

The Archaeology Data Service



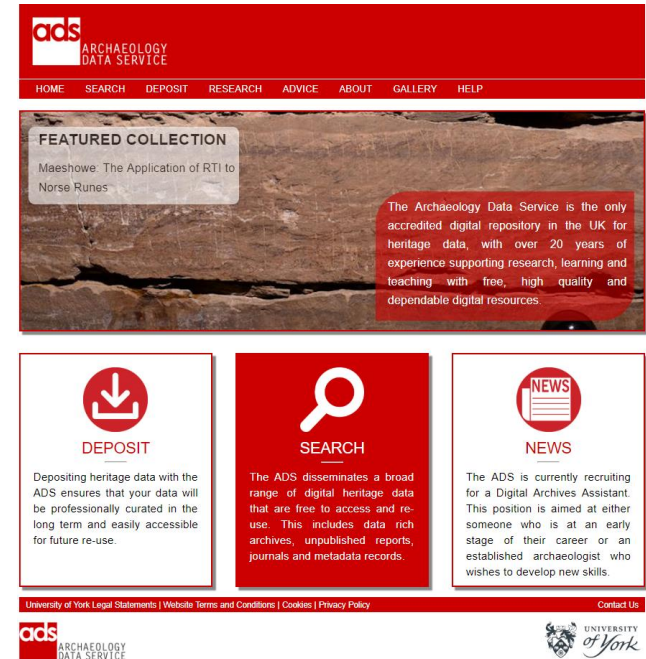
Tim Evans
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Introduction to the ADS

The Archaeology Data Service:

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

- Preserves datasets according to International Best Practice.
- Provides free access to data. We never and will never charge for use
- Provides guidance and support to data creators.



Introduction to the ADS

- Set up in 1996
- The idea of a consortium of Higher Education archaeology departments and the Council for British Archaeology that a subject specific data centre was required
- Based within the Department of Archaeology at the University of York, under the leadership of Prof Julian Richards
- Currently 13 staff.



Introduction to the ADS

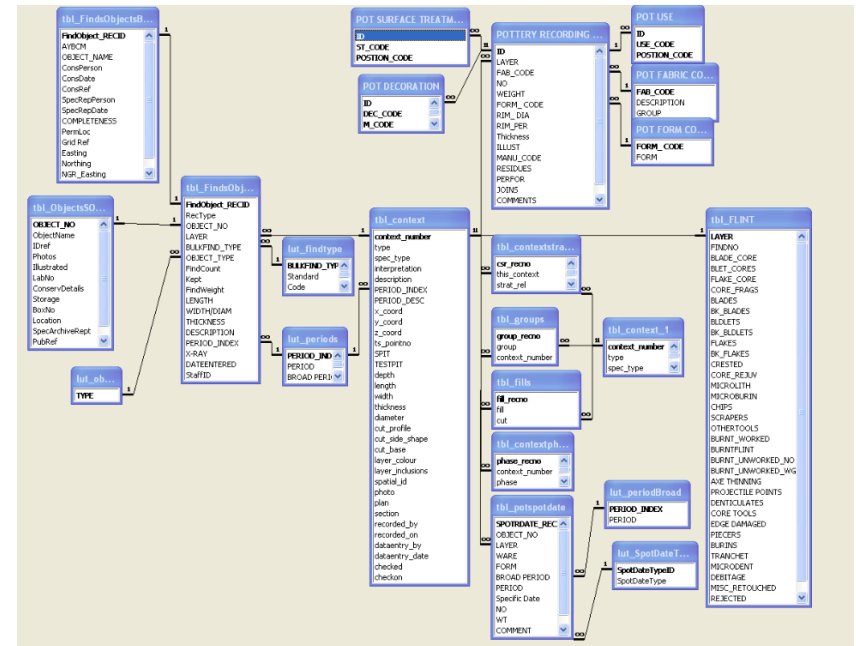


Challenges for Archaeology

Digital Data and Archaeology

- Archaeology is **destructive**
- Comprehensive records of field work are imperative
- Majority of data recorded in grey literature
- Traditionally, access to data has been problematic





ADS collections: specialist catalogues

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Roman Amphorae: a digital resource

University of Southampton, 2005 (updated 2014)

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Catalogue of Amphora

Choose a letter from the list below.


