

**Realising the Research Potential of  
Developer-Funded Roman Archaeology  
in England**

**National Survey**

**PROJECT SYNOPSIS  
FOR HERS**

CA Project: 3649  
EH Ref: 6120

March 2012

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## 1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

### **Summary**

*This project is designed to realise the potential of the research dividend deriving from developer-funded investigations of Roman period sites in England. It aims to*

- *Understand and articulate regional and chronological variation in rural settlement through analysis of plan form; domestic architecture, and the subsistence and economic base;*
- *Measure the integration of settlements in different parts of England at different periods with the Roman provincial economy through analyses of the quantities and classes of artefacts recovered from these sites, and the architectural traditions adopted;*
- *Understand and articulate regional and chronological variation in rural burial practices, and interpret the significance of these;*
- *Create datasets which contribute towards a clearer and more nuanced understanding of the significance of rural settlements, especially those which do not contain villa houses;*
- *Evaluate how the results of past work on rural settlements can be used to optimise data retrieval in the future through a critique of past sampling/investigation strategies;*
- *Engender sectorial and public engagement and participation in the project within all regions of England.*
- *Facilitate rapid, in step, knowledge transfer to inform other projects being funded by EH*

*This project will therefore analyse the ways in which commercial archaeological work, and in particular that only reported in grey literature, changes the picture of Roman period rural settlement presented in conventional syntheses which have largely ignored this evidence.*

*The project aims will be achieved via the review and interrogation of conventionally published reports and, crucially for rural settlement, grey literature deriving from commercial investigations. The potential of this data set is huge and is as yet untapped: it is estimated that there have been in excess of 9,000 separate investigations in England between 1990 and 2010 which encountered Roman period archaeology. All HERs in England will be visited and the grey literature reports which hold most potential will be copied. Regional participation will be achieved via a series of seminars and conferences.*

*The principal project outputs will be an interactive website entitled *The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain* hosted by the Archaeology Data Service; a published book covering the same topic, and a journal article critiquing past methodological approaches to the investigation of Roman rural settlement, and suggesting future best practice.*

*This is a partnership project involving funding supplied by English Heritage and the Leverhulme Trust. The key participants are representatives from the University of Reading; University of York and Cotswold Archaeology, with a number of externals making up the specialist team. The Leverhulme funding will cover data analysis and academic synthesis of data pertaining to Roman rural settlement resulting in dissemination via a project website, a published book and a national conference. Funding from EH covers data collection for the rural project, professional and public engagement at regional and national levels, in step knowledge transfer to other projects, and conservation management and planning outcomes. Despite having two principal funding streams it is stressed that this has been viewed as a single project from the outset with integration and coordination to be provided by the two principal project leads Michael Fulford and Neil Holbrook.*

### **Project Background**

- 1.1 In March 2007 EH approved a project design for a project concerned with an assessment of the research potential of grey literature in the study of Roman England. Grey literature was defined as reports on the results of developer-funded archaeological investigations which have not been published in a recognised serial, monograph series or conventional book. The project was inspired by the results of Richard Bradley's review of grey literature pertaining to prehistoric Britain. He concluded that syntheses based purely upon conventionally published data contain serious lacunae in a number of important areas (Phillips and Bradley 2005; Bradley 2006 and 2007). The Roman project was conceived in three stages.
- Stage 1 was concerned with a rapid national overview of how much work had been done between 1990 and 2004; where it was located, and what proportion of grey literature had reached conventional publication and dissemination.
  - Stage 2 comprised four pilot areas for the more detailed assessment of the ability of grey literature to enhance academic understanding of specific aspects of Roman Britain (Essex, Somerset, Warwickshire and South and West Yorkshire combined, which in aggregate cover 9.5% of England by area)
  - Stage 3 comprises the expansion of the project to cover the whole of England (and ideally Wales).
- 1.2 Stages 1 and 2 have now been completed, and the reports and associated databases are available online at Neil Holbrook, Richard Morton (2011) *Assessing The Research Potential of Grey Literature in the study of Roman England* [data-set]. York: Archaeology Data Service [distributor] (doi:10.5284/1000418) (CA 2008; 2009). Published outputs comprise Fulford and Holbrook 2011; Hodgson forthcoming a and b; Holbrook 2010 and forthcoming). The overall conclusions were that that developer-funded archaeology since 1990 is making a profound contribution to knowledge of England in the first half of the first millennium AD. Inevitably this work is not spread evenly across England, nor the settlement hierarchy of Roman England, partly as a result of the geography of economic behaviour, but also as a reflection of the strength of heritage protection policies (known villa sites for instance have been largely excluded from development). There have been significant contributions to knowledge of 'small' towns, although the weight of this new evidence is largely associated with the extramural areas and cemeteries of these sites. While there is a distinct lack of new information from the hearts of these settlements, the pilot study suggests that an England-wide review and new synthesis, would be timely. The paramount conclusion of this survey is that grey literature has a vital contribution to make to our knowledge and understanding of 'non-villa' rural settlement, the management of the landscape and the associated exploitation of the countryside. This focus of post-1990 work on the countryside, with its associated evidence of rural cemeteries and burial practice, means that there is a major resource for examining regionality and regional identities across Roman England. Fully quantified and identified ceramic and faunal assemblages reported in the grey literature have much to contribute to a more nuanced analysis of regionality.

