

ARCHAEOLOGY AT READING: ENABLING OPEN RESEARCH



Open in Practice Conference 4th April, 2019

Roberta Gilchrist

WHY DOES ARCHAEOLOGY NEED OPEN RESEARCH?



Silchester Roman Town Excavations

- Collaborative, interdisciplinary, commitment to methodological innovation
- Professional ethics
- Archaeological excavation involves the destruction of source material
- The quality of the archive determines the potential for reproducibility
- Sector leading in promoting research rigour, transparency and collaboration

1. AN OPEN RESEARCH PLATFORM: 'THE INTEGRATED ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATABASE' (IADB)

OR platform: a virtual research environment to provide **integrated access** to the full range of excavation records as a tool for post-excavation research

The screenshot displays the IADB web interface. The browser address bar shows the URL: http://www.silchester.rdg.ac.uk/i3/portal_main.php?DB=IADB. The page title is "IADB: Search/Goto...". The main content area is divided into several panels:

- Context 5479 (SILCH):** This panel shows details for a specific context. The context type is "Levelling deposit". The category is "Deposit". The area is "10, 15". The description/composition is: "Friable, dark grey sandy silt. Inclusions: 15-35% stones (S-A) (S-R) (6-20mm) (2-6cm); Charcoal. Extent: 5.5m x 4m; Thickness: 0.01-0.07m. Clear edge definition".
- Section 19: 1293:** This panel shows a cross-section of the site, with different layers and features color-coded and labeled.
- Project SILCH: Plan Browser:** This panel shows a plan view of the site, with different areas and features color-coded. A list of horizons is visible on the right side of the plan browser, ranging from Horizon 26 to Horizon 39. The drawing options are also visible, including Site Grid, Site Outline, Context Map, Auto Viewport, Context Options, Colour Options, Context Types, Plot Finds, and Show Sections.

COLLABORATIVE WRITING

- With the basic data assembled we collaborative with large teams of researchers to develop interpretations
- The IADB also enables Open Access publication and Open Research Archiving

Integrated Archaeological Database - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

vera

IADB: Search/Goto... Projects Browse New Messages Window Utilities Wiki Admin Sign Out EMMA

Project SILCH
Silchester Insula Ix

Project Index

- Project SILCH
- Finds (30629)
- Contexts (7968)
- Sets (147)
- Groups (16)
- Phases (2)
- Objects (672)
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- Illustrations (72)
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- Forum
- Publication Plan
- Tagged Items (
- SQL Queries (99)

Browse All Documents (137 records)

All Text Docs Spreadsheets Imported Files Web Resources Other Resources

General

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- 184 New Query (Internal Spreadsheet)
- 185 Samian Stamps (Internal Spreadsheet)
- 186 Samian Stamps SRS (Internal Spreadsheet)
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- 232 Pits and wells (Internal Spreadsheet)
- 236 New Query (Internal Spreadsheet)
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Admin

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Document 120: Introduction

INTRODUCTION

The Roman city of *Calleva Atrebatum* (Silchester, Hampshire) was subjected to an extensive programme of excavations by the Society of Antiquaries of London between 1890 and 1909 (Fig. 1). The turn of *insula Ix* came in 1893-4 when one of the most important discoveries was a large town house (House 1) whose north-east/south-west orientation was completely different to that of the Roman street grid aligned on the cardinal points (Fox 1895; Fulford and Clarke 2002; Clarke et al 2001) (Fig. 2). Apart from the observation that a well which contained a dwarf Roman column incised with a name in ogham script could only 'have been sunk when the portion of the house in which it occurred was in a ruinous condition' (Fox 1895, 441), no other comment was made about the dating or development of the house.

In 1997 a new programme of excavations began on part of *insula Ix* with the aim of exploring the full sequence of occupation from the late Iron Age through to post-Roman abandonment (Clarke and Fulford 2002) (Fig. 3). It rapidly emerged that 'House 1' had a complex history of development with abandonment and demolition in the mid 3rd century AD. The aim of this article is to report that development from origins around the mid 1st century AD to demolition about the middle of the 3rd century AD.

