultimately sustainability. Also, how do we create a HER from scratch? The idea mooted here is to turn the exercise into a public and community-based heritage programme utilising (as a direct model) an approach pioneered by Dutch researchers from the University of Leiden on St Kitts (see http://www.nexus1492.eu/?portfolio=what-does-kittitian-heritage-mean-to-youannouncing-culturesnaps-kn). Here researchers used crowdsourcing to build a profile of a Caribbean island's heritage assets; the benefits were that it was a community based and democratic (and very personal) approach to defining what was meaningful to people. It was free, as it did not involve Government inspectors. It was easy and accessible, being based upon a smartphone/tablet application (App) which virtually anybody can use with minimal training, and the data managed and quality controlled through open source GIS computer applications (for the purposes of this project this will be done within Barbados Museum by existing personnel trained by our members, and also involving history and heritage students from the University of the West Indies). This is an inclusive and exciting approach and given the interest in Barbadian history bound up in the 2016 independence celebrations ought to find an appreciative and receptive audience.

At this stage funding was awarded from central University REF funds to enable a scoping visit to Barbados by a small planning team of UK-based heritage specialists to assess basic local training needs, to begin to design the App, and to develop the software framework and website for the comprehensive and fully digital (and free to access) multimedia HER for Barbados. Three University of Winchester MA CHARM students, Lucy Willans, Alice Lathbury and Laura Hampden were able, thanks to the
University funding, to travel to Barbados in July 2016 and to help start the scoping process. Lucy’s work focused upon early years and educational approaches to the study of slavery using digital technologies and reconstructions; Alice Lathbury focused upon the use of archives, formal state and political archives as well as the possibilities of digitizing family archives and photographs; Laura Hampden herself is from a Barbadian background and has worked extensively with Black archives in the UK, as well as the Surrey Historic Environment Record (where she has a transferrable expertise in GIS and databases) and is closely involved with the Barbadian Reading community’s celebrations of the island’s independence. Her work has focused upon the development of the actual App and databasing possibilities.

Over a period of a week all three students were able to gather a great deal of data and talk to people. The main focus was always going to be on the public event which was designed to launch the initiative. Thanks to the good offices of the Barbados National Trust and Barbados Museum, the historic museum at Speightstown, Arlington House, was lent to us as a venue for the formal launch on the evening of Saturday 23rd July 2016 followed up by a reception. Almost 100 guests attended to hear the plans for the digital heritage project and there was great excitement and feedback. The planning visit exceeded all expectations in terms of collaboration and discussion and development of ideas as to how to take the project on.

3.1

Lucy Willans, who has been at the forefront of developing the heritage education strategy for schoolchildren, has sent the following report:

Unearthing Voices: Primary and pre-primary children’s engagement with the shared heritage of Barbados and the United Kingdom

This year offered the exciting opportunity for the Winchester University Unearthing Voices team to integrate with the new Winchester University digital heritage team, focusing our thoughts on how our existing work with
young children can also facilitate their effective engagement with digital heritage resources. Professor John Siraj-Blatchford [http://www.327matters.org/] has kindly agreed to join us in exploring this question. We value his wide experience in early years education, including his work on the application of technology in early learning and with UNESCO on education for sustainable development.

Sustainability and the natural environment has also been a focus this year. We are now working with Victor Cooke of Eco Adventures to develop a training programme for our activity leaders, teachers and heritage champions. This training will ensure that we can work safely and confidently with children amongst the local flora and fauna and highlight the role of these natural resources, and transformed landscapes, within the heritage story. It will also ensure that we can work sustainably within these resources.

Access to working with St George and Workmans primary schools was not possible this year due to our visit being during the holiday period, but we are eager to resume our discussions and plans with these schools over the coming terms to be ready to involve them fully in the community dig in 2017. Lucy Willans and Alice Lathbury were, however, able to visit St Nicholas Nursery and talk with Liesje Pragnell. Liesje has kindly offered to work closely with the Unearthing Voices team to integrate the project within an entire year of their curriculum. A further collaboration will be with a member of the St Nicholas staff, Rohani, who has extensive knowledge of the local flora and its uses. Rohani will be invited to contribute to our work with Victor Cooke and is a prime candidate for the intended heritage champions programme.