### **Business Case**

- 1.3 It is inevitable, by virtue of their sheer number, that Roman period rural settlements will continue to be subject to destruction by development in the coming decades, especially those which fall into the non-villa category (Taylor's (2007) study suggests that there are well in excess of 50,000 non-villa rural settlements already known in England, as opposed to perhaps 2,500 villa settlements at most; cf. also Mattingly 2004, 14). It is relatively uncommon for planning authorities to consider that an individual non-villa settlement has sufficient significance to warrant refusal of a planning application for this reason alone, unless it is either very well preserved (as

for instance in an upland setting) or has clear group value and associations (both diachronically or synchronically, as for instance with major complexes of cropmark or geophysical anomalies). However to date our understanding of these settlements is relatively weak, because of a lack of synthesis and analysis of the results of previous work conducted since 1990 as a consequence of PPG 16/ PPS 5. The need for synthesis of developer work is urgent and pressing. After over 20 years since the introduction of PPG 16 it cannot be considered sustainable to keep acquiring ever increasing quantities of data which are not subject to review, evaluation and widespread dissemination. The value of this excavated resource, 1990-2010, as it relates to the rural settlement of Roman Britain since 1990 has been estimated at some £200 millions. To date the academic investigation of this resource has been minimal.

- 1.4 There is therefore a pressing need for a much more nuanced assessment of significance if appropriate management and investigation strategies are to be implemented for rural settlements. Indeed in certain areas of southern England where much investigation has already taken place, some consultants are beginning to question the cost benefit of further investigation of what may superficially appear common and uninteresting sites. This project will therefore provide a rigorous and up to date data sets which contribute towards our understanding of the significance of Roman rural settlement. This will assist in the targeting of resources, both from the state and private development sectors, towards freshly articulated research objectives. By taking a country-wide view it will significantly enhance the approaches of previous overviews and syntheses which have attempted to draw together the results of research in the Roman countryside either by modern county or on the basis of the current political, regional framework. The value of this approach will be that it will be possible to better articulate the significance of settlements, not least in the context of future development proposals for new work, against a wider background than that generated at a local level.
- 1.5 Following-on directly from an enhanced understanding of significance will be improved conservation and planning practice. The outputs from this project will directly inform future management decisions, and the methods to be adopted in the future investigation of Roman rural sites.
- 1.6 The public benefit of disseminating widely, and freely via the internet, data which has been acquired as a result of planning decisions made by local authorities in the interests of their communities is also self evident.
- 1.7 The outputs from this project will therefore bring into the wider professional and public domain the key results of developer-funded archaeology relating to the rural settlement of Roman Britain, including a new atlas of settlements of the Romano-British countryside, over the first 20 year period of investment since the introduction of PPG 16 in 1990, and it will set those results in the context of pre-1990 discoveries. The project will also, along with Bradley's work on the prehistoric evidence, serve as an exemplar to encourage other researchers (including academics and research students) to engage with grey literature pertaining to other chronological periods or themes, and to help convince them that the investment in time will be worthwhile.
- 1.8 The resources required for a project of this scope and scale have to date proved to be too great to be afforded by a single funding body. Now however, by virtue of partnership funding from the Leverhulme Trust and EH, the project is viable. This project therefore represents the effective use of resources to meet a series of clearly

defined and achievable inter-related goals, both in the academic and conservation management spheres.