[A](#) | [B](#) | [C](#) | [D](#) | [E](#) | [F](#) | [G](#) | [H](#) | [I](#) | [K](#) | [L](#) | [M](#) | [O](#) | [P](#) | [R](#) | [S](#) | [T](#) | [U](#) | [V](#)

This is the catalogue of preferred terms; if the term you are looking for is not here, please search the [alternative classifications](#).

Amphora types beginning with **A**.

Use the **I** link to view the more details of the type, including photos, drawings, thin sections, petrology and bibliographic information.


I Africana 1 Piccolo	I Almagro 51C
I Africana 2A Grande	I Almagro 51C Variant
I Africana 2B Grande	I Almagro 54
I Africana 2B Pseudo-Tripolitanian	I AM72
I Africana 2C Grande	I Amphorae Saumure d'Espagne
I Africana 2D Grande	I Amphore de Pamphylie
I Africana 3A	I Amphore Égyptienne 1
I Africana 3B	I Amphore Égyptienne 2
I Africana 3C	I Amphore Égyptienne Bitronconique 3
I Agora F65-66	I Amrit amphora
I Agora G199	I Ancient Tripolitanian Amphora
I Agora K109	I Aquincum 78
I Agora M54	



Africana 1 Piccolo

<https://doi.org/10.5284/1028192>

ADS collections: excavation



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King Alfred Way, Newton Poppleford, Devon. Archaeological Excavation (OASIS ID: acarchae2-196268)


AC Archaeology Ltd, 2019


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Royal Albert Memorial Museum
Collections

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AC archaeology


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AC Archaeology Ltd
4 Halthaies Workshops
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Exeter
EX5 4LQ
Devon

Resource identifiers

ADS Collection: 3404
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1051617>

Introduction

A rare Neolithic ring ditch which was the focus of a pair of graves containing cremated human remains was uncovered during archaeological works at King Alfred Way, Newton Poppleford. In the vicinity of the ring ditch were several pits or postholes, the finds from which indicated that they were largely contemporary with the ring ditch and graves, although a few finds including a sherd of Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery and some sherds of later Iron Age pottery indicate undefined later prehistoric use of the area. An assemblage of Peterborough ware pottery, worked flint and a radiocarbon date show that the main use of the site was during the Middle Neolithic period.



<https://doi.org/10.5284/1051617>

ADS Collections: fieldwalking



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Fieldwalking the cropmark landscape on the Sherwood Sandstone of Nottinghamshire


Daryl Garton, 2009

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Resource identifiers
ADS Collection: 934
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1000007>
How to cite using this DOI

Introduction

Cropmarks on the Sherwood Sandstone of Notts, discovered and published by Derrick Riley, are analyzed in combination with artefacts recovered through a programme of fieldwalking. A coherent landscape of fields, mostly laid out in a pattern resembling brickwork, is seen to be integrated with small enclosures, presumed farmsteads, situated at approximately 1km apart where the cropmarks are best represented. Fieldwalking covered 491 hectares in 97 areas, including 76 of the enclosures plus a sample of related fields. It was undertaken in transects of 10m width, plotting all artefacts individually. The distributions of Romano-British artefacts are assessed in relation to the morphology of the cropmarks. Most numerous are potsherds ranging from diffuse scatters to well-defined clusters, mostly from the sites of the enclosures. Other finds include metalwork (coins, lead-weights/spindle-whorls, fragmentary brooches), quernstones and a single bead. Fire-cracked pebbles seem to coincide with some enclosures.



In addition, the distribution of lithics and medieval potsherds recovered in the same fieldwalking exercise, was examined and commented upon.

This archive holds the full datasets produced by this project, and is a companion to the reports published in 2007 and 2008.

Garton, D., with Nailor, V. 2007. 'Flintwork and medieval pottery from fieldwalking over cropmarks on the Sherwood Sandstone of north Nottinghamshire' *Transactions of the Thoroton Society Nottinghamshire*, 111, 15-32.

