The Social Landscapes of Iron Age Britain

EAA 2014 – Istanbul
Session T04S002:
Iron Age Landscapes in a Comparative Perspective

Nicky Garland
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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

Archaeological Applications of ‘New Geography’


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

Edmund Husserl

Martin Heidegger
Archaeological Phenomenology


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

i.e. ‘Taskscapes’

Combined Spatial and Experiential Approaches

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)
Chichester, West Sussex
Distribution of Settlement
Halnaker, West Sussex
2010
Labour estimates

\[ L \times \text{Section} \div \text{CV} = D \]

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

\[ 22,993 \times 8.102 \div 0.1415 = 1,316,512 \text{ person hours} \]
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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