

## Notes on the Seventh Meeting of the ARENA Project Partners.

Held at the *The Nordic House [Sturlugata 5, 101 Reykjavik].*  
Hosted by Fornleifastofnun Íslands Institute of Archaeology, Iceland

24<sup>th</sup> February 2004

### Action Points for the ARENA Partners:

- Continue developing archive resources to partner's satisfaction.
- Claus and Oscar to populate Layered Metadata database with data from Vorbasse and Hofstadir. Jon to supply the same from Cottam. The three databases will be linked and a search interface added.
- Irina to add decimal long / lat locations to each Site / Monument record to be used in the Portal Search by the end of May (3 months).
- ADS to look at feasibility of adding an intermediate scale search map.
- ADS to look at feasibility of allowing When and What search combination with a 'too much data returned' warning.
- Øyvind to look at feasibility of caching various combinations of When and What.
- All partners to translate text extracted from the search interface, sent by Jon and to return by 26<sup>th</sup> March.
- ADS to put up these translations by 8<sup>th</sup> April.
- All partners to produce 500 words max describing their SMR type archive in own language and English (deadline end of May)
- All partners to translate and return SMR descriptions circulated by Jon.
- To consider themes for papers at EAA, circulated by Jon and Julian, and to undertake to give a paper on a particular theme at Lyon (deadline end of May).

### Action Points for Jon Kenny:

- Ensure that Claus and Oscar have a blank copy of the Layered Metadata database.
- To circulate text extracted from the search interface on or before 12<sup>th</sup> March.
- To circulate SMR descriptions in English for translation.
- To circulate the Polish archive descriptions for translation.
- To decide on suggested themes for EAA Lyon with Julian and to circulate partners.
- Review finances re a final meeting.

### Persons Present:

Julian Richards (ADS, University of York, UK), Jon Kenny (ARENA Project Officer, ADS, University of York, UK), Tony Austin (ADS, University of York, UK), Andrzej Prinke (Poznan Archaeological Museum, Poland), Oscar Aldred (FSI, Institute of Archaeology, Iceland), Henrik Jarl Hansen (National Agency for Cultural Heritage, Denmark), Claus Dam (National Agency for Cultural Heritage, Denmark), Oliver Canning (National Agency for Cultural Heritage, Denmark), Irina Oberländer-Tarnoveanu (cIMeC, Institute for Cultural Memory, Romania), Jon Holmen (The Museum Project, University of Oslo, Norway), Øyvind Eide (The Museum Project, University of Oslo, Norway), Gitte Hoy-Petersen (The Museum Project, University of Oslo, Norway).

## **Notes on the Meeting:**

### **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

**01/04** The minutes were accepted, as a true account of the meeting is St Petersburg following the removal of the last sentence in minute 03/033.

### **2. Matters Arising.**

**02/04** Developments in the ARENA archives. Each of the network partners reported on continuing developments on the archives that they present through ARENA:

FSI, Iceland; continue to develop the Hofstadir resource including a publications area. The written sections of the web resource continue to be refreshed as new archives become available.

Museum Project, Norway: Are improving the map GIS interface and including more data. The extra data will definitely cover Egge and possibly Hegge too.

National Agency for Cultural Heritage, Denmark: Have had to develop a new data structure to accommodate the ARENA archive, they also continue to add data (this includes a finds database for Vorbasse). The Dankirke archive now includes images and thumbnails of finds. It is hoped that the excavation reports for Hjelm will be included.

Poznan Archaeological Museum, Poland: Has now made the Biskupin photograph gallery available. They will be adding publications and correspondence relating to the excavation, in particular illustrating the Nazi phase of excavation. The handwritten inventory will be digitised allowing for links to related photographs. Both Kowalewko and Biskupin will have a download facility for resources. The third archive (based on motorway excavation reports) is running into difficulty and may not become available.

cIMeC, Institute for Cultural Memory, Romania: The two contributions continue to develop, new images are appearing and they are currently concentrating on an English language version. The 2003 archaeological reports are also currently being added, each will have an image and a third of them have English abstracts. A database of site names is being developed that will link contemporary place names with old ones.

ADS, UK: The Danebury, Tarraconensis and Cottam records are archived and presented on line.

**03/04** The ARENA network should be proud of its achievements in preserving and making accessible these diverse resources. The diversity is a very real strength of our work.

**04/04** Layered Metadata. Claus Dam and Oscar Aldred met with Jon Kenny and Keith Westcott in York to discuss the development of the Layered Metadata database. Keith has developed the original idea into a working example in Access. Claus and Oscar have agreed to populate a copy of the database with material from Vorbasse and Hofstadir so that the databases can then be cross-searched along with the Cottam data provided by Jon.

### **3. ARENA Portal: Interoperability Progress**

**05/04** It was clear from the start that the whole ARENA portal would not be ready for launch in Prato in April. There has been enough progress to demonstrate the viability of the portal in the paper to be given by Claus Dam in the European Portals session at the conference. Each partner described his or her position with regard to the Portal.

**06/04** Museum Project, Norway: Have achieved a searchable Z39.50 target that can be searched by a portal at the University of York. There is still a lot of work to be done to make the search link to the ARENA search interface but never-the-less this is probably the first public search of data between archaeological databases in two European nations with have different languages (English and Norwegian). The work has been very time consuming and a lot of lessons have been learned that will benefit the other Z39.50 users.

**07/04** FSI, Iceland: Have commissioned a developer to set up a Z39.50 target. The Z software is nearly all installed. A 'frozen' copy of the Icelandic SMR records will be hardwired into DC at first to make data available for searching.