- 1.9 The project directly addresses and feeds into a number of defined EH priorities. It supports the EH Corporate Objective 1A of ensuring that its research addresses the most important and urgent needs of the historic environment through the determination of research value from a large and important group of commercially funded site-based investigations. Developer funding has delivered discrete site based reports, both published and grey literature, but this has been the limit to their obligations required through the planning process. To date there has been little higher level synthesis and oversight to generate a better understanding of significance in both rural and urban environments.
- 1.10 The project also addresses a series of priorities within Measure 4 (*Understanding: Assessment of Character and Significance*) in NHPP. It will directly contribute towards 4F2 (Field Systems) as the study will look at Roman-period fieldsystems as well as rural settlements themselves. It will generate baseline data which will assist in determining the character of field systems which only survive as below-ground archaeology, and in some cases elucidate the evidence for the antiquity of field systems still present in the landscape (as for example in the Essex pilot study; Holbrook forthcoming).
- 1.11 Roman rural settlements were frequently associated with burials, either in small cemeteries or else as individual interments scattered around the landscape (the latter do not suppose a lack of care with these burials, but rather a more superstitious/symbolic association of the dead with the working landscape). It is now appreciated that there are vastly more rural cemeteries and burial grounds than was once supposed. This project will produce a clearer articulation of the significance of Roman period rural cemeteries. It therefore directly contributes to NHPP Measure 4D2 (*Churchyards, Cemeteries and Burial Grounds*).
- 1.12 The project also addresses the following objective defined in the draft ALGAO UK Strategy for the next two years

2.3.4 improve techniques / processes for investigation, dissemination and protection	ALGAO has an important role, via the planning advisory and HER functions, in enabling the improvement of techniques / processes for investigation, dissemination and protection. In England, the English Heritage NHPP and the Southport Report provide the principal policy context. For some aspects such as dissemination and the improvement of sampling techniques for assessment and investigation, the active role of local government is vital.
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### ***Interfaces***

- 1.13 This project interfaces with a number of other projects at a number of levels. Most obviously it builds upon the Stage 1 and Stage 2 projects supported by EH – this national survey was always the anticipated culmination of the overall project.

### ***The Leverhulme Project***

- 1.14 The Leverhulme Project will be run from the University of Reading and its Principal Investigator is Professor Michael Fulford with Professor Julian Richards (University of York) as the Co-Investigator. The project will cover all of England, and hopefully if time allows, Wales.

- 1.15 The Leverhulme project objectives are:
- To develop a website linked to a GIS database which will allow full public access to data collected from across England (and Wales) in respect of Roman rural settlement between the 1st century BC and the 5th century AD. In particular it will enable the public to see the knowledge gains from developer-funded archaeology of the last 21 years in the context of discoveries and understanding made before 1990 and the introduction of PPG 16.
  - To publish a critical, book-length study of the results of the national survey of Roman rural settlement. This will contextualise the results of post 1990 work against the background of previous research and interpretations of Roman rural settlement in Britain.

*The English Landscapes and Identities Project*

- 1.16 Early consultation has occurred with Professor Chris Gosden with respect to the University of Oxford's *English Landscapes and Identities Project*. The two projects will exchange data where this is relevant, and a representative from the Oxford project will serve on the Steering Committee of the Reading project.

*AIP and OASIS and the Grey Literature Library*

- 1.17 The connection between this project and the on-going AIP and OASIS projects is readily apparent. This project will serve as a useful indication of the potential of AIP data to inform future grey literature projects covering different chronological periods or themes. The results of this project will be fed back to the AIP team to inform their periodic reviews of their project methodology. The project will also make considerable use of, and contribute to, the online library of grey literature hosted by the ADS and constantly updated via the OASIS system. It will be informative to understand just what proportion of post-1990 grey literature reports are now available as downloadable pdfs on the internet.

## 2. RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

*Research Aim 1: How Can Regional and Chronological Variation and Distinctiveness in Roman Rural Settlement in England Be Understood, Articulated, Mapped and Explained?*

- Use analysis of the plan form of settlements; domestic architecture and the subsistence and economic base to create a clearer definition of regional distinctiveness;
- Measure the integration of settlements in different parts of England at different periods with the Roman provincial economy through analysis of the quantities and classes of artefacts recovered from these sites, and the architectural traditions adopted;
- Through analysis of rural burial practices better understand and articulate regional and chronological variation

*Research Aim 2: How Will Sectorial and Public Engagement and Participation in the Project within All Regions of England Be Secured?*

- Make professional knowledge and expertise present in the regions available to the project
- Raise awareness of the project amongst the professional and interested public, and communicate its emerging results
- Communicate the value of commercial work to those that pay for it and other stakeholders



2.1 The success of the data collection, and thus of the overall project, will depend in large measure on the support of the HER officers and local authority curators. For this to be achieved hard pressed local government officers will need to be able to convince their pay masters that they will get high-quality information back as a consequence of their support, and benefit from a limited digitisation programme. It is also crucial for the success of the academic synthesis that local knowledge and expertise is captured. The Leverhulme Project will therefore have a Steering Committee with a balance of representation from academia, English Heritage, local authority and commercial archaeological organisations. Regional representation will be achieved by a set of Regional Advocates whose duties are:

- To act as the regional advocate for the project. To facilitate and support dialogue with local government curators, HER officers, local societies etc.
- To lead regional workshops during the data collection phase, and with the Leverhulme Research Assistants present the emerging project results at regional meetings.
- To read, comment and if possible contribute to the emerging synthetic narratives.
- To facilitate the transfer of emerging project research to inform any proposed review of existing Regional Research Assessments and Agendas.
- To participate in a national conference at Reading in 2015 to launch the website and draw attention to significant findings of the project.

