

# MAKING EARTHWORKS VISIBLE

## THE EXAMPLE OF THE OSWESTRY HERITAGE COMICS PROJECT

### Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Want to know more? There's information about the Wat's Dyke Way Heritage Trail on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#)

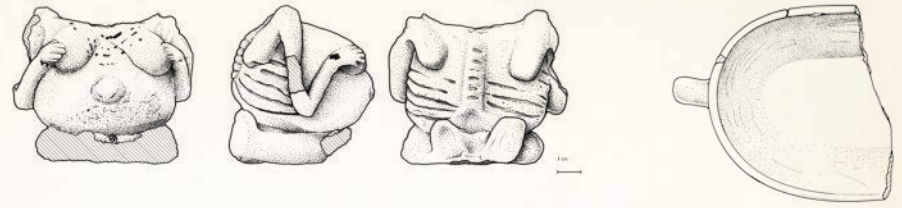
2017/8



John Swogger  
Archaeological Illustrator

**Liverpool University - Archaeology of the Eastern Mediterranean**

Sudan Archaeology Research Society  
British Museum Press  
Liverpool Museum Field Archaeology Unit  
Liverpool University Field Archaeology Unit  
North West Archaeological Trust



**Archaeological Illustration for Professional Development**

Continuing Education Department, Liverpool University

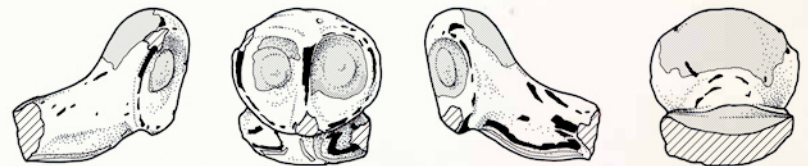


**Çatalhöyük Research Project**

Cambridge University  
Stanford University

**West Indies - Carriacou, Grenada, Nevis, Mustique**

University College London  
North Carolina State University  
University of Oregon



**Micronesia - Palau, Yap**

University of Oregon/Center for Asian and Pacific Studies  
Palau Bureau of Arts and Culture



Serbia - South Korea - Bolivia - Mexico

CADW (Bryn Celli Ddu, Barcloddiad y Gawres, Din Lligwy)

Princes Regeneration Trust (Middleport Pottery)

University of Liverpool (Penycloddiau/Eddisbury/etc.)

Carus Publications (DIG, Calliope, etc.)

Smithsonian Magazine, Aramco World, Cornucopia, etc.

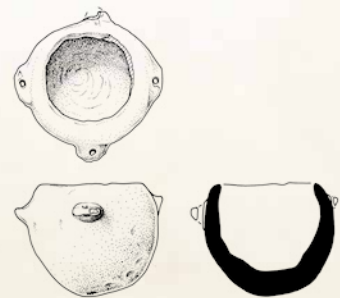
BAR, AAP, PIA, etc.; SAA, AAA, TAG, VIA

Karlsruhe, Science Museum of Minnesota, Museum of London,

Royal Albert Memorial Museum

U.Massachusetts Amherst, U.Colorado Boulder, U.Georgia

Anishinaabe, Palau, Yap



1cm

102  
0700a

CH06 South  
13310.x7  
04.026  
e2634

10 mm  
110582X1 SOUTH AREA CH06





IT'S NOT JUST OLD, SIR CYRIL FOX EXPLAINS -

IT'S ANCIENT! A VERY RARE AND IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND

SEE TIMELINE ON THE COVER

THE CHAIN DATES FROM THE **IRON AGE**, SO IS ALMOST TWO THOUSAND YEARS OLD...

