

Digital Data in archaeology: long term preservation and access – the work of the Archaeology Data Service



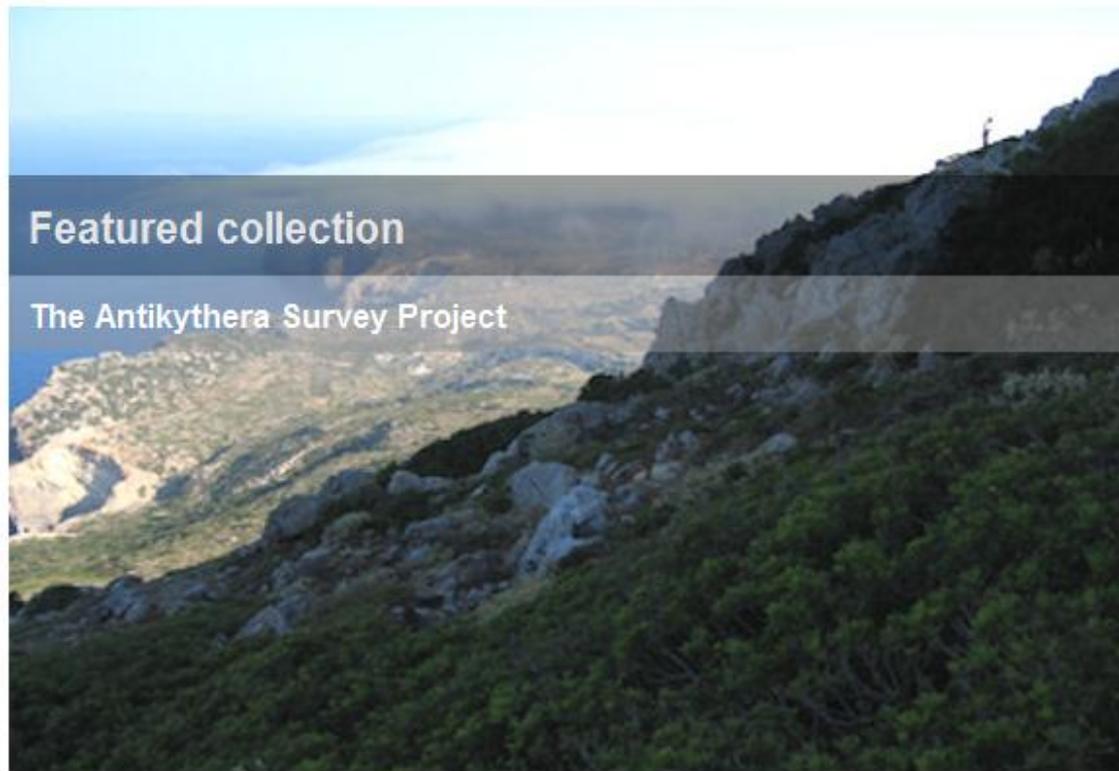
Julian Richards, Director
Archaeology Data Service
Casablanca, 9-11 January 2014

EXP-
LOREDISC-
OVERDEP-
OSITINNO-
VATE

Supporting research,
learning and teaching with
free, high quality and
dependable digital
resources

Featured collection

The Antikythera Survey Project



April 2013: ADS shortlisted for Outstanding Library Team in the Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards

The Archaeology Data Service are excited to announce that we have been shortlisted for the Outstanding Library Team Award in the 2013 Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards. The THE Leadership and Management Awards celebrate the sector's leadership, management, financial and business skills. With categories covering everything from International Strategy to Student Services, from... more



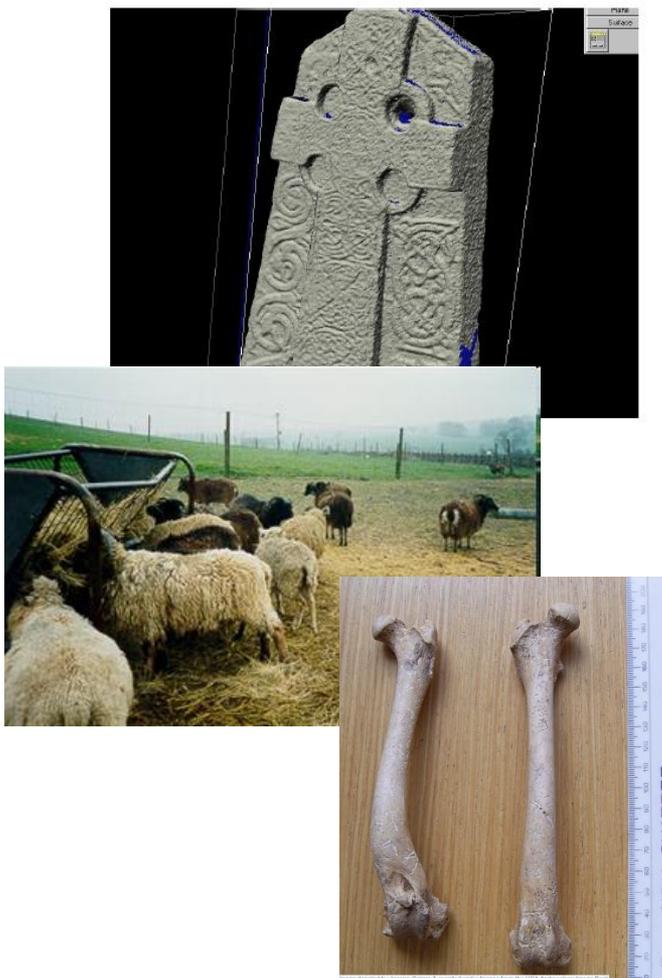
Welcome to the new ADS website. There are a number of new features of the website that will make it easier and more enjoyable to use. Please read the **'About'** this site section for more details. This site works best with the Firefox, Chrome and Safari browsers. Why not **register as a myADS** user to take full advantage of the additional features. On registration these personal myADS features become available.

Workbook

Using the tools at the bottom of each page save your favourite resources and regular searches in the myADS Workbook.

