

Digging into Data:
Electronic publication in Archaeology

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Beyond Books, London

22 April 2010

Background: Internet Archaeology

- First fully peer-reviewed ejournal in Archaeology
- Publishing online since 1996
- Hosted at the University of York
- Publisher: Council for British Archaeology
- International in scope
- Fully interactive:
 - Hypertext
 - Full colour images
 - Movies
 - Searchable databases
 - Interactive mapping



the premier e-journal for archaeology
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INTERNET ARCHAEOLOGY IS THE FIRST FULLY REFEREED E-JOURNAL FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND PUBLISHES ARTICLES OF A HIGH ACADEMIC STANDING WHICH UTILISE THE POTENTIAL OF ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION. INTERNET ARCHAEOLOGY IS HOSTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK AND PUBLISHED BY THE COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY.

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.

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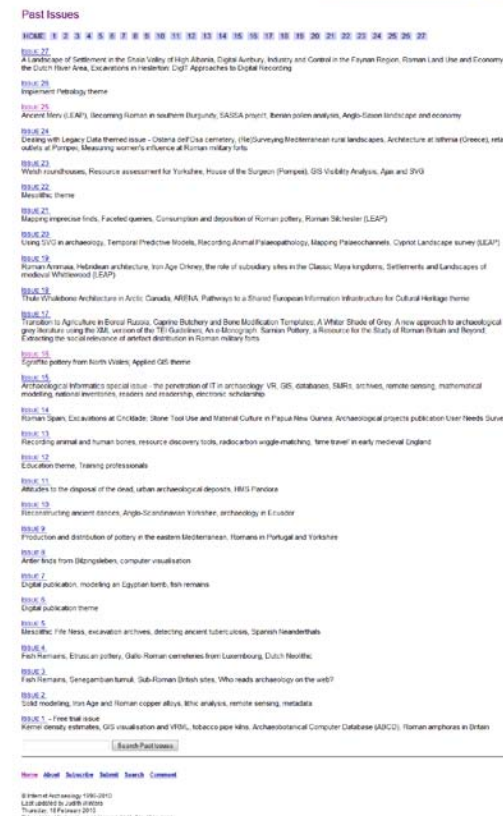
Internet Archaeology: business model

Now in Issue 27 - 2 volumes per year

Mixed revenue streams:

- JISC UK HEI site licence
- Institutional site licences - overseas
- Individual subscriptions and pay per article
- Open Access flexible policy e.g. Developing world
- Open Access on a per article basis in return for subvention

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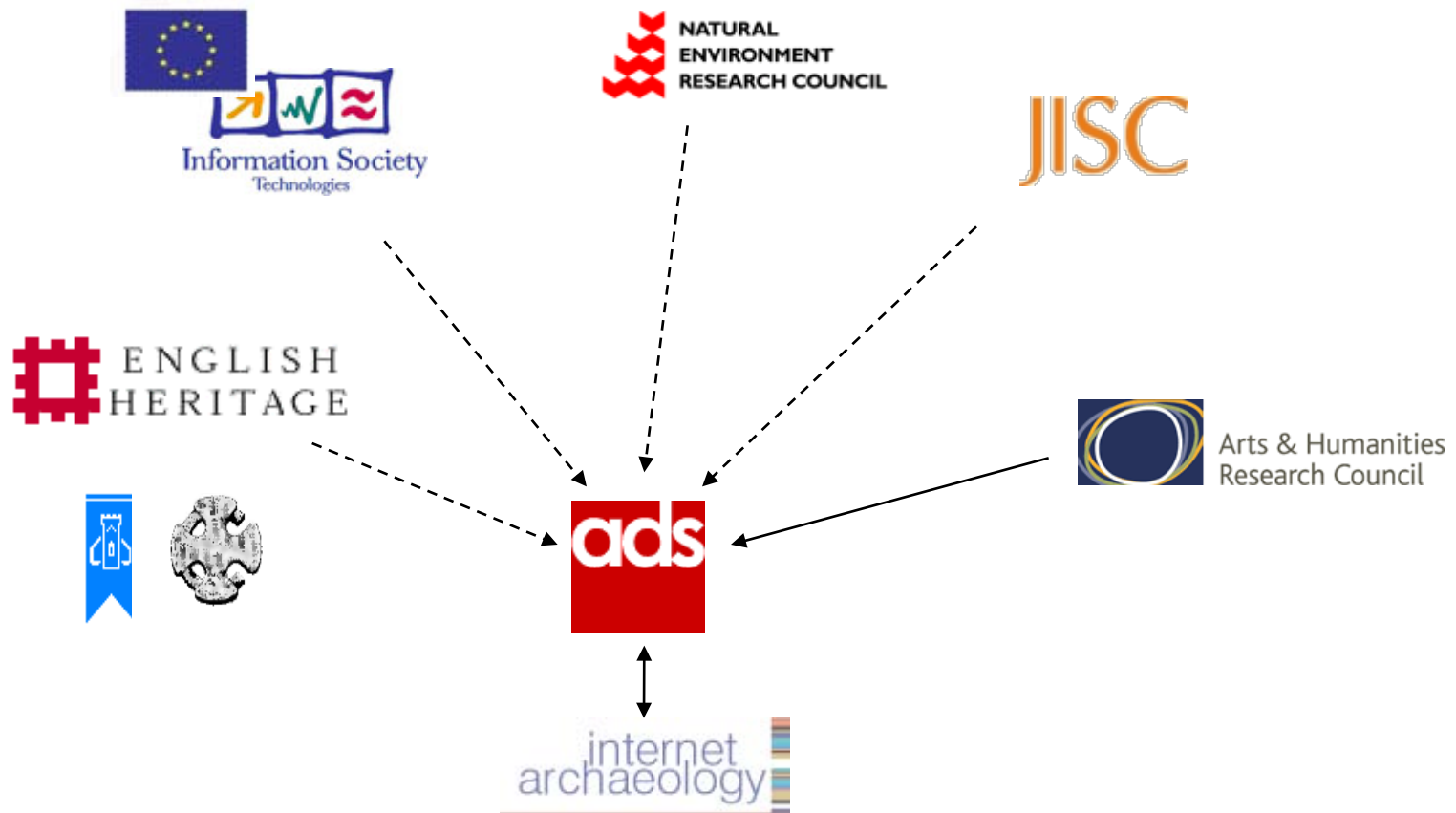
Background: The Archaeology Data Service

“To support research, learning and teaching with high quality and dependable digital resources.”