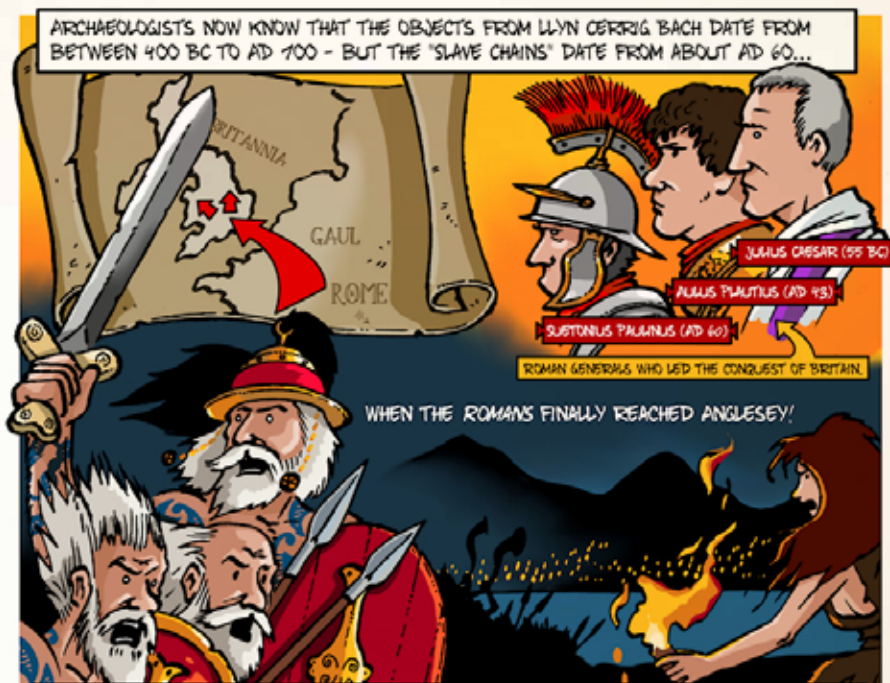
IT'S A 'SLAVE CHAIN', THE DIRECTOR TELLS MR. ROBERTS, AND WAS USED BY IRON AGE INHABITANTS OF WALES TO SHACKLE SLAVES OR PRISONERS OF WAR BY THE NECK.

OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, WITH MR. ROBERTS' HELP, MORE THAN ONE

HUNDRED AND FIFTY OBJECTS MADE OF BRONZE AND IRON ARE RECOVERED FROM THE PEAT, ALONG WITH MANY MORE FRAGMENTS OF WOOD AND BONE.



SIR CYRIL FOX SOON ARRIVES TO DIRECT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AND WRITE A BOOK ABOUT THE DISCOVERIES.



ARCHAEOLOGISTS NOW KNOW THAT THE OBJECTS FROM LLYN CERRIG BACH DATE FROM BETWEEN 400 BC TO AD 100 - BUT THE 'SLAVE CHAINS' DATE FROM ABOUT AD 60...

JULIUS CAESAR (99 BC)

AULUS PLAUTIUS (AD 43)

SUETONIUS PAULINUS (AD 60)

ROMAN GENERALS WHO LED THE CONQUEST OF BRITAIN

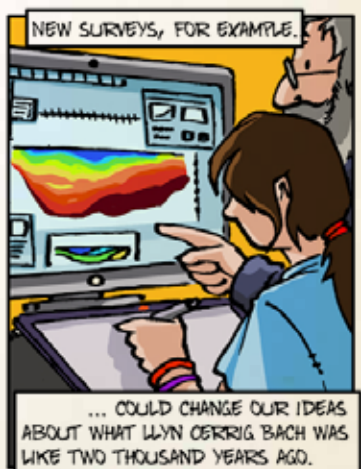
WHEN THE ROMANS FINALLY REACHED ANGLESEY!

WAS THE OFFERING OF THE SLAVE CHAINS PART OF A RITUAL TO ASK THE GODS FOR HELP IN BATTLE AGAINST THE ROMANS - MAYBE EVEN WHILE THE ROMAN ARMY WAS ASSEMBLING ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE MENAI STRAITS FOR THEIR FINAL ASSAULT ON THE ISLAND?



ARCHAEOLOGISTS WILL CONTINUE THEIR RESEARCH, LOOKING FOR ANSWERS TO THESE AND OTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT IRON AGE ANGLESEY...

USING NEW EXCAVATION AND SCIENTIFIC TECHNIQUES.



NEW SURVEYS, FOR EXAMPLE.

... COULD CHANGE OUR IDEAS ABOUT WHAT LLYN CERRIG BACH WAS LIKE TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO.



# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



There's more information about the **Oswestry and Border History and Archaeology Group** on the **Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page**.