**08/04** National Agency for Cultural Heritage, Denmark: Oliver Canning is developing the Z target. After a lot of work the Zava software has been installed. The target is up and running so it appears that a search will be possible from Denmark, but not in time for CAA in Prato.

**09/04** Poznan Archaeological Museum, Poland: Andrzej has had had help in getting OAI to launch locally and to combine with the data. This seems to have generated a test dataset for OAI harvesting. ADS will make a test harvesting using unqualified Dublin Core to see what kinds of results are returned.

**10/04** cIMeC, Institute for Cultural Memory, Romania: Needed some guidance having sent material to Jon. Mappings to Dublin Core appear to be fine; any problems will show up when we make our first test searches. Location of sites on the sites and monument data is to be added; so far a test set has been completed. These are in degrees long / lat but need to be converted to decimal. Andrzej has had to make the same conversion and agreed to assist Irina with this. The first task to be completed is adding geo-referencing to all the Sites, this may take some time but Irina hopes to have work complete by the end of May.

#### **4. ARENA Portal: Search Interface Progress**

**11/04** Density Map: This requires data from Romania (expected at the end of May) but is otherwise ready.

**12/04** Putting dots on the Search Map. The possibility of putting dots onto the search map was raised. It is not possible for the current version of the ARENA portal, as it is not built around GIS. This would be an important development for improvement to the ARENA portal if funding were obtained to develop the network. It is possible of course for each partner to include a map layer for searches of their data or to link to a map based display, but it would operate independently from the portal.

**13/04** Inserting an Intermediate Map: Partners felt that the Search Map was too small scale and should include an intermediate level between Density map and Search map. An outline orientation map in the corner showing the location of the Search map was also suggested; this is a feature of GIS based systems and may not be possible at this stage in ARENA. ADS agreed to investigate these improvements, Øyvind agreed to look at the feasibility of caching certain When and What combinations. See chart for illustration.

**14/04** Allowing the When and What without Where: Following discussion it was decided that ADS would investigate the possibility of allowing When and What searches. These would bring back very large numbers of hits from some of the data sets (UK and Denmark for example would generate hundreds of thousands of hits on agriculture and the Iron Age). If this combination of queries is allowed a warning would need to show explaining the problems of large numbers of records returned and suggesting narrowing the search to a specific location on the map. ADS will investigate the best way to allow When and What searches by including a warning.

**15/04** Multilingual interfaces: To create the interface as a multilingual resource Jon needs to extract all the fragments of text and put them into a spreadsheet. This will then be circulated and partners will add translations. Jon will circulate on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Partners to return by 26<sup>th</sup> March. ADS will then put up the multilingual interface by 8<sup>th</sup> April. Each of the SMR type archives are very different, a description of each archive will be needed as part of the explanatory text. Each partner will need to write such a description (about 500 words max) in their own language and English; Jon will then circulate the English versions for translations into the other 4 languages.

**16/04** The description of the Polish Archives (Kowalewko and Biskupin) are currently only in English on the ARENA archives page. Jon will circulate the English versions for translation.

#### **5. Financial Matters.**

**17/04** Jon reported on the latest news on payments from Brussels. Mr Theodossios.Mastrominas wrote to Jon on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2004 stating that:

We received your interim report at the beginning of January. However, we could not proceed with the evaluation and payment procedure as our budget does not become operational until the middle of February; actually it did this week. In this context, your report will be evaluated and assessed in the coming 2-3 weeks and if there are not any questions or requests for further information on our behalf, then the payment the interim payment should be expected towards the end of March.

#### **6. CAA Prato, 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> April.**

**18/04** Individual partners are giving papers at Prato. Claus and Henrik will give a paper on the progress of the ARENA portal in a European Portals session. The Museum Project team will be presenting a paper and Jon Kenny has had a paper accepted in a session on European projects. Jon and Oscar will cover the poster display that will be included on the ADS stand.

#### **7. EAA Lyon, 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September.**

**19/04** It was agreed that ARENA should host a session at Lyon. The topic will be European Archives, preservation and Access. Each partner will submit a paper and guest papers will also be accepted. Partners need to think of a topic that they wish to cover whilst Jon compiles a session abstract for submission to EAA by the end of March (extended from 15<sup>th</sup> March). Jon and Julian will create a list of themes that we should address.

**20/04** The Management meeting at Lyon will take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September. This is the morning before the official opening of the conference.

#### **8. The ARENA Legacy.**

**Although the ARENA project supported by Culture 2000 ends in November 2004 the partners are committed to finding ways of keeping the network alive:**

**21/04** It was agreed that the papers generated by the ARENA session at EAA would form the core of a special themed edition of Internet Archaeology. This will ensure a concluding publication in a peer reviewed journal whilst also allowing others to publish in paper elsewhere.

**22/04** Jon will submit a paper for EAA and the Internet Archaeology edition detailing the history of the ARENA network.

**23/04** Julian committed the ADS to keeping the ARENA resources running and the partners agreed to keep targets functioning after the closure of the project.

**24/04** In addition to keeping the web site stable and keeping up targets for 5 years after the end of the project finishes. It was agreed that other partners could be added to the ARENA framework, subject to resources.

**25/04** The ADS ARENA list will continue to be open and will be available for network members to use for queries or announcements and information distribution.

**26/04** Meetings of the ARENA network will continue to be arranged at CAA and EAA conferences.

#### **9. Next Meeting.**

**27/04** The meeting at CAA will take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April. The morning will be used for the management meeting and the afternoon for a technical surgery if required. Jon will circulate the location of the meeting when available.

**10. Any Other Business.**

**28/04** Jon and Julian will review the finances to see whether a final meeting can be arranged in the autumn.