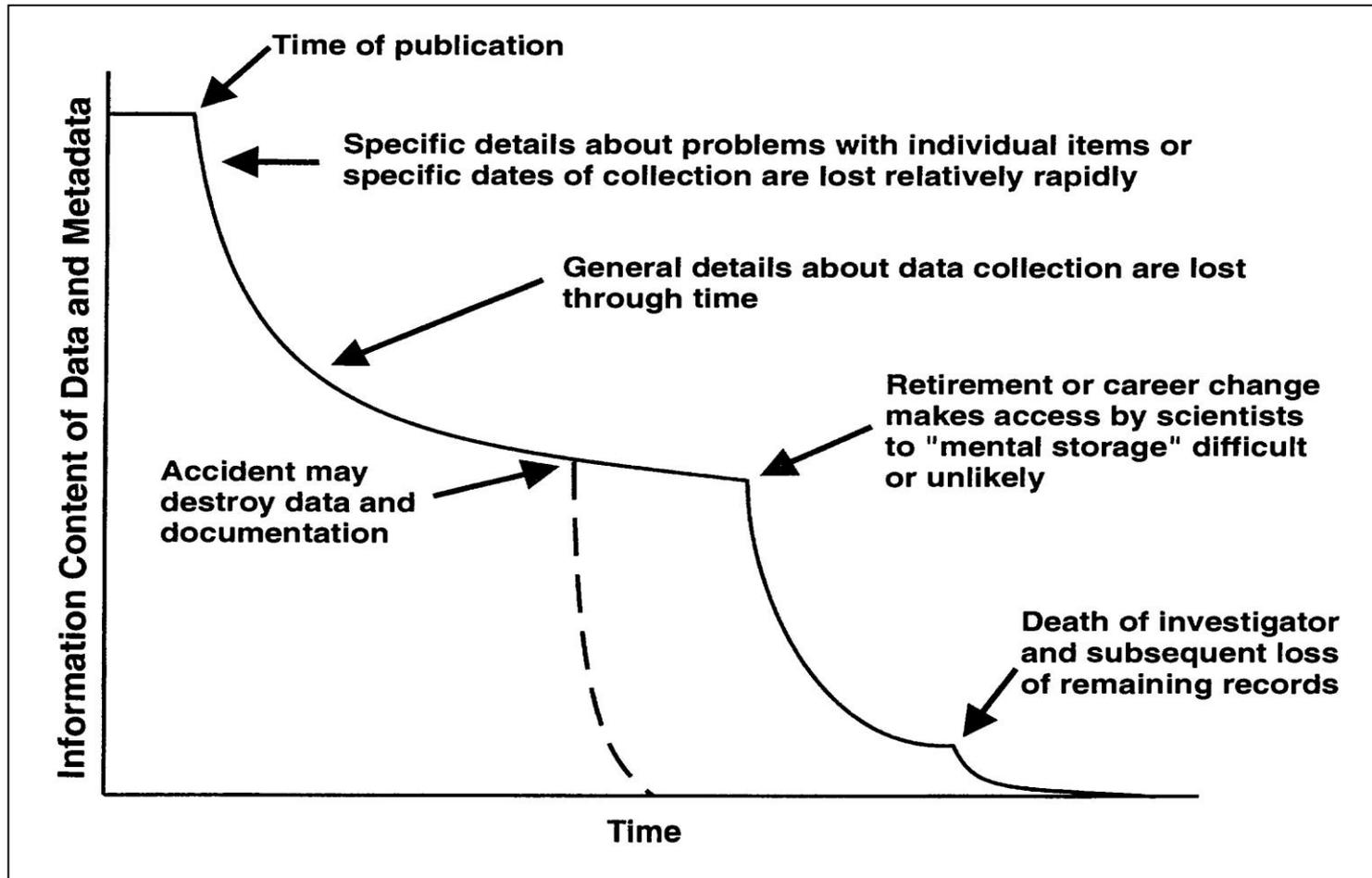
History

Supporting research, learning and teaching with free, high quality and dependable digital resources



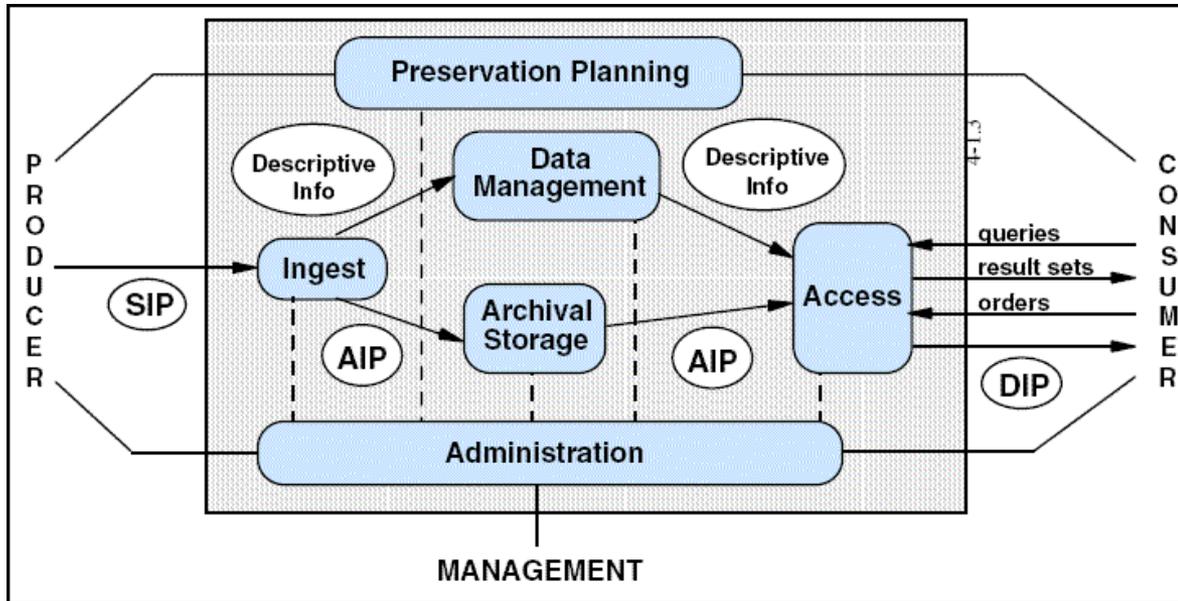
- Digital preservation
- Free access to data via the Internet
- Guidance and support for data creators





Michener, W.K., Brunt, J.W., Helly, J.J., Kirchner, T.B. and Stafford, S.G. 1997. Nongeospatial Metadata for the Ecological Sciences. *Ecological Applications*. 7: 330-342.





We follow the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) reference model

In March 2011 we were very pleased to obtain the Data Seal of Approval:

http://assessment.datasealofapproval.org/assessment_36/seal/html/





GIS
CAD
Geophysics
AP and Remote Sensing
Excavation and Fieldwork
Virtual Reality



ISSN 1463-5194



AHDS Guides to Good Practice



Archiving Aerial Photography and Remote Sensing Data: A Guide to Good Practice

Robert Bewley, Danny Donoghue,
Vince Gaffney, Martijn van
Leusen, and Alicia Wise

Acknowledgements

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Archaeology Data Service

Archiving Aerial Photography and Remote Sensing Data



Edited by Robert Bewley, Danny Donoghue,
Vince Gaffney, Martijn van Leusen & Alicia Wise



Archaeology Data Service / Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

Log in

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 - o About these Guidelines
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 - o Archival Strategies

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 - o Project Documentation
 - o Project Metadata
 - o Data Selection: Preservation Intervention Points
 - o The Project Archive: Storage and Dissemination
 - o Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

- o **Basic Components**
 - o Documents and Texts
 - o Databases and Spreadsheets

The Archaeology Data Service [is](#) currently undertaking a collaborative project with Digital Antiquity [to](#) broaden and update our series of Guides to Good Practice [. The project will encompass important revisions of the existing six ADS *Guides* as well as the development of entirely new documents covering areas such as marine scanning, laser scanning, GPS, digital audio and digital video. Previous authors have been asked to revise existing content and new authors, from both Europe and the US, will contribute to the development of the guides into new themes and areas.](#)

The project is in collaboration with the Digital Antiquity initiative, a US-based project with the aim of enhancing the preservation of and access to digital records of archaeological investigations. A major aim of the Guides is to provide the basis for archaeological project workflows that will create digital datasets that can be archived and shared effectively by Digital Antiquity's iDAR repository in the US and by the Archaeology Data Service in the UK. The development of the *Guides* involves close collaboration with teams in the US at both the University of Arkansas and Arizona State University.

Other ADS projects are also planned to feed into the revision and development of the Guides. ADS involvement in the European VENUS project [will result in one of the first published guides focussing on marine scanning and photogrammetry. In addition, the incorporation of findings from the ADS Big Data \[project, together with the revision of the existing guide on aerial photography and remote sensing data, will see a significant contribution to the guides from English Heritage funded projects.\]\(#\)](#)

The new Guides are under development with only certain sections publicly available. The new Guides to Good Practice are scheduled to be released in early 2011.

Previous versions of the ADS/AHDS Guides to Good Practice have been archived and are still available on the old Guides to Good Practice [page.](#)

View the full [Table of Contents](#)

Digital Antiquity



The Opportunity: no preservation without re-use

ads ARCHAEOLOGY DATA SERVICE

HOME ARCHSEARCH ARCHIVES LEARNING ADVICE OUR RESEARCH ABOUT US LOGIN

EXPLORE

DISCOVER

DEPOSIT

Supporting research, learning and teaching with high quality and dependable digital resources

Featured collection



Hilton of Cadboll

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We are currently conducting a Beta testing program where registration is strongly encouraged to access this site. Just click the LOGIN button at the top right to register. It is important to read the 'About this beta test' section on the 'About Us' pages after logging in. Please contact the ADS Helpdesk if you require further information regarding this or future beta testing programs.

We use [Firefox browser](#) for development testing and don't recommend using any other browsers during the beta testing period.

