

REFIT UK: Successes, challenges and the future of coproduction within cultural landscape management



Gemma Tully

The break down: successes and challenges

- Impact on our own practice
- Impact on partners and other organisations
- Impact through public engagement
- Future impact and project development

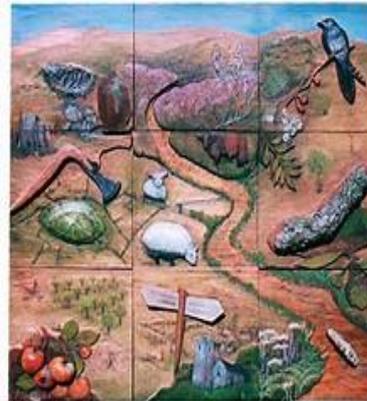


Impact on our own practice

Successes

- Understanding the [small] role of heritage within wider landscape manage 

- Adopting a landscape approach to all elements of management (not site-specific)



- New contacts across disciplines

- New methodologies (ecosystems services) 

- Potential for 'impact'



Challenges

- Sharing best practice internationally (complexity of land management systems even within EU)

- BREXIT (time scale)

- Being 'business-minded' 

- 'Scaling-up' practice

- Dissemination – who are we trying to reach and through what channels?

- Escaping the label of 'archaeologist!' 



Impact on our partners

Successes

- Contribution of data collection and analysis
- 'Free' resources and events (sustainable beyond life of REFIT)
- Mutual promotion
- Sharing and promoting new ideas about land management
- Future collaboration(?)

Challenges

- Maintaining contact and momentum (distance – Durham V Cotswolds)
- Working across institutional boundaries (red tape)
- Bridging academic and 'real world' outputs 
- Time and resources

What is Salmonsbury?

2100 years ago, the place where you are standing now would have been very different. Rather than standing among a few farm buildings, you'd be inside one of Britain's first towns known today as **Salmonsbury**. The word archaeologists use to talk about early towns like Salmonsbury is 'oppidum'.

Reconstruction of Salmonsbury oppidum (Copyright GWFT)

Oppida (the plural of oppidum), essentially walled towns in Latin and was the name given to these settlements by the Roman conquerors who encountered them. Such settlements can be found across much of central and western Europe. They date to the Late Iron Age – the time just before the Romans invaded. They vary in size and location. Some are hundreds of hectares, others, like Salmonsbury, are much smaller, only tens of hectares, and are located on important roadways. Salmonsbury is one such site, situated on the Windrush it was on an important route which linked the kingdoms of south-west England and the Severn Valley.

Farming, as well as a whole host of urban and industrial activities, would have taken place within oppida. They were the centres of power for Late Iron Age populations. They remained important places in the landscape even after the Roman invasion led to many new towns being built: the Cotswold Towns (the Cotswolds) and Salmonsbury became a small Roman town that now lies under Bourton.

Salmonsbury has large ditches and bank ramparts, some of which we can still see today. These ramparts would have continued all the way around the settlement and helped to protect the people and their livestock.

Archaeological excavation and modern survey techniques, such as Geophysics and LiDAR, have helped us learn far more about Salmonsbury. These show that in the Iron Age the site was quite intensively occupied by small enclosures and houses. We know that the site had already been a 'countryside camp', an important periodic meeting place, much earlier in the Neolithic, long before the oppidum was built. Salmonsbury continued to be an important meeting place in the Saxon and Medieval periods.

You can learn more about Salmonsbury and its history by taking a walk around the site and looking out for information boards or by following the Greystones Farm trail leaflet. You could also check out our website: www.cotswoldproject.com for more information on how Salmonsbury compares to oppida around Europe.

You Retweeted

 **Glos Wildlife Trust** @gloswildlife · Aug 27

Join us tomorrow at Greystones Farm for an afternoon including an Iron Age roundhouse, pot making & more! ow.ly/mR9830eCCR1

  2  1 

 **REFIT** @_REFIT · Jun 1

Is the Cotswolds changing? Help the [@CotswoldsAONB](https://www.cotswolds.aonb.gov.uk/) with your thoughts through this survey surveymonkey.co.uk/r/cotswolds50 #AONBat50 #engagement

Public engagement and coproduction

Successes

- Free public resources promoting integrated landscape management
- Changing perceptions of landscape through archaeology
- Reaching beyond 'traditional' stakeholders in consultations

Challenges

- Small scale/reach – of resources and stakeholder consultation
- Engaging with disaffected land managers/farmers and hard to reach socio-economic groups
- Engaging with powerful/key stakeholders who influence landscape management



Linda Weeks June 2, 2017 at 12:13 pm Edit

[Reply](#)

Viewing this has made me think about our own landscape, and the hidden stories that are waiting to be told. This project would be a good one to show in schools, to encourage children to find out more about their own areas, and there's scope to extend this across the whole of the UK. Maybe when more people understand about their local landscape and its history they will be more inclined to respect it and feel proud of it. This is a fascinating project.

Fieldwork summer 2017



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqd_1WtEBLI&feature=youtu.be – 14:10

Future impact and project development

Successes



Challenges

- Communication of REFIT message through engagement events
- Interest and consultation with HE, AONB and other organisations on future management based on REFIT UK's outputs
- Development of a new landscape-based public engagement methodology for archaeology
- Potential to contribute to rural planning post Brexit
- Additional university funding to increase 'impact' and extend research

- Greater data collection and a wider study area are needed to test theories
- Understanding complexity of stakeholder networks
- Uncertainty and competition due to Brexit agenda
- Integrating UK data with other international case studies
- Critiquing 'co-production'
- Dissemination of data in practicable ways – whether via online resources for the public or meaningful data for land managers/management bodies

Thank you!



Gemma Tully – Durham University
gemma.tully@durham.ac.uk