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The header is red with the ADS logo and navigation links: HOME, ARCHSEARCH, ARCHIVES, LEARNING, ADVICE, OUR RESEARCH, ABOUT US, and LOGIN. Below the header are three main sections: 'EXPLORE', 'DISCOVER', and 'GUIDANCE'. A 'DEPOSIT' section highlights 'Supporting research, learning and teaching with high quality and dependable digital resources'. A 'Notice' box states: 'We are currently conducting a closed testing program where a login is required to access this site. Please contact the ADS Helpdesk if you require further information regarding our future beta testing programs. To access our current website, please follow this link: ads.abdn.ac.uk'. A 'Featured collection' section shows an image of an excavation site labeled 'Hilton of Cadboll'. A 'Workbook' section explains: 'Using the tools at the bottom of each page save your favourite resources and regular searches in the myADS Workbook.' A 'History' section states: 'Your recent exploration of the site and the archives is automatically saved in your myADS History.' An 'Additional services' section lists: 'Registered ADS users can take advantage of a number of additional myADS services, such as tailored email alerts and download of configurable results sets.' A 'March 2010: 3D Archaeology summer school announced.' section mentions: 'The ADS are pleased to be participating in the International Summer School in 3D Modelling in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, Durham University (17th-20th June). The School aims to bring together young scientists, developers and advanced users from geomatics and selected fields of application (photogrammetry, remote sensing, LiDAR, GIS, cultural and industrial heritage, archaeology, environment... more'. A 'February 2010: Historic Seascapes, Withemsea to Skegness released.' section states: 'The Archaeology Data Service, the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MOLAS) and English Heritage are pleased to announce the launch of England's Historic Seascapes: Withemsea to Skegness. Funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF), the project is part of the second round of seascapes analysis funded by the ALSF, the first round was carried out by Wessex Archaeology at Liverpool... more'. A 'February 2010: Medieval Britain and Ireland Fieldwork now searchable.' section says: 'The ADS, The Society for Medieval Archaeology and English Heritage are delighted to announce a new query interface for Medieval Britain and Ireland Fieldwork database. The on-line version of Medieval Britain and Ireland is a new venture for the Medieval Archaeology journal, featuring a searchable digital database for these annually submitted excavation summaries. The new database, commencing with... more'. A 'February 2010: Post-Medieval Fieldwork database now online.' section notes: 'The ADS, The Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology and English Heritage are delighted to announce the online release of the Post-Medieval Fieldwork in Britain and Northern Ireland (PMFRIB) database. The PMFRIB is a new venture for the Post-Medieval Archaeology journal, featuring a searchable digital database for these annually submitted excavation summaries. Supported by grants from English Heri... more'. The footer includes 'University of York legal statements | ADS terms and conditions | Sitemap', the ADS logo, and 'THE UNIVERSITY of York'.

un: anon_40080

The Archaeology Data Service: funding



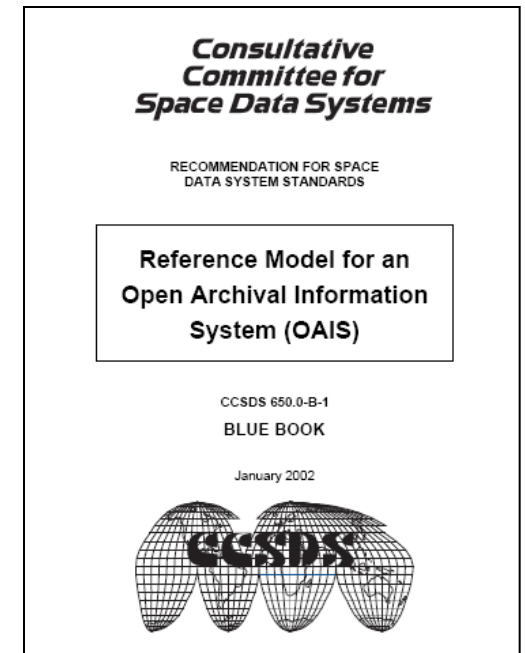
The ADS: What we do

What ADS does:

1. Digital Preservation
2. Standards and Guides to Good Practice
3. Digital Dissemination

The screenshot shows the ADS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ARCHSEARCH, ARCHIVES, LEARNING, ADVICE, OUR RESEARCH, ABOUT US, myADS, and LOGOUT. Below the menu, there is a search bar and a 'SEARCH' button. The main content area displays search results for 'Environmental Factors in the Chronology of Human Evolution and Dispersal (EPCHED)'. The results are organized into columns for SUBJECT, PROGRAMME, REGION, and TYPE. The main list of results includes titles such as 'Environmental Factors in the Chronology of Human Evolution and Dispersal (EPCHED)', 'Society of Antiquaries Library Catalogue', 'England's Rock Art (ERA)', 'Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys', 'Extensive Urban Survey', 'England's Historic Seascapes', 'Grey Literature Library', 'RECAP: RescuE of Completed Archaeological Projects', 'National Mapping Programme', 'Post-Medieval Fieldwork in Britain and Northern Ireland', 'Meols: The Archaeology of the North Wirral Coast', 'The Magnetic Signatures of Medieval and Post-Medieval Pyrotechnical Industries', 'Suffolk River Valleys Project', 'VENUS: Virtual Exploration of Underwater Sites Port-Miou C wreck, Marseille', 'England's Historic Seascapes: Withemsea to Skegness', 'Fieldwalking the Cropmark Landscape on the Sherwood Sandstone of Nottinghamshire', 'Technologies of Enchantment: Celtic Art in Iron Age and Roman Britain', 'Hill Hall: a Singular House Devised by a Tudor Intellectual', 'Willington, South Derbyshire', and 'TERPS - The English Rivers Project'. Each result includes the author's name and the year of publication. The interface also includes a 'RESET QUERY' button and a 'KEYWORD' search box at the bottom.

Digital Preservation



Standards and Good Practice



Archaeology Data Service / Digital Antiquity
Guides to Good Practice

Log in

The Archaeology Data Service is currently undertaking a collaborative two-year project to revise and develop 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 to develop the Guides is predominantly being carried out in support of the Digital Antiquity initiative, a Mellon Foundation funded US-based project with the aim of creating "a collaborative organization devoted to enhancing preservation and access to digital records of archaeological investigations". A major aim of the Guides is to develop the basis for workflows for the creation of digital datasets that can be effectively archived both by Digital Antiquity's IDAR repository in the US and by the Archaeology Data Service in the UK. As part of this initiative the development of the Guides will involve 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.