To access our current website, please follow this link: ads.ahds.ac.uk

Welcome to the new ADS website. There are a number of new features of the website that will make it easier and more enjoyable to use. Why not register as a myADS user to take full advantage of them. On registration these personal myADS features become available...

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Using the tools at the bottom of each page save your favourite resources and regular searches in the myADS Workbook.

History
Your recent exploration of the site and the archives is automatically saved in your myADS History.

Additional services
Registered ADS users can take advantage of a number of additional myADS services, such as tailored email alerts and download of configurable results sets.

February 2011: Follow ADS Updates on facebook
For the latest information on archive releases and website developments ADS updates are now available via our facebook page as well as via twitter @ADS_Update and our usual RSS feed. Don't forget to 'like' or 'follow' the pages to ensure you receive updates as soon as they are released.



February 2011: Royal Anne Galley Marine Assessment updated
The ADS, English Heritage and Cornwall Council are pleased to announce the release of the updated Royal Anne Galley Marine Environmental Assessment by Charlie Johns and Kevin Camidge. The Royal Anne Galley was a galley brigade wrecked off the Lizard in 1721 while on voyage to the Barbados. The wreck was designated under the Protection of Wrecks Act (1973) as the Royal Anne Galley in 1993. The de... more



January 2011: Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment: North East released.
The ADS, English Heritage and Archaeological Research Services are pleased to announce by the release of the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment: North East. The North East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment, or NERCZA, is one of a series of projects initiated by English Heritage around the coasts of England. The project was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd. The NERCZA study area consists... more



January 2011: Thames estuary archaeological survey updated
The ADS, Essex and Kent County Councils are pleased to announce the update of the ALSF funded Archaeological Survey of Mineral Extraction Sites around the Thames Estuary report by Dr Francis Wenban-Smith and Dr Peter Allen. The project archive has been updated to include the GIS files, in addition to the original project reports. The project aimed to establish up to date information on the histo... more



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INTERNET ARCHAEOLOGY HAS BEEN PUBLISHING ON THE WEB SINCE 1996 AND PROVIDES NEW AVENUES TO PRESENT AND ENGAGE WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH. INTERNATIONAL IN SCOPE, ALL JOURNAL CONTENT IS SUBJECT TO RIGOROUS PEER-REVIEW. ARTICLES MAKE USE OF THE HUGE POTENTIAL OF INTERNET PUBLICATION TO PRESENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN UNIQUE AND EXCITING WAYS, SUCH AS FULL COLOUR IMAGES, PHOTOGRAPHS, SEARCHABLE DATA SETS, VISUALISATIONS AND INTERACTIVE MAPPING.

British archaeology on the web **CBA**
www.britarch.ac.uk
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News

December 2010
Issue 28 closes with [Editorial — Blurring some Boundaries](#), why authors should consider building in publication funds at the very start of their research bids.

November 2010
[Placing Immateriality: Situating the Material of Highland Chiriqui](#) by Karen Holmberg is now available. You can now follow [Internet Archaeology on Twitter!](#)

From the Archives...

The palaeochannel record in the Trent Valley UK: contributions towards cultural heritage management [View abstract](#)

Internet Archaeology
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Email: Judith Winters (Editor): editor@intarch.ac.uk
Subscription queries: subs@intarch.ac.uk

Scheduled maintenance period: Tuesdays 8-9am (GMT). The website may sometimes be unavailable during this period.

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The Sutton Hoo Research Project 1983-2001

Martin Carver, 2004

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- [Overview](#)
- [Downloads](#)
- [Usage Statistics](#)

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 Department of Archaeology
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 King's Manor
 Exhibition Square
 York
 YO1 7EP
 England

[Send e-mail enquiry](#)

Resource identifiers

ADS Collection: 404
Collection doi:10.5284/1000266
[How to cite using this DOI](#)

Downloads

[Downloads](#) | [Field Reports](#) | [Site Atlas](#) | [Site Album](#) | [Finds Index](#)

Site Album : Overviews



The site before the commencement of the project in 1983 [Photo: Cliff Hoppitt].



The site in 1983: The building in the centre is the British Museum site hut from the 1965-71 campaign [Photo: Cliff Hoppitt].



The burial ground looking south-west in 1983 [Photo: Cliff Hoppitt].



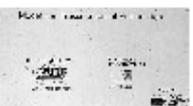
Excavations in progress, Int 32, in 1985 looking south.



Mounds 2 and 5 photographed from a helicopter, looking east, 1987.



Excavations in progress on Mound 7, looking north towards Sutton Hoo (now Tranmer) House, 1989.



Channel Tunnel Rail Link Section 1

Stuart Foreman, 2004 (updated 2009)

- Introduction
- Project Overview
- Project Downloads
- Using the resource

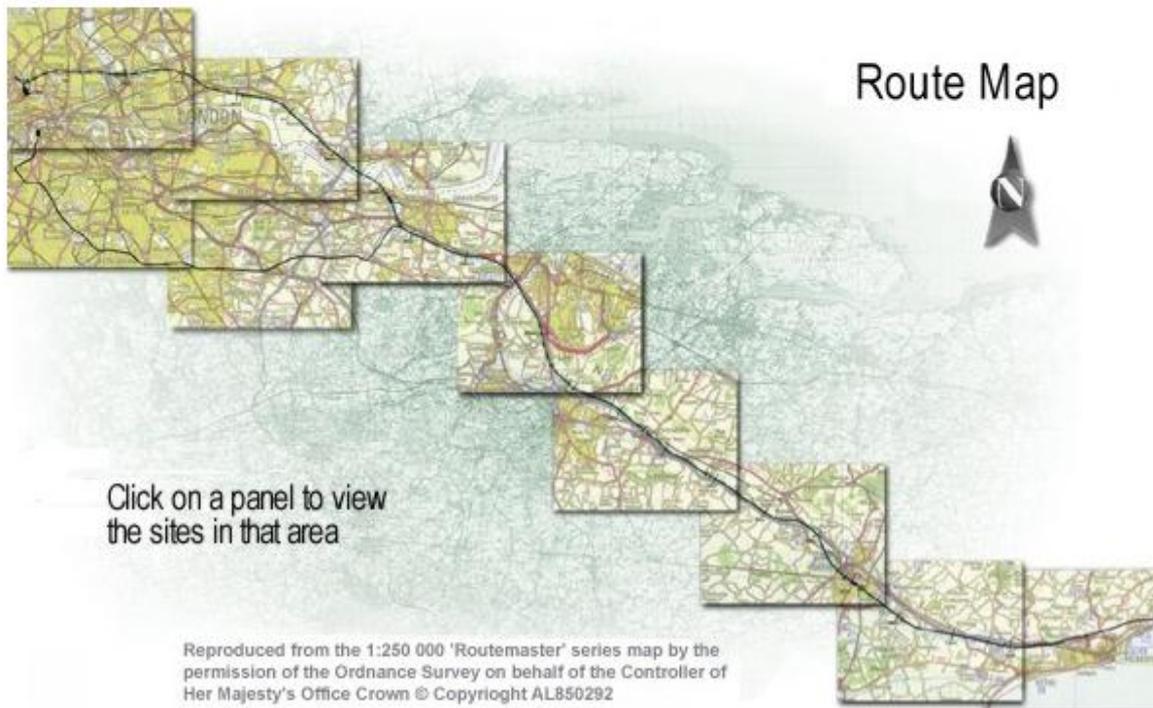
- Map Search
- Period Search
- Advanced Search
- Site List
- Reference List

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Map Search

Click on the panels of the map below to see site details.



Route Map

Click on a panel to view the sites in that area

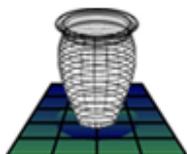
Reproduced from the 1:250 000 'Routemaster' series map by the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Office Crown © Copyright AL850292

Framework Archaeology Heathrow Terminal 5 Excavation Archive

Framework Archaeology, 2011

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Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
SP4 6EB

Introduction

Framework Archaeology is a Joint Venture agreement between Oxford Archaeology (OA) and Wessex Archaeology (WA) to provide archaeological services to BAA. Given the potential scale of some of BAA's projects, the joint venture enables Framework Archaeology to draw on the full resources of both OA and WA, including site staff, specialist managers, administrative support, and technical facilities. This combination of resources (totalling over 300 staff) considerably reduces risk for both our client and us, and provides Framework Archaeology with a wider skills base.