Methodology

The approach to the publication of excavation reports, particularly since the great increase in information arising from the closer observation and recording of archaeological stratigraphy and from the reporting of associated material culture and biological data has been to provide a synthesis and interpretation of the excavated sequence and the associated finds evidence. Initially it was possible to provide supplementary information on stratigraphy and finds through microfiche. Latterly electronically generated databases with detailed information about excavation and finds have been made available on-line, very largely through the services of ADS/AHDS, to complement the printed report. Nevertheless for most large projects, even in the

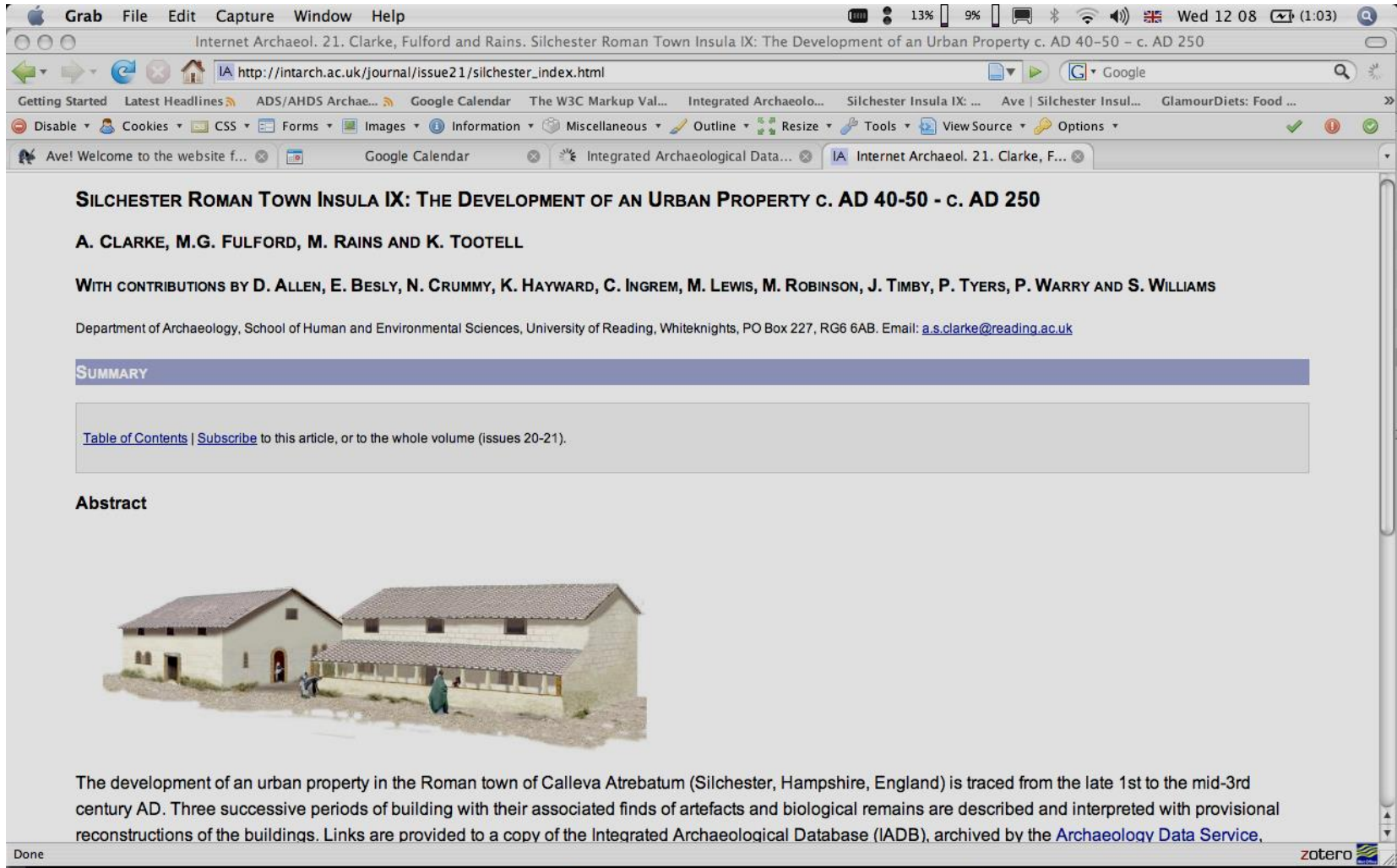
Metadata History Discussion Edit Print Close