The inclusion on the digital heritage team of Alice Lathbury offered the opportunity to begin the process of researching the history of Walkers Plantation. Our thanks to the staff at the public records office who were very helpful. Annalee Davis and her family have also very kindly offered to open up not just their land but also their family and plantation records to us. This access to information will give the team the opportunity to develop new ideas on how children can appropriately and intuitively access heritage records.
further initiative this year was to create a photographic record of two heritage sites, St Peter’s church in Speightstown and the Rock-cut Church at Mile and a Quarter to enable us to trial the creation of interactive virtual reality environments for children to experience, in Barbados and in the UK.

Consultations this year in Barbados have confirmed that the framework of heritage engagement with very young children should be based around a progression through engaging first with the natural environment, then identifying cultural transformations of the environment, and from there to considering the reasons for those transformations and their implications in ecological and, very importantly, in anthropological terms.

Our thanks to Jayne Wheatley of the University of Plymouth (outdoor experiential learning) who visited Barbados again, earlier in the summer, and researched aspects of outdoor learning. She was very successful in developing a range of useful new contacts in the community for us. Our thanks also to all the professionals and public in Barbados who have offered essential guidance and valuable collaborations.

Our thanks in the UK go to Professor John Siraj-Blatchford, Dr Caroline Leeson, Associate Professor (Senior Lecturer) in Early Childhood Studies. University of Plymouth and Julian Vayne, education and outreach officer at The Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon for their continued support for this project over the years.

The long term goals for this project remain constant, but in addition we will be inviting children, parents and schools in and around the Speightstown community to join the project.

Based upon the work carried out this year some potential activities for 2017 are:

· Trial of methods of engagement integrated within a complete year of the curriculum at St Nicholas Nursery, St George, Barbados.
Further trials of individual methods of engagement at St George and Workman’s Primary, St George, Barbados

Developing parallel trials in a small selection of UK nurseries and primary schools.

Start of community dig at Walkers

Further research into the history of Walkers plantation, buildings survey, landscape survey

Roll out of eco training

Incorporating traditional crafts and craftspeople

Developing children’s own heritage record

Reviewing heritage and art in the primary and pre-primary curriculum (Barbados and UK).

Consulting further with teachers, parents and young people.

Exploring options in Speightstown.

3.2

Alice Lathbury who has a wide interest in archival material and heritage management (and who also works in the Library at the University) has sent the following report on her work with archival material, and has identified a number of key ideas and issues which need to be addressed in the context of our digital heritage project:

The National Archive

On the visit to the Barbados National Archive it was evident that improvement could be done in 4 key areas:

• accessibility
• maintenance of resources
• online presence
• community representation

The accessibility of the archive was poor, with no clear opening times, large amounts of administration to retrieve items and an expected level of heritage literacy to find and use material. The resources are not in ideal condition; the
cover of one catalogue I retrieved from the shelf fell off in my hands and a large 19th century deed book I requested also had a cover falling into disrepair and pages that were warm to the touch, alluding to being held in unsuitable conditions. When looking for information online there is virtually nothing to be found, just a single page on a Barbados Travel website, www.barbados.org/barbados-national-archives.htm. There is no information regarding opening times and comments on their page from three months ago were left unanswered and those that had been answered were not by professional archival staff but by ‘Barbados Travel’ who run the website. There is also ambiguous information on the page such as ‘note that while you cannot remove reference material from the Archives you are free to make copies’, which is misleading for they do not allow digital copies to be made and they are actually referring to making your own transcription.