Framework Archaeology is committed to a particular archaeological philosophy developed by BAA's archaeological consultants, Gill Andrews and John Barrett. This is concerned with understanding how people inhabited past landscapes: archaeology as a study of people rather than deposits or objects. This approach is at the heart of the Archaeological Policy adopted by the BAA Main Board. Framework projects are thus academically driven but undertaken within a commercial environment. In order to fulfil the approach a Framework Archaeology recording system has been developed and is now in operation on all Framework Projects. It places great emphasis on interpretation in addition to recording and developing a historical narrative as the site is excavated (Andrews, Barrett &



Lower Palaeolithic technology, raw material and population ecology

Gilbert Marshall, David Duplax, Derek Roe, Clive Gamble, 2002

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[Overview](#)

[Query](#)

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A · H · R · B
arts and humanities research board

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Tel:  01784 443569 

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Resource identifiers

ADS Collection: 349
doi:10.5284/1000354
[How to cite using this DOI](#)

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Query - Results

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Click on the images or the links below to view more details for each biface.



[IRREGULAR QUARTZITE HANDAXE \(344g\)](#)
Location: OLDUVAI GORGE TANZANIA
Museum: NATIONAL MUSEUM, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA



[IRREGULAR QUARTZITE HANDAXE \(480g\)](#)
Location: OLDUVAI GORGE TANZANIA
Museum: NATIONAL MUSEUM, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA



[IRREGULAR QUARTZITE HANDAXE \(763g\)](#)
Location: OLDUVAI GORGE TANZANIA
Museum: NATIONAL MUSEUM, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA



[IRREGULAR QUARTZITE HANDAXE \(404g\)](#)
Location: OLDUVAI GORGE TANZANIA
Museum: NATIONAL MUSEUM, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

Defence of Britain Archive

Council for British Archaeology, 2002 (updated 2006)

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Council for British Archaeology
St Mary's House
66 Bootham
York
YO30 7BZ
UK
Tel: 01904 671417
Fax: 01904 671384

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Resource identifiers

ADS Collection: 224

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Shell-proof type 24 pillbox.

(Source: Book 1999)

Brick-shuttered type 24 pillbox at edge of wood. With attached porch/blast wall. Faces SW. In excellent condition. Internal access possible. A short spur of anti-tank ditch leads up to this pillbox [see UORN 8552]. Five iron picket posts are still in place in the bank on the N side of the pillbox.

(Source: Field Visit 2003/02/05)

Type of site	PILLBOX (TYPE FW3/24)
Location	At S corner of Hog Wood.
Area	Hinton Charterhouse , Bath and North East Somerset, England
Grid reference	ST 7741 5944
Period	WW2
Condition	Good
Materials	Clay Brick, Reinforced Concrete
Recorder	Foot, William (English Heritage Defence Areas Project)
Defence grouping	GHQ Line: Green - Stop Line - Burnham on Sea to near Melksham (where it joins with the GHQ Line: Blue) and then north to the River Severn at Newnham. This line is also known as the Bristol Outer Line. Manned by VIII Corps.
Photographs	
DOB site reference:	S0008550
Reference	1999 Ironside's Line 1999 Warwalks: Stop Line Green
Event	Construction, In the period 1940 1941

KEYWORD

SEARCH

▼ SUBJECT

- Artefact (4)
- Building
- Chronological
- Environmental (2)
- General (8)
- Hominin Studies (5)
- Maritime

▼ PROGRAMME

- Aggregates Levy
- Channel Tunnel
- Human Evolution (3)
- Urban Surveys
- Marine Environment
- National Mapping
- Rescued Projects
- Southampton Museums

▼ REGION

- ▶ British Isles and Ireland (1)
- ▶ Continental Europe (2)
- ▶ Middle East (1)
- ▶ South America

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TITLE ↕

↕ YEAR

Ceramics and Society: Early Tana Tradition and the Swahili Coast

2013

Jeffrey Fleisher, Stephanie Wynne-Jones

Infernal Traffic: Excavation of a Liberated African Graveyard in Rupert's Valley, St Helena

2012

Andrew Pearson

Predicting the Location of Hominin Sites in Africa and Asia

2011

Matthew Collins, Katherine Robson Brown, Kathryn Holmes

West African pottery decorated using roulettes

2010

Anne Haour, Katie Manning

Searching for traces of the Southern Dispersal: environmental and historical research on the evolution of human diversity in southern Asia and Australo-Melanesia

2010

Mike Petraglia, Marta Mirazón Lahr, Stephen Stokes, Julie Field

Stone Age Occupation of the Mékrou Valley Southwest Niger, West Africa

2008

Vicky Winton

Smouha District, Alexandria, Egypt: Report on geophysical survey, November 2004

2007

Sally-Ann Ashton

Oxford Expedition to Egypt: Scene-details Database

2007

Linacre College, Oxford

Advanced computer modelling of hominin dispersal from Africa: integrating archaeological and palaeoclimatic simulations

2007

Paul Valdes, Alan Haywood, Sam Smith, Bruce Sellwood, Steven Mithen, John Hughes

Cercopithecine models as a contextual framework for human evolution

2007

Anna-Ulla Jansson, Mandy Korstjens, Robin Dunbar, Sarah Elton, Russell Hill, Andrea Cardini, Erik Willems

Lower Palaeolithic technology, raw material and population ecology

2007

Clive Gamble, David Dupplaw, Gilbert Marshall, Derek Roe

Palaeoinformatic approach to the context of the earliest human dispersals (PACED)

2007

Ceramics and Society: Early Tana Tradition and the Swahili Coast

Stephanie Wynne-Jones, Jeffrey Fleisher, 2013

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Exhibition Square
York

Introduction

Locally-produced ceramics are the most ubiquitous find on archaeological sites in East Africa and their study offers the potential to develop a robust understanding of activity and interaction within and between sites. In particular, understandings of the Iron Age societies that developed on the East African coast and its hinterland have been transformed by exploration of a particular group of vessels known as Early Tana Tradition or Triangular-Incised Ware. During the late first millennium, c. AD 600 - 900, sites across East Africa were united by the production and use of these ceramics, consisting of necked jars with incised decoration and a series of other jar and bowl forms in varying quantities.



The *Ceramics and Society* project sought to explore this corpus of Early Tana Tradition ceramics, creating a database of sherds from excavated sites across the region. The history of research in East Africa has resulted in a very diverse set of methodologies and analytical systems being applied to different sites, and through systematic comparison *Ceramics and Society* sought to bring these data into a common framework for comparison. In a project funded by the British Academy and the British Institute in Eastern Africa, a series of key ETT/TIW sites were revisited, and sherds analysed according to a single system, allowing quantitative cross-site comparison for the first time.

The production of a database for future studies was central to the aims of the project. We are committed to a quantitative approach to the study of ETT ceramics, and hope that the *Ceramics and Society* data will

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Stephanie Wynne-Jones, Jeffrey Fleisher, 2013

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ACADEMY

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England

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Resource identifiers

ADS Collection: 1160

Collection doi: 10.5284/1016128

[How to cite using this DOI](#)

Downloads

Database files

CCP database for ADS	CSV	462 Kb
notes	TXT	1 Kb
Explanation of motifs	PDF	389 Kb
Methodology	PDF	372 Kb

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Stephanie Wynne-Jones, Jeffrey Fleisher, 2013

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Query the Database

This database can be searched using a single field or a combination of fields. Once you have entered your search terms click the 'Submit query' button to begin the search.