Integrated Archaeological Database

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Done

LINKING DIGITAL ARCHIVES WITH OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATION



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

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SUMMARY

[Table of Contents](#) | [Subscribe](#) to this article, or to the whole volume (issues 20-21).

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](#).

- http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue21/silchester_index.html (2007)

ENABLING OPEN RESEARCH ARCHIVES

The Archaeology Data Service: accredited digital Repository for UK Archaeology



The screenshot shows the website for the Glastonbury Abbey Archaeological Excavations 1904 - 1979. The header includes the ADS logo and navigation links: HOME, SEARCH, DEPOSIT, RESEARCH, ADVICE, ABOUT, HELP. The main title is "Glastonbury Abbey: Archaeological Excavations 1904 - 1979" by the University of Reading and Trustees of Glastonbury Abbey, 2015. A left sidebar contains a table of contents with links for Introduction, Overview, Downloads, Metadata, and Usage Statistics. Below this is a copyright notice and a link to the ADS Terms of Use and Access. A logo for the Arts & Humanities Research Council is also present. The main content area features an "Introduction" section with text about the abbey's history and a "Primary contact" section for Prof Roberta Gilchrist. A "Send e-mail enquiry" button is located at the bottom of the sidebar. On the right, there is a photograph of a stone bust of a man's head.

- https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/glastonbury_ahrc/2014/

Glastonbury Abbey: Archaeological Excavations 1904 - 1979

University of Reading, Trustees of Glastonbury Abbey, 2015

[Introduction](#)

[Overview](#)

[Downloads](#)

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Arts & Humanities
Research Council

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[Send e-mail enquiry](#)

[Resource identifiers](#)

Downloads

Abbreviations	XLSX	12 Kb
Site phasing	PDF	26 Kb

• Archive project records

- Radiocarbon dating certificate
- Finds with contexts per category
- Radford excavation trenches
- Wedlake excavation trenches
- 1908-1939 excavation trenches

• Geophysical survey

- Report
- Report figures 1-39
- GPR data plots
- Magnetic data plots
- Resistance data plots