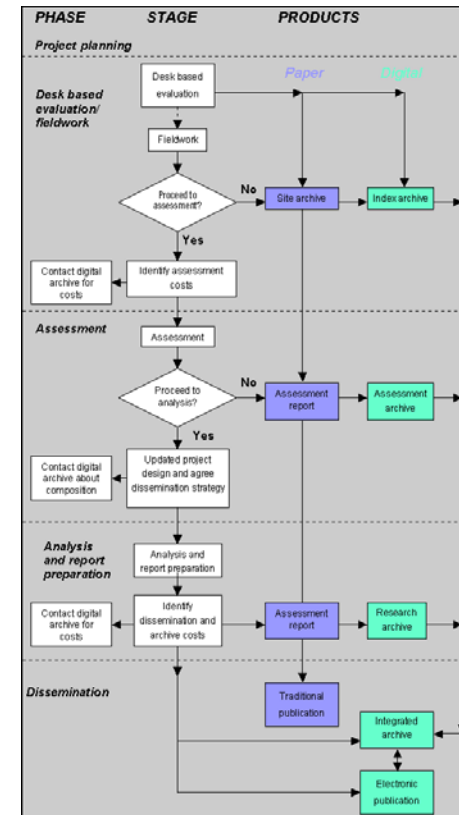
At present the new Guides are currently under development. A marine scanning guide, produced for the VENUS project, has already been produced and is available via the VENUS project page on the ADS website. This guide will form the basis for an expanded marine guide to be released alongside our other new Guides to Good Practice in January 2011.



Digital Antiquity

Log in

- What to preserve
- What metadata to record
- Project planning
- Rights management



Dissemination: Standard Digital Archives

“The residues left over from the publication process...”

Map Search

Basic search results

Christ Church, Spitalfields: investigations of the burial crypt 1984-1986 (Downloadable Data)

Christ Church, Spitalfields: investigations of the burial crypt 1984-1986

Christ Church, Spitalfields: investigations of the burial cry 1984-1986

Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields, 2003

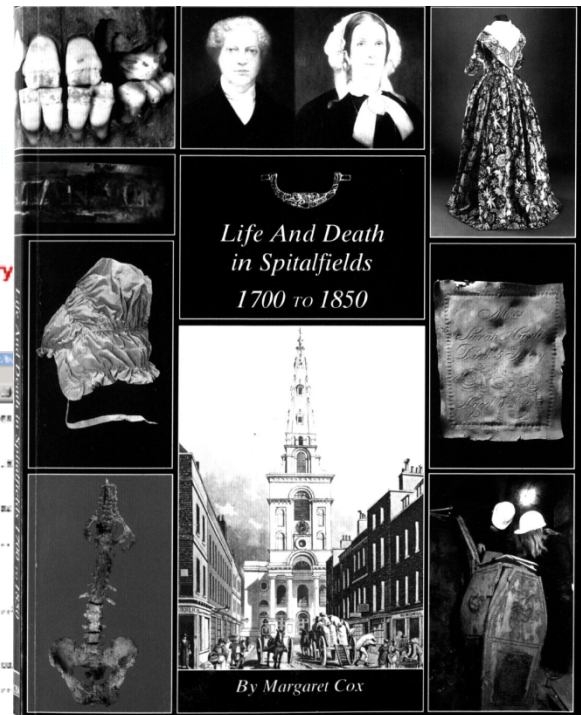
Downloads: Databases

(Data copyright © Reseneid)

The database tables and spreadsheets have been imported into most database and spreadsheet software. For more information see the [Download Support](#) page.

The registers can be linked together via the ID catalogue through the coffin inscriptions. Click

Burial Catalogue
Codes (3x3)
Slides Catalogue
This file contains details of all the images non-digitised slides are not available at present
Baptisms Register
Key (1 KB)
Marriages Register
Notes (2KB)
Key to social status field (1 KB)



Overview: the LEAP Project

- A project to investigate novel ways to combine the interpretive analysis of publications with the underlying archival data
- Internet Archaeology provides the electronic publishing; ADS the online archive



Winner of the British Archaeological Awards - Best Archaeological Innovation 2008.



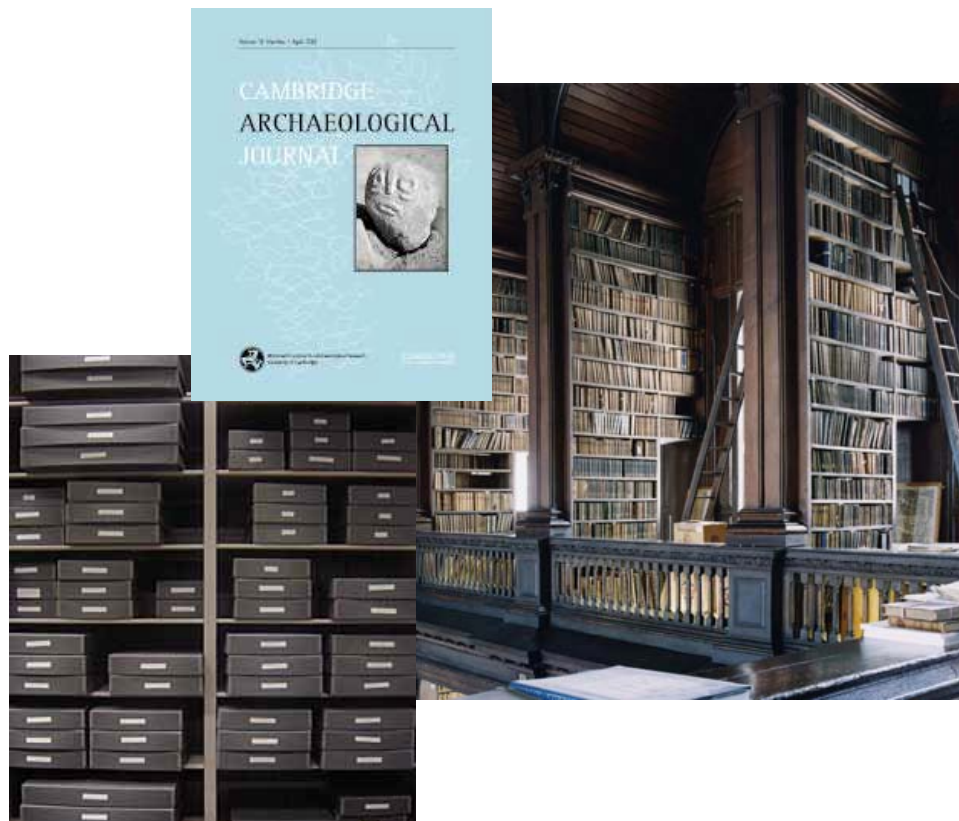
LEAP project: The Opportunity

Joined up e-publication and archives

Slow adoption of e-publication from the Arts & Humanities sector

Traditional paradigm can be improved upon

Potential for researchers & consumers unrealised



LEAP: Primary Aims

Investigate potential using 4 exemplars of multi-layered e-publications & e-archives