Also see - Jacobi, R., Garton, D. and Brown, J. 2001. 'Field-walking and the Later Upper Palaeolithic of Nottinghamshire', *Transactions of the Thoroton Society Nottinghamshire*, 105, 17-22.

Garton, D. with Leary, R.S., Cowgill, J., Firman, R. Wright, L. 2008. 'The Romano-British landscape of the Sherwood Sandstone of Nottinghamshire: fieldwalking the brickwork-plan field-systems', *Transactions of the Thoroton Society Nottinghamshire* 112, 15-110.

<https://doi.org/10.5284/1000007>

ADS Collections: fieldwalking

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The Waite Nuneaton Private Collection

Anne Graf, 2011

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ads

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Resource identifiers

ADS Collection: 1067
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1000402>
How to cite using this DOI

Introduction

The Waite Project constitutes a record of potentially-Palaeolithic lithic surface finds from the Nuneaton area, Warwickshire, retrieved in fieldwalking by the late Mr Ron Waite of Nuneaton over many decades, and kept in his own private collection between 2005 and 2008.

These finds have been important in emphasising the surprising density of the Palaeolithic occupation of this region, and the extensive and continuing use of quartzite raw material to supplement the often limited and poor quality flint, first transported into the area by the Anglian ice in MIS (Marine Isotope Stage) 12, from about 480kya (thousand years ago). The Project material probably postdates this glaciation and may predate MIS 6, about 180kya, when Britain seems to have been unoccupied until MIS 3, about 60kya, when Neanderthal people returning to the region continued to use quartzite for their tools.

Mr Waite's private collection comprised over 400 items, which he made available to the creator of the dataset for study and recording between 2005 and 2008. This dataset catalogues the collection as of that period, predominantly of quartzite raw material, with some flint and a few andesitic pieces.

In the dataset a Catalogue of the project material is supplemented by a Discussion and Bibliography, by copies of Mr Waite's Fieldwork Maps, by Indices of artefact types, raw materials and distributions, and by detailed written, photographic and drawn Records of the 158 items selected as being of clear or potential Palaeolithic interest.

The Project aims to make this record publicly available, both through this Archaeology Data Service and via Warwickshire County Historic Environment Record; and to draw attention to the remaining potential of the greater part of Mr Waite's finds in earlier donations to museums and from his ongoing fieldwork. To this end an introductory paper appeared in *Lithics: Journal of the Lithics Studies Society* 25, 2004 and a further summary note in 2011.


References

Graf, A. 2004: "A Cause for Wonder": preliminary observations on further Palaeolithic surface finds by Ron Waite from around Nuneaton, Warwickshire. *Lithics: Journal of the Lithic Studies Society* 25, 78-105.

Graf, A. 2011: The Waite Private Collection (2005-2008) of Palaeolithic Artefacts from around Nuneaton, Warwickshire, UK: further observations. *Lithics: Journal of the Lithic Studies Society* 32 (forthcoming).



ADS Collections: buildings



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Former Lace Works, Emerys Road, Gedling, Nottinghamshire. Archaeological Building Recording


Birmingham Archaeology, 2017


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[Birmingham Archaeology \(BUFAU\) Digital Archives](#)

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Historic England

Introduction

Archaeological building recording was carried out at the site of former Works of Speedo International Ltd, on Emerys Road, Gedling, Nottinghamshire. The site was a former lace works opened in the early-20th-century. Four phases of development were identified. The first related to a series of five structures in four main buildings, a dye works, an engine house and the main factory building.

The second phase was an expansion towards the road of the initial buildings. Phase 3 related to a post-war expansion by the company Robert Shaw and Company Ltd. The final phase was associated with the development of the site until its final form during its occupation by Speedo International Ltd. The work gave an insight into the workings of a 20th-century lace works as well as revealing the structural development of factory buildings in the immediate area.