• IADB records

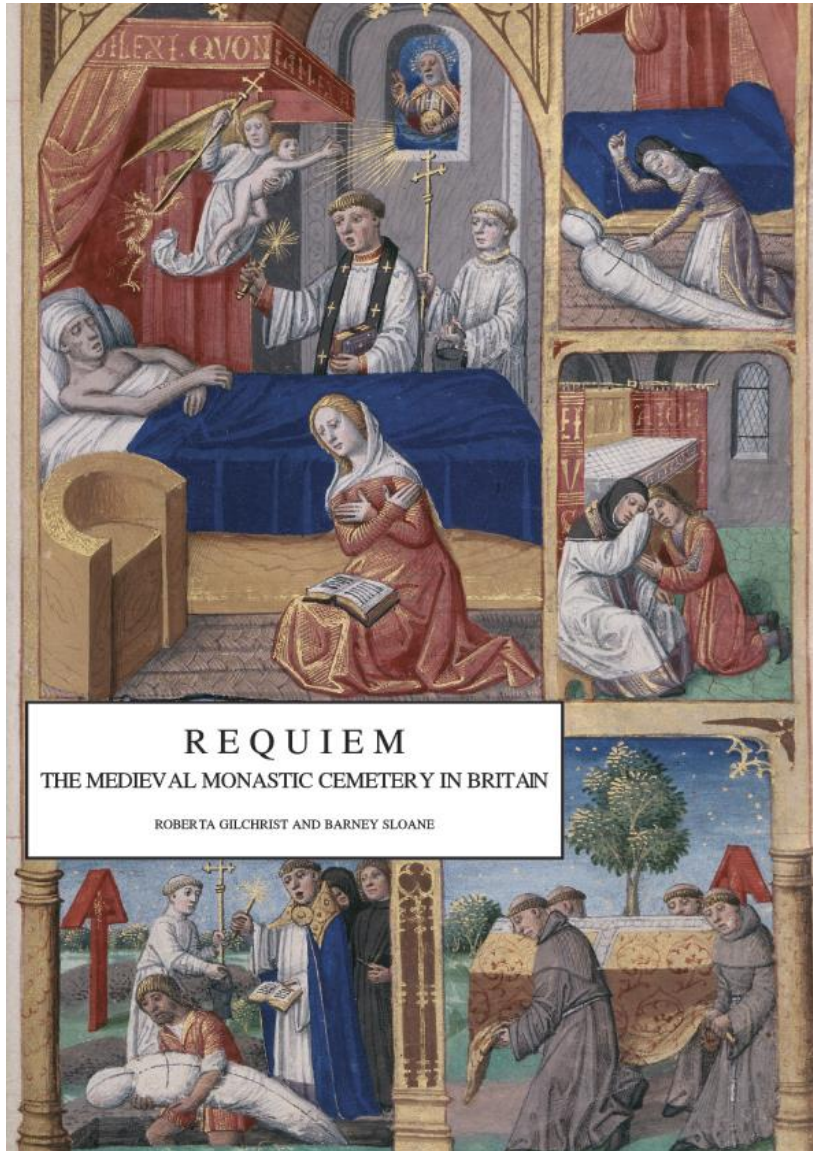
- Reports by area
- Bibliography for excavation reports
- Context summary 1951-1963
- Photographic register
- Matrices by area
- Plans
- Sections
- Finds records

• Specialist reports, tables, appendices and figures

Specialist reports reproduced here represent original unedited work including additional data to supplement the monograph. It is recommended that the fully edited versions within the Monograph are referred to for research or referencing purposes. Illustrations supplied by specialists are included within the ADS archive; however, these have been adapted for the Monograph by Elizabeth Gardner, who produced the vast majority of illustrations within the publication.

- Saxon Glass Furnaces
- The Prehistoric lithics
- The Prehistoric pottery

2. ENABLING OPEN DATA: RESEARCH ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'GREY LITERATURE'



- 'Grey literature' = unpublished reports from developer-funded excavations
- Reading Archaeology research projects in collaboration with commercial archaeology units and museums
- Data and analyses made publicly available through ADS
- Archives regularly used for new research by broad range of users

Gilchrist and Sloane, 2005

https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/cemeteries_ahrb_2005/

Medieval Monastic Cemeteries of Britain (1050-1600): a digital resource and database of excavated samples

Roberta Gilchrist, Barney Sloane, 2005

[Introduction](#)

[Overview](#)

[Query](#)

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



Primary contact

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[Send e-mail enquiry](#)

Resource identifiers

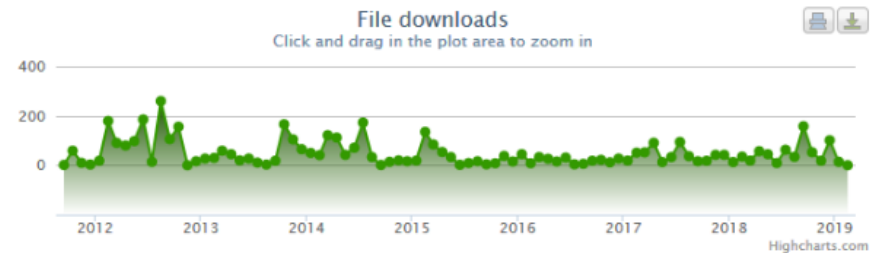
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1000273>