*Research Aim 3: How can the Results of Past Work on Rural Settlements be used to Optimise Data Retrieval in the Future?*

- Use can past work inform and improve future management strategies for Roman rural settlement
- Critique of past sampling/investigation strategies. Are higher sampling strategies warranted for certain kinds of site or in certain areas? Do some commonly utilised sampling strategies fail to meet a cost/benefit test?
- Highlighting of areas where the evidence base for Roman rural settlement is particularly weak

2.2 It will be important to communicate how the research can influence future curatorial policy at a local level where policies for conservation management and development-control decisions are made. It will also inform the setting of briefs for the future investigation of rural sites. For instance highlighting types of site/sub-areas where information is deficient, or fieldwork methodologies which have proved particularly successful when applied to comparable sites in other parts of the country. A key part of this dissemination will occur at the regional feedback meetings.

*Research Aim 4: Achieve rapid, in step, knowledge transfer to inform other projects being funded by EH*

### 3. PROJECT TEAM

#### ***Cotswold Project Team***

- Project Executive: Neil Holbrook (Chief Executive Cotswold Archaeology and Visiting Research Fellow, University of Reading).
- Project Manager: Nathan Blick (Cotswold Archaeology).
- Data collection will be undertaken by designated Project Officers at Cotswold Archaeology who will report to the Project Manager.

### **Leverhulme Project Team**

- 3.1 The Leverhulme Project team will be led by Michael Fulford (Principal Investigator; (PI)), with Professor Julian Richards (University of York) as a Co-Investigator; (Co-I)). Additional staff comprise:
- Dr Alex Smith (Reading University) will be responsible with the PI for defining the scope of the database and for working on the county-by-county analysis, associated website publication and book.
  - Dr Martyn Allen and Dr Tom Brindle (Reading University) will be jointly responsible for the region-by-region county-by-county data entry and will contribute to the website. Within each region they will have sole responsibility for the county or counties assigned to them.
  - Catherine Hardman (York University). Catherine will advise on, and co-author, the project database and website.
- 3.2 The project will benefit from a Steering Committee which balances representation from local authority, English Heritage and academia. The Committee will be kept informed of progress by email and will meet twice yearly. Its members will be:
- *Local Government*: Dr Stewart Bryant (County Archaeologist, Hertfordshire and ALGAO UK).
  - *English Heritage*: Barney Sloane (Head of Strategic Planning and Management Division); Pete Wilson (Foresight Team); Project Assurance Officer
  - *Academic*: Stephen Rippon (Exeter); Jeremy Taylor (Leicester); Peter Guest (Cardiff); environmental archaeologist (TBC); Hella Eckardt (Reading); representative of University of Oxford's *Landscapes and Identities of England* project.

### **Regional Advocates**

- 3.3 The Regional Advocates, who are an essential part of the project team, are:
- North East and North West: Nick Hodgson (Tyne & Wear Archaeology)
  - Yorkshire and Humber: Ian Roberts (West Yorkshire Archaeological Services)
  - West Midlands: Andy Wigley (Shropshire Council)
  - East Midlands: Nick Cooper (University of Leicester Archaeological Services)
  - Eastern: Christopher Evans (Cambridge Archaeology Unit)
  - South East and London: Paul Booth (Oxford Archaeology)
  - South West: Neil Holbrook (Cotswold Archaeology)

## **4. METHODS STATEMENT**

### **Data Collection**

- 4.1 This element of the project will be undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology. The data collection methodology adopted for the Stage 2 pilot survey proved to be efficient and successful. However in the light of the experience gained the Stage 2 report was able to recommend some improvements (CA 2009, section 3.9) and these are incorporated into the methods proposed here. In particular it was recommended that varying approaches to data collection be adopted to match local conditions. For instance if the HER is able to supply print outs of interventions recording Roman remains, this would replace the need to re-examine the lists derived from the AIP and *Britannia* (CA 2009, section 12). Such lists were available in 3 of the 5 HERs consulted in the pilot study. Where such lists are not available there is no alternative other than to follow the methodology adopted in Stage 2 and set out below. In all cases rapid review of the county round-ups (where these exist) is worthwhile as they frequently contain information on mitigation investigations not otherwise documented in the HER.

