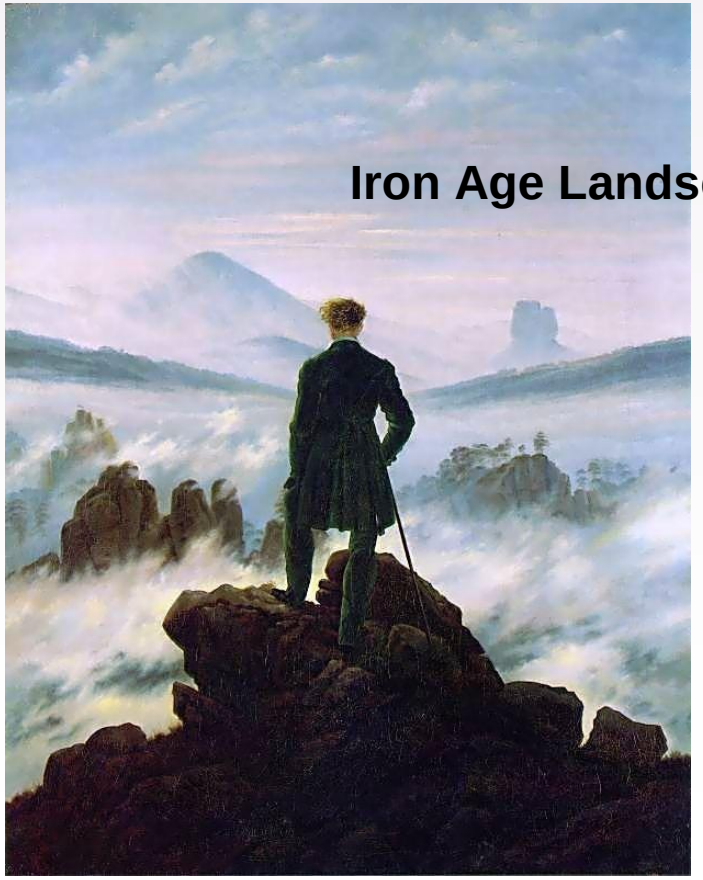
The Social Landscapes of Iron Age Britain



EAA 2014 – Istanbul

Session T04S002:

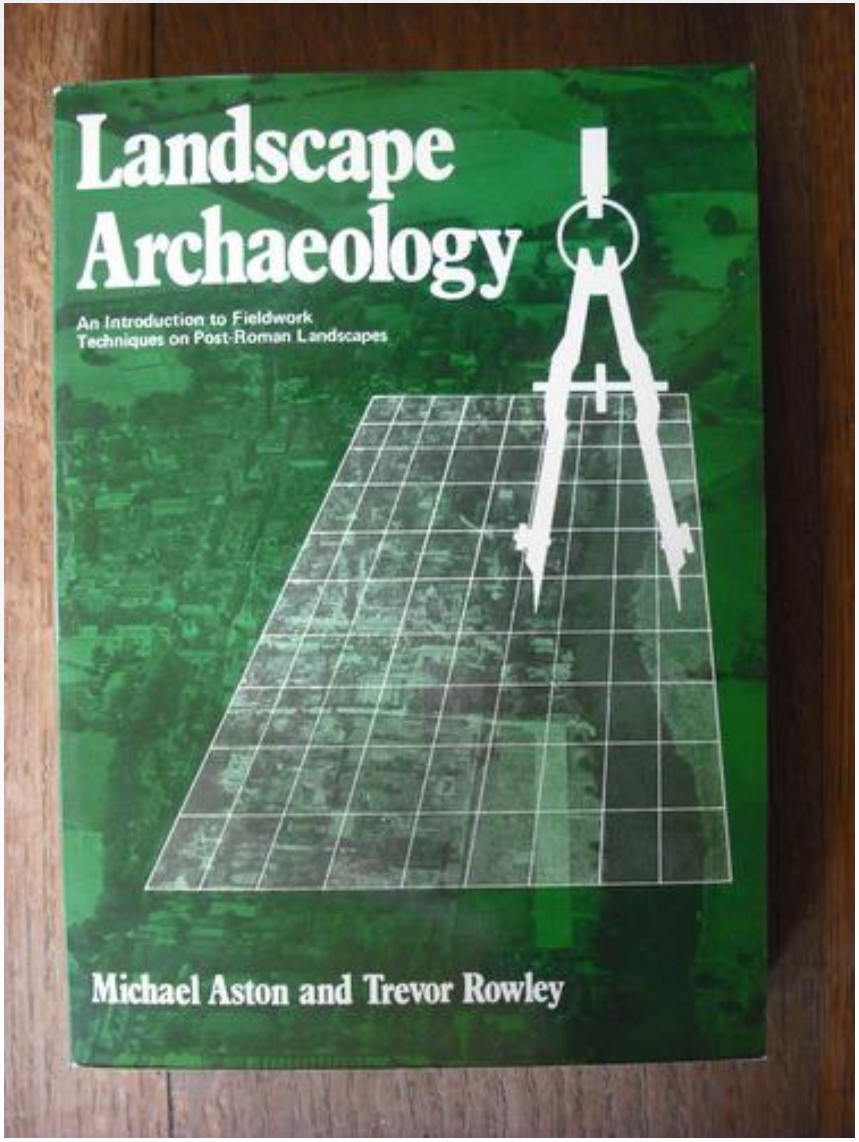
Iron Age Landscapes in a Comparative Perspective