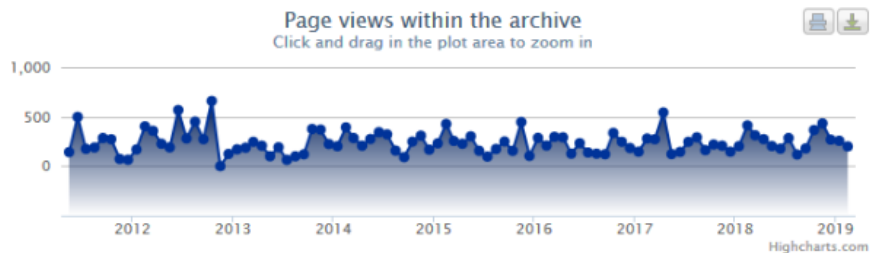
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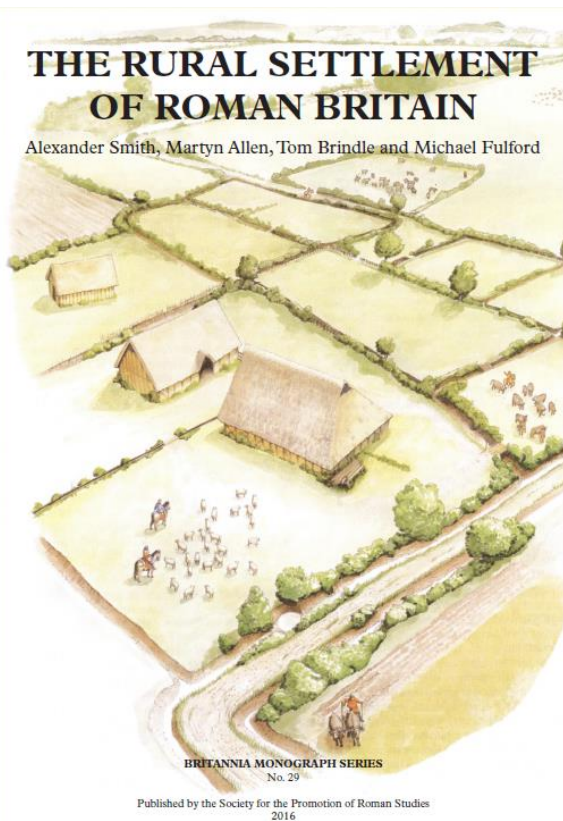
A download is a click on a link to something other than a web page, file extensions include: csv, doc, docx, gif, jar, jpg, jpeg, mp3, mp4, mov, odb, odt, pdf, png, ppt, pptx, txt, wav, wma, wmv, wpd, xls, xlsx, xml, zip but this is not an exhaustive list.



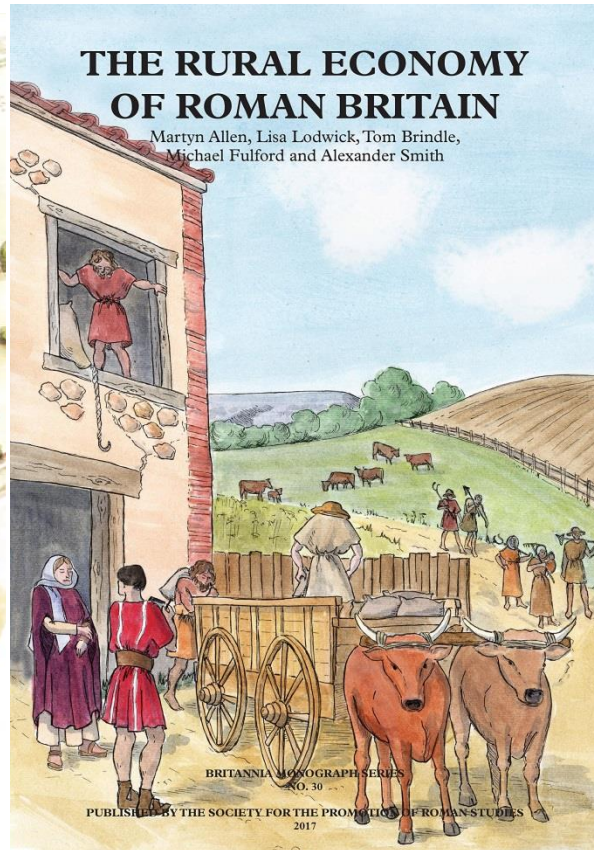
Pages viewed is the number of HTML pages or scripts that visitors have looked at. A "page" is a hit that is not an image, JavaScript or CSS file and which was not loaded by a search engine robot.