Submit query

clear form

Basic Details

Site

--- select from list ---
bandari kuu
chibuene
dakawa
kilwa

Form

--- select from list ---
bowl
jar
plate

Illustrated

Select only records with illustrations

Portion

Base Body Handle Partial Rim Whole

Note that the portion of ceramic chosen will affect the detail selectable in the rest of the form e.g. selecting 'Base' will disable options relating to the Body and Rim.

Rim details

Lip shape

concave
flattened
flattened-bevelled
flattened-rounded
pointed
rounded

Rim shape

everted
flared
folded (rolled)
inverted
simple

Ceramics and Society: Early Tana Tradition and the Swahili Coast

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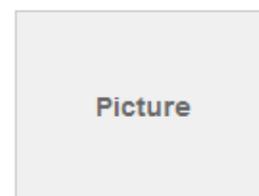
Dr Stephanie Wynne-Jones
Lecturer
Department of Archaeology
University of York
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Exhibition Square

Results list: Full Record

[next record >>](#)

Sherd ID: CCP1461

Site	bandari kuu
Unit X	1
Unit Y	null
Context	3/2
Excavated shed no.	null
Bag number	11
Exc. Period	null
Length (cm)	97.63
Width (cm)	90.95
Upper body thickness (cm)	5.9
Lower body thickness (cm)	8.01
Height to max. (cm)	74.35
Neck height (cm)	17.26

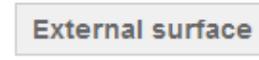


Picture



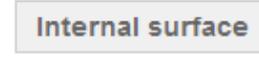
Drawing

There is no drawing for this record



External surface

no finish



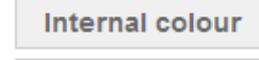
Internal surface

no finish



External colour

buff



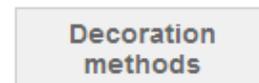
Internal colour

buff



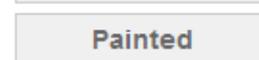
Decoration location

neck



Decoration methods

incised



Painted

null

CCP1461

Powered by *Highslide JS*



CCP1461

[\[DOWNLOAD\]](#) right-click and save link

Neck height (cm)

17.26

Painted

null

Ceramics and Society: Early Tana Tradition and the Swahili Coast

Stephanie Wynne-Jones, Jeffrey Fleisher, 2013

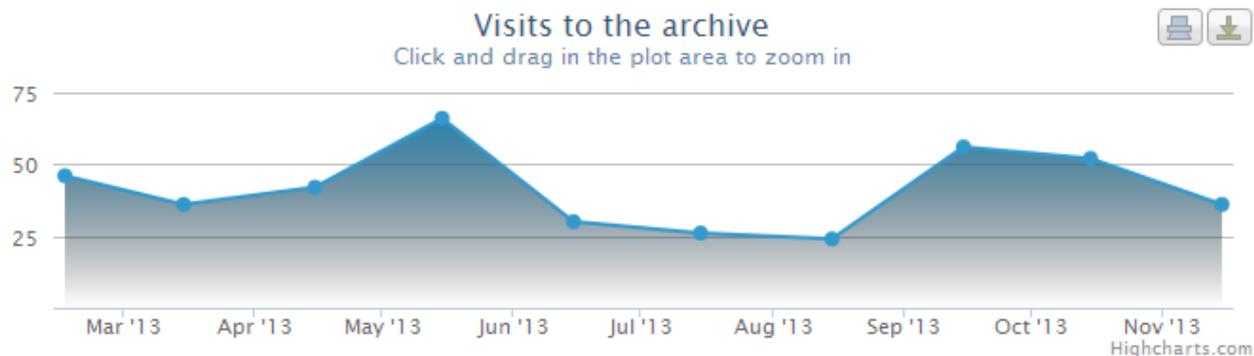
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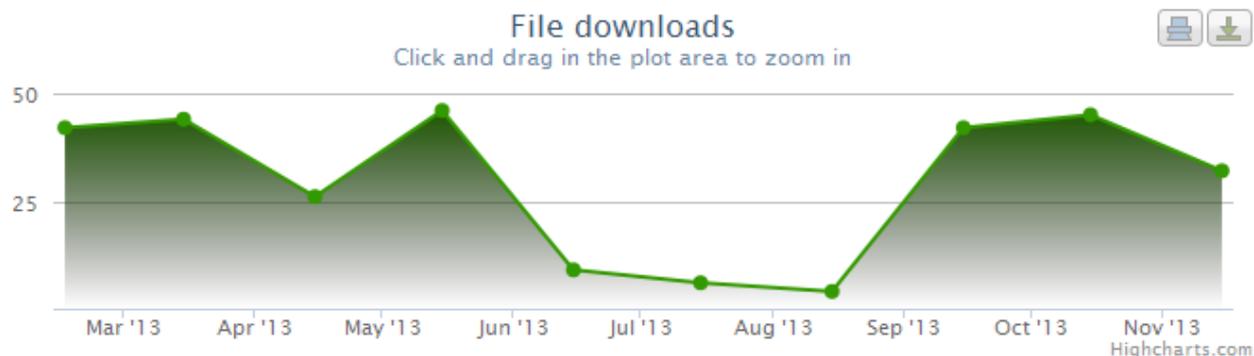


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Ceramics and Society: Early Tana Tradition and the Swahili Coast (Data Paper)

Stephanie Wynne-Jones¹ and Jeffrey Fleisher²

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Dataset Location

This dataset has been deposited with the Archaeology Data Service. doi: [10.5284/1016128](https://doi.org/10.5284/1016128)

Referee

[Referee statement](#) by Paul Lane

Dataset Content

The Ceramics and Society dataset (Wynne-Jones and Fleisher [2013](#)) includes a database that documents the analysis of over 2,000 potsherds of the Early Tana Tradition (ETT), a 7th-10th century ceramic tradition found along the eastern African coastline and hinterland. The dataset contains 40 variables for each sherd, including those related to vessel shape, materials, decoration and finishing and production attributes.

Background

Locally-produced ceramics are the most ubiquitous find on archaeological sites in eastern Africa and their study offers the potential to develop a robust understanding of activity and interaction within and between sites. In particular, understandings of the Iron Age societies that developed on the eastern African coast and its hinterland have been transformed by exploration of a particular group of vessels known as Early Tana Tradition or Triangular-Incised Ware (ETT/TIW). During the late first millennium, c. AD 600-900, sites across East Africa were united by the production and use of these ceramics, consisting of necked jars with incised decoration and a series of other jar and bowl forms in varying quantities.

The Ceramics and Society project sought to explore this corpus of ETT ceramics, creating a database of sherds from previously-excavated sites across the region. The history of research in eastern Africa has resulted in a very diverse set of methodologies and analytical systems being applied to different sites, and through systematic comparison Ceramics and Society sought to bring these data into a common framework for comparison. As such, a series of key ETT sites were revisited, and sherds analysed

Funding

This work was supported by the British Institute in Eastern Africa, and by a grant from the British Academy with input from the Chittick Fund (#SG54671). Additional funding was provided by the Leverhulme Trust.

Referee Statement

Paul Lane, Department of Archaeology & Ancient History, Uppsala University.