<https://doi.org/10.5284/1046276>

ADS Collections: legacy



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The origins of Nottingham: archaeological investigations in the Medieval town from 1969 to 1980

Trent and Peak Archaeology, 2015

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Introduction

Details are provided here of a project aimed at disseminating more widely the results of unpublished excavations of six sites within Nottingham city centre. The sites were excavated between 1969 and 1980 at Drury Hill (site code: DH69/70; accession number NCMG 2013-3), Woolpack Lane (site code: WL70; accession number NCMG 2013-4), Fisher Gate (site codes FG71/73/78; accession number NCMG 2013-5), Boots Garage (site code: BG72; accession number NCMG 2013-6), Goose Gate (site codes GG76/79; accession number NCMG 2013-7) and Halifax Place (site code HP78; accession number NCMG 2013-8). Two stages of post-excavation work were conducted between August 2012 and April 2014, with the aims of:

1. securing and consolidating the site archive
2. creating an on-line resource facilitating access to archive data for researchers interested in the development of medieval Nottingham

The digital resource, which may be accessed from this website, includes copies of the following (with appropriate catalogues and supporting information):

- Archive Statement, detailing the state of the documentary and material archives for each site
- List of contents of site archive in Nottingham City Museums and Galleries
- Scans of Site Notebooks (for all sites) and context sheets (for Woolpack Lane only)
- Large format plans and sections, including catalogue
- Excavation photographs and catalogue
- Scans of key pottery documentation
- Finds drawings: scans of pottery and small finds drawings, including catalogue
- Metalwork condition assessments
- Radiographs of metal artefacts
- Harris Matrices for the Goose Gate excavations