The National Archive is the very epitome of the ivory tower which surrounds heritage. There is an incredible amount of bureaucratic tape surrounding any actions taken with the archive and an overarching, oppressive atmosphere making the experience far more difficult and uncomfortable than necessary. By no means is this exclusive to Barbados’ National Archive; from personal experience I have never visited any archive which did not have a somewhat intimidating atmosphere and a large amount of bureaucratic tape. For scholars and professionals this may not seem like much of an issue, but to them I say this: the heritage, culture and memories held in that archive belong to every Bajan, so why cannot every Bajan feel welcomed there? The barriers placed around archived material means that the information held in the archive is inaccessible to those who are not heritage literate. Rather than being a custodian of heritage, should not the archives be a champion? Becoming a champion would benefit the archive for it would increase its user base and its value and status in the Bajan community. Hoarding memories, letting them decay, placing them behind social and academic barriers so that they are never seen by very people to whom the heritage belongs is detrimental to a large proportion of Bajans and the archive itself. This fault should not be placed at the door of the Head Archivist and the staff who work there but at the feet of the archaic and colonial system which resides within archiving. For the archive to improve the accessibility
imbalance needs to be addressed. Digitisation would be a suitable cure for this inequality for numerous reasons:

- Removal of the intimidating atmosphere and a large proportion of the administrative barriers.
- Increased research capabilities for users of all skill level e.g. the ability for users to perform keyword searches to easily trace currently uncatalogued information such as family names and locations.
- International accessibility of Bajan culture and heritage by anyone. This is especially valuable for second and third generations of migrated Barbadians who are estranged from their heritage.
- The archive will be able to curate their items effectively with the ability to create online exhibitions showcasing their unique resources and Bajan heritage, to inspire and engage with both local and international communities.
- Communities could have the opportunity to request digitisation of subjects and items significant to them to create a more egalitarian, representational collection of digitised content.

Yet digitisation is a huge project to undertake and there are many barriers to overcome namely funding, bureaucracy, copyright and ingrained attitudes. If a large-scale digitisation project was to be achieved at the National Archive a shift in attitude within the institution will have to be accomplished. This change in attitude will have to be approached with sensitivity to their professional expertise and will quite possibly need to be gradual, implemented from within by archival staff. If the archive is reluctant to digitise then small changes can be made to improve accessibility:

- A better web page or fixed website to increase online presence. This can include important information such as opening hours and step-by-step guides for first time users of the archive to remove some of the initial intimidation.
- More community projects to strengthen the archive’s relationship with local people and help instil a strong sense of identity amongst them. They already have connections with the local genealogy group which is a good start.
• A revision of their policy regarding copying. They currently only allow transcriptions to be made from their material.

Another key feature of digitisation is preservation. The preservation of physical material is costly and without funding and expertise rare items can fall into disrepair and be lost forever. Digitised material is far cheaper to maintain. Having digitised copies alleviates physical handling and the subsequent damage that entails. Digitisation provides security in serious events such as fire, hurricanes or theft where valuable information held in physical copies could be lost.

The National Archive had some very helpful and friendly staff whose knowledge and expertise can be drawn upon for any projects or improvements undertaken. On talking to Harriet Pearce at the Shilstone Memorial Library it was evident that archive has attempted some digitisation projects though online visibility of these was not evident, nor was it obvious with the archive itself. In speaking to Harriet it was evident that the primary issues the National Archive evidently has with digitisation is funding and fears of obsolescence. If we were to assist with the digitisation of this archive or indeed any Bajan archive we need to help source suitable funding for these projects and assure institutions that risk of digital obsolescence is minimal with adequate precautions. Primarily I would like our involvement to focus on the democratisation of archived heritage; removing heritage from its ivory tower and making it accessible for all.

