

ARCHAEOLOGY + SPATIAL GEEKERY = ARCHAEOGEOMANCY

July 29, 2011 Paul Archaeological Prospection, Commercial Archaeology, Day of Archaeology 2011, Digital Archaeology, airborne laser scanning, ALS, archaeological computing specialist, Archaeological field survey, archaeological survey processing software, Archaeology, Cartography, Geographic information system, Geography, geomatics, Geomatics engineering, Geomatics Manager at Wessex Archaeology, geophysics, Geospatial, geospatial technology, GIS, GNSS, GPS, Landscape archaeology, LiDAR, Niall Donald, officer, Paul Cripps, Ruth Panes, Science, spatial technologies, Stonehenge, survey, Total Station Theodolite, TS

A few words of intro before the full and glorious meat of archaeological computer geekery that will ensue through the day. My name is [Paul Cripps](#) and I am the Geomatics Manager at [Wessex Archaeology](#). The title of this post comes from my blog, [Archaeogeomancy](#), where I usually talk about things I'm doing, researching or otherwise interested in, focussing on archaeological geomatics. Bit of a play on words there (as [described here](#)) based around the term *geomatics*. Many people ask me what is geomatics and I generally quote verbatim the rather good [wikipedia entry](#):

Geomatics (also known as geospatial technology or geomatic engineering) is the discipline of gathering, storing, processing, and delivering geographic information, or spatially referenced information.



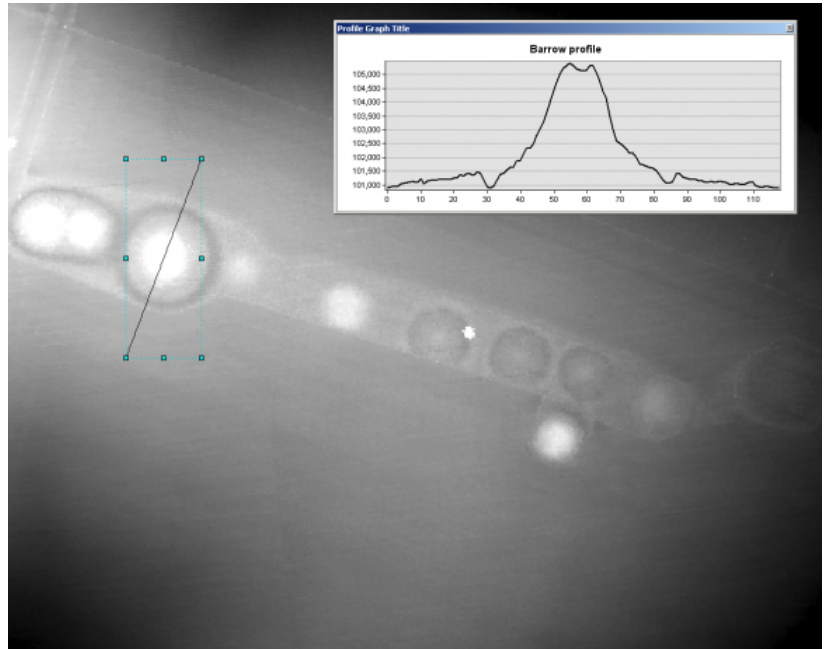
Survey at Stonehenge

Archaeology as a discipline makes extensive use of 2D & 3D spatial information using a range of tools. Archaeological geomatics is therefore becoming central to the work of many archaeologists be they working in academia, local government, government agencies or contracting/consulting units, companies and charities.

Anyway, as you will have gathered, I am an archaeological computing specialist. I used to dig holes but nowadays you're more likely to find me using a computer than a trowel. In my day job, I am responsible for [GIS and survey at Wessex Archaeology](#) so my posts today will be largely based on my work there.

I am planning to finish building a new GIS-based marine geophysics interpretation system I've been developing and will also be undertaking preparatory work on some rather large [LiDAR](#) datasets ready for some visibility analysis. I'll also be looking at our internal survey protocols as we're about to launch a new version of our archaeological survey processing software which will make the flow from data capture (using our [Leica GNSS/TS](#)) to GIS analysis, reporting & cartography even more seamless: Full credit to Niall Donald (Systems Developer), Ruth Panes (Survey Officer) for their input on this one. And finally, I am in the process of submitting a paper for publication based on some of my [my broader research interests](#) (spatial technologies, landscape archaeology, ontologies) so will give an update on that also.

So, a variety of spatial technological geekery forthcoming. Hope you like it.



Profile of a round barrow based on LiDAR data produced using GIS