Cite this as: Lane, P. 'Referee Statement' in Wynne-Jones, S., & Fleisher, J. (2013). *Ceramics and Society: Early Tana Tradition and the Swahili Coast (Data Paper)*. *Internet Archaeology*, (35). Council for British Archaeology. doi:10.11141/ia.35.7

The East African coast, from Ras Hafun, Somaliland, in the north to Sofala, Mozambique, in the south has been the focus of professional archaeological interest for over sixty years, and some parts are now among the most intensively researched areas of the region. Early interest in the archaeology of the coast was triggered by the material evidence for extensive trading contacts across and around the Indian Ocean and possible connections with the Mediterranean world alluded to in early written sources. This shaped subsequent research to the extent that until quite recently, very little energy had been directed toward the detailed typological and functional analysis of local ceramics and other material culture, in marked contrast to the attention given to study of imported materials, and especially ceramics from the Persian Gulf, the Indian sub-continent and China. Complicating matters even further is that as research on local African ceramics advanced, several different classification and recording systems were developed with different researchers employing somewhat different criteria to describe and categorise their materials. This has been a particularly acute problem for the so-called Tana Tradition (TT) or Triangular Incised Wares (TIW) which find their earliest expressions in 7th-10th century AD contexts and are crucial for understanding the genesis of later urbanised communities such as the Swahili. This lack of consistency has led, inevitably, to confusion and uncertainty over issues concerning the concordance of particular phases at different sites, typological developments and the antecedents of TT/TIW ceramics, and even vessel functions and types. By re-analysing a significant corpus of material from sites located between northern Kenya and southern Mozambique, and by making available their data and details of their methodology available online, Stephanie Wynne-Jones and Jeffery Fleisher have done regional archaeologists a great favour, not only by resolving some of the previous issues but also by providing such a straightforward and model approach to establishing a standardised analytical and classificatory system. It is hoped that other researchers will now adopt this system and add their own datasets to the existing data base. By doing so, this will greatly help comparative analysis of this critical period in East Africa's archaeology. One area which the authors might have given some attention to is the scope for the use of various statistical approaches to the analysis of typological trends, such as the use of correspondence analysis pioneered by Richard Helm (2000a, 2000b) with reference to materials from southern Kenya. But in all other respects this is a highly laudable initiative.

August 2013

References



British Archaeological Awards 2008 Best Archaeological Innovation

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The Urban Landscapes of Ancient Merv, Turkmenistan

Tim Williams, Sjoerd van der Linde, 2008

Introduction
Overview
Interactive Map
Downloads

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Introduction

Ancient Merv, in Turkmenistan, is one of the most complex and well-preserved urban centres on the Silk Roads of Central Asia. A succession of major cities at Merv started in the 6th century BC and continued until the Mongol sack of 1221AD, although Mongol occupation, a resurgent Timurid city of the 15th century, and expansion in the 19th century continues the urban sequence. Together the walled urban areas covered more than 1000 ha.

The Institute of Archaeology, University College London, has had a long collaboration with the Turkmenistan Ministry of Culture, focused on archaeological research and approaches to the conservation and management of the Ancient Merv Archaeological Park, which since 1999 has been a World Heritage Site.

The collection of monument photographs (dating from 1890 onwards) was first compiled by Georgina Hermann, former director of the International Merv Project, who published some of them in *Monuments of Merv. Traditional Buildings of the Karakum*¹.

In 2002 an expanded version of the photographic collection was published in *The Monuments of Merv - A scanned archive of photographs and plans*², which included a CD-ROM with low resolution digital versions of the photographs. Since 2001 the Ancient Merv Project has added new images of the monuments, showing their current condition and conservation work, and more detailed metadata for the photographs has been assembled. More information on the Ancient Merv Project can be found at the UCL website.

This digital archive was undertaken in conjunction with an electronic publication through the Linking Electronic Archives and Publications (LEAP) project. The corresponding article is 'The urban landscapes of Ancient Merv, Turkmenistan: Where to draw the line?' by Tim Williams & Sjoerd van der Linde, which can be found in *Internet Archaeology* 25.

¹Hermann, G. 1999. *Monuments of Merv. Traditional Buildings of the Karakum*. London: Society of Antiquaries London

²Hermann, G. Coffey H., Laidlaw S. and K. Kurbansakhatov 2002. *The Monuments of Merv - A scanned archive of photographs and plans*. London: University College London and British Institute of Persian Studies



The landscapes of Islamic Merv, Turkmenistan: Where to draw the line?

Tim Williams

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Summary

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This article outlines approaches for interpreting the Islamic city of Sultan Kala (Merv), c. 8th-13th centuries AD, based upon aerial photographic and satellite imagery. Hierarchies of assumptions (identification of individual wall lines; which frame spaces, rooms and courtyards; which are grouped as parts of specific buildings; which are part of urban blocks) and ontologies (information about these assumptions and the variable confidence of interpretation, from the position of lines to spatial function) provide a dynamic structure for the presentation of data, interpretation and theory.

The article establishes procedures and protocols within two sample areas (selected to represent the diverse features of the urban and suburban landscapes) to:

- Explore the theory and methodology of documenting interpretation (and uncertainty) in the transcription of aerial photographic and satellite imagery
- Develop ontological approaches to structuring interpretations and assumptions, within a hermeneutic model.
- Provide a textual and graphic narrative of the development of the areas.
- Establish an online forum (weblog) to contribute to the long-term project.
- Explore the use of other forms of electronic archive material, in particular, how imagery and audio files can be used to develop the discussion of landscapes and buildings.



Preparation of this electronic publication and associated archive was assisted by a grant from the AHRC under the ICT Strategy programme.

Go to article [Table of Contents](#)

Features

This article will appeal to: those interested in the presentation of data, interpretation and theory
Keywords: Merv; Silk Route; Turkmenistan; interpretation; uncertainty; aerial photographs; satellite
Find more publications on [the Silk Route](#) in the British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography (BIAB)

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Last updated: Wed Apr 02 2008

The Urban Landscapes of Ancient Merv, Turkmenistan
 Tim Williams, Sjoerd van der Linde, 2008

- Introduction
- Overview
- Interactive Map
- Downloads

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Downloads

This section contains the shapefiles and aerial photos of the GIS as well as documentation. The aerial photos are very large so previews have been provided of a common area of the images to offer a comparison of quality and processing employed.

GIS files

Documentation:

GIS Layers	PDF	71 Kb
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Raster and World Files:

The raster images here are very large and may take a considerable time to download for some users with slower internet connections. Use the preview of the image on the left to see the quality and processing effects to determine if the image is desired before downloading. The complete TIFF and World File are zipped up and can be downloaded by clicking on the ZIP box on the right. Information on the images and the processing used can also be found in the 'GIS Layers' documentation above.

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	Russian map	ZIP	4 Mb
	AP Dom-Joined	ZIP	86 Mb
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3. A short introduction to the city of Sultan Kala

With the coming of Islam, in the 7th century AD, Merv became the capital of Khurasan (the 'eastern land') (for an overview of the history see Kennedy [1999](#); Williams [forthcoming](#)). In the 740s the 'Abbasid revolution began here, and while Baghdad was established as the capital of the new empire, Merv's status grew, as the capital of Khurasan, from east of the Great Desert to the frontiers of India. In the same decade, the governor, Abu Muslim, commissioned a mosque to be built alongside the Madjan Canal, which flowed about a kilometre to the west of the old city of Gaur Kala. Thus began the new city of Marv al-Shahjjan (Merv the great: today Sultan Kala) ([Fig. 7](#) - opens GIS). It is tempting to see the mosque as part of the planning for the heart of the new city, and by the 9th century it lay at the centre of a thriving metropolis. The city was planned, with a street system and a carefully managed water supply with numerous canals and reservoirs in each district (Williams [forthcoming](#)). It seems likely that the new status of Merv, coupled with new ideas and beliefs that identified the need for public

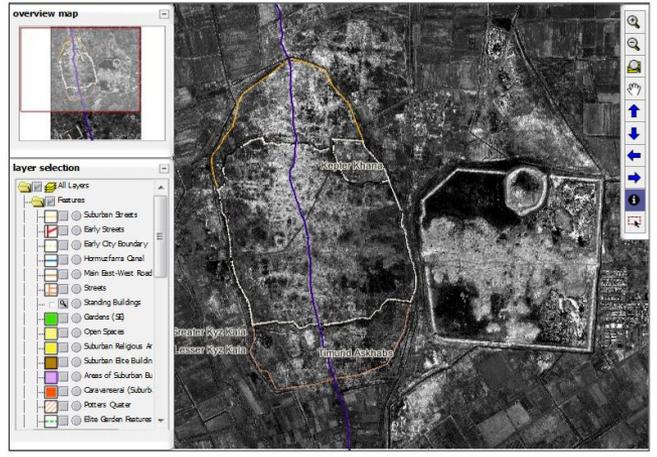
Figure 6: A short introductory film about Merv



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Figure 7 [GIS]: The city of Sultan Kala, showing the position of the Madjan Canal (blue: flowing south to north), 11th century defensive circuit (yellow for the main city, and brown for the northern and southern suburbs), and some of the principal monuments. The earlier city of Gaur Kala lies to the right. (Background IKONOS satellite image).