LEAP: Secondary Aims

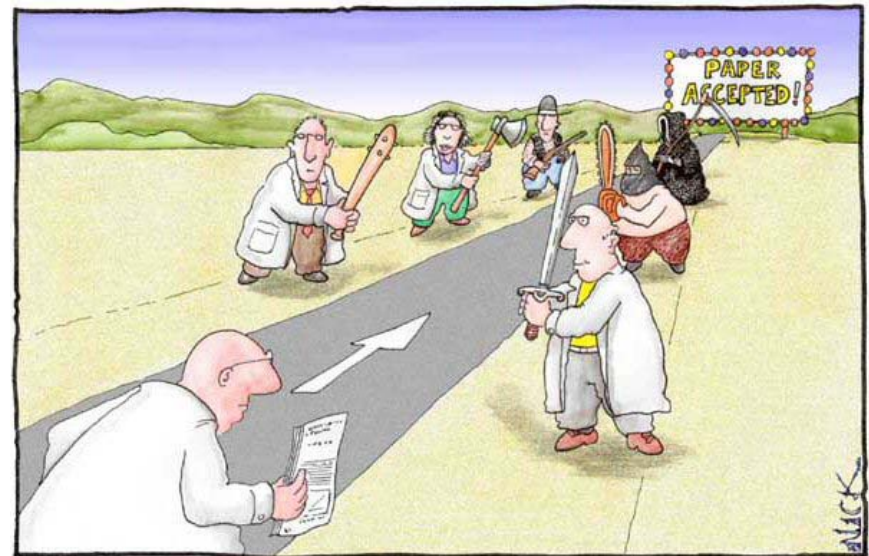
- Provide novel and imaginative forms of dissemination
- Investigate how e-publications can be interactive, multi-layered and underpinned by supporting data
- Look at how multiple forms of dissemination can be used for different audiences
- Explore questions of linking between distributed archives and e-publications

Editorial Questions

How far do e-archives need the level of quality control required for an e-publication?

How is peer review to be deployed?

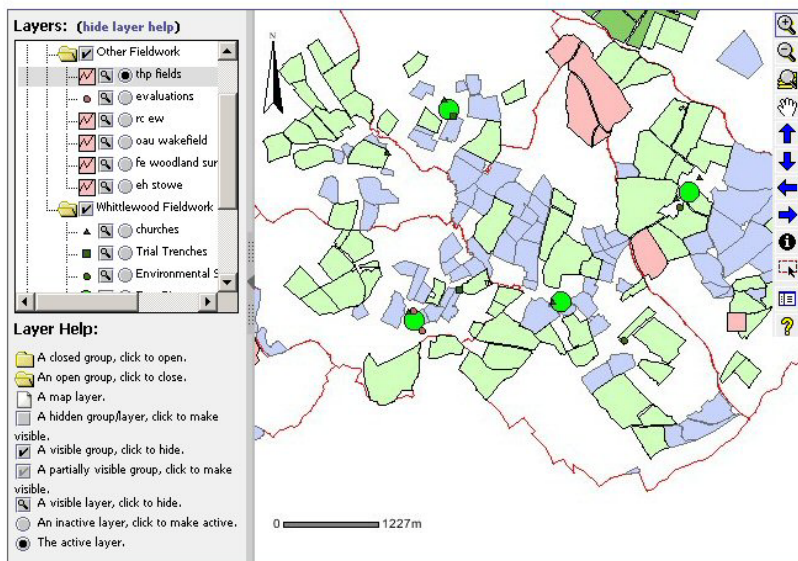
How is intellectual credit given?



Citation Questions

nucleated villages correlates closely with that of open fields, the latter might on occasion also be worked from management of open fields might have many variants (Baker and Butlin [1973](#)).

Please select a map:



[Switch Off](#) the Interactive Map for Whittlewood

How should e-archives & e-publications be referenced?

Copyright Questions

Do the copyright issues of published material translate to archived material?



Sustainability Questions

How far are tailored interfaces capable of long-term preservation?

Layers

- > Pottery periods
 - All prehistoric
 - Chalcolithic
 - Early/Middle BA
 - Late BA
 - All Iron Age
 - All Hell.-Roman
 - Hellenistic
 - Early Roman
 - **Late Roman**
 - Byzantine
 - All Medieval-Modern
 - Medieval
 - 16th-17th c.
 - 18th-mid 20th c.
 - Late 19th-21st c.
- > Pottery functions
- > Chipped stone
- > Ground stone
- > Other artefacts
 - Tile fragments
 - Slag fragments
 - Shotgun cartridges
- > POSI
- > Geomorphology
 - Surface stability
 - Soil type
 - Slope (degrees)
- > Aspect
- > Topography
 - River
 - Stream
 - Contours (20 m)
 - DEM background

Discussion

Karkotis/Atsas: Late Roman

At **Pano Limna** in the deep-soiled and well-watered Karkotis Valley, there are substantial tile and pottery densities, house platforms and a wall in situ. There is apparent continuity here from the Iron Age.

The densities N of **Katydhata** are never great (4 sherds per 10 m²), and they probably represent dumping halo associated with the presumed Roman settlement under the modern village, attested by unpublished tombs.

Dodekaskala is less substantial than it seems. The great number of survey units is due to its use for team training; densities are never more than c. 2 sherds per 10 m².

The widespread scatter at **Dodekaskala** and elsewhere in the Karkotis Valley is too light to represent substantial settlement. The *Surface Stability* and *Slope* layers show that there is no problem with erosion here, though there is some deposition in the centre of the Valley. This scatter is most likely to derive from *intensive cultivation*. The distribution in the *Early Roman* period is very similar, but considerably less dense.

In the much drier and shallow-soiled **Atsas** drainage, **Haji Christophi** and **Phoukassa** are farmsteads, with tiles, architectural remains and a narrow halo. Litharkies, just N of the area, is a middle-ranking settlement.