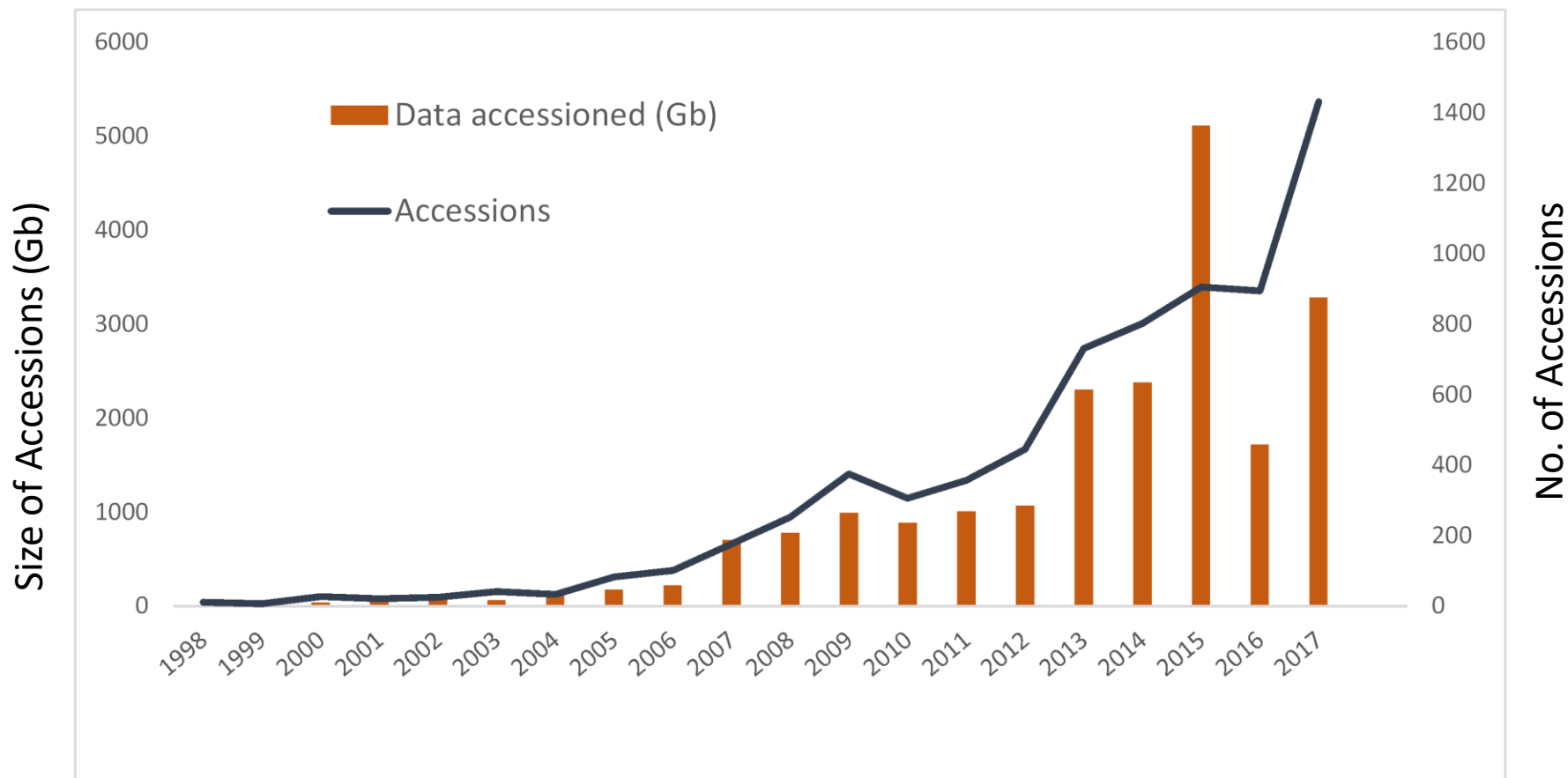


<https://doi.org/10.5284/1029430>

ADS Collections remit

- Any born digital or digitised data from **heritage** related projects:
 - Local Societies/Groups/Partnerships
 - Commercial Units
 - Buildings specialists
 - Higher Education researchers
 - Independent researchers