*Every Tuesday in the Oswestry & Border Counties Advertiser*

*Oswestry Heritage Comics on Facebook*

<https://qube-oca.org.uk/oswestry-heritage-comics/>

<http://johnswogger.wordpress.com>

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Want to know more about our old mediaeval town walls and gates? There's more information on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

*Every Tuesday in the Oswestry & Border Counties Advertiser*

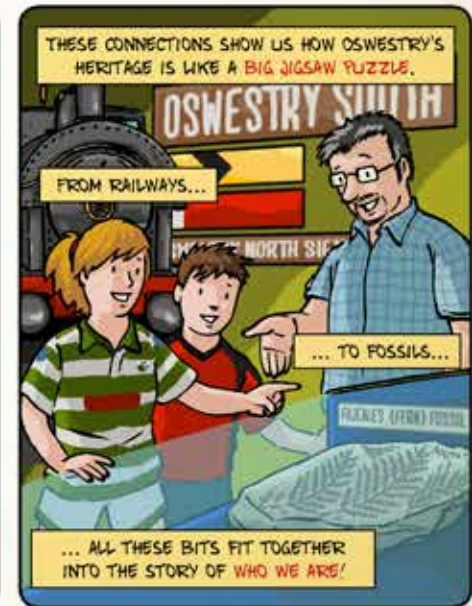
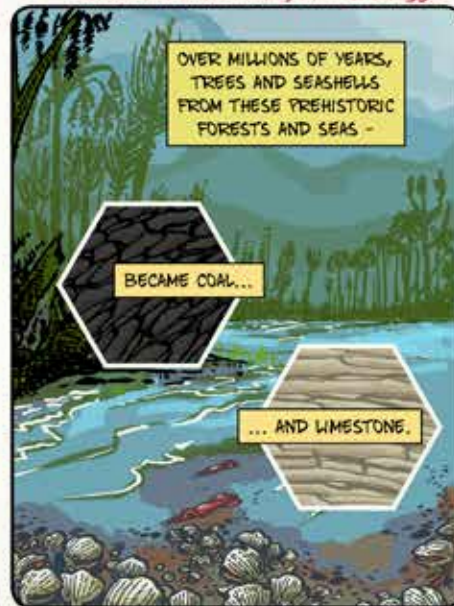
*Oswestry Heritage Comics on Facebook*

<https://qube-oca.org.uk/oswestry-heritage-comics/>

<http://johnswogger.wordpress.com>

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Want to know more? Every week there's information and links to upcoming heritage events and activities on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

1/18/17

## 1. Broad Range of Heritage Topics

focus theme historical context

Geology - Industry - Tourism

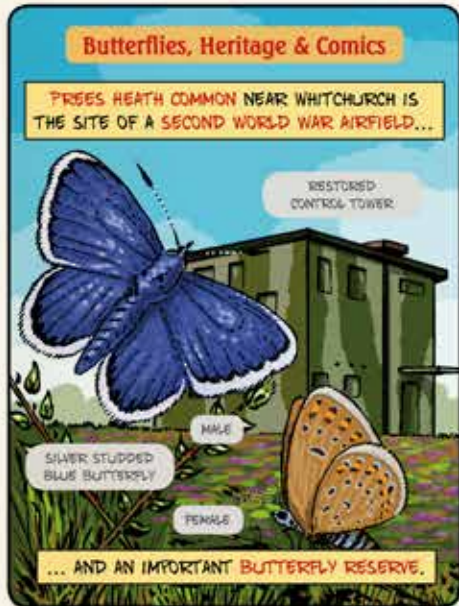
Ecology - Archaeology - Social History

Tradition - Custom - Culture



# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Find out more about the heritage of Prees Heath Common, comics workshops for community groups and Merefest on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

6/1/17

## 1. Broad Range of Heritage Topics

*focus theme historical context*

*Geology - Industry - Tourism  
Ecology - Archaeology - Social History  
Tradition - Custom - Culture*

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Want to know more? Every week there's information and links to upcoming heritage events and activities on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#)

2019/2

## 2. Context & Connection

*relevance of heritage*  
*interest and involvement*  
*local people = local connections*

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Find a **Heritage Open Days** event near you: there's more information and links to listings on the **Oswestry Heritage Comics** Facebook Page.