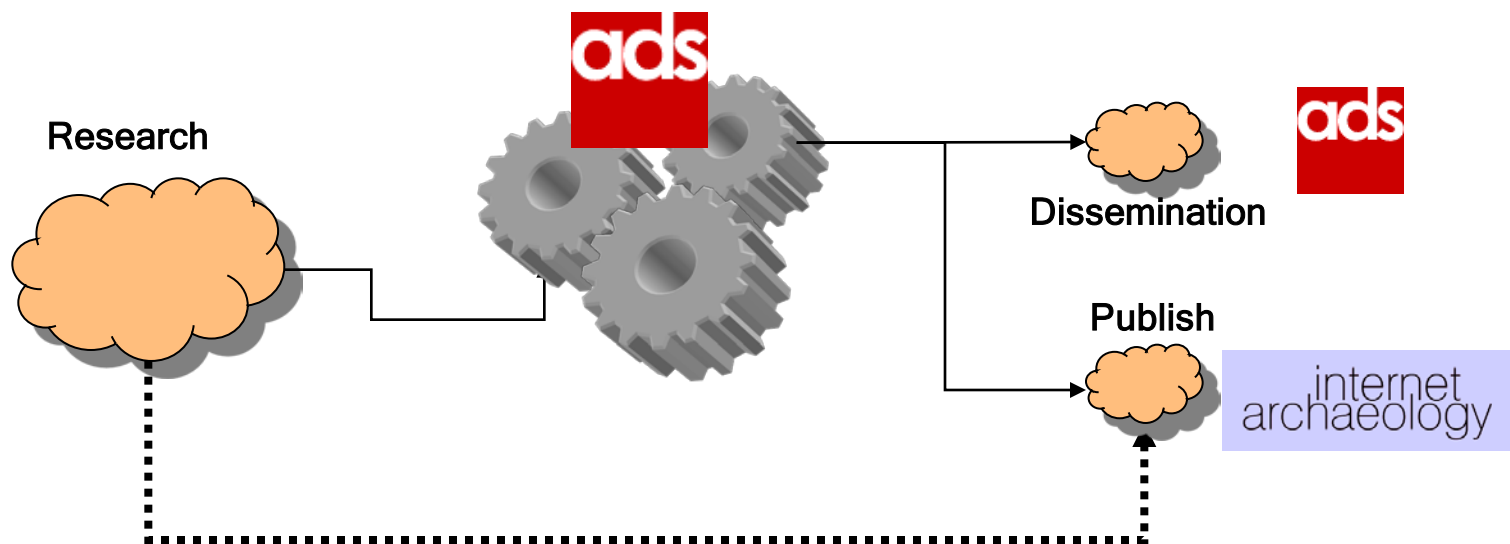
Other than that, and a few sherds in the eastern alluvial zone, there is almost nothing in the **Atsas** area. This is a striking contrast with the Karkotis Valley over the ridge, but even so agricultural production is *organised*, though not intensive.

Key	Estimated sherds per 10 m²	Tools
Green Line	0.050 - 1.5	Bookmarks
Village	1.6 - 4.1	Landscape images
Survey Area	4.2 - 11	Query database
Intensive Survey Zone	12 - 22	Artefact photos
Survey Unit	23 - 96	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 5px;"> ◀ Presets ▶ </div>

Culture Change

What changes will need to be made to the preparation process?

Will the community accept it?



Exemplars

Exemplars selected based on:

- (i) academic significance,
- (ii) potential of value-added by the ability to drill down from synthesis to primary data,
- (iii) ability to deliver within the project timescale, and
- (iv) inter-disciplinarity.

Whittlewood

CHANGING SETTLEMENTS AND LANDSCAPES: MEDIEVAL WHITTLEWOOD, ITS PREDECESSORS AND SUCCESSORS

RICHARD JONES, CHRISTOPHER DYER AND MARK PAGE

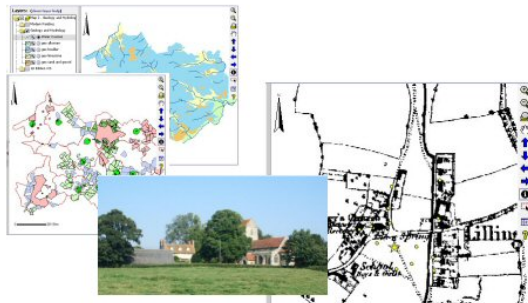
All: Centre for English Local History, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester, LE1 7QR.

Richard Jones rlj1@le.ac.uk, Christopher Dyer cd50@le.ac.uk, Mark Page mrp15@le.ac.uk

SUMMARY

[Table of Contents](#) | [Subscribe](#) to this article, or to the whole volume (issues 18-19).

This article presents an interpretative synthesis of the development of a medieval landscape in the English Midlands. It explores its administrative organisation and divisions; the exploitation of its woodland, pasture, and arable resources; and the creation, growth, and decline of its villages, hamlets and farmsteads. It takes as its central theme two inter-related oppositions: continuity and change, moments and processes. In particular it examines the role these played in the development of varying settlement morphologies (the area under investigation contains both nucleated and dispersed settlement forms) and in the introduction and demise of the open field system.



The article is based on the investigation of twenty-one medieval villages and hamlets and their surrounding landscapes, straddling the Northamptonshire-Buckinghamshire boundary and previously falling within the royal forest of Whittlewood. This work was undertaken between 2000 and 2005 as part of an AHRC (formerly ARHB)-funded research project. This enquiry, and the use it has made of the comparative method, has pinpointed moments of village and hamlet 'creation' and the alternative forms that these could take

Whittlewood

was adopted by some medieval communities and not others; if the distribution of nucleated villages correlate the latter might on occasion also be worked from more dispersed settlement patterns; and how the manage many variants (Baker and Butin 1973).

Please select a map:

Layers: (hide layer help)

- Map 6 - Fieldwork
- Modern Parishes
- Fieldwork
- Other Fieldwork
 - chp fields
 - evaluations
 - rc ew
 - osau wakefield
 - fe woodland sur
 - eh stovae
- Whittlewood Fieldwork

Layer Help:

- A closed group, click to open.
- An open group, click to close.
- A map layer.
- A hidden group/layer, click to make visible.
- A visible group, click to hide.
- A partially visible group, click to make visible.
- A visible layer, click to hide.
- An inactive layer, click to make active.
- The active layer.

[Switch Off](#) the Interactive Map for Whittlewood

The test bed [VIEW INTERACTIVE MAP] for the ideas which are presented here is a block of countryside, 100km square in extent, straddling county boundary between Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire, lying deep within 'village country' (Lewis and Mitchell-Fox 1993). This an area in the middle ages of both nucleated and dispersed **settlement**, open field **farming** and **royal forest**. Now encompassed within t civil **parishes**, this area has been used to examine the relationship that existed between individual settlements, or groups of confederate settlements, and their arable fields, pasture, meadow and woodland [VIEW INTERACTIVE MAP]. What is offered here is not the total history

Identify Feature Query Results:

Layer information:

Folder:	Whittlewood Fieldwork
Name:	Test Pits
Comments:	General location of Test Pits
Source:	not available
View Extent:	
Type:	

Downloadable data:

WP WH TP pottery

Done

Selection Box Query Results:

Layer information:

Folder:	Settlement
Name:	Photographs
Comments:	Location of photographs showing Whittlewood landscape and settlements
Source:	not available
Type:	point
View Extent:	472200,238601,475743,241823

Downloadable data:

	WI Landscape 09	JPG	58.79 kb
	WI Landscape 01	JPG	1097.79 kb
	WI Landscape 03	JPG	721.35 kb

Done

JOINING THE DOTS: CONTINUOUS SURVEY, ROUTINE PRACTICE AND THE INTERPRETATION OF A CYPRIOT LANDSCAPE (WITH INTERACTIVE GIS AND INTEGRATED DATA ARCHIVE)

MICHAEL GIVEN, HUGH CORLEY AND LUKE SOLLARS

All: Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow, G12 8QQ Scotland.