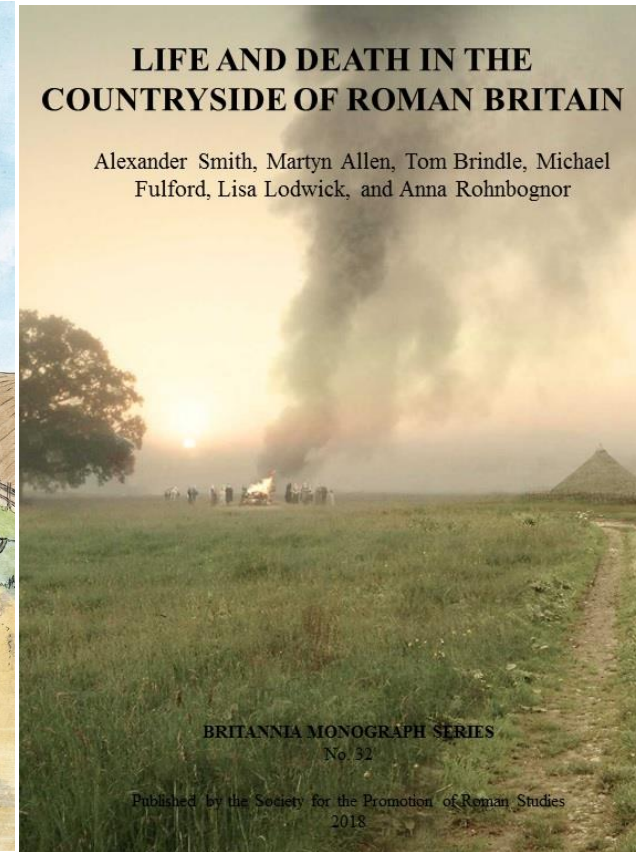
The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain Project



2016



2017



2018

The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) website. The URL in the address bar is archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/romangl/index.cfm. The page features a blue header with the ADS logo and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ARCHSEARCH, ARCHIVES, DEPOSIT, LEARNING, ADVICE, RESEARCH, ABOUT US, BLOG, and LOGIN. A secondary menu lists categories like ALL, JOURNALS AND SERIES, GREY LITERATURE, PROJECT ARCHIVES, BIBLIOGRAPHIES, and THESES. The main content area is titled "The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain: an online resource" and lists authors: Martyn Allen, Nathan Blick, Tom Brindle, Tim Evans, Michael Fulford, Neil Holbrook, Julian D Richards, and Alex Smith, 2015. On the left, there are links for Introduction, Query, Map, Metadata, Usage Statistics, and Feedback questionnaire. The main text includes an "Introduction" section describing the resource's aim to inform a reassessment of Roman Britain's countryside, mentioning funding from Historic England and the Leverhulme Trust. It also details the project's phases, from April 2015 to 2018. A map of England is shown with a legend for "all_regions1" (East, East Midlands, North-east, North-west, South-east) and "Major_rivers". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date as 18/11/2016 and the time as 09:15.

Archaeology Data Service

<https://doi.org/10.5284/1030449>

The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain: an online resource

Martyn Allen, Nathan Blick, Tom Brindle, Tim Evans, Michael Fulford, Neil Holbrook, Lisa Lodwick, Julian D Richards, Alex Smith, 2015 (updated 2018)