- 4.2 The data collection methodology will be, where HER searches are not available,
- 1) Updating the Stage 1 database to cover the period 2005-2010/11 (the existing Stage 1 database covers the period 1990-2004). This will be achieved using the same methodology adopted for Stage 1 (CA 2008, 13-18).
  - 2) Cleaning of the Stage 1 database by removing duplicates and erroneous inclusions (methodology further described in CA 2009, section 3.1).
  - 3) Enhancement of the Stage 1 database using annual summaries in *Britannia* and local journals (these are sources which the AIP has not systematically collected throughout the study period). We will therefore review the county round-ups as part of the familiarisation stage. The product of this stage will be a list of sites/investigations which seemingly offer the most potential to address the research objectives of the project. The methodology is described more fully in CA 2009, section 3.1.
  - 4) Visit the HER; search for each priority entry and locate either a digital pdf version of the report, or failing that a hardcopy. Each report will be quickly read/reviewed and those deemed of particular value will be copied. For hardcopy reports not currently available as pdfs this will entail the scanning of reports to create pdfs, which will be indexed/identified with their SMR number. By scanning the grey literature rather than simply photocopying the material, the pdfs can be reused by the project team, archived and disseminated by the ADS and linked to by the relevant HER (subject to copyright clearance).
  - 5) Once the prioritised reports have been reviewed, a time allowance will be allocated for the rapid review of the other holdings through cross checking the HER database.
  - 6) Feed back the results of the data cleaning to the HERs
- 4.3 The scanned reports retrieved from the HERs will be passed onto the Leverhulme team for indexing, entry onto the project database and analysis. The ADS will obtain copyright clearance from the originating contractors before any reports are uploaded onto the internet.

#### **Data Analysis**

- 4.4 The research team will examine conventionally published reports as well as the grey literature.
- 4.5 Each report will be scrutinised for the evidence it has for the size of the area excavated, sampling strategies, overall plan as well as of individual components, such as buildings, burials or kiln structures, and for information from the associated finds and biological data to address the principal hypotheses. The MIDAS standard for Monument Inventories will be used throughout. Where settlements have been excavated within a larger landscape setting of enclosure and field boundaries, this information with associated plans will be summarised and extracted.
- 4.6 Burials and larger, communal cemeteries are often associated with rural settlements and information in relation to burial rite, including the number of burials, the age and gender of the deceased, the type and range of grave goods (where present), and the chronology will be extracted.
- 4.7 A protocol will be developed to extract selective finds data for the project from the settlement as a whole. This will include information on the categories of finds present, including building materials, and on their quantities, with further information to be extracted from the ceramic records on the presence and volume of overseas and regional imports, such as samian and amphorae on the one hand, and mortaria, regional fine and coarse wares, on the other. With biological data assessments will be made of the quality and volume of the surviving material according to the various categories of evidence. So, summary data will be collected for the main

domesticates and wild animals, birds and fish present, as well as for other marine resources such as oyster. Similar approaches will be taken for other food and plant remains, linking with the work of van der Veen, *et al.* (2007). An important innovation of this work will be to capture data relating the volume of finds to the area (sq. m.) of the excavations and the amount of soil removed. This will enable assessments of the density of material culture from the settlement concerned. It is hoped that there will be data of sufficient robustness to highlight absences (as well as presence) in well recorded assemblages with good levels of preservation. The sites will be scored according to the scale of the investigation and the quality of the data presented, and the thoroughness of the reporting in relation to the questions posed of them.

- 4.8 It is recognised at the outset that the project will have to cope with the differential potential of data sets from different sites, related both to the type of intervention (evaluation or open area excavation) and the quality and detail of the reporting. By relating the quantity of artefacts and faunal remains to the volume of soil removed it may prove possible to extrapolate from evaluation data to provide comparators for excavation data. Another complicating factor will be the variable levels of biological remains, either as a result of preservation, recovery or reporting. Some means of calibrating for these variances will be required, and this will be developed as part of the pilot work on the first region (Eastern). It may prove that the most detailed and sophisticated questions can only be addressed at sites which have the highest scorings, and that sites with lower quality data sets will only be used to address higher level analyses (plan form; presence/absence data etc). Assessment of the utility and susceptibility of the data sets for analysis and synthesis will be one of the major outcomes of the project, and feeds directly into Research Objective 3. If, for example, sites are identified where there seems to have been a high quality data set present at the time of investigation, but this potential has not been realised due to the approach to reporting, then this has implications for professional standards and curatorial practice. Alternatively sites with poor quality data sets, despite the best efforts of the investigating body, will help towards a clearer understanding of significance, and the cost/benefit of sampling strategies to be adopted on comparable sites in the future.