51/10/13

## 2. Context & Connection

*relevance of heritage*  
*interest and involvement*  
*local people = local connections*

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



There's more information about the [Oswestry and Border History and Archaeology Group](#) on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

2018/36

## 3. Community Organisations

local and community-based heritage working  
 research  
 awareness  
 protection/conservation

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Want to know more? There's more information about the Oswestry Castle Research Project and this year's excavations on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

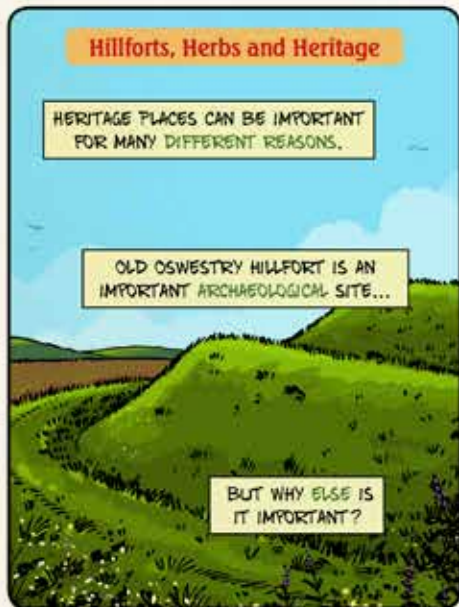
2017/14

## 3. Community Organisations

*local and community-based heritage working  
research  
awareness  
protection/conservation*

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Want to know more? There's details of Herb Walks on the hillfort and elsewhere on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#)

2017/5

## 4. Local Engagement

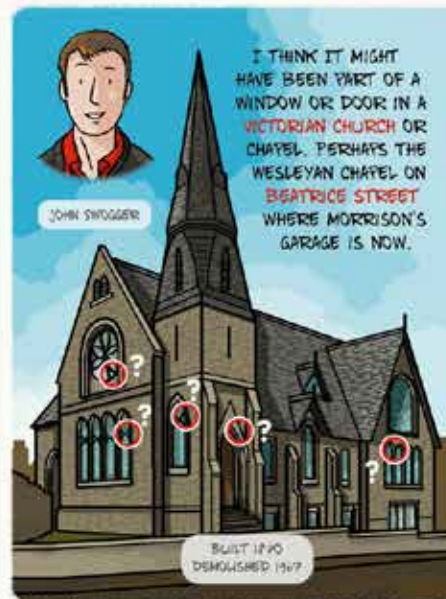
*alternative ways of using heritage sites*  
*"accidental" engagement*  
*niche interests/research*

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



LOTTERY FUNDED



Want to know more about Rachel and Mark's discovery? We'll keep you up-to-date on our research via the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

2017/24

## 4. Local Engagement

*alternative ways of using heritage sites*  
*"accidental" engagement*  
*niche interests/research*

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



There's more information about Simon Jarman's research into the history of the military and food on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

2018/40

## 4. Local Engagement

*alternative ways of using heritage sites*  
*"accidental" engagement*  
*niche interests/research*



# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Want to know more? There are links to the Men on the Gates project and the online database at the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

2017/22

## 5. Research & Scholars

*other local projects*  
*national and international context*  
*links to professional scholarship*

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Want to know more about what research into the Iron Age can teach us? There's more information on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

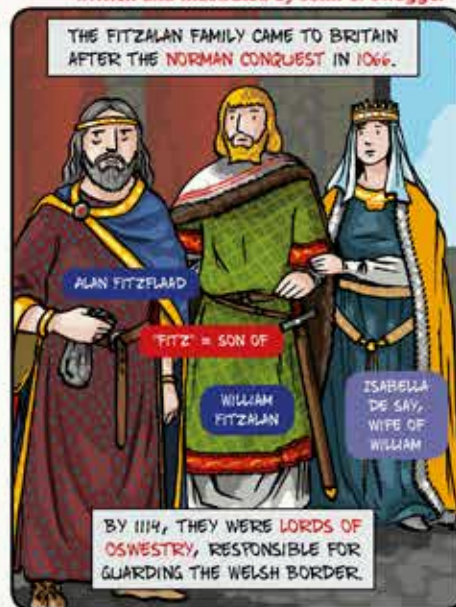
02/4107

## 5. Research & Scholars

*other local projects*  
*national and international context*  
*links to professional scholarship*

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



There's more about the FitzAlans and the upcoming Oswestry Castle excavations on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#)

5/1/17

## 6. Hidden Heritage

*hidden in plain sight*  
*unexpected connections*  
*extraordinary in the ordinary*