Email: m.given@archaeology.arts.gla.ac.uk, h.corley@inbox.com, luke-62@bigfoot.com

SUMMARY

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One of the major challenges facing intensive surface survey, even after some 30 years of development, is how to interpret surface artefact scatters in terms of past human activities and relationships. How can we combine the wealth of systematically collected survey data with the interpretative sophistication of contemporary landscape theory? This study uses web-based GIS and database technologies to provide a complete landscape data set and a fully integrated interpretative text carefully grounded in current landscape theory.



The material comes from the Troodos Archaeological and Environmental Survey Project, which carried out intensive survey in the northern foothills of the Troodos Mountains in central Cyprus between 2000 and 2004. This survey covered all periods from the Neolithic to the present day, a wide range of topographical and environmental contexts, and a broad spectrum of disciplinary and interdisciplinary expertise. In this study we focus on some core themes, particularly the relationship between farming and mining, the control of production, and the spatial differentiation of human activity across the landscape. By interpreting the material traces of routine practices such as labour and subsistence, we attempt to reconstruct social landscapes of the past.



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

Internet Archaeol. 20. Given et ...

PREVIOUS CONTENTS HOME

GIS - Independent Exploration

This online GIS contains a large amount of data. Please be patient while layers are loading and queries running. Do not try and send extra requests while your initial request is still loading, as this is likely to produce error messages. Your browser can only send and receive one GIS request at a time. Note that the data used within this GIS can also be downloaded for use offline from the [related digital archive](#) hosted by the Archaeology Data Service.

[User Guide](#) | [Building codes](#) | [Geomorphology codes](#) | [Lithic codes](#) | [Archaeometallurgy codes](#) | [Pottery codes](#) | [Special Finds codes](#) | [Survey Unit codes](#) | [Interface help](#)

layer selection

- All Layers
- Info
- Artefact Analysis
 - Survey Units
 - All Iron Age (per)
 - 0.03179 - 0.33856
 - 0.33857 - 0.71837
 - 0.71838 - 1.32873
 - 1.32874 - 2.36692
 - 2.36693 - 3.95447
 - 3.95448 - 6.99674
- POST
- Iron Age
- Boundaries
- Hydrology
- Aerials
- Background Map DEM

key to layer table:

- A closed group, click to

overview map

layer selection

- All Layers
- Info
- Artefact Analysis
 - Survey Units
 - Pottery
 - Periods
 - Circles
 - Fills
 - Function
 - Function Helle
 - Prehistoric Fu
 - Iron Age Stud

Switch Off the Interactive Map

Help

Additionally, there is an web based le.

ated World File (.tif).

ZIP	278 Kb
ZIP	430 Kb
ZIP	1 Mb

© Internet Archaeology/Authors URL: <http://intarch.ac.uk/>
Last updated: Thur July 5 2007

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http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue20/4/map.cfm?footnote=ta Done

SILCHESTER ROMAN TOWN INSULA IX: THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN URBAN PROPERTY C. AD 40-50 - c. AD 250

A. CLARKE, M.G. FULFORD, M. RAINS AND K. TOOTELL

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY D. ALLEN, E. BESLY, N. CRUMMY, K. HAYWARD, C. INGREM, M. LEWIS, M. ROBINSON, J. TIMBY, P. TYERS, P. WARRY AND S. WILLIAMS

Department of Archaeology, School of Human and Environmental Sciences, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 227, RG6 6AB. Email: a.s.clarke@reading.ac.uk

SUMMARY

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Abstract



The development of an urban property in the Roman town of Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester, Hampshire, England) is traced from the late 1st to the mid-3rd century AD. Three successive periods of building with their associated finds of artefacts and biological remains are described and interpreted with provisional reconstructions of the buildings. Links are provided to a copy of the Integrated Archaeological Database (IADB), archived by the [Archaeology Data Service](#), which holds the primary excavation and finds records.



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

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FEATURES

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Period 2: Early Roman Timber Building 1

[Room 1](#) | [Room 2](#) | [Function of the Building](#) | [Finds](#) | [Chronology](#)



Left: Reconstruction of Timber Buildings 1, 2 and 3 (by Margaret Matthews).
Right: All Timber Buildings

Room 1

[Plan](#) | [Matrix 290](#) (SVG viewer required [SVG Help](#))

Occupying what became the angle between the main north-south street and the subsidiary east-west street, (ERTB1) consisted of two rooms. The larger, Room 1 ([Object 50043](#)), measured c.10 by 7m, giving an internal area of 70m². It was bounded by shallow slots ([5393](#), [5304](#), [5375](#), [5357](#), [5356](#), [5346](#), [5396](#), [5371](#), [5323](#)) filled with material associated with the infilling of the wall-structure, which, over time, replaced the voids created by the decay of the timber. At the centre of the room was a rectangular, tiled hearth ([1433](#)), built up of horizontally laid, broken tile fragments. The hearth was set in charcoal-rich soils ([6038](#), [5919](#)). At least three separate phases of use of the hearth can be identified, each associated with a re-patching of the floor. The associated floor surfaces of the room were composed of a gravel base overlain by a layer of *opus signinum* ([5823](#), [5825](#), [5824](#), [5837](#), [5926](#), [6014](#), [6024](#), [5921](#), [5956](#), [5996](#)) and *opus signinum* ([5831](#)). These floor surfaces

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The Silchester Project: Roman Town Insula IX The Development of an Urban Property c. AD 40-50 - c. AD 250



The University of Reading

Amanda Clarke, Professor Michael Fulford and Mike Rains, 2007

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[Finds Query](#) | [Objects Query](#) | [Contexts Query](#)

Full Record for Context Number 5393

Context Number: 5393

Description: Beam slot cut containing (5339)

Notes: Beam slot cut at the SE limit of the timber building containing (5339). [5393] meets with beam slot [5375] to form a right angled corner - the division of these two contexts was arbitrary. Also linked to beam slot [5396]. Plan no. 28.216, 28.219. Accuracy rating - 4 (18/04/2005 KTOOTELL)

Composition: Linear in plan, measuring 6m in length x 0.22m wide at the SW end and 0.62m at the NE end with a variable depth of 0.14-0.24m. Break of slope (top & base): sharp on the southern edge / gradual on the northern edge. Stepped sides with a flat, slightly convex base. Orientation: SW-NE. Contains (5339) (18/04/2005 KTOOTELL)

Run [another context query](#).