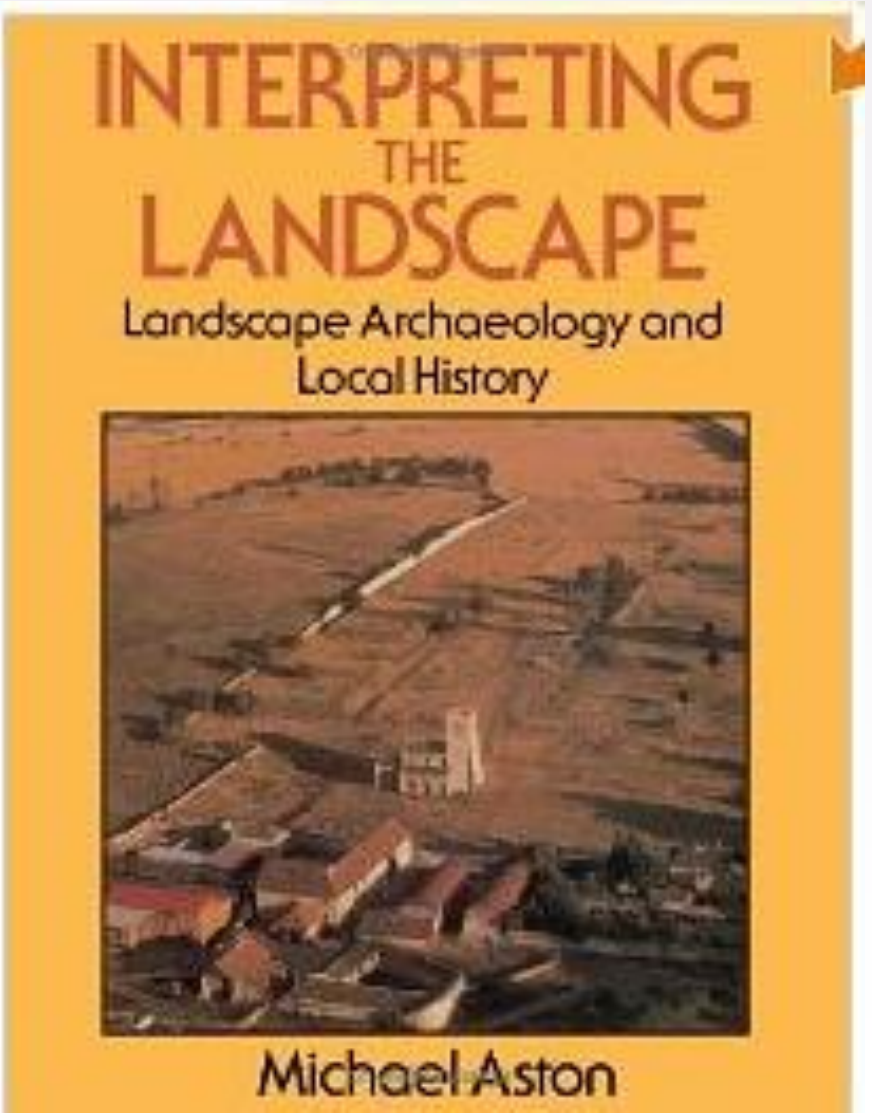
Nicky Garland

University College London

Jan van Goyen: Seascape with Windmill, 1644

Archaeological Landscapes

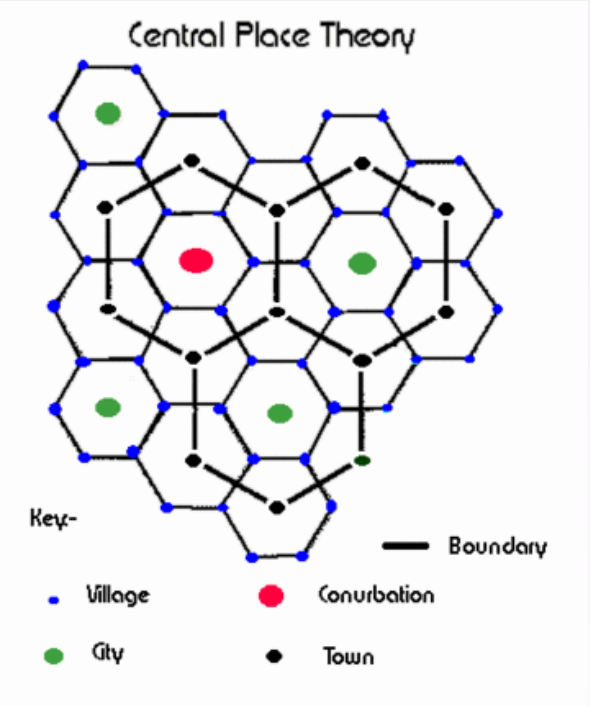




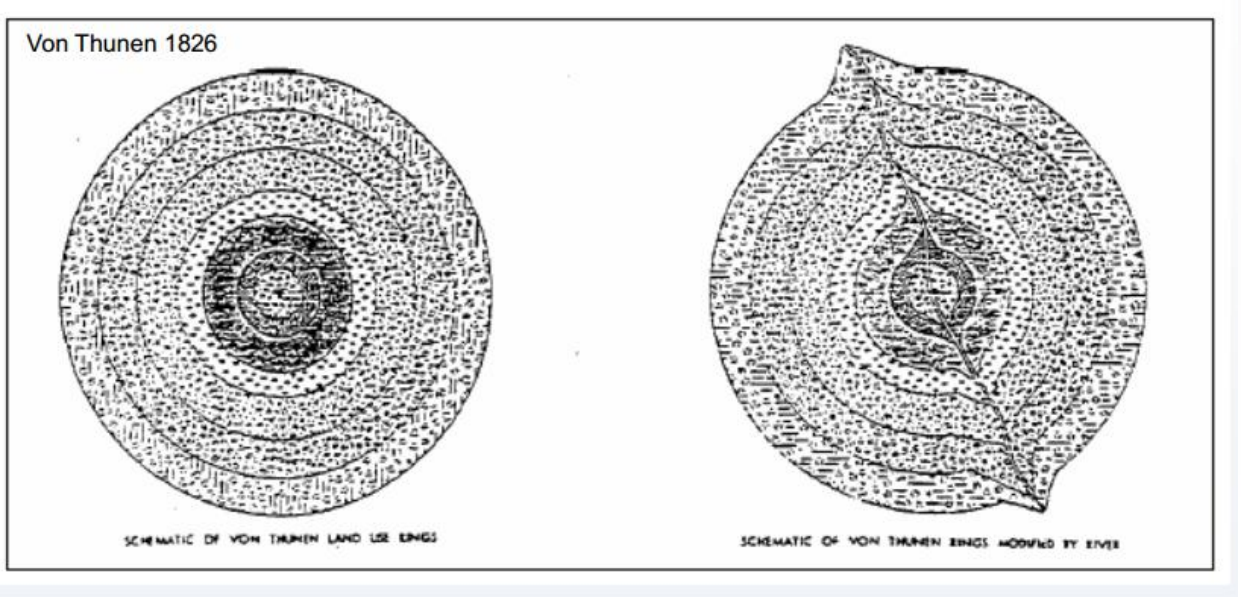
‘New Geography’

Christaller’s Central Place Theory

Christaller, W. Die zentralen Orte in Süddeutschland. (1933)



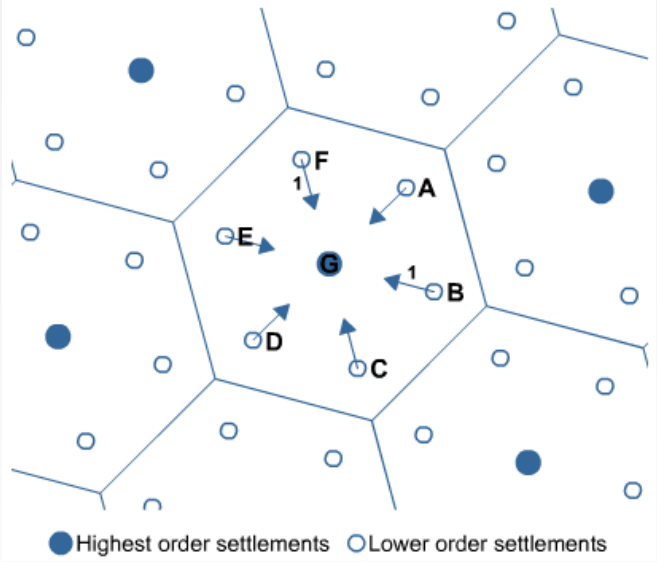
Von Thunen’s (and others) on site catchment analysis



Von Thunen, J.H. Der Isolierte Staat. Oxford (1966)

Archaeological Applications of 'New Geography'

Cunliffe, B. Hillforts and oppida in Britain. In: Sieveking, G de G et al (eds). Problems in economic and social archaeology (1976)



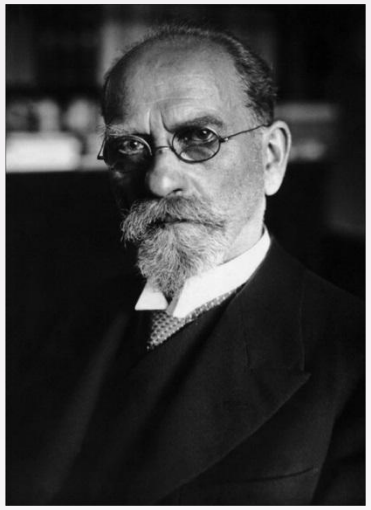
Haselgrove, C. Central places in British Iron Age studies In: Grant, E. (ed) Central places, archaeology and history. (1986).