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



National archaeology fortnight starts this Saturday! Find out about the Romans and Rhyn Park excavations on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#)

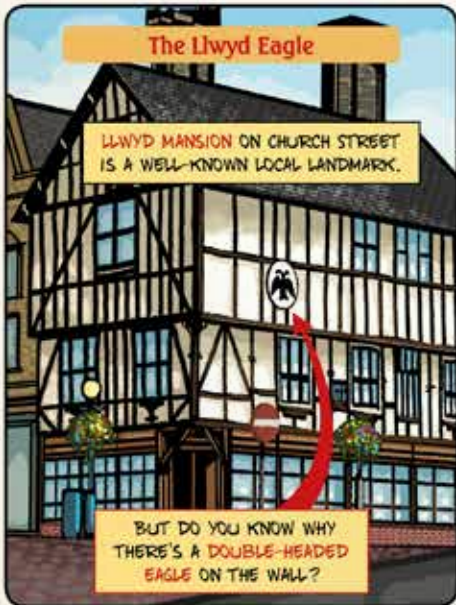
2017/5

## 6. Hidden Heritage

*hidden in plain sight*  
*unexpected connections*  
*extraordinary in the ordinary*

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Want to know more? There's more about the Llwyd family and Oswestry's Crusader connections on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

2019/15

## 6. Hidden Heritage

*hidden in plain sight  
unexpected connections  
extraordinary in the ordinary*

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Discover more about how the Cambrian Railway links to the rest of our heritage on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

2018/59

## 7. Contemporary Meaning

the "more than just" of heritage

past = present

past = present = future

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Happy New Year - here's to another year of exploring our shared heritage! There's more about New Year traditions on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

2017/1/10

## 7. Contemporary Meaning

the "more than just" of heritage

past = present

past = present = future

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Want to make your own heritage comics? Qube is running workshops this summer - find out more on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#)

9/11/17

## 8. Getting Involved

questions & curiosity  
family history  
re-enactment



# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Have you got an amazing family history story to tell? There's information about the Heritage Roadshow on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

2018/57

## 8. Getting Involved

questions & curiosity  
family history  
re-enactment

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



## Bringing Heritage to Life

WHEN I'M NOT WORKING AS A NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER I'M A MEMBER OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup>/60<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION.

WE ARE NAPOLEONIC WAR RE-ENACTORS.

HUW DAVIES - ADVERTIZER PHOTOGRAPHER



OUR GROUP DEMONSTRATES HOW BRITISH SOLDIERS USED TO LIVE AND FIGHT DURING THE NAPOLEONIC WARS (1803-1815).

OUR CLOTHES, WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT ARE ALL MADE TO BE HISTORICALLY ACCURATE.



YOU CAN COME AND SEE US IN ACTION AT WEEKEND EVENTS AT WHITTINGTON CASTLE.

AT THESE EVENTS YOU CAN WATCH RE-ENACTMENT BATTLES, SEE HOW SOLDIERS COOKED THEIR FOOD, WHERE THEY SLEPT ON THE BATTLEFIELD - AND MUCH MORE.



... AND SEE WHAT LIFE TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO WAS LIKE FOR YOURSELF!

THIS KIND OF GETTING INVOLVED IN HERITAGE HELPS BRING HISTORY TO LIFE!

Want to know more? There's more about Huw and the other re-enactors of the 5th/60th on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#)

5/10/2

## 8. Getting Involved

questions & curiosity  
family history  
re-enactment



## 1. Reinventing Show & Tell

- *visual context + narrative explanation*
- *interdependent*
- *inter-related*
- *two parts of a whole*
- *definition and description*
- *scale and context*



## 1. Reinventing Show & Tell

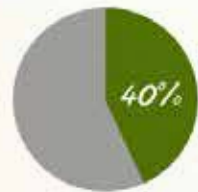
- *visual context + narrative explanation*
- *interdependent*
- *inter-related*
- *two parts of a whole*
- *definition and description*
- *scale and context*

## 2. Introduce & Remind

- *familiarity reinforces*
- *"hook" for new learning*
- *multi-layered*
- *no prior knowledge necessary*
- *adductive & constructive*



10 km



Shropshire Star (36K)

Oswestry Advertiser (18K)

Wrexham Leader (15K)