Personal Archives
The personal artefacts people hold from ticket stubs to family letters are valuable part of Barbados’ heritage. The digitisation of these items would support the creation of a representational and democratic reflection of Bajan culture particularly if a subsequent database of these items could then be linked with the app or Heritage Environment Record arms of this project. However, the Barbados Museum and Historical Society are currently running a community programme to get Barbadians and community groups to submit personal artefacts for a ‘Barbados at Fifty’ exhibition and ‘Barbados Beyond
Boundaries’ digital project (see link). It is for this reason that we should not pursue the digitisation of personal archives at this point in time to avoid clashing with their project. Yet it would be worth investigating whether they would consider linking to the other arms of our project and whether we can facilitate theirs.

Plantation Archives
A key area where Bajan heritage would benefit from digitisation is the pocket of inaccessible, invaluable material held in plantation archives. These archives, typically held by descendants of plantation owners, have access and preservation controlled by the archive owner. They are not regulated or unified and access to these from people tracing their genealogy are dependent on the owner’s good will. These documents are of huge importance, particularly in balancing the representation of slavery descendants against plantation descendants in written artefacts. It is very difficult for people to trace their slave ancestors as there is a stark difference in the amount of written material for slavery heritage compared to that of the white settlers. People tracing their slavery heritage in Barbados are starting at a disadvantage, but by digitising the plantation archives we can help alleviate this disparity. Digitisation here would be the most positive way to handle these archives for three reasons:

• Access- for obvious reasons people would not feel comfortable approaching plantation descendants to ask for permission to investigate their slavery ancestry but by digitising these records we could really help to detoxify the situation and remove that painful, colonial barrier

• Preservation of items that currently are not being conserved professionally

• We would not be removing the physical item from their collection so they will remain the owner

Speaking with Annalee Davis at Walkers’ Plantation she explained how her family’s archive is currently held by her father in a locked chest who is unwilling to let people view or touch them. She believes this behaviour
around the documents is partly due their fragility but particularly due to the residual attitudes of fear and discomfort plantation descendants hold for their contentious past. The attitude that her father holds is not unique to him and there is an apprehension amongst plantation descendants that by making such documents public they are stirring up a turbulent past and leaving themselves open to accusations and hostility. These fears and how to nullify them is a difficult matter that we would have to confront if we were to incorporate the digitisation of plantation records into our project. Anna Lee however was very keen on the idea of digitising her family’s records to help detoxify their past and also provide access to people whose ancestors lives are held in that locked chest. By harnessing her attitude, we could use her family's archives as an example to others, demonstrating how beneficial and positive the digitisation of these records can be for the community.

Other Libraries, Archives and Digitisation Projects
Due to time constraints I was unable to visit the public libraries, nor the University of the West Indies library and archive which would provide further insight into heritage digitisation opportunities. However, I now have contacts within these other libraries and will continue to investigate their resources and the digitisation projects they have undertaken and the issues that occurred through this. There is also the Digital Library of the Caribbean (DLOC) project being run by the University of Florida and I will contact them to see whether they have worked with the libraries and archives in Barbados, which I currently suspect is a no, and the reasons why.

Grants and Funding
For a digitisation project of an existing archive a grant would be essential. Initially I was researching into the British Library Endangered Archive Programme (EAP). A grant from the EAP would be achievable for pre-industrial items in Bajan archives due to the contentious nature of the material held and the deterioration of the items. The EAP funds on an individual basis and uses local experts such as academics, librarians and monks, to manage the work. They do not digitise the entire archive, only collections they deem at risk and of particular value. The collection would be
digitised or committed to microfilm with one copy retained for local use and the master copy then sent to the British Library. This is the problematic area as there is controversy over who owns the rights to the material; the archive or British Library? If we were to apply for funding on behalf of any Bajan archives we would have to be wary of schemes that contain such agreements and be able to clearly establish the ownership rights to reassure the archive that the grant is suitable for them.

Conclusion

Future plans- communicate to archives and libraries out there and for further investigation into their digitisation projects and listen to the issues and fears they have with digitising. It is important to listen to the community too, to understand what heritage they would like to access and how. This project is full of exciting possibilities and potentially with strong community involvement we can develop a new innovative way for them to access their archived heritage.

