Useful Online Resources

Relevant A-Level History Syllabi
AQA – Unit 4 Historical Inquiry
Edexcel – Unit 4 Historical Inquiry
OCR (specification B) – Personal Study

Links to other Student Research Guides
Research and the Internet
Using Sources Correctly

Aims and Objectives
This guide provides students with a list of links to websites that would be useful if completing an A-Level Historical Inquiry based in, or incorporating elements of, the multi-period archaeological sites and landscapes around Whitley Castle (Epiacum) Roman Fort. It is also useful in providing links to general sites such as Google or Wikipedia that can be used for initial web-search purposes in any research project. The purpose of this guide is to highlight the numerous possibilities the Internet has for academic research and the inclusion of period or subject-specific websites could lead students in new directions.

Search Engines and Online Encyclopaedias

About – http://archaeology.about.com/
• Provides links to expert information on a wide range of topics, incorporating online articles, how-to guides, online courses and multimedia. The education section has an archaeology page that provides links to recent research, journals, articles etc

Ask - http://uk.ask.com/
• Online search engine in which you can type a question and it will return weblinks for sites that might be a close fit. Not always reliable, but can work just as well as any other search engine if broad terms are used.

Bing - http://www.bing.com/
• Online search engine

Google - https://www.google.co.uk/
• Online search engine

• Online encyclopaedia providing user-generated information on almost any topic you can think of

Multi-period Portals

Archaeology Data Service (ADS) - http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/
• A fully searchable database of archaeological records. Contains data on sites and monuments from across the UK and provides an overview of work that has been carried out on each site with links to further information
• ADS incorporates the OASIS project – Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations – http://oasis.ac.uk/
• Epiacum (Whitley Castle on ADS) http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/whitleycastle_eh_2012/
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- The ARGE database contains links to evaluated Internet resources (mainly web pages, but also other resources such as discussion lists) concerning European archaeology.

Archeosoup - http://archeosoup.com/
- Informative online videos about different archaeological periods, frequently asked questions about archaeology/artefacts etc. Educational materials, news and events.

ArchNet – http://archnet.asu.edu
- American website with collections of links to archaeological research from different historic/archaeological periods around the world. Includes useful bibliographic references etc
- UK links can be found here - http://archnet.asu.edu/regions/europe/country.php

Art History Resources – http://arthistoryresources.net/ARTHLinks.html
- Extensive collection of links to images and information about works of art throughout history. Provides information about different art styles, techniques and origins.

British Archaeology Magazine – http://www.britarch.ac.uk/ba/
- Provides ‘at a glance’ information about current and past issues of British Archaeology Magazine. Can be used to locate interesting articles and research connected with all aspects of archaeology.

- An English Heritage publication, the website allows users to search for and download past issues of the bulletin which include articles and research about heritage and conservation.

Google Scholar - http://scholar.google.co.uk/schhp?hl=en-GB
- Similar to the Google search engine, Scholar allows users to search for academic publications on almost any subject. Returned searches can lead users in new research directions and can aid the location of important documents.

Heritage Gateway – http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/
- Allows users to cross-search over 50 resources, including around 50% of local Historic Environment Records (HER’s). This is useful for locating sites, heritage landscapes and finding relevant existing research leads.

JSTOR (available if institution is a participating member) - http://www.jstor.org/
- JSTOR requires your school or an institution your school may be linked to (such as a University) to have registered so that students can log in and search for digital copies of publications located within the JSTOR database. The free element of the website allows you to read the brief synopsis or summary of papers that could be relevant to your research.
Useful Online Resources


  - This is a Heritage Lottery funded project which unlocks the archaeological secrets of County Durham and Northumberland. It contains records of archaeological sites and finds from both counties.

  - Natural England is a non-departmental public body whose purpose is to protect and improve England’s natural environment. The website has many links to current affairs news articles, summaries of work undertaken by the organisation and advice to the general public about caring for the environment, including the historic environment.

North Pennines AONB - [http://www.northpennines.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx](http://www.northpennines.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx)
  - The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website provides all the information you need about the landscapes of the North Pennines, the varied nature of sites and places you can visit in the area, research frameworks for protecting the AONB and pages of information detailing publications and work carried out by the organisation.

Pastscape - [http://www.pastscape.org.uk/default.aspx](http://www.pastscape.org.uk/default.aspx)
  - Run by English Heritage, Pastscapes contains nearly 400,000 records held in the National Historic Environment database, providing descriptions, pictures and summaries of work that has been carried out at individual sites.

Prehistoric Resources

  - The Prehistoric section of the ArchNet website

Northumberland Rock Art – [http://rockart.ncl.ac.uk](http://rockart.ncl.ac.uk)
  - This site provides an overview, interpretation and images of prehistoric rock art found throughout Northumberland. The locations of important sites are referred to in relation to modern towns/buildings etc and shows what else can be found in the surrounding area. Rock Art can sometimes be found in areas of the landscape that are continually reused throughout history.