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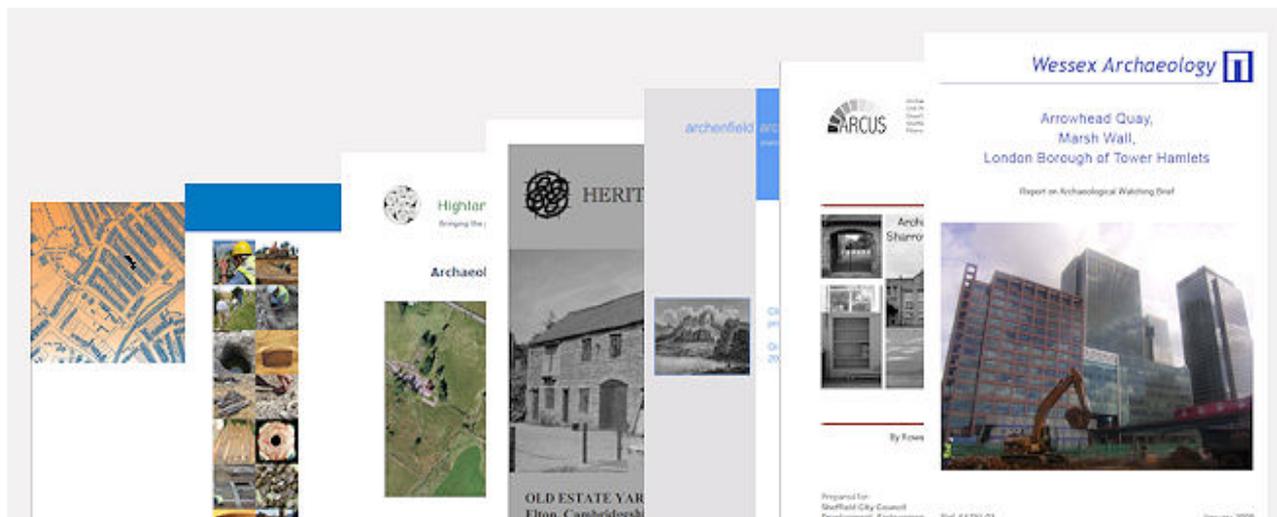
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Introduction

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Through this resource it is possible to list the reports by contractor, using the [browse by contractor](#) option and also to do a more advanced search filtering these reports by period, monument/artefact type and location using the [search](#) option. These unpublished reports cover archaeological interventions such as: watching briefs, excavation reports and building surveys. Desk-based assessments and specialist analysis are also included.

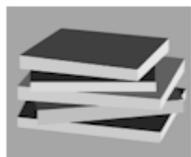


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Blythe, K. (2005) *'The Limes, Ribchester'*, 2004-5/334. Oxford Archaeology North: Lancaster

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Site details

Location

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Parish RIBCHESTER
District RIBBLE VALLEY
County LANCASHIRE
Country ENGLAND
Grid reference SD 65861 35410 (point)

Monuments and Finds

Other details

Description A4 Document
Associated identifier oxfordar2-35728

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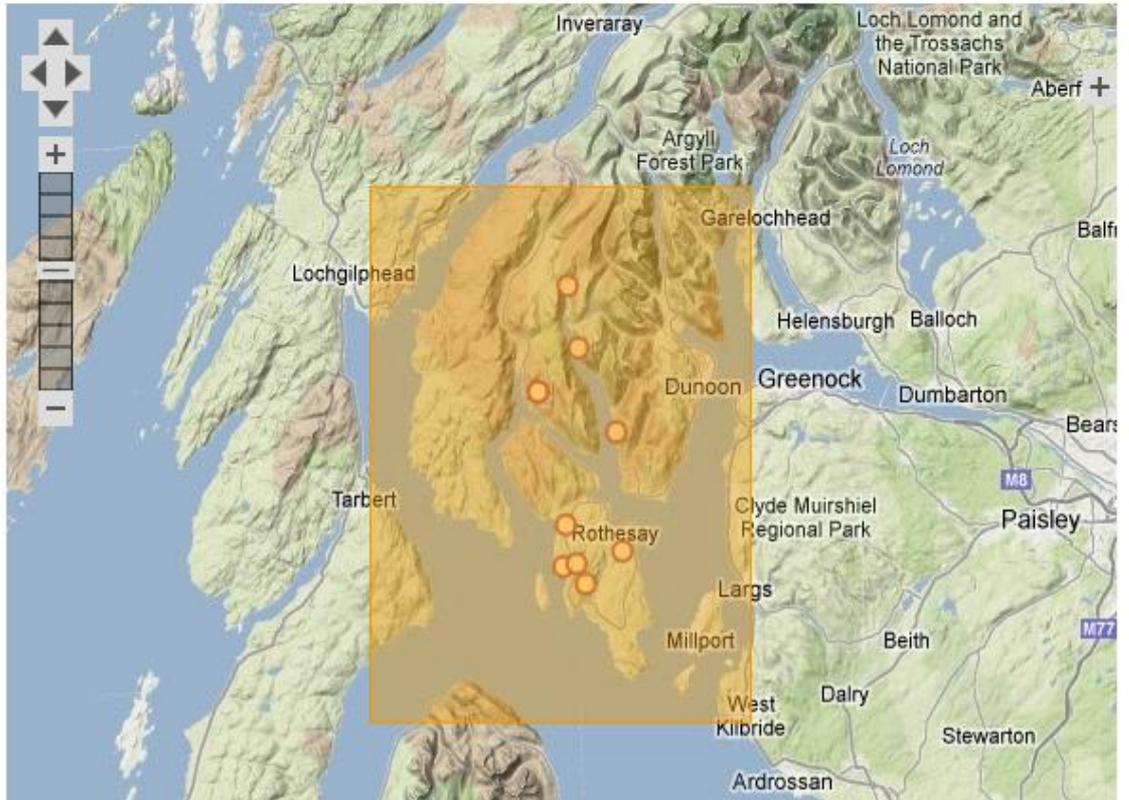
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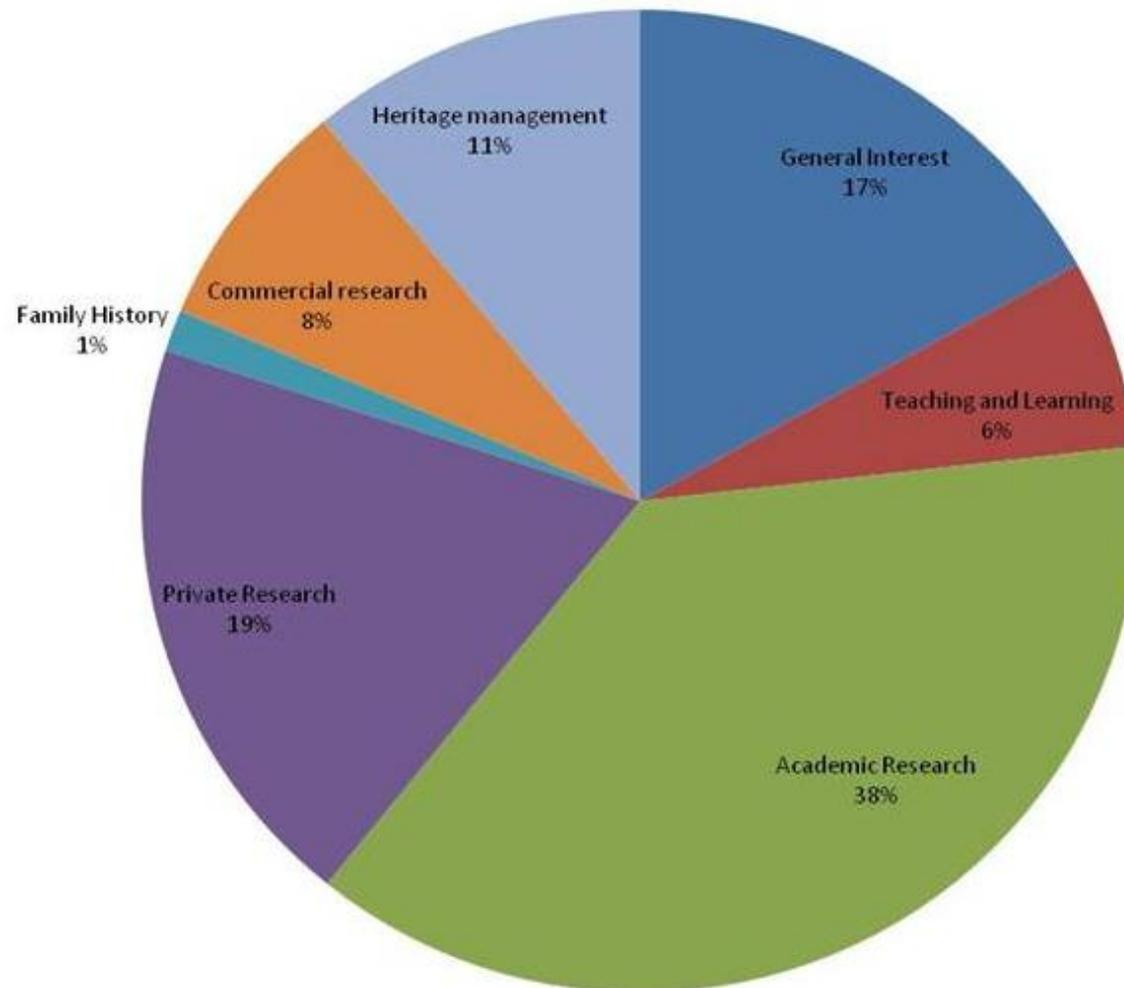
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The Archaeology Data Service: Staffing