#### ***Securing Sectorial and Public Engagement and Participation in the Project within All Regions of England***

- 4.9 Every effort will be made to obtain the support of the HERs for the project although it will not be possible to pay fees for accessing data within the project budget. A meeting was convened on 14 December 2011 attended by Stewart Bryant (Chair ALGAO UK), Dave Barratt (Chair ALGAO England) and Fiona MacDonald (Vice Chair ALGAO England), Pete Wilson (EH) and Neil Holbrook. The ALGAO representatives gave their firm backing and support for the project. It is also proposed that information on the project/presentations will be made at the annual HER forum meetings (the first is in July 2012) and to the relevant regional ALGAO meetings. As the first region for data collection will be Eastern, information will be made available to the ALGAO East meeting on 27 January 2012. A paper describing the project and its emerging conclusions will also be offered to the IfA Conference in 2013 and the Roman Archaeology Conference in 2014.
- 4.10 Regional inclusion within the project will be delivered via participation in regional events, and this will be one of the principal responsibilities of the regional advocates. This will be achieved by the organisation of bespoke regional project workshops in each region, and the offer to present findings at regional conferences, especially those which are likely to have good attendance from those outside of the professional sector (eg. CBA regional meetings). The outline timetable for the regional workshops is presented in Annex 1:

- 4.11 At the outset of the project early dialogue will take place with the EH Capacity Building Team which will have responsibility for commissioning targeted refreshing of research frameworks across the country. This liaison will enable emerging project research to be passed to the leads in each region with responsibility for refreshing the Regional Research Frameworks. The timetable for this project will be communicated, and the offer to participate in any regional meetings which tie in with the regional research agenda update programme made.
- 4.12 The regional advocates will also have responsibility for encouraging awareness of, and participation in, the national conference which will take place in April 2015 to launch the project website.
- 4.13 A website explaining the project will be created and hosted by the University of Reading. Six monthly e-news bulletins on the progress of the project will be issued to ALGAO/HER Forum members plus other interested bodies and individuals. The e-bulletins will also be available via the project webpage.
- 4.14 Communication of the value of commercial archaeology will be undertaken as part of the workshops and meetings. Summary papers exploring this theme will also be prepared for publications designed for both a professional audience (*The Archaeologist*) and interested non-professionals (*British Archaeology* and/or *Current Archaeology* and/or *Association for Roman Archaeology Bulletin*). We will also prepare and offer papers to the main trade magazines of the development industry which will set out the contribution that commercial archaeology has made to knowledge of the past. This will include publications produced by RTPi; RICS and the Sand and Gravel Association.

***How can the Results of Past Work on Rural Settlements be used to Inform Future Management Strategies and Optimise Data Retrieval in the Future?***

- 4.15 The synthesis and analysis of the data set pertaining to Roman rural settlement will contribute to a much more nuanced assessment of significance. This will inform future management decisions and provides a firmer base for curatorial briefs for future investigation. A critique of the methods by which Romano-British rural sites have been investigated will be undertaken. This will cover topics such as sampling strategies (for instance, is there any evidence that excavating 10% samples of linear features provides a higher quality data set than excavating just 5% or less?; is there a case for higher sampling strategies in those parts of the country where artefacts are not well represented, or is this likely to be futile effort?). The paper will provide a critical review of the investigation methods that have been utilised over the last 20 years; identify any regional variations; identify best practice in terms of field methodology and reporting, and identify exemplar projects. It will also draw out from the main Leverhulme data set those parts of the country where the knowledge base for Romano-British rural settlements is still very low, and emerging new research directions (especially for areas where rural settlement has been comparatively well studied). The output will be a journal paper which will be offered for publication in the journal *The Historic Environment: Policy and Practice*, with a short summary also being offered as an article for *The Archaeologist*.

## 5. PRODUCTS AND OUTPUTS

- Rural Project; project website hosted by the ADS.
- Rural Project; book length study.
- Journal article critiquing methodological approaches in the investigation of Roman rural sites in England.
- Regional Workshops.
- National Conference on Roman rural settlement.

5.1 These outputs are further described in Annex 1. In addition short, accessible assessments of the value of commercial archaeology will be prepared for a professional audience (*The Archaeologist*); interested non-professionals (eg. *British Archaeology* and/or *Current Archaeology* and/or *Association for Roman Archaeology Bulletin*), and for the development industry trade press (eg. publications produced by RTPI; RICS and the Sand and Gravel Association).