THE NON-RANDOM SPACING OF ROMANO-BRITISH WALLED TOWNS

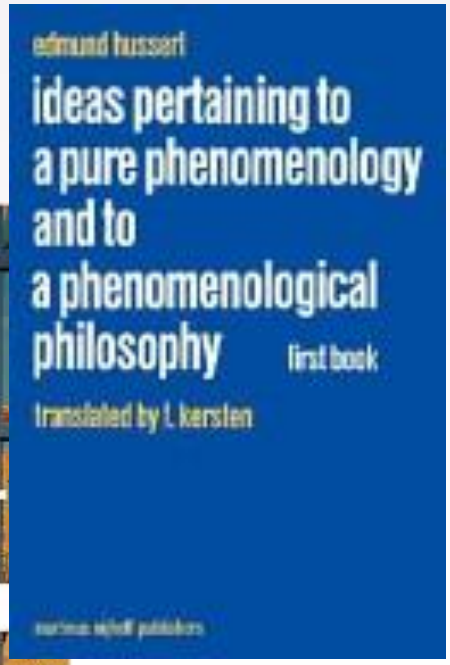
IAN HODDER & MARK HASSALL

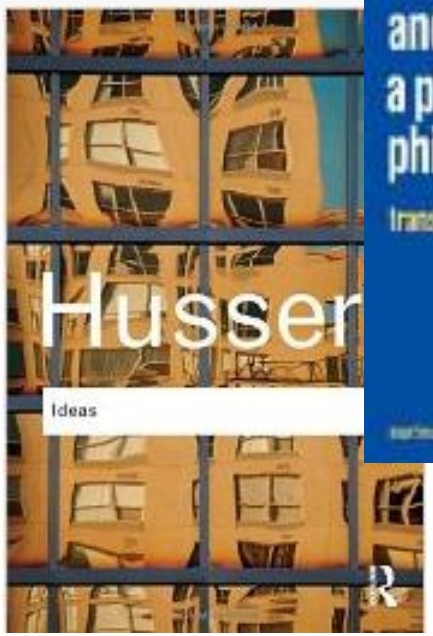
Institute of Archaeology, London

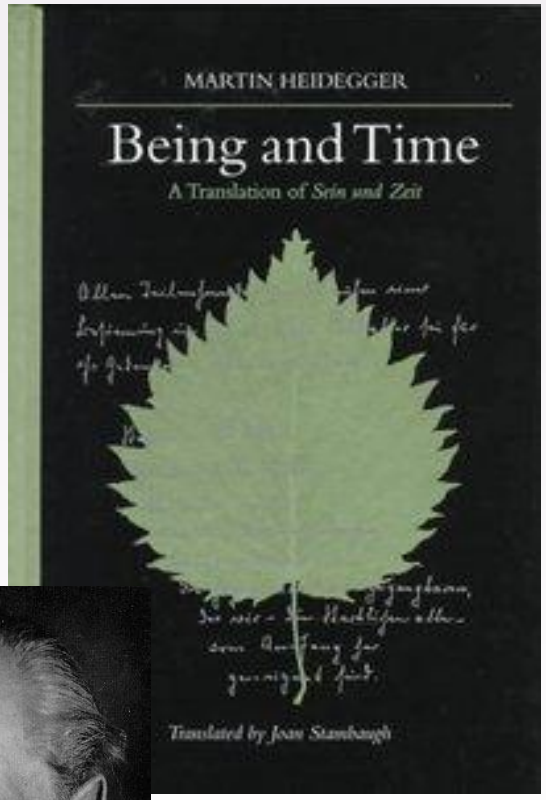
Phenomenology



Edmund Husserl







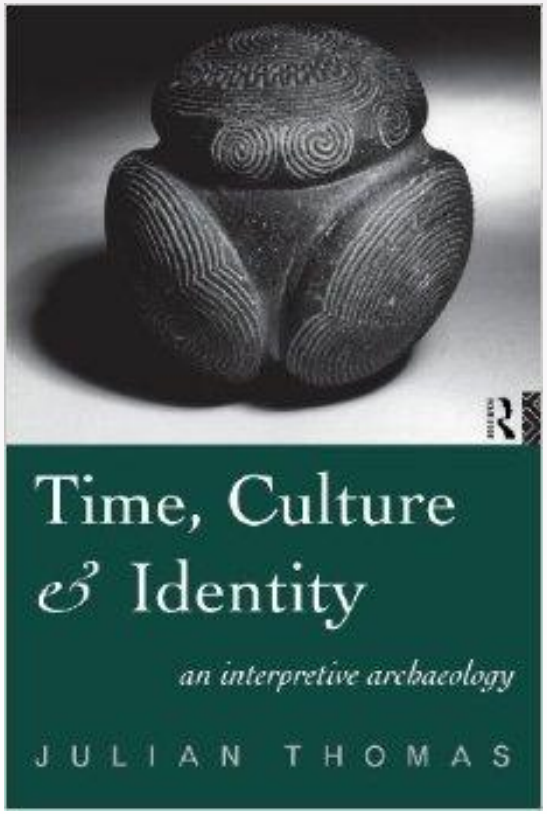
Martin Heidegger

Archaeological Phenomenology

Thomas, J. Time, Culture & Identity. Routledge (1996)

Subject / Object

Nature / Culture



Tilley, C. A Phenomenology of Landscape. Berg (1994)

‘Social Landscapes’

‘Landscape’ – A Difficult term to define

What Landscape is not!
A neutral backdrop for cultural activity
Abstract notions of ‘land’, ‘nature’ or ‘space’

