

Beyond the Tribal Hidage data

GENERAL GUIDE

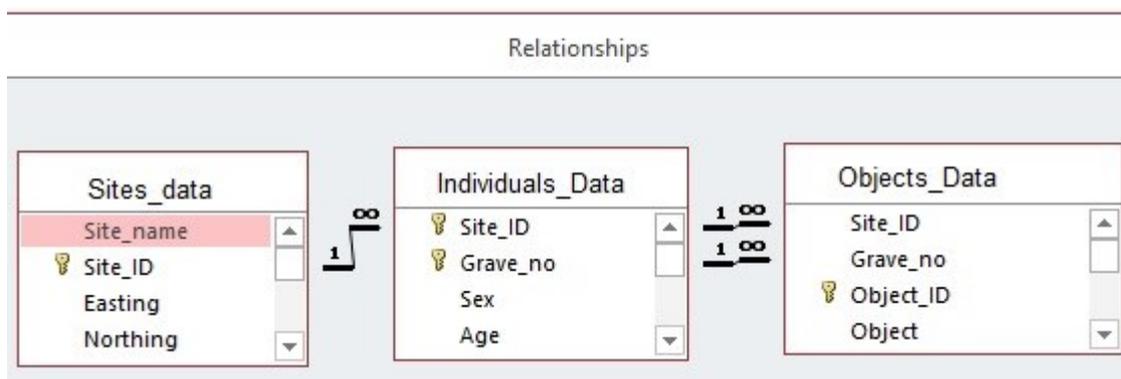
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The tables presented here contain the base line research data of the Leverhulme Trust funded project *Beyond the Tribal Hidage: the early Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of southern Britain AD 450-650*, directed by the late Martin Welch at UCL Institute of Archaeology 2006–9. Here are listed information on 834 burial sites, 12,379 buried individuals and 26,043 associated objects. The individuals were at the heart of the research project, each given a unique identifier tying them to place and linking them to objects. We conceptualised the process of data gathering as building a census of early Anglo-Saxon peoples in the region south of the River Thames and east of the River Parrett. It was a long-held ambition by Martin to update Audrey Meaney’s formidable gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon burials sites, published in 1964 and we are pleased to include downloadable pdfs of that volume within our reference materials here. Our original data collection ceased in 2007, but this edition of the census has been updated to include more recently published and unpublished sites (our grateful thanks to all those who gave us new material).

The data were produced in Microsoft® Office XP Access in 2007 as a relational database. Unique identifiers included in the individual tables enable the database to be reconstructed. The principal table ‘Sites_data’ is used to store site information. The table allows compilers to enter data to variable levels of detail, including locational information and excavation history. Separate records of individuals excavated from sites are listed in ‘Individuals_Data’ and their grave inventories in ‘Objects_Data’.



Files

- **Sites_data.txt**
- **Individuals_Data.txt**
- **Objects_Data.txt**

Key to Tables

Sites data.txt

Site Name

The name by which the site is usually known, for example Mill Hill or Scutchamore Knob, or a name derived from its general location as given in the publication

Site ID

This is a unique code given for each burial site. It consists of the county code (see below); a three letter code denoting the historic parish; hyphen to separate the entry; a two letter code for the site type (BC – isolated burial cremation; BI – isolated burial inhumation; CC – cremation cemetery; IC – inhumation cemetery; MC – mixed rite cemetery of inhumations and cremations); a running sequence number for that type of site within the parish.

Easting; Northing

The grid references are given to 12 figures, with varying degrees of precision.

County

The county names in England are for historic counties, as shown on the maps and listed in the gazetteer of the *Historic Parishes of England and Wales: an Electronic Map of Boundaries before 1850 with a Gazetteer and Metadata* (Kain and Oliver 2001). Essentially we are using the shire names extant prior to the county reorganization under the Local Government Act of 1972 (implemented 1974).

The English county names are:

County name	Unique code/abbreviation
Buckinghamshire	Bck
Berkshire	Brk
Dorset	Dst
Gloucestershire	Gls
Hampshire	Hts
Isle of Wight	IoW
Kent	Knt
Middlesex	Msx
Oxford	Oxf
Somerset	Smt
Surrey	Sry
Sussex (East and West)	Ssx
Wiltshire	Wlt

Parish

The historic parish within which the site was located, preceding twentieth century boundary changes, as mapped and listed by Kain and Oliver (2001).

Reference 1

The entry here refers to the publication used initially for determining information about a site. This should be read in conjunction with the *References* document. The further documentary sources used can be followed up from this initial reference.

Date From and Date To

The overall date ranges given for each site are based on the best estimates from knowledge current in 2007 and on the advice of Dr Martin Welch. However they must not be taken as definitive.

Numbers, rather imprecisely defined phases, are used in order to make more obvious the potential overlaps and disjunctures in the corpus. Some sites with uncertain date ranges have been retained, although they may yet prove to be outside of the project notional range of AD450-700.