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Cite only : http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/resources.html?silchester_ahrc_2007
for this page

THE LANDSCAPES OF ISLAMIC MERV, TURKMENISTAN: WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE?

TIM WILLIAMS

Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY. Email: tim.d.williams@ucl.ac.uk

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.



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

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FEATURES

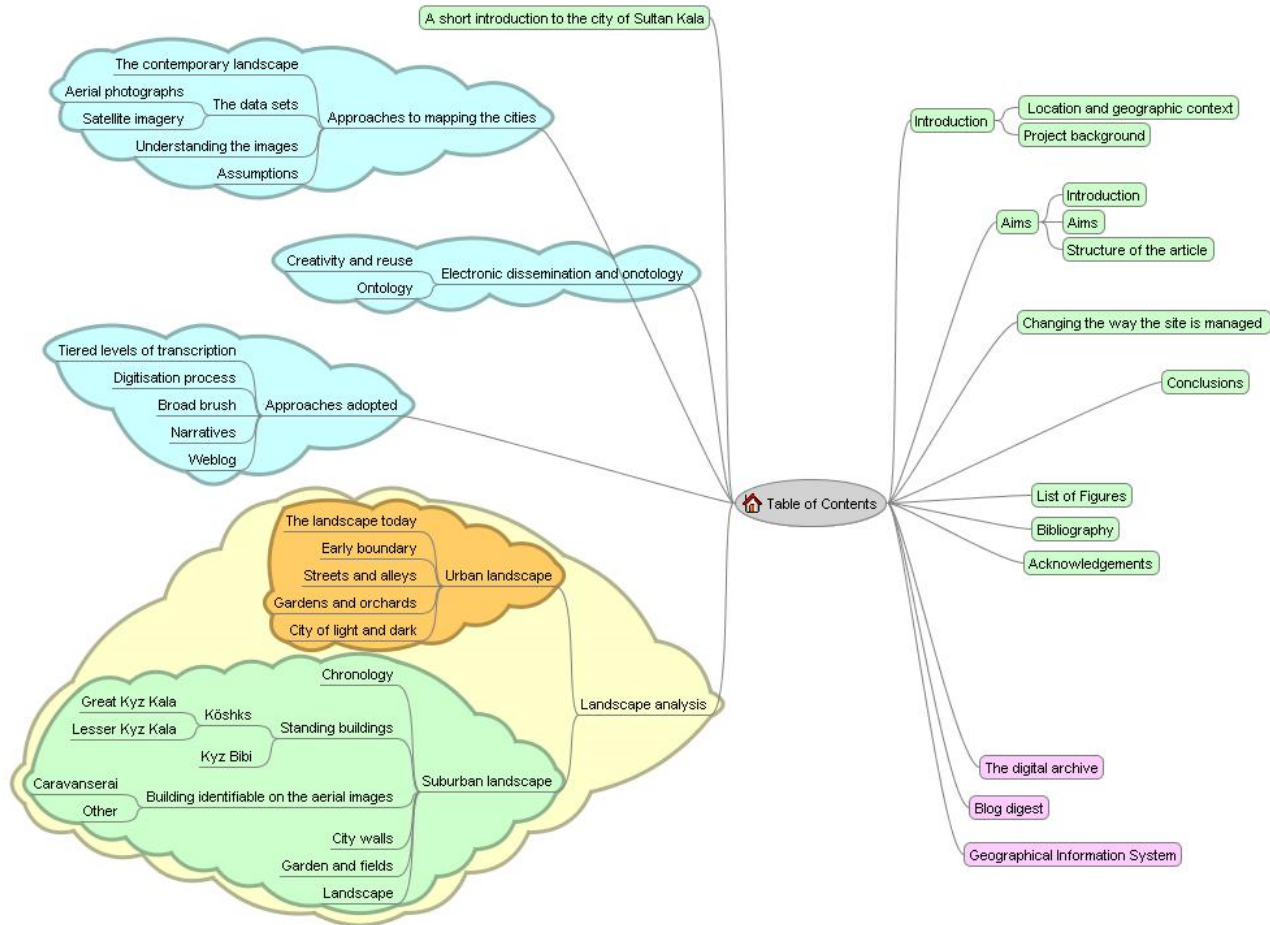
- This article will appeal to: those interested in the presentation of data, interpretation and theory
- Keywords: Merv; Silk Route; Turkmenistan; interpretation; uncertainty; aerial photographs; satellite

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Merv



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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 an overview of the history see Kennedy [1999](#); Williams [forthcoming](#)). In the 740s the here, and while Baghdad was established as the capital of the new empire, Merv's s of Khurasan, from east of the Great Desert to the frontiers of India. In the same decac Muslim, commissioned a mosque to be built alongside the Madjan Canal, which flow the west of the old city of Gyaur Kala. Thus began the new city of Marv al-Shahijan (Sultan Kala) ([Fig. 7](#) - opens GIS). It is tempting to see the mosque as part of the plan new city, and by the 9th century it lay at the centre of a thriving metropolis. The city v system and a carefully managed water supply with numerous canals and reservoirs [forthcoming](#)). It seems likely that the new status of Merv, coupled with new ideas anc need for public spaces, buildings, infrastructure and – perhaps most importantly – ac only for domestic purposes but also for the practice of Islam), led to the deliberate an a new town. Sultan Kala represents an outstanding opportunity to explore the urban started afresh at a formative period in the development of Islamic urbanism.

Sultan Kala continued to expand and develop through the Seljuk period (11th to ear enclosed some 340ha (a circuit of nearly 9km), with walled suburbs to the north and additional 210 hectares: at this time Merv was one of the largest cities in the world. A landscape of dense urban occupation on either side of the Madjan Canal, with nume structures, interspersed within the tightly packed houses, mark the locations of some proliferated, minarets punctuated the skyline, while substantial caravanserais were t the west. There was a large industrial quarter in the western suburbs, mainly produc demand along the trade routes. In the 12th century a walled citadel (Shahriyar Ark) v complex, administrative buildings and high-quality residences.