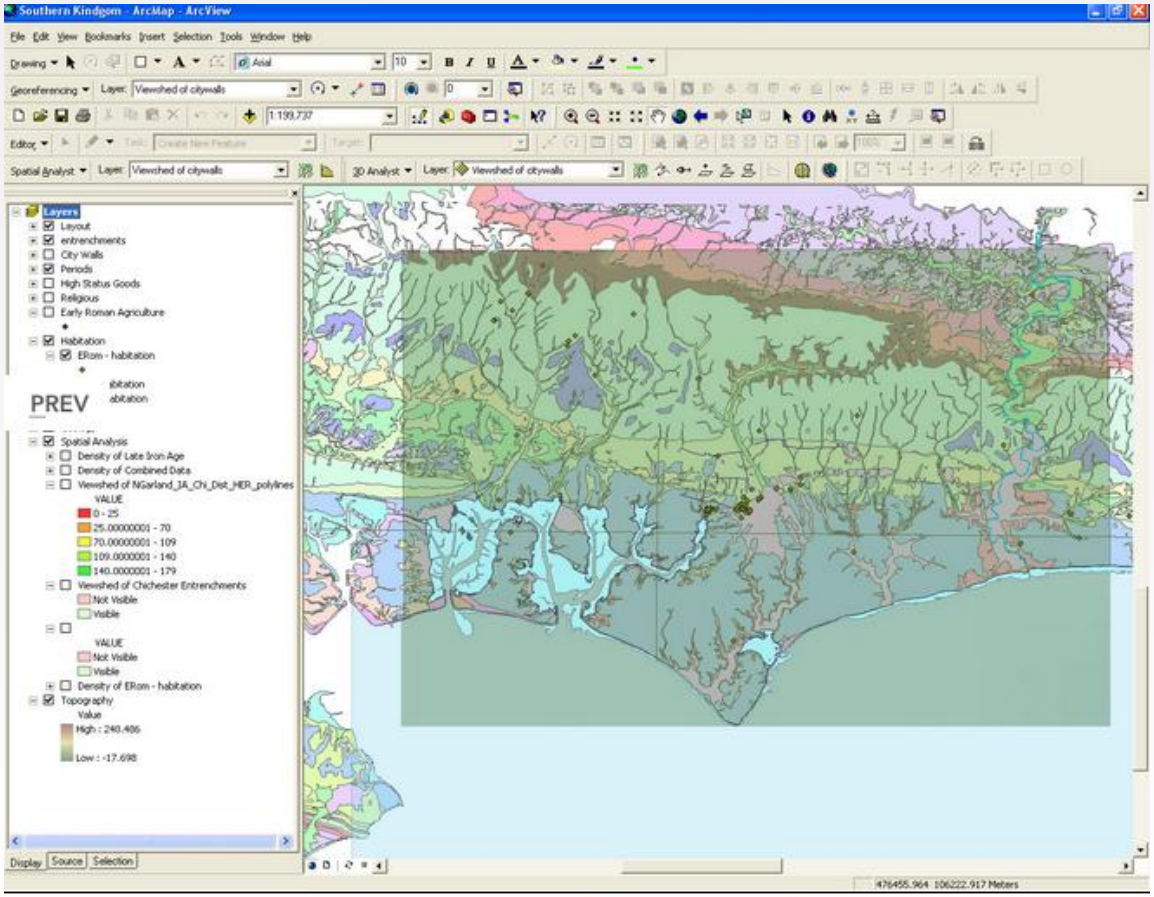
What Landscape becomes?
A Human centred phenomenon
Lived Space

Claude Lorrain

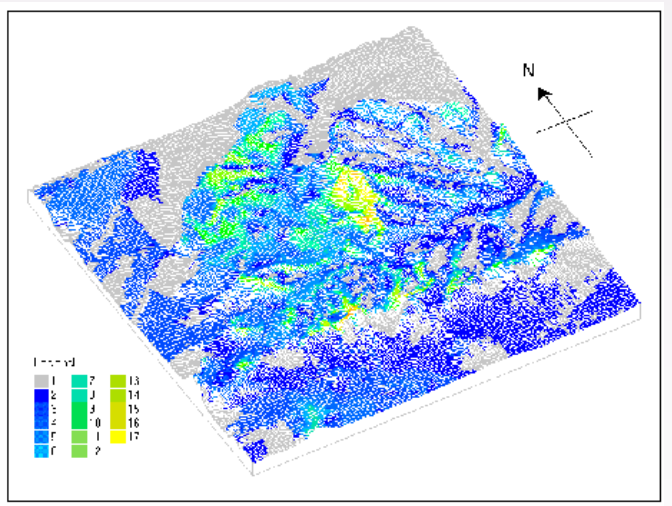
i.e. ‘Taskscapes’

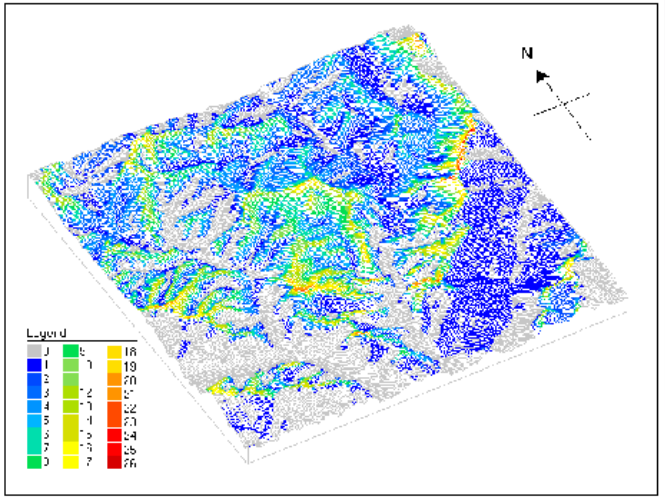
Ingold, T. The Temporality of the Landscape. World Archaeology 25:2. p152-174 (1993)