A new end date for furnished burial of AD680 was ascertained in the Hines and Bayliss edited volume (2013), but it has not been possible to apply that work to this corpus at this time.

Number of individuals

The total number of people that have been excavated from the burials. This number combines inhumations and cremations. Where 00 is given this denotes an unknown number of burials alluded to in the text – ones that had been dug up previously without adequate recording.

Excavation date

As recorded in the source publication

References

Hines, J. and Bayliss, A. (eds). 2013. *Anglo-Saxon graves and grave goods of the 6th and 7th centuries AD: a chronological framework*. The Society for Medieval Archaeology monograph 33. London: The Society for Medieval Archaeology

Kain, R. and Oliver, R. 2001. *Historic Parishes of England and Wales : an Electronic Map of Boundaries before 1850 with a Gazetteer and Metadata*. [data collection]. UK Data Service. SN: 4348, <http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-4348-1>

Individuals Data.txt

Site ID

This is a unique code given for each burial site. It consists of the county code (see table in Sites metadata document); a three letter code denoting the historic parish; hyphen to separate the entry; a two letter code for the site type (BC – isolated burial cremation; BI – isolated burial inhumation; CC – cremation cemetery; IC – inhumation cemetery; MC – mixed rite cemetery of inhumations and cremations); a running sequence number for that type of site within the parish.

Grave Number

This is the number or code for the grave as given in the text. Taken together with the Site ID, this gives a unique identifier for everyone in the corpus.

The following code elements are used:

- X denotes that an unknown number of individuals were seen during excavation, so this is a group entry to denote their presence. CX represents an unknown number of cremations.
- / denotes a multiple burial (inhumation or cremation), for example 002/003; 145/a
- ‘-’ is used when subsequent excavations on a site have used the same number sequence for their graves. The number before ‘-’ equates to the year of excavation, for example 62-004, 63-004

Sex

The binaries of Female (F) and Male (M) as presented in the publication. The entries are recorded from the text but the level of accuracy of these is very variable, apart from those carried out by field unit specialists. The majority are Unknown. Degrees of uncertainty have been included, for example F?

Age at death

The information for this field was transcribed from the texts. Many entries will not have been determined by osteoarchaeological analysis and are based on the perceptions of the excavator. The terminology is imprecise as to meaning that could be tied to a range of ages – what ‘child’ or ‘young adult’ might mean in one era could be different in another. The age is given in (a range of) years in most cases, or by months or weeks if stated.

Date from/Date to

These date ranges are based on the artefact assemblages of the individuals, where material culture is present. These ranges contribute to the overall data ranges given to a site, but again these are only indicative and do not reflect work on artefact dating since 2007.

Burial rite

Inhumation or cremation

Objects Data.txt

Site ID

This is a unique code given for each burial site. It consists of the county code (see table in Sites metadata document); a three letter code denoting the historic parish; hyphen to separate the entry; a two letter code for the site type (BC – isolated burial cremation; BI – isolated burial inhumation; CC – cremation cemetery; IC – inhumation cemetery; MC – mixed rite cemetery of inhumations and cremations); a running sequence number for that type of site within the parish.

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Object

There are 335 separate object names in this data list. Where possible these names have been reconciled, but this has not been possible in many cases where there is no illustration, or the object has not been seen in an archive. An object is listed regardless of whether it survived excavation.

Type

Additional information about an object is given under this heading. This is an area that requires much more detailed work, particularly in the light of recent work on artefact dating.

Quantity

The default here is 1. Where there is an unknown number of objects of the same type ‘00’ is used – for example for ‘beads’. Where there are countable multiples of the same object, this number is entered, for example ‘Monochrome beads’ ‘27’.

Material content 1

The major constituent material of an object. ‘Fe’ denotes iron and ‘Ae’ denotes a copper alloy.

Material content 2

The secondary constituent material of an object. ‘Fe’ denotes iron and ‘Ae’ denotes a copper alloy.

Object group

Each object was ascribed a group solely based on its function. This grouping facilitates speedy searching for ‘Weaponry’ or ‘Dress fittings’, but the placing of an object into a category is wholly subjective – should knives be viewed as ‘Personal effects’ or ‘Tools’. This field as presented here is an indicator of one of the many ways that the data can be grouped, depending on the research interests of the user. Here the same object might occur in multiple categories, depending on its position in the burial, for example a potsherd might be a remnant of a ‘Receptacle’ or might be classified as ‘Grave equipment’ if deliberately placed in the fill of the grave. The Object groups are:

Object group	Objects examples
Dress fittings	Brooches; buckles, clasps, pins
Grave equipment	Coffins, clamps, nails, animal bone, organics, cremation urns
Personal effects	Any non-dress objects placed in association with the body, for example beads, amulets, bags, toilet picks
Receptacles	Pottery vessels, copper alloy bowls, thread boxes
Tools	Awls, keys, knives, spindle whorls
Unknown	Usually where the object is designated as an ‘Unidentified artefact’
Weaponry	Spearheads, swords, shield bosses, sword pommels, arrowheads