  - Images and summaries of European megalithic sites. Contains site descriptions, measurements and landscape locations in detail.
Roman Resources (including Epiacum)

- An English Heritage property, Chesters Roman Fort is one of the best excavated forts along Hadrian’s Wall. The website provides all the information you would need for planning a visit and contains links to upcoming and past events. Galleries and descriptions of the site can also be accessed along with links to similar and nearby Roman sites.

Epiacum - [http://www.epiacumheritage.org/](http://www.epiacumheritage.org/)
- The official site of Epiacum Heritage – contains information about the site, upcoming and past activities taking place at Epiacum, a summary of the research that has taken place there, details of how to find and visit the best preserved fort in the Roman Empire. Will also contain an interactive section of the site where new educational resources will be added over time.

Epiacum - [http://www.roman-britain.org/places/epiacum.htm](http://www.roman-britain.org/places/epiacum.htm)
- Provides a summary of the location of Epiacum Roman Fort, a description of what can be found in the landscape and discussions about the origin of the name ‘Epiacum’, the builders of the fort and a summarised history of the life of the fort.

Hadrian’s Wall - [http://www.hadrians-wall.org/](http://www.hadrians-wall.org/)
- Official website of the Hadrian’s Wall World Heritage Site. Provides all the information you need to explore, discover and enjoy all that Hadrian’s Wall has to offer. Introduces the major sites and provides a summary of what can be found along the Northern Frontier of the Roman Empire.

- Similar to the Chesters website, Housesteads is an English Heritage property and the website includes all the information you need to understand the site and plan a visit, there is also an interactive site plan. The site has its own museum which contains finds from the site itself and from across the Roman north.

- Vindolanda is a similarly impressive Roman Fort to Housesteads, Chesters and Birdoswald for excavated remains and impressive structures. Vindolanda runs an annual season of archaeological excavation that anybody can be a part of. The onsite museum holds an impressive array of artefacts from the site while the website contains links to events, news and existing research.

Maryport Senhouse Museum - [http://www.senhousemuseum.co.uk/](http://www.senhousemuseum.co.uk/)
- Located on the Western end of Hadrian’s Wall in Cumbria overlooking the Solway Firth is the Senhouse Museum and Roman fort. The website contains information about the 2011 and 2012 excavation seasons that took place over the largely un-investigated remains of the fort there, update reports from when the excavations took place, research and educational ideas.
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Industrial Resources

Association for Industrial Archaeology - http://industrial-archaeology.org/index.htm
- The Association for Industrial Archaeology promotes the study, preservation and presentation of Britain’s industrial heritage. The website provides background about the association, lists of publications, news and events etc. They have their own publication section called the Industrial Archaeology Review where abstracts of each issue can be found.

Society for Historical Archaeology - http://www.sha.org/research/research_resources.cfm
- The Society for Historical Archaeology is a scholarly group concerned with the conservation of historical archaeology, AD1400 to present, and are at the forefront of making sure that research is available to anyone interested in studying historical sites. This site provides online bibliographies, discussion of conservation issues and summaries of different archaeological methods that have been used to study historical archaeology.

Miner-Farmer Landscapes Resources

- This site provides an overview of the Miner-Farmer landscapes project that English Heritage carried out in the North Pennines. Throughout the summary there are links to similar project websites, PDF files and partner organisations that took part in the project.

- This link takes you to the PDF file of the Alston Moor Aerial Report (this is the example document referred to in the Epiacum Student Guide ‘Using Sources Correctly’)

Roman North Pennines - http://www.northpennines.org.uk/Pages/RomanAge.aspx
- Part of the North Pennines AONB website detailing the nature of Roman activity and occupation in the area.

Monument/Heritage Records

English Heritage Archive – http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/archives-and-collections/nmr
- This is the English Heritage public archive of drawings, reports and publications on England’s archaeology.
- English Heritage National Site Archive can be searched via PastScape – http://www.pastscape.org/

Historic Scotland’s archaeological site database: CANMORE – http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/
- Searchable online archive/database of archaeological sites in Scotland
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Database of Irish excavation reports – [http://www.excavations.ie/Pages/HomePage.php](http://www.excavations.ie/Pages/HomePage.php)

- Database of Irish excavation reports


- Contains up to 50% of HER entries for historic sites across the UK

Contract Archaeology Units – [http://www.britarch.ac.uk/info/contract.asp](http://www.britarch.ac.uk/info/contract.asp)

- Expansive list of contract archaeology units – can be used as a point of reference when researching particular regions in order to locate important information

Grey Literature (Unpublished excavation reports)


- Online portal through the ADS website that enables access to previously unpublished excavation reports and research – known as grey literature.

Artefacts Resources

ADS Archives – Artefacts – [http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/)

- Various archives of information are available through the ADS website, the artefact archive allows users to search and browse artefacts found at particular sites.


- The Portable Antiquities Scheme website contains records of archaeological finds that are found by ordinary members of the public. Many of the artefacts are not widely known about and can be an important resource when studying past landscapes or periods of history.


- Searchable database of archaeological artefacts from different sites, regions and periods that have been catalogued by the British Museum.