ADS collections





HERITAGE GATEWAY

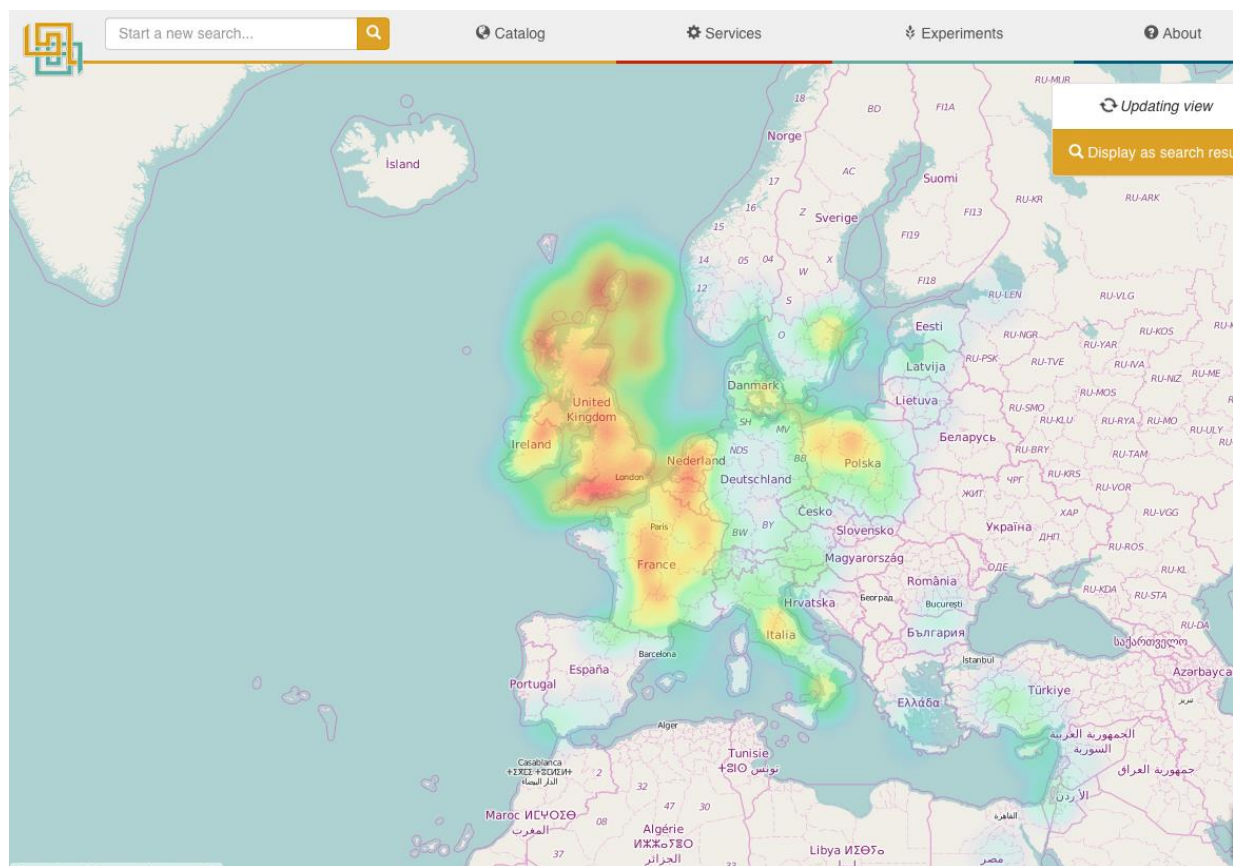


Web Services / WMS / OAI-PMH

PostgreSQL



ARIADNE



<http://portal.ariadne-infrastructure.eu/>

Funding (i)

- Originally core funded by AHRC as part of a wider service known as the Arts + Humanities Data Service
- Funding stopped in 2012
- ADS are self-funded based on a charging policy for archives of data (images, spreadsheets etc).
- Deposition of reports via a system called OASIS is **free** (funded through an SLA with national bodies)

Funding (ii)

- Any charge is one off
- Covers all costs and preservation of dataset in perpetuity.
- **Not for profit!!!**
- Adhere to highest standards of Digital Preservation
- Accreditation is via an Internationally used standard



Depositing



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IFP

Informing the Future of the Past.
An essential set of guidelines for Historic Environment Records for all aspects of management, working practices, standards, systems and services.



GUIDES TO GOOD PRACTICE

Our authoritative and practical Guides to Good Practice provide guidance on the creation, management and curation of common digital data types.



DATA MANAGEMENT

Our data management guidance is the first step in ensuring the long-term preservation of your digital data, providing advice on how to managed data both during and after the research process.



DIGITISATION

This guide explains how to digitise journal articles or grey literature reports with a view to their long-term sustainability. The guidance is based on typical requirements for the deposit of data with the ADS.



SELECTION GUIDANCE

This guidance assists in the development of a strategic and managed approach to the appraisal and selection of digital data for long-term preservation.



ADVICE FOR GRANT APPLICANTS

The ADS is the recommended repository for several funding organisations. The following guidance provides information for grant holders and applicants.

<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/advice.xhtml>


Depositing

- Always happy to help
- Work with you in grant applications (big or small)
- help@archaeologydataservice.ac.uk
- collections@ads.ac.uk



Open Access Fund

<http://intarch.ac.uk/about/donate.html>



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Breedon Hill, Leicestershire: Geophysical surveys


Chris Whittaker, 2019


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[Open Access Archaeology Fund Archives](#)

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Resource identifiers

ADS Collection: 3425
 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1052664>
 How to cite using this DOI

Introduction

This archive contains the results of gradiometer and earth resistance surveys undertaken at Breedon Hill, Leicestershire in February 2016 (SK 40535 23223).

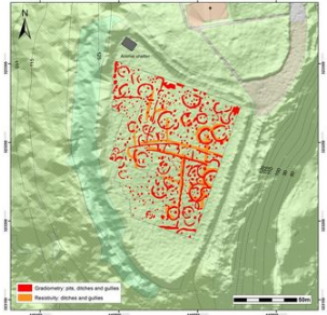
Breedon Hill is the site of one of the few Iron Age hillforts in the East Midlands - and one which, in its original form, ranked amongst the largest monuments of its type in the region. Subsequently, the hillfort interior witnessed multiple periods of monastic occupation from the last quarter of the 7th century, made visible by the important corpus of architectural sculpture dating to the late 8th and early 9th centuries.

The single rampart and ditch earthworks originally enclosed an oval-form area approximate to 8.5ha (21 acres). Extensive quarrying of the eastern and northern parts of the outcrop has reduced the enclosed area to c.3.4ha (8.5 acres). The extant earthworks and the two fields surrounding the parish church of St Mary and St Hardulph are protected by Scheduled Monument designation (no. 1003606); this area and the western hillside are further designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its ecological significance.