- Set up in 1996 – 2 members of staff
- Currently c.15 members of staff
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 - European Projects Manager
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 - 6 Digital Archivists
- Based within the University of York

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Research and Development



The ADS's mission is to support research, learning and teaching with high quality and dependable digital resources. Fundamental to us fulfilling this mission is an ongoing programme of research into all areas of digital preservation, resource discovery and data sharing. Consequently we are actively engaged with research projects working with partners in all sectors of UK archaeology, academic, government, commercial and local. In addition to UK focussed research activities the ADS has a long track record of successful leadership and participation in European Union funded projects and more recently in collaboration with partners in the United States of America.

For additional insights into ADS activities and developments please take a look at the ADS Blog [Sound bytes from the ADS](#)

Current ADS Research Activities



Culture

NEARCH

NEARCH (New scenarios for a community-involved archaeology) is a new project funded under the European Union (EU) culture programme. The project will run for 5 years from autumn 2013 and follows on from the EU-supported ACE project, which identified a cultural crisis and a crisis of values and ideas that outlined the agenda of European Modernity and made it a reference for the rest of the world. NEARCH aims to assess the crisis implications in the fields of Archaeology and Heritage, and to propose new ways of working and interacting. The project also explores the different dimensions of public participation as well as the multi-scalar significance of archaeological heritage intertwined with different processes underway in today's Europe.

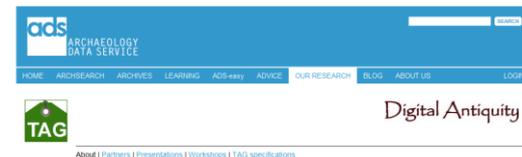
LoCloud

LoCloud (Local Content in a Europeana Cloud) is a best practice network which began in March 2013, and will run for three years. It is coordinated by the Norsk Kulturråd and is made up of 32 partners across 26 European countries. LoCloud follows directly on from the aforementioned CARARE project and EuropeanaLocal, another recently completed best practice network project, funded under the e-Contentplus programme. It played an important role in ensuring the digital content provided by Europeana's local and regional cultural institutions were represented in Europeana. The computing technology is accessible via Eri and use, organs



ARIADNE

ARIADNE (Advancing research powerful technology national access) is based on community technologies. It is research of the c



TAG: Transatlantic Archaeology Gateway

On both sides of the Atlantic, the discipline of Archaeology has been a relative early adopter of ICT in teaching and research, particularly when compared with other arts and humanities. Archaeologists routinely create vast quantities of primary digital data, in a rich variety of formats, including structured and unstructured text, spreadsheets and databases, still and moving images, CAD, GIS, landscape and object-scale 3-D scans, and virtual reality models. Although digitalisation is important for legacy data sets, much of this primary data is already born digital. As the only record of irreplaceable feedback it is essential that these data are preserved, for re-use and re-interpretation. In the UK the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) has developed into a national repository for digital data from the UK historic environment sector, cross-cutting the academic and public, and private sectors. In the USA, it has taken longer to establish a national archival infrastructure but in December 2008 the Digital Antiquity initiative and its digital repository, the Digital Archaeological Record (DAR), was established at Arizona State University with generous funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Digital Antiquity's scope also includes archaeology in the private, governmental, and academic sectors ([http://dar.asu.edu](#)).



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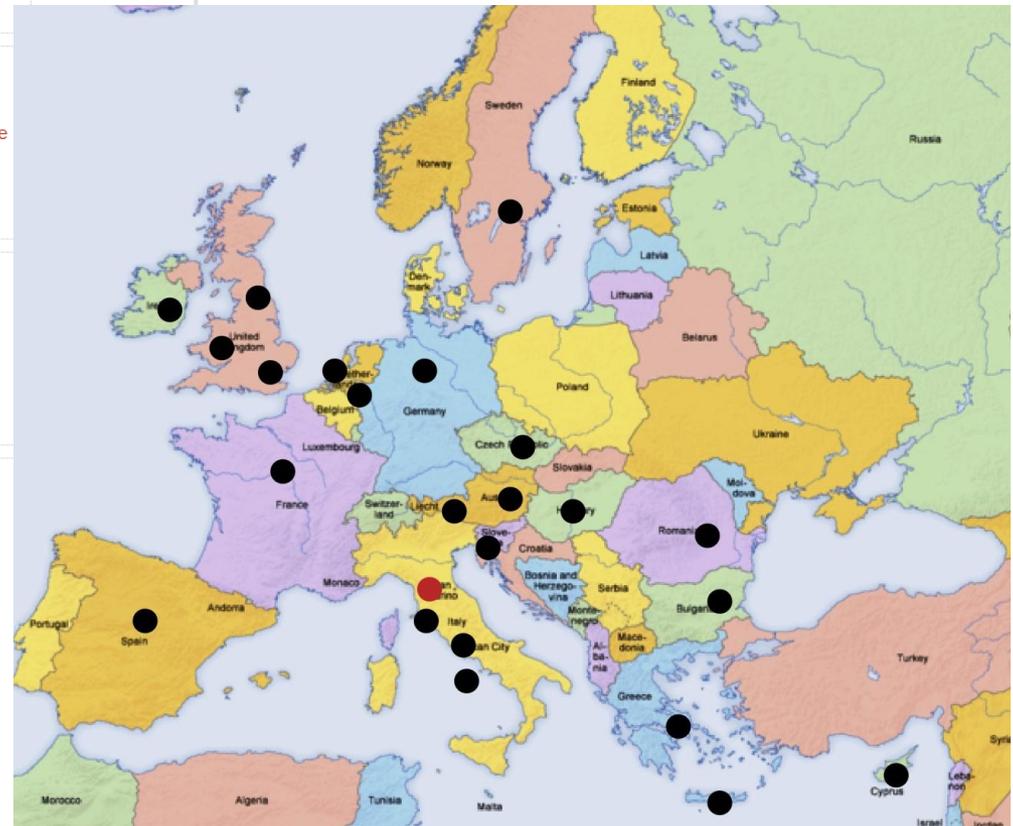
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