Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: Pottery Production at Roman Corbridge: its character, scale and significance

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Project abstract:

This research investigates the production, distribution, and socio-cultural significance of White Ware *mortaria* from Corbridge, a pivotal site on Roman Britain's northern frontier. By examining these distinctive grinding bowls, the project aims to explore the economic and cultural role of Corbridge as a production and trade hub as well as the socio-economic dynamics of the region. Through macroscopic, chemical, and petrographic analyses of ceramic fabrics, combined with GIS mapping and archival research, the project aims to reconstruct Corbridge's economic and social dynamics and evaluate its cultural integration within the regional trade networks on the northern frontier of the Roman Empire.

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Pottery Production at Roman Corbridge: its character, scale and significance

Data Collection

What data will you collect or create?

My research involves collecting and creating data on Roman *mortaria* in 'white ware' ceramics from Corbridge and other sites along Hadrian's Wall. The data will include:

• Primary Data: Measurements, descriptions, high-resolution images, and analyses of *mortaria* (form, fabric, inclusions).

• Contextual Data: Excavation reports, grey literature like unpublished site records, and comparative studies on ceramics from museum collections.

• Quantitative and Geospatial Data: Statistical data on production and distribution patterns, GIS mappings of production centres and trade routes.

Formats will include Word, Excel, CSV, and PDF/A to ensure compatibility and long-term access. Existing datasets, such as excavation records English Heritage, and Historic England databases, will also be integrated where appropriate.

How will the data be collected or created?

The data will be collected and created using a combination of methods:

• Ceramic Analysis: Physical examination and measurement of pottery, documenting dimensions, forms, and surface characteristics using digital calibres and scales.

• Photographic Documentation: High-resolution images of ceramics and thin section

• Thin Section Preparation and Analysis: Thin sections of ceramics will be created for petrographic analysis to examine mineral composition and inclusions.

• Geospatial Data: GIS mapping will be conducted using data from site visits and existing datasets to map production and distribution sites.

• Archival Research and Grey Literature: Relevant excavation reports and unpublished records will be scanned and transcribed into digital formats for analysis.

All data will be systematically recorded in Excel spreadsheets and supported by detailed metadata to ensure consistency and accuracy.

Documentation and Metadata

What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?

The data will be accompanied by:

Documentation:

• Descriptions of data collection methods and analysis protocols.

• Contextual information about the ceramics, such as typologies, production sites, and historical context.

• Explanations of file structures, naming conventions, and variables used.

Metadata:

• Standardized metadata (e.g., MIDAS Heritage) including:

• Title, creator, and date of data collection.

• Description of the dataset's content, coverage, and format.

• Methodology and licensing (CC BY) details for reuse.

This ensures that the data is well-documented, easily interpretable, and reusable for future research.

Ethics and Legal Compliance

How will you manage any ethical issues?

My project has already been assessed as low ethical risk. Additionally, as my research does not involve data related to individuals, it does not pose any risks to privacy or security. All data collection and sharing will adhere to institutional guidelines and ethical standards for archaeological research.

How will you manage copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues?

I will ensure that all data I create is shared under a CC BY license, allowing reuse with proper attribution. For third-party data, such as archival materials or previously published datasets, I will obtain the necessary permissions and adhere to copyright agreements. Wherever possible, I will prioritize using data with minimal restrictions to maximize openness and accessibility while respecting the rights of original creators.

Storage and Backup

How will the data be stored and backed up during the research?

The data will be stored on Excel spreadsheets and saved on the university-provided computer. Regular backups will be made using the university's secure servers and cloud storage solutions, ensuring the safety and accessibility of all collected data throughout the research. Additionally, external hard drives may be used for an extra layer of data security.

How will you manage access and security?

Access to the data will be managed through the university's secure systems, ensuring that only authorized personnel can access it. The university-provided computer will be password-protected, and sensitive files will be stored on secure servers with restricted access.

Selection and Preservation

Which data are of long-term value and should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?

The data of long-term value that should be retained, shared and preserved includes:
•Processed datasets: Measurements, descriptions, and analysis of pottery.
•Geospatial data: GIS maps of production and distribution sites.
•Thin section data:
Petrographic descriptions: Detailed information on mineral composition, inclusions, and fabric characteristics of the ceramics.
High-resolution photos: Images of thin sections captured under polarised light microscopy.
Analytical measurements: Quantitative data on inclusion size, distribution, and frequency.
•Contextual data: Transcriptions of reports and unpublished site records.
•High-resolution images: Photographs of the ceramics, enabling detailed visual analysis and future comparisons.

What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?

The long-term preservation plan for my dataset involves contributing to the Corbridge material database and depositing it with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). ADS is a trusted platform for preserving and disseminating archaeological data, ensuring long-term accessibility and usability.
This approach guarantees that the data will remain accessible to researchers and the public, supporting future studies and promoting wider engagement with the findings.

Data Sharing

How will you share the data?

I intend to share my data as open access under a CC BY license, ensuring it can be freely used, modified, and shared with proper attribution. Where possible, I aim to make the data available through the Archaeological Data Service (ADS), a recognized repository for archaeological datasets. This platform ensures long-term preservation and accessibility, aligning with the principles of open research.

Are any restrictions on data sharing required?

No restrictions on data sharing are anticipated. All data will be openly shared under a CC BY license, ensuring unrestricted access, reuse, and redistribution with proper attribution.

Responsibilities and Resources

Who will be responsible for data management?

The role of collecting, organising, and storing the data will reside with me.
The role of supervising the process of data collection, analysis, and the dissemination of findings will reside with my supervisory team: Prof. Ian Haynes, Prof. James Gerrard, and Dr. Frances McIntosh.

What resources will you require to deliver your plan?

To successfully deliver my data management and research plan, I will require the following resources:
• ArcGIS: I may need to purchase a license for ArcGIS to complete the GIS mapping and geospatial analysis essential for the project. While free alternatives like QGIS exist, ArcGIS offers specific features and compatibility that are advantageous for this research.
• Munsell Soil Color Charts