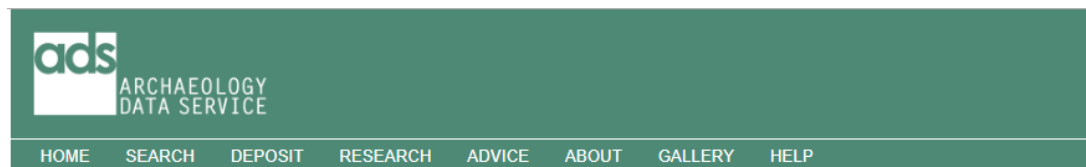
As past investigations have tended to focus their attentions on dating and sequencing the hillfort's earthworks, our understanding of the nature and pattern of occupation within the hillfort interior is very slight. The geophysical surveys reveal several phases of roundhouses and possible post-built structures in the south-eastern part of the hillfort interior.

This project formed the basis of an undergraduate dissertation completed at Newcastle University in July 2016. Funding and training in preparation of the geophysical surveys was provided by the School of History, Classics and Archaeology at Newcastle University. The results of this study are further discussed in a paper published in *Internet Archaeology*. Whittaker, C. (2019) 'Breedon Hill, Leicestershire: new surveys and their implications'. *Internet Archaeology* 52. <https://doi.org/10.11141/ia.52.6>

The joint archive and publication was funded completely via donations made to the [Open Access Archaeology Fund](#).



Depositing



HOW TO DEPOSIT

The ADS has developed several workflows to ease the ingestion of data into our archive and provide our users with cost effective solutions for depositing data. Click on the option below that best describes your dataset. Please check our [Collections Policy](#) if you are unsure if your dataset is suitable for deposit with the ADS. Guidelines on how to prepare your data for deposit can be found in our [Guidelines for Depositors](#).



A large red circle is drawn around the 'REPORTS' section, highlighting it as the primary option.



REPORTS

OASIS is an online data capture form for recording UK historic environment events. OASIS can be used to upload reports **free** of charge which are preserved and disseminated by the ADS.



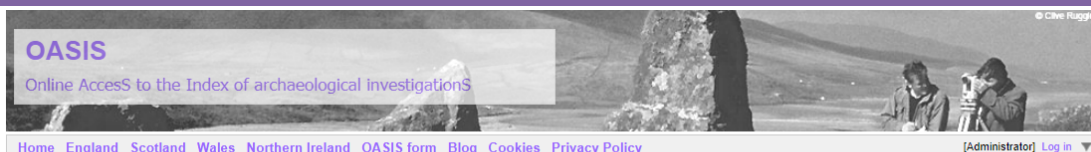
SMALL DATASETS

ADS-easy is an online tool for depositing small datasets of **up to 300 files** of common formats. ADS-easy automates the ingest of data into our systems allowing us to provide a **cheaper** service.



LARGE DATASETS

For large datasets or complex data formats not accepted by ADS-easy, or if you wish to have a special interface for your dataset, please contact the ADS directly to discuss deposition.



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OASIS

[Submit your project to OASIS](#)

What is the OASIS form?

The [OASIS form](#) is a data capture form through which archaeological and heritage practitioners can provide information about their investigations to local Historic Environment Records (HERs) and respective National Heritage Bodies.

As well as being an information-gathering medium, the OASIS records also allow the practitioner/contractor to upload reports for the HERs to access and for release in the [Grey Literature Library](#) on the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) website.

The [ADS](#), in addition to making the reports available online for access to the wider public, undertake the curation and archiving of the digital files ensuring long-term preservation. It is possible to opt out of the archiving and wider release of the reports, unless a requirement of the relevant HER.

About the OASIS project

The OASIS project brings together a number of strategic partners: the Archaeology Data Service, Historic England, Historic Environment Scotland, and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales under the umbrella of the University of York.

The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an on line index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork and a similar increase in fieldwork undertaken by volunteers. As part of this overall vision, the OASIS data capture form has been designed to help in the flow of information from data producers, such as contracting units and community groups, through to local and national data managers, such as HERs and NMRs. The resulting information will be validated by the relevant National Record for inclusion on Historic England's Excavation Index and the Historic Environment Scotland's [CANMORE](#) records) and passed onto the ADS for inclusion in its on line catalogue [ArchSearch](#). The inclusion of information in ArchSearch will enable users to search for the latest information pertaining to a particular site, type of monument and so on and either provide direct web links through to the grey literature reports or at least act as a pointer to the physical holding place of a report or archive. Grey literature reports are also being made available directly through the [ADS Library](#), where it is possible to search and retrieve reports based on a variety of different data fields. It is hoped that the OASIS project will facilitate the rapid flow of information from producer to user.