3.3
Laura Hampden spent a shorter amount of time in Barbados owing to her work commitments in the UK but was able to meet with a number of people within the heritage sector and develop ideas for the App and database. Along with Lucy Willans she presented a well-received contribution at the project launch event. She reports that she demonstrated the possibilities of the App using the CITIZAN online recording system (Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network) and it was possible that this could be cheaply and effectively ‘back engineered’ to produce a similar tool for Barbados. Laura reports that she is intending to visit Barbados in December 2016 to follow up the first visit and to engage more closely in software development and assessment of local training needs in anticipation of a roll out in 2017.

4 Looking forward

On August 5th 2016 NF was invited as a discussant to Annalee Davis’
installation opening at the Empire Remains exhibition in London to outline the meanings behind the fabrication of pottery in a plantation context in the Caribbean and the meaning of intangible heritage such as bush tea as a vehicle for African resistance. In collaboration with Annalee NF intends to continue to explore the interface between Caribbean artistic practice and archaeology and it is hoped to produce an academic paper from this collaboration. An outline of the colloquy, which also included Dr Janice Cheddie of the University of Greenwich is available to view here: http://empireremains.net/agenda/the-colloquy-wild-plants-as-active-agents-in-the-process-of-decolonisation/. Lucy Willans continues to be involved in the Unearthing Voices project at the Walkers Plantation which will also feed into the wider Digital Heritage project. She is applying for a Winston Churchill fellowship to enable her to spend time at Brown University in the US with Dr Reilly assessing how the experience of slavery and its heritage is managed in the US context.

NF and Rachel Lichtenstein have begun to plan an application for a large Leverhulme Trust grant to support the development of the Speightstown project. The emphasis will be upon the wider multi-dimensional aspect to the study, which seeks to move the study of the historical Caribbean townscape, with its many actors and stories, into a much more complex and nuanced approach embodying social history, oral history, archaeology and heritage studies. Rachel will continue to work closely with NF on this and other projects, and will contribute her unique and exciting expertise to the MA CHARM programme. It is anticipated that another team of archaeologists will return next year to carry on work. It is intended that NF will publish academic reports and papers on the work, while RL will publish more popular historical accounts, and indeed already has interest from Penguin Books to help her do this. It is the very crossover nature of the new Speightstown project, moving away from being purely archaeological orientated, that makes it a good potential candidate for Leverhulme funding. Time and commitments allowing, the first stage of the application process will be completed by the New Year. NF is working on an interim report for the Barbados Museums Journal.
Laura Hampden will return to Barbados in December 2016 to continue with planning work for the digital app and HER development. It is anticipated that the Digital Heritage Generation project will form the basis of one of our REF impact studies. It is hoped to develop a paper among the four of us (LH, LW, AL and NF) for submission to the *International Journal of Heritage Studies* which reports on this ground-breaking heritage project. NF has already been approached by representatives of the Trinidad and Tobago National Trust to advise on how this project could be developed there.

NF has been approached to co-edit, along with Kevin Farmer, Doug Armstrong, Matt Reilly and Maaike de Waal a volume on the archaeology of Barbados to be published in 2019 to coincide with the meeting of the Society of Caribbean Archaeologists in Barbados in that year. NF will be writing three chapters on Speightstown, maritime archaeology and digital heritage.

NF also retains contacts in the St Vincent and Grenadines National Trust and will continue excavation and survey work there in 2017 alongside the projects in Barbados.

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Figures

Figure 1 University of Winchester Archaeology Undergraduates excavating foundations of a probable 19th-century house in Speightstown.
Figure 2a and b Publicity document for the launch event
Figure 3 NF at left in conversation with Dr Kevin Farmer, Deputy Director of Barbados Museum, Alissandra Cummins, Director of the Barbados Museum and Chair of the UNESCO Executive Board 2011-13, and Lucy Willans.
Figure 4 Laura Hampden discussing digital heritage with member of the public at the end of the launch event.

Figure 5 Formal reception at the end of the launch event.