

Dissemination of Information

One of the weakest aspects of volunteer-run archaeology in the past has often been lack of dissemination of findings. From the outset, FSARG has made great efforts to avoid this pitfall. This is what we do:

- Write reports on every single excavation by the following Christmas. These reports are written to a template in accessible language and include desktop as well as field research findings. Copies go to householders, landowners and the Society archive. The writing team consists of twelve members.
- When a project is finished (this may take 2 to 3 years and involve multiple field interventions) a visit is made to the HER (Historic Environment Record) at Maidstone. Groups of reports relating to specific findings are entered into the system, accompanied by a general overall report of the project. The HER entry forms are then completed. In this way our work is preserved for the long term and made available to anyone who needs to know.
- A short regular column is featured in the Society's monthly newsletter, which goes online. Articles are also written for various magazines when the findings are of wider interest.
- Reports, including excavation and finds specialist reports are published on our website, along with details of events and other information. Between 2005 and 2010, fifty-one excavation reports have been published, each one, on average, 1500 words with illustrations, footnotes and Small Finds appendices. Finds reports cover topics such as Faversham's clay tobacco pipes.

Discussion is taking place at present about a possible journal style annual publication, also about producing catalogue style reports on, for example, Faversham's medieval pottery. We are aware that we have not yet published a book but are not sure that this is an appropriate way forward for us: watch this space.