A new beginning for OASIS: HERALD - Historic Environment Research Archives, Links and Data

The HERALD project is essentially the OASIS redevelopment project. The first stage of the project was a user needs study which surveyed the historic environment community to see how they might use OASIS in the future and what changes were needed for the system to bring it up to date. A summary of the HERALD project can be found on the [HERALD](#) page.

Stage 1 was completed in May 2015 and the report is now available in the [document archive](#) section.

Stage 2 is underway and starts with the development of the ADS Library.

<https://oasis.ac.uk/>

OASIS

- OASIS is a data capture form
- **Completely free to use**
- **Can be used by anyone**
- Archaeological and heritage practitioners provide information about their investigations to local HERs and respective National Heritage Bodies.
- Users can upload unpublished reports: these are transferred into the ADS Library
- Development of the form and maintenance funded by Historic England and Historic Environment Scotland.

- Current OASIS form dates to 2003/4
 - 35,000+ records from England
 - 35,000+ reports from England transferred to ADS
 - People love having access to these reports!
- <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/browse/series.xhtml?recordId=10302>

OASIS guidance

- <https://jigsawcambs.org/images/Guides/OASIS FORM GUIDELINES Cambridgeshire Local Groups May 2019.pdf>

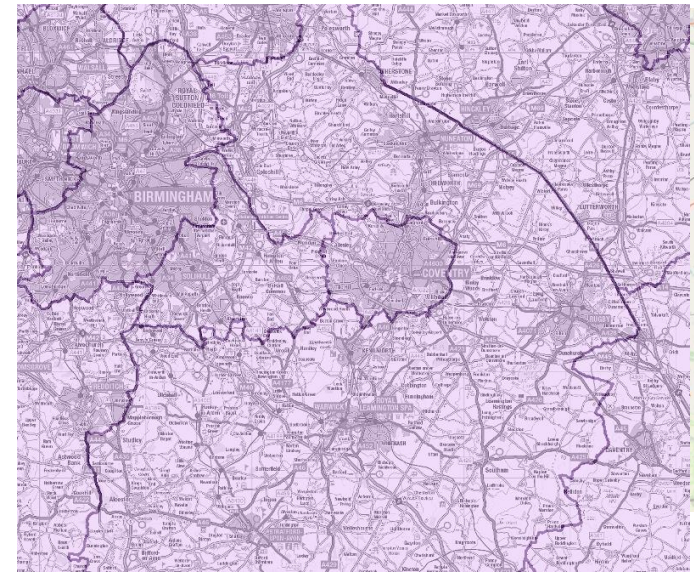
- But...
- Old technologies
- Things can get better
- Currently being redeveloped as part of Historic England's Heritage Information Access Strategy (HIAS)

A new OASIS

- Now in Stage 2: the redevelopment!
- Use of modern technologies to facilitate accurate and consistent data
- Easy to use
- Flexible workflows
- Simple and quick transfer of all reports into ADS Library
- Records always open!

Space is the Place

- Allow the location of a project to be recorded accurately
 - OS admin areas
 - HER areas
 - Museum collecting areas
 - Research Framework areas



Research Frameworks

- Highlight spatially relevant records
- Space to incorporate research questions
- Allow user to select their project as answering specific question
- Allow a Research Framework user to update questions for their areas

<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/support-and-collaboration/research-frameworks-typologies/research-frameworks/>

Why does this matter?

- We want everyone to use /benefit from OASIS
 - Communicate **your research** to HERs and wider sector (via HER data and reports in ADS)
 - Allow **you to research** the outputs from the sector – commercial units, academics, buildings specialists, maritime, geophysics etc
- Yes, we are making the ADS easier to use!

Thanks!

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https://twitter.com/ADS_Update

help@archaeologydataservice.ac.uk

<https://oasis.ac.uk/>