### ***Digital Archiving and Digital Dissemination***

5.2 The archiving and dissemination aspects of the project fall into three areas:

- The database: this will be based on the structure of the databases already constructed for Stages 1 and 2 of the previous projects. The database will be accessible during the course of the project by the whole project team who will update the database with information about excavations including references to OASIS ids HER/SMR references and 'metadata' about the excavations will be included using MIDAS compliant wordlists and thesauri. The database while primarily being based on that developed for Stages 1 and 2 of the project will be concorded with the ADS data structure currently used for the OASIS database and that used for the ADS grey literature library interface. The database for recording the grey literature will be accessible to the project team on line and will be built in Oracle with a web front end for data entry using a Java web framework (Java server faces, java persistence api, ajax). Should a standalone database be required for the Reading researchers to manipulate, this will be provided for off-line use. At the end of the project all data, within the database, collected during the course of the project will be made available as a download, accompanied by relevant metadata and documentation, for other researchers to reuse. The data will also be reused to form resource discovery metadata for the grey literature scans which will be included in the ADS grey literature library.
- The GIS: this will be developed as an Oracle spatial geodatabase served up to a web map interface (powered by Open layers) using Geoserver. It will be made available to the project team privately while the research is ongoing but at the end of the project it will be made available freely online. The GIS will be used to view events based on the information supplied through the associated databases. Users may, for example, be able to undertake a range of searches of different levels of complexity from seeing all Roman sites in Cornwall, to more detailed searches such as viewing a distribution map of all sites with votive offerings found in wells. Once the search has been defined, where available the user will be able to click through to the original site plan and/or associated grey literature report. In addition to the online interaction offered, the data will be exposed as a WMS layer so others may consume the information and additionally the tabula for (of the geodata) will be made available for others to import into their GIS software and combine with other datasets for further analysis.
- The scans of the grey literature: where digital versions of reports do not currently exist the project team will scan the report. Access to these reports can be made available via a number of means; through the GIS map interface, via the ADS grey

literature library and as links from the individual HERs. Because the scans will be associated with a database entry including the relevant HER number, the local authority HER can link from its own online HER presence to the digital version of a relevant report held by the ADS. As more HERs are made available online, many through the EH Heritage Gateway it becomes much easier to link between relevant resources. We hope this will be seen as a measureable benefit to ALGAO members.

- 5.3 All three elements of the project will be subject to the usual digital archiving process undertaken by the ADS; as such the ADS aims to archive the data in perpetuity, and maintain the web interface to the data for at 20 years. By including the grey literature within the ADS Grey Literature library, as the library grows primarily through additions made via OASIS, so too will the resource on Roman archaeology. While this may not be immediately reflected in the project online map, interfaces to the grey literature library as a whole are constantly evolving with the reports now being searchable within ADS Archsearch and also now available to view on a map based interface in Archsearch. Any future search and use enhancements to the library will be applied to the 'Roman' grey literature too. ADS preservation procedures conform to the ISO OAIS standard for digital preservation and ADS has a robust preservation architecture which was recently been enhanced under a 2-year AHRC-funded DEDEFI project (ADS+) using the Fedora Commons digital repository application. All data are also backed up remotely at the UK Data Archive in Essex. Each ADS archive is issued with a unique DOI, in collaboration with the British Library and DataCite. ADS is a member of the Research Data Management Forum and is an associate member of the Digital Preservation Coalition. In 2011 ADS was awarded the Data Seal of Approval, becoming only the second UK digital archive (after the UK Data Archive) to receive that accreditation.

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## ANNEX 1 PRODUCT DESCRIPTIONS

**Product Title:** *The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain* (Project Website)

**Purpose of the Product:** disseminate widely and freely project results

**Composition:** An interactive website hosted by ADS which will enable information to be searched for according to the specified categories of data, not constrained by modern political boundaries. It will be possible, on the one hand, to search for all data from one type of geology, or from a particular territory, such as the specified hinterland of a Roman town, or of a Roman villa, or a particular Roman road, or from modern counties and regions. It will be possible to download site plans and to make searches for like kinds of information, such as burial data, settlements with different categories and degrees of abundance of Roman material culture across England (and Wales), settlements with distinctive aspects of their faunal assemblage, settlements with and without marine resources, etc. In addition, where available the user will be able to drill down to the digital version of the unpublished report from which the information was gleaned. The website will enable anyone, expert, non-expert member of the public, amateur archaeologist, developer, etc, to take a look at what is of interest to them, both at the local level and in the wider regional and national context. This website contributes towards NHPP Measure 4D2 and 4F2.