Geographic Information Systems



Geographical Information Systems Database for Southern Kingdom





Gillings, M. Cumulative Viewshed Analysis: a GIS-based method for investigating intervisibility, and its archaeological application. In: Lock, G. and Stancic, Z. (eds.) Archaeology and GIS: A European Perspective. London: Routledge. (1995)

Combined Spatial and Experiential Approaches

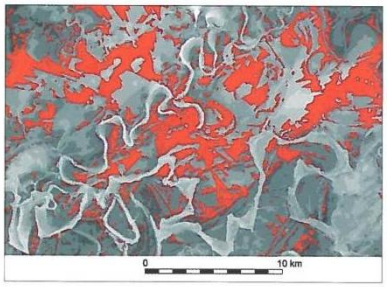


Fig. 3.8. Viewshed (red) generated from Ecsegfalva 23

Fig. 3.9. Degree to which areas are visually hidden or exposed

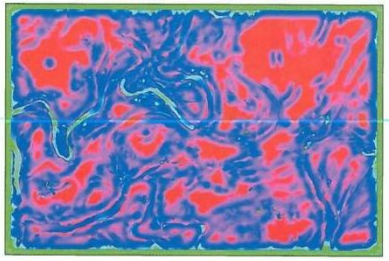


Fig. 3.10. Relative visual prominence

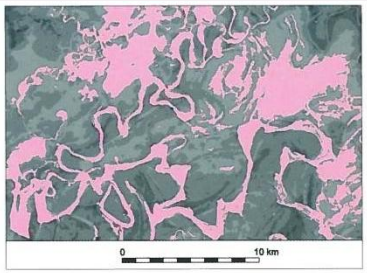


Fig. 3.11. Simulated locations of reeds (pink) and trees (red)

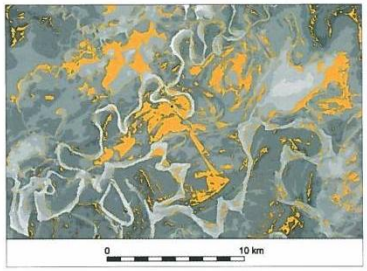


Fig. 3.12. Impact of reeds on the viewshed

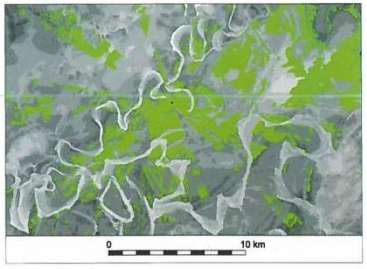


Fig. 3.13. Impact of trees on the viewshed

Gillings, M. The Ecsegfalva landscape: affordance and Inhabitation. In: Whittle, A. (ed.)The Early Neolithic on the Great Hungarian Plain. Investigations of the Körös Culture Site of Ecsegfalva 23, County Békés. Varia Archaeologica Hungarica 21. p. 31–46. (2007)

Eve, S. Dead Men's eyes: Embodied GIS, Mixed Reality and Landscape Archaeology.. BAR British Series (2014)

Case Study - Territorial Oppida

Characteristics

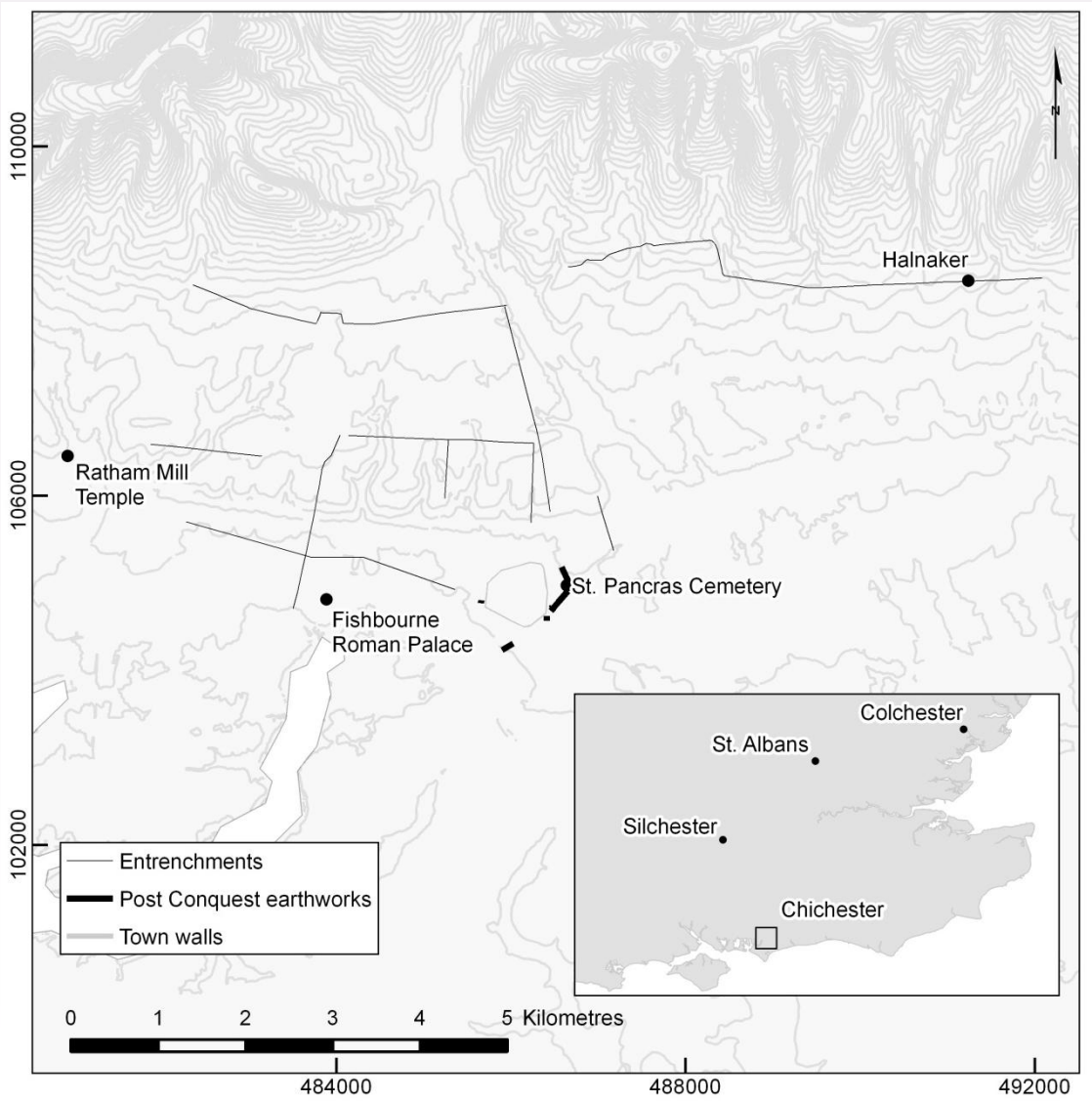
- Landscape Scale
- Discontinuous linear earthworks
- Polyfocal
- Multiple functions (habitation, agriculture, ritual and industry)

