

Using Aerial Photographs and Lidar to Analyse Late Iron Age Oppida Landscapes

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Introduction

I am in the second year of my doctoral research into the landscapes of Iron Age territorial *oppida*, large settlements created just prior to the Roman conquest of Britain associated with extensive systems of linear earthworks. My data collection is facilitated by a placement with the Historic England Aerial Investigation and Mapping team, enabling access to loans of photographs from the HE Archive and to specialist advice from the AIM team. Working with AIM and having training from the Historic Places Investigation team has benefitted my PhD research and enhanced my knowledge and skills.

I am analysing the landscapes of territorial *oppida* in southern Britain using aerial photographs and lidar, re-evaluating known sites and identifying new areas of settlement and agriculture in three case study areas: Chichester, Colchester and North Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch. I will review the results from my case studies alongside excavated evidence I will then use this information to examine whether connections can be made between elements in the landscapes of these sites that enable the development of a better definition of territorial *oppida*.

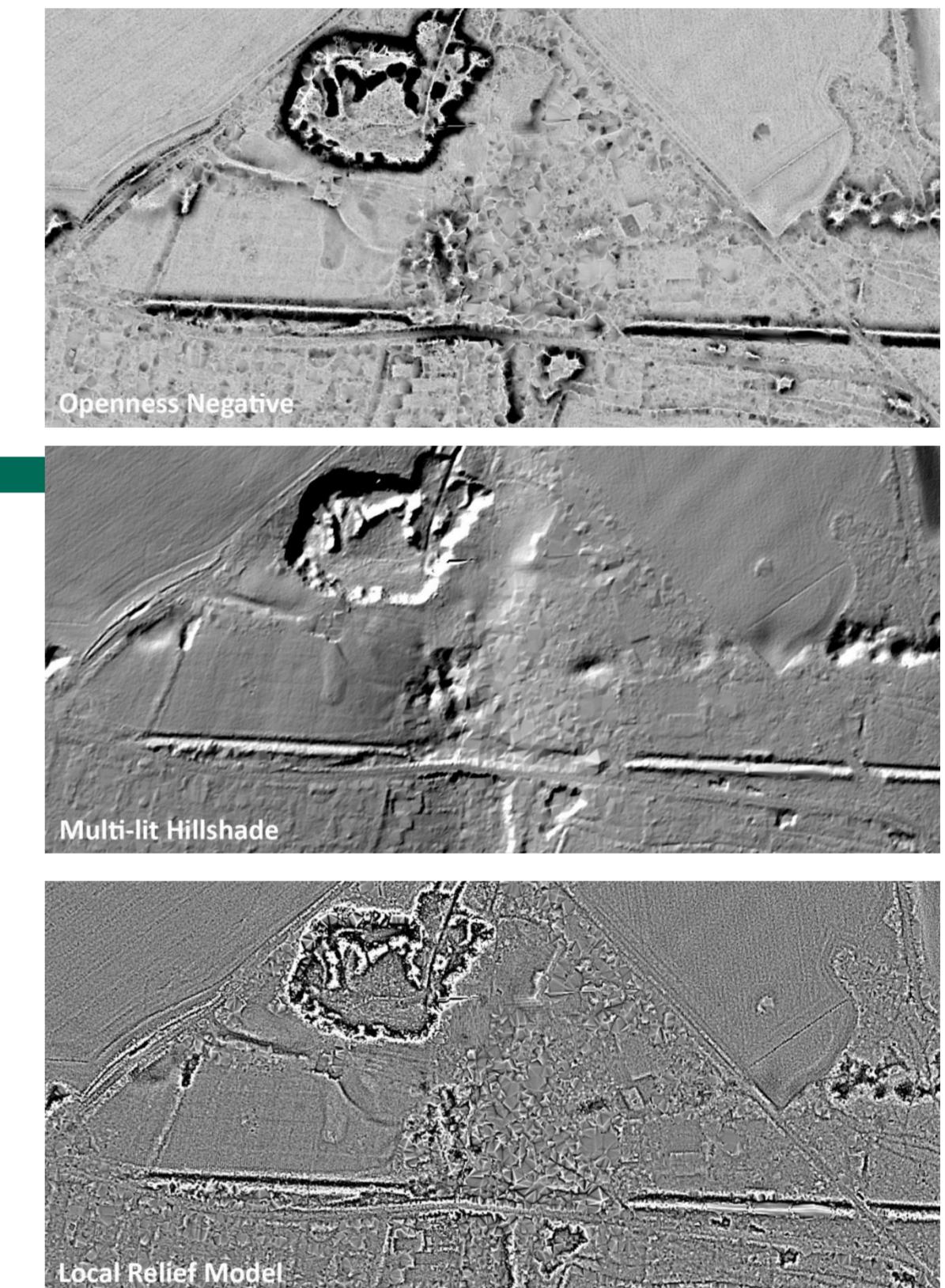
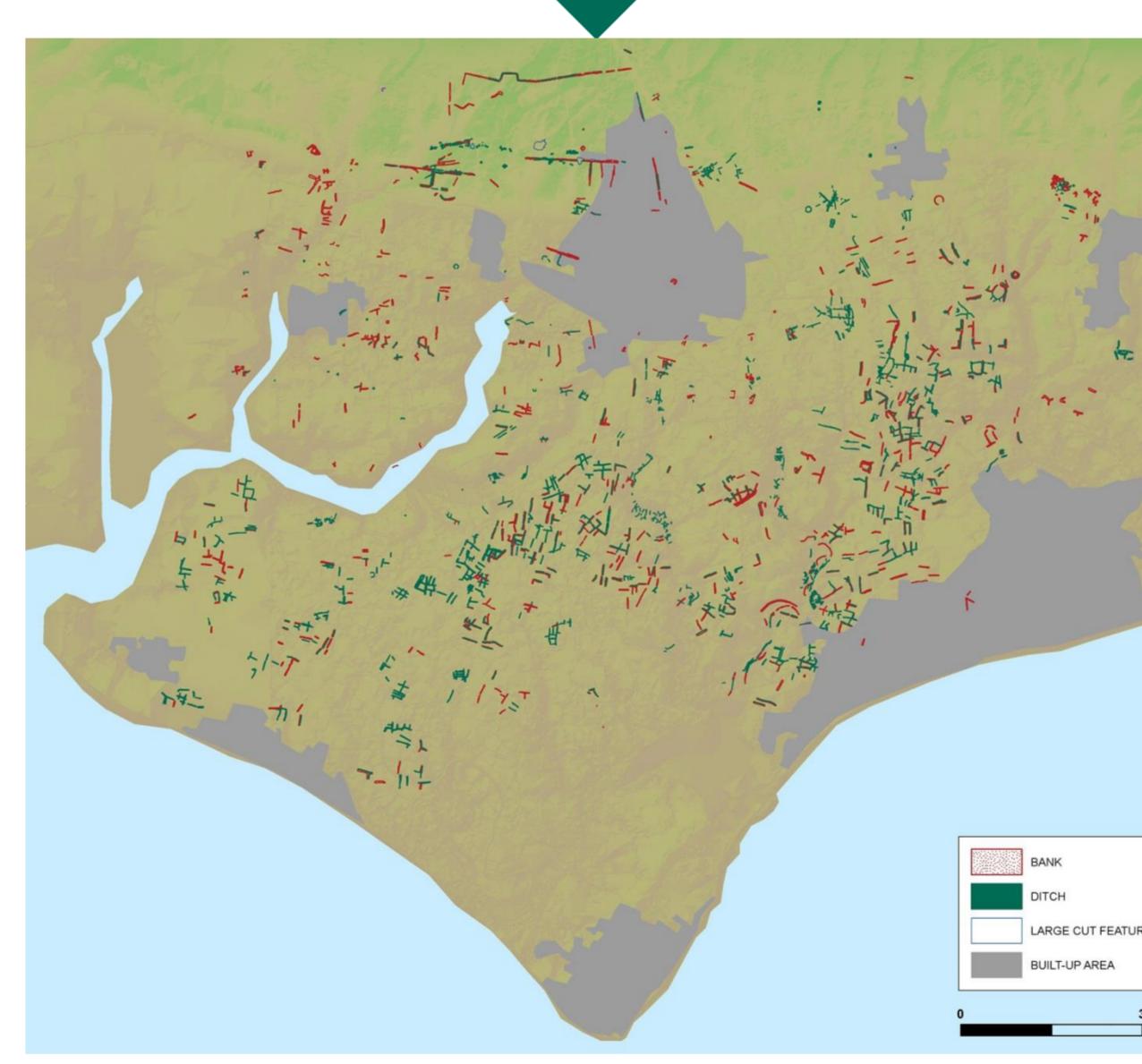
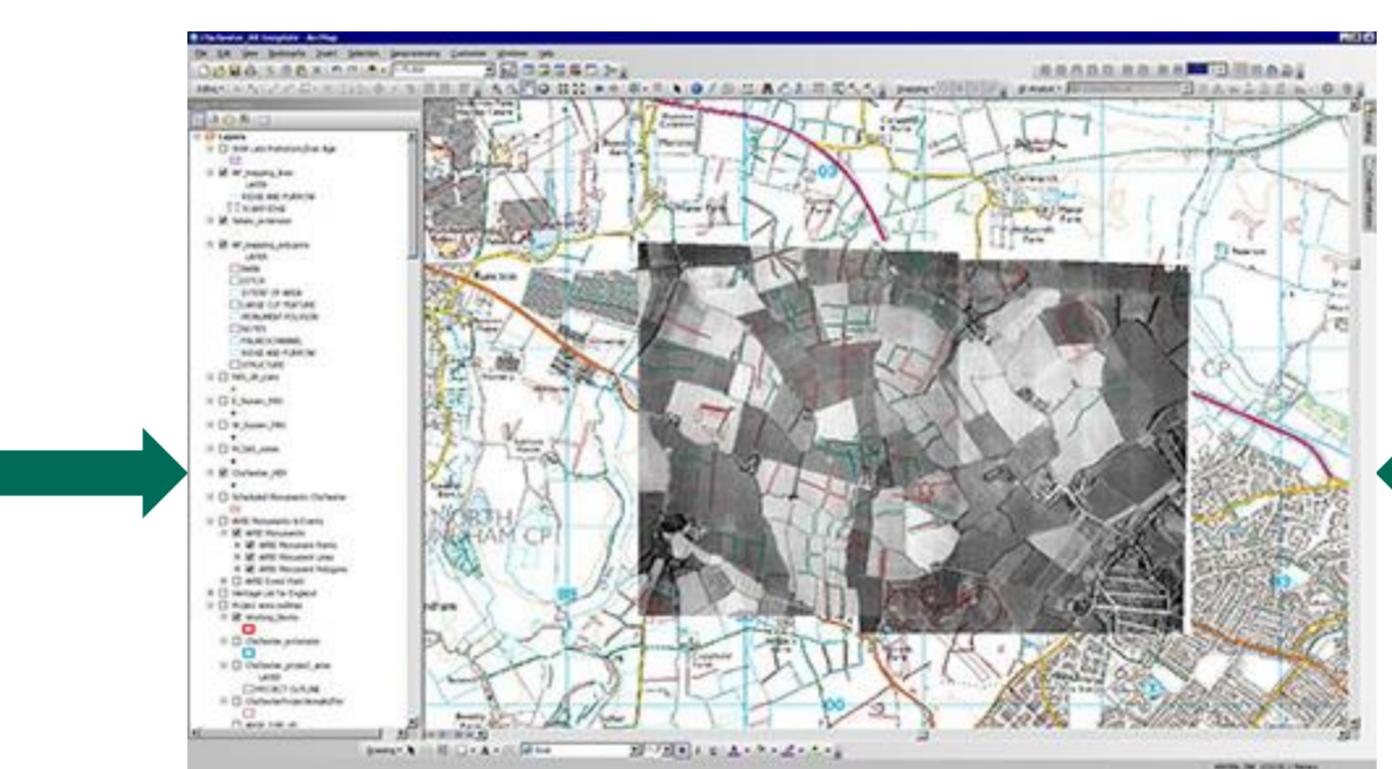
Methodology



All available aerial photographs and satellite imagery were examined. Historic vertical photographs taken as stereo pairs were viewed using a stereoscope. Photographs were georectified and added to my project GIS.

Further analysis

I have also had training in analytical earthwork survey from the Historic Places Investigation team. I will carry out my own surveys of sites identified through my data collection.



Environment Agency lidar was processed using the Relief Visualisation Toolbox¹ into several different visualisations, each of which highlight different aspects of the data.

References

1. Kolalj et al, Relief Visualisation Toolbox, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, <http://iaps.zrc-sazu.si/en/rvt/#>

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Outputs

As well as forming the basis of my PhD thesis, I am creating records for all new and updated archaeological sites identified during my data collection for the National Record for the Historic Environment and the relevant Historic Environment Records.