**Derived from:** project database linked to scanned grey literature reports

**Format:** web pages.

**Allocated to:** Catherine Hardman will lead production of the website, assisted by the York-based Research Assistant

**Quality criteria and method:** academic quality and functionality review by Michael Fulford, Julian Richards and Neil Holbrook.

**Planned completion date:** April 2015 (to coincide with national conference to be held at the University of Reading)

**Product Title:** *The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain* (Published Book)

**Purpose of the Product:** disseminate widely project results

**Composition:** a book-length study written to be accessible by a non-specialist audience. It will provide the evidence for regionality in Roman rural settlement and its constituent architecture and its exploitation of landscape. It will aim to explore the patterning which will emerge from the study of burial practice, and of material and biological trends, but within an overarching integrative framework. It will critique the methodologies employed in commercial archaeology since 1990 and recommend ways of improving the recovery and interpretation of data in the future. It will be about 80,000 words in length and well illustrated with line drawings and photos. This book contributes towards NHPP Measure 4D2 and 4F2.

**Derived from:** newly written text and bespoke illustrations

**Format:** book published by recognised academic press

**Allocated to:** Michael Fulford, Neil Holbrook and University of Reading Research Assistants

**Quality criteria and method:** academic review by Michael Fulford, external peer review by publisher.

**Planned completion date:** 31 July 2015

**Product Title:** *Approaches to the Investigation and Excavation of Roman Rural Settlements in England: A Critical Review* (Journal Article)

**Purpose of the Product:** disseminate widely project

**Composition:** an article written for a professional archaeological audience (curators, contractors, consultants). The paper will provide a critical review of the investigation methods that have been utilised over the last 20 years; identify any regional variations; identify best practice in terms of field methodology and reporting, and identify exemplar

projects. It will identify those parts of the country where the knowledge base for Romano-British rural settlements is still very low, and emerging new research directions (especially for areas where rural settlement has been comparatively well studied). Estimated length: 6,000-8,000 words plus maps, diagrams and tables

**Derived from:** newly created text and illustrations. It will draw on the experience gained amongst the Leverhulme project team and the professional knowledge and judgement of the Regional Advocates.

**Format:** published article in the journal *Historic Environment: Policy and Practice*

**Allocated to:** Neil Holbrook

**Quality criteria and method:** comments on draft from EH. Peer review by journal referees and editor of final text.

**Planned completion date:** 31 December 2014

**Product Title:** *Roman Rural Settlement Regional Workshops*

**Purpose of the Product:** to explain the project; present the results of the emerging research; obtain feedback and comment; engender inclusion and engagement (Research Objective 2). These workshops will be funded by EH.

**Composition:** a series of 8 day workshops, one in each region (London and South East have been combined). The workshops will consist of a series of presentations, followed by discussion periods and (if appropriate) break-out sessions into smaller groups to discuss specific themes and topics.

**Derived from:** newly-created presentations by Regional Advocates; other members of the Project Team; other invited speakers. Subsequent workshops will draw on the experience gained at the first workshop in Eastern region in March 2013.

**Format:** Venues are anticipated in the following locations (city/town centres have been chosen to encourage the use of public transport): Cambridge; London; Bristol; Leicester; Birmingham; York; Newcastle; Manchester. Powerpoint facilities will be required. A maximum of 40 attendees will be catered for. Lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. No charge will be made to attendees. Attendees will be by invitation; local advertising/networking by the regional advocates

**Allocated to:** Project Manager and Neil Holbrook

**Quality criteria and method:** assessment of the success of the workshops will be gauged by feedback. At the end of each workshop delegates will be specifically asked to give their impressions of the day and what benefit they derived from it.

**Planned completion date:** the workshop schedule is:

- Eastern: March 2013
- South East and London: autumn 2013
- South West: spring 2014
- East Midlands: summer 2014
- West Midlands: autumn 2014
- Yorkshire and Humber: autumn 2014
- North West: winter 2014/15
- North East: winter 2014/15

**Product Title:** *Roman Rural Settlement National Conference*

**Purpose of the Product:** a national academic conference to discuss and debate aspects of Roman rural settlement in Britain. The conference will also serve as a launch event for the project website. The conference will appeal to academics; professional practitioners and others with an interest in the topic. It will be supported by funding from the Leverhulme project; conference and accommodation fees will be payable.

**Composition:** a 2/3 day academic conference hosted by the University of Reading in April 2015. Anticipated number of delegates: 100-200. This conference contributes towards NHPP Measures 4D2 and 4F2.

**Derived from:** newly created presentations from members of the project team and other invited speakers.

**Format:** an academic conference divided into a series of sessions on specific topics.

**Allocated to:** Michael Fulford and Leverhulme Research Assistants

**Planned completion date:** April 2015