Examples

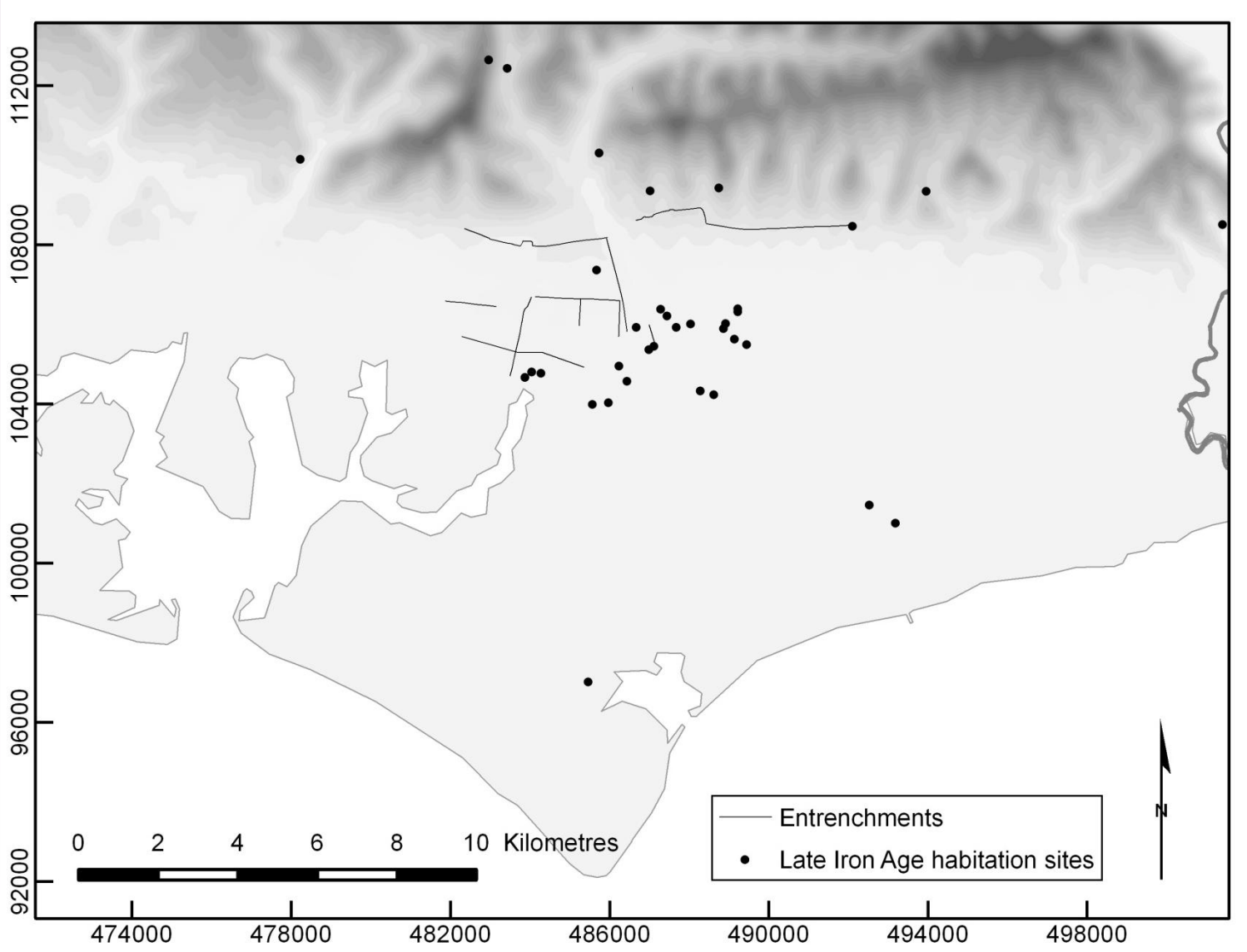
- St Albans, Hertfordshire
- Silchester, Hampshire
- Colchester, Essex
- Chichester, West Sussex
- Bagendon, Gloucstershire? (debated)