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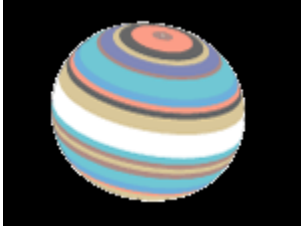
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Figure 34 [GIS]: A pre-11th century AD western boundary to the city? The line of the possible early city boundary, running at a slight diagonal (NNW-SSE) to the street pattern. To the south of the main east-west street, diagonal streets suggest a possible southern gateway into the early city. (Background IKONOS image).

overview map

layer selection

- All Layers
- Features
 - Suburban Streets
 - Early Streets
 - Early City Bound
 - Hormuzfarra Can
 - Main East-West R
 - Streets
 - Standing Building
 - Gardens (SE)
 - Open Spaces
 - Suburban Religio
 - Suburban Elite B
 - Areas of Suburban
 - Caravanserai (Su
 - Potters Quarter
 - Elite Garden Feat



Making the LEAP II: a Transatlantic LEAP

- **Exemplar 1:** The Shala Valley Project, Northern Albania - Michael L. Galaty (Millsaps College, Jackson, MS), Wayne E. Lee (University of North Carolina) and Charles Watkinson (American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Princeton)
- **Exemplar 2:** Placing immateriality: situating the material of highland Chiriquí, Panamá - Karen Holmberg (Columbia University)
- **Exemplar 3:** The BTC Pipeline Archaeological Excavations in Azerbaijan - Paul Taylor (Smithsonian Museum) and David Maynard (Landsker Archaeology)
- **Exemplar 4:** Strategies for developing a next-generation virtual museum using close range scanning - Fred Limp (University of Arkansas)

Shala Valley Project

FORT, TOWER, OR HOUSE? BUILDING A LANDSCAPE OF SETTLEMENT IN THE SHALA VALLEY

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SUMMARY

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This article presents the results of archaeological, (ethno-)historic, and ethnographic research in the Shala Valley. It argues that through time and in different periods of occupation - Middle Palaeolithic, Iron Age, Late M, we have met similar challenges of extreme geography and a harsh environment differently, in particular t levels of intensity with the outside world. These shifts caused changes in population, settlement, and strongly in the local landscape and built environment. Population, settlement, and socio-political orga influenced by external forces, despite the seeming isolation of the valley and its occupants.



This article demonstrates how thin material and documentary records can be greatly enhanced through the use of GIS, along with photos, drawings, and audio recordings of transcribed interviews. An interactive system to additional sources of data, and readers to tell authors and other readers how they have accessed results.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Preparation of this electronic publication and associated archive was assisted by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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FEATURES

- Keywords: Albania, mountains, landscape archaeology, ethnohistory, archaeological survey, recent history, customary law codes

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3. The Natural and Social Settings

[View Slideshow of photographs by Ann Christine Eek \(SVP 2005-2007\)](#)

Life in the high mountains of Albania is difficult. While the peaks of Shala approach 3000 masl, most houses are at valley bottom, between 800 and 1000 masl. The climate is sub-Alpine and the winters are long and hard, with large amounts of snow (Fig. 9, in January of 2008, SVP members Michael Galaty, Wayne Lee, and Zamir Tafilica traveled to Theth by snowshoe. An account of this trip is available at http://millsaps.edu/news_events/blog/galaty.shtml). The economy is currently built around full-time sedentary agro-pastoralism - sometimes called 'mixed' village farming - and hunting-gathering. The population is small and the settlement pattern is dispersed. Property boundaries are marked by stone walls and fences, entrenched, clearly very old paths, called *shitegu*, link fields and homes.



Figure 9: Photo of Shala in winter, from west looking northeast into Theth (Galaty).

Figure 10: Map of northern Albanian tribal structure (Galaty).

The tribal socio-political system can be described as follows (Fig. 10). Large extended households (*shpita*) organised into *nei* (*nehallia*) share patrilineal descent from a common apical ancestor, thereby forming exogamous segmented clans or 'tribes' (*tribes*) (see Parkinson 2002 for a thorough discussion of the term 'tribe' and its meaning). Individual *fisi* may be further divided into 'brotherhoods' (*vllazni*). Several neighbourhoods and *fisi* together compose a single village (*kallund*). Political power is vested in the family patriarch, the *zot* / *shpi*. Family heads are appointed or elected to a village council, a *kuvend*, that makes decisions of the whole community. A single council member is elected 'headman' or *arxepi* / *plak*. In Ottoman times, several villages and *fisi* might be united under a 'banner', led by a *bayraktar*, a 'banner chief'. Oral, customary laws regarding kinship relations and political organisation are preserved in the form of songs. The *Kanuni i Lekë Dukagjinit* was not transcribed in full until the early 20th century, when it was collected by Father Shëfjetef Gjeçov (Gjeçov 1989; audio clip #2). The *kanun* is based on the concept of honour (*nder*). Any breach might precipitate a blood feud (*gjakmarrje*).

Reader Comments

Author's Comment:

In this article, we define 'tribe' in the traditional anthropological sense of a lineage-based egalitarian or trans-egalitarian, segmentary socio-political formation. The term is, however, not without its detractors. We would welcome discussion from readers regarding its utility.

Michael Galaty

11 JAN 2010 at 12:30

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The Shala Valley Project

Michael L. Galaty, Ols Lafa, Zamir Tafilica, Charles Watkinson, Wayne E. Lee, Mentor Mustafa, Robert Schon & Antonia Young, 2009



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Introduction

The Shala Valley Project (SVP) is an Albanian-American collaboration, led by Michael Galaty of Millsaps College in Jackson, MS and Albanian archaeologists Ols Lafa of the Albanian Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports and Zamir Tafilica of the Shkodra Historical Museum. The project was launched in 2004 and conducted fieldwork during the summers of 2005-2008. The SVP integrates interdisciplinary programs of intensive and extensive archaeological survey and excavation with geo-scientific, ethnographic, and (ethno-) historical surveys, including archival historical research, in order to study the Shala *fisi* ('tribe'), one of many northern Albanian *fisi* that survived intact into the 20th century and, to some extent, down to the present day. The goals of the project are twofold:

- to produce a diachronic record of the valley's cultural resources, including both prehistoric and historic resources, that might help local administrators create a viable management plan
- to study the effects of "isolation" on people who have always lived in a frontier zone at the edge of larger polities such as the Ottoman Empire and Albanian nation state



This digital archive was undertaken in conjunction with an electronic publication through the Linking Electronic Archives and Publications II (LEAP II) project, funded by the Mellon Foundation. The corresponding article is 'Fort, Tower, or House? Building a Landscape of Settlement in the Shala Valley of High Albania' by Michael L. Galaty, Wayne E. Lee, Charles Watkinson, Zamir Tafilica & Ols Lafa, which can be found in [Internet Archaeology 27](#).

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Making the LEAP: linking e-archives and e-publications

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