- [Introduction](#)
- [Overview](#)
- [Downloads](#)
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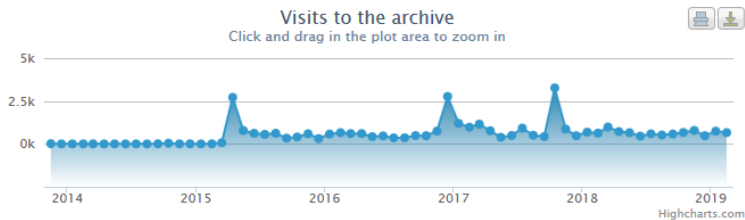
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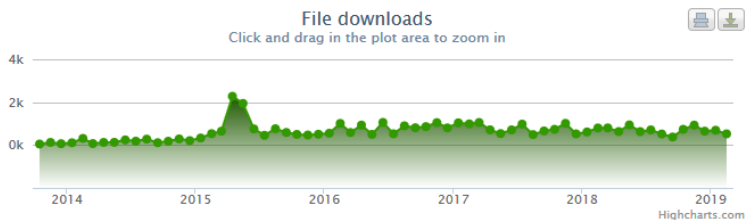
[Send e-mail enquiry](#)

Resource identifiers

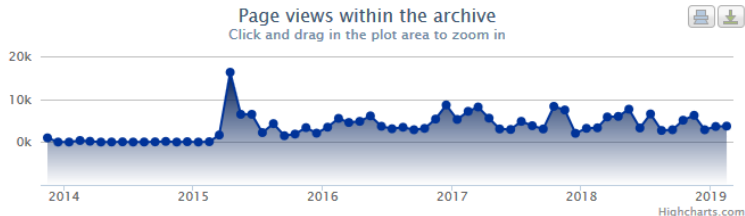
ADS Collection: 1352
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1030449>
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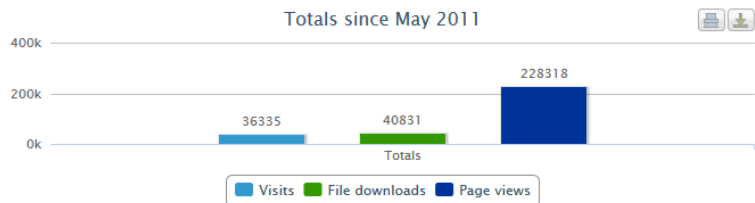
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Pages viewed is the number of HTML pages or scripts that visitors have looked at. A "page" is a hit that is not an image, JavaScript or CSS file and which was not loaded by a search engine robot.



Statistics start from May 2011 but if the values are zero to start with they are not shown. Zero values after the start of use for the archive are shown.

[Download figures as CSV file](#)

3. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & CO-CREATION: GLASTONBURY ABBEY ARCHAEOLOGY



Images: Glastonbury Abbey, copyright Centre for Study of Christianity & Culture

GLASTONBURY ABBEY ARCHAEOLOGY:

www.glastonburyabbeyarchaeology.org



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Glastonbury Abbey in Somerset is one of the most important medieval heritage sites in the UK, and has been the focus of archaeological study since the 19th century.

The abbey holds a special place in English identity and popular culture. In the middle ages it was reputed to be the burial place of the legendary King Arthur and his queen Guinevere, and was regarded as the site of the earliest church in Britain, thought to have been founded by Joseph of Arimathea. According to the Gospels, Joseph was the man who had donated his own tomb for the body of Christ following the crucifixion.

These stories have been connected with Glastonbury for nearly a thousand years and still have popular appeal and spiritual value today to groups including the Church of England, the Catholic Church and Glastonbury's diverse New Age 'Community of Avalon'.

[>> Find out more about the project](#)



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About



Find out about the project behind this online resource

Research



Discover the different outputs that our research has

Digital



Explore Glastonbury Abbey through the ages via our 3D

Methods



See how the historical and archaeological evidence

Myths



Glastonbury is a focus for myths and legends – explore

CONCLUSIONS: ENABLING OPEN RESEARCH

- Collectively, Reading archaeologists have pioneered initiatives that promote research rigour, transparency and collaboration:
- Open platforms for collaborative research processes (IADB)
- Open Data through publicly accessible digital archives – challenging the profession to improve standards of archiving
- Open Access publication – OA monographs and pioneering methods of OA publication linked to archives
- Public engagement and co-creation – encouraging non-academic partners to share research openly and to experiment with the digital