Silchester excavations

Chichester, West Sussex



Distribution of Settlement



Halnaker, West Sussex
2010

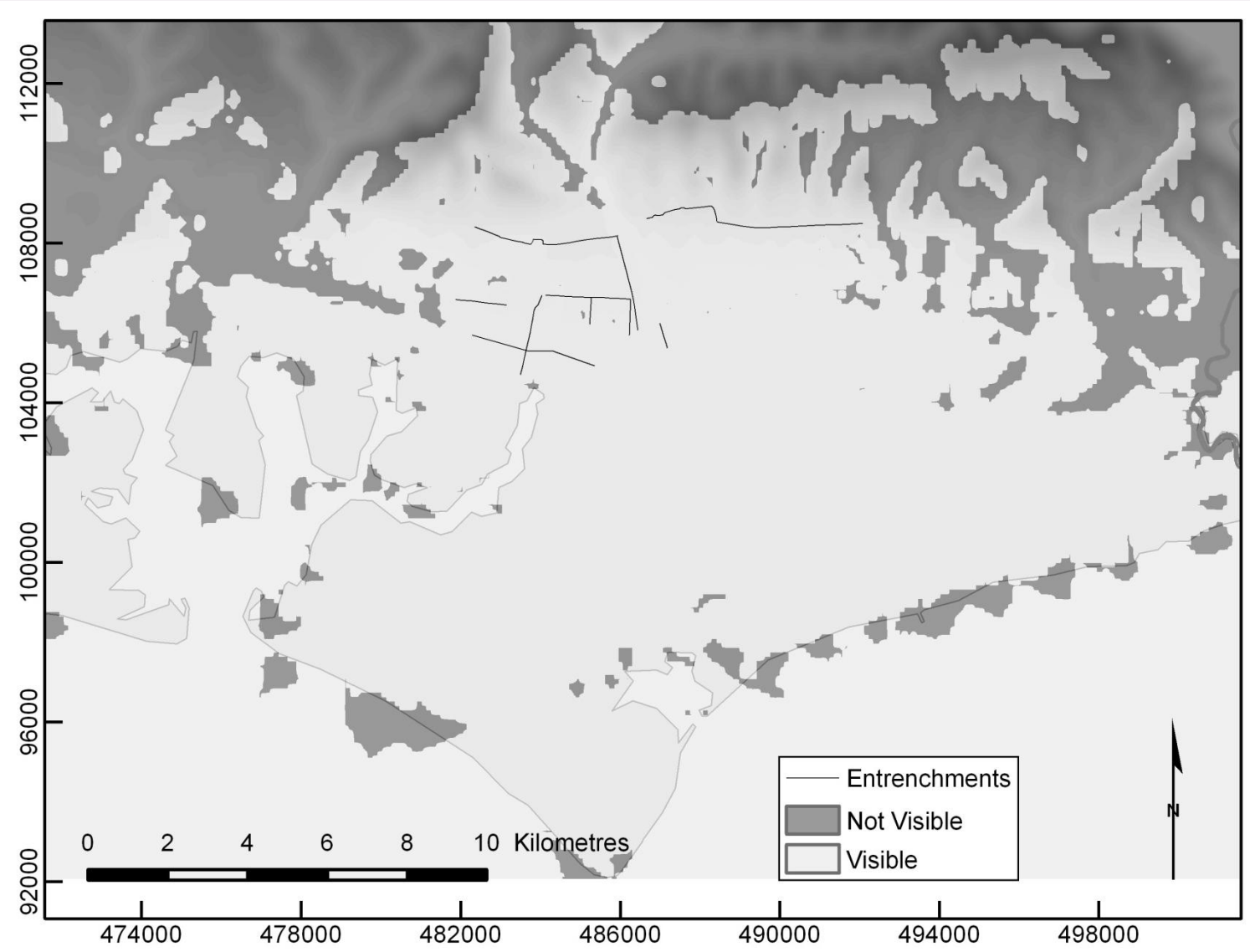
Labour estimates

L x Section / CV = D

L = Length of ditch
Section = Area of the section of the ditch
CV = Volume of earth (chalk) excavated by one person in one hour in cubic metres
D = Person hours

22,993 x 8.102 / 0.1415 = 1,316,512 person hours

Viewshed Analysis



Conclusions

- Combined or Holistic theoretical and methodological approach,
- Examines the social, physical and environmental aspects of Iron Age landscapes,
- Can or should be improved both along the lines of our continued understanding of experiential understandings of landscape and the ever growing abilities of technologies such as GIS.
- These techniques have been used by antiquarians for hundred of years, albeit with a much less developed understanding

Thank You

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