Oswestry Chronicle (11K)

# OSWESTRY & BORDER COUNTIES Advertiser

**OSWESTRY News round-up**

**Town cemetery wheelchair service in doubt**

**Town pub to host cider festival**

**Stk some watching in black and white**

**Charlie earns a medal for doing the Round**

**New 3D map to boost tourism**

**'Friends' take to the catwalk in aid of Severn Hospice**

**Oswestry HERITAGE**

**Girls with a burning ambition to save lives**

**Hospice cycle challenge is back...and is even tougher than ever!**

**Budding young writers reflect on their success in Rotary competition**

**Mayor's pledge over future of town fireworks night fundraiser**

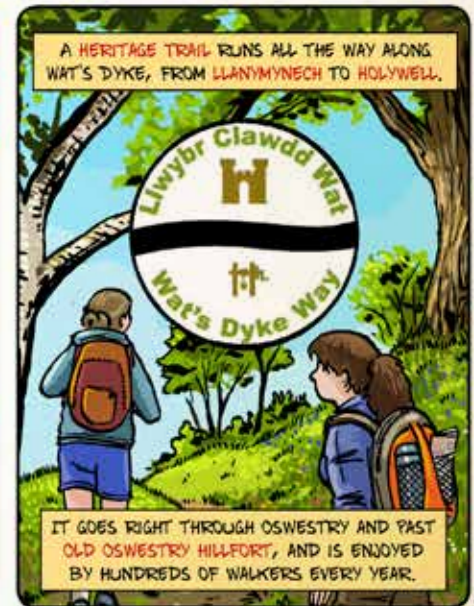
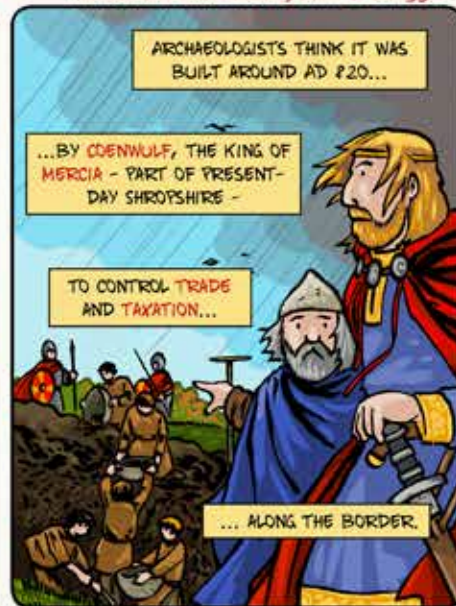
**Protecting archives**

See also: *Hosler, Jay, and Boomer, K.B., 2011, Are Comic Books an Effective Way to Engage Nonmajors in Learning and Appreciating Science? CBE Life Sciences Education, 10(3): 309-317.*

*McNichol, S., 2015, The Impact of Comics on Feelings and Attitudes Towards Health Conditions, Education and Social Research Institute, Manchester Metropolitan University.*

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Want to know more? There's information about the Wat's Dyke Way Heritage Trail on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#)

## Wat's Dyke

- name & description*
- origin and purpose*
- historical context*
- contemporary context*

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Want to know more? Find out about Offa's Dyke, Oswestry Castle and Oswestry's markets on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

OHIC 1/3/2016

## Offa's Dyke

trans-border identity  
defence = trade  
castle = markets/fairs

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



There's more information about the upcoming Offa's Dyke Collaboratory research meeting on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

2018/41

## *Offa's Dyke Collaboratory*

*(in last week's 'Tizer and online this week)*

*contextual visibility:*

*monument - research - researchers*

*broadcast visibility:*

*18k 'Tizer readers - 5k online readers - global audience*



# CERAMICS & POLITY

IN THE CASAS GRANDES AREA, CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO

Michael E. Whalen, Department of Anthropology,  
University of Tulsa  
Paul E. Minnis, Department of Anthropology,  
University of Oklahoma  
illustrated by John G. Swogger

Archaeologists have long been interested in defining the origin and developmental relationships of the Casas Grandes polychrome ceramics...

## Developmental Model

based on surface ceramics and whole vessels (looted or excavated)

adapted from Sayles (1936) and Whalen & Minnis (2014)



Fine ceramic seriation based on excavation of stratified deposits is common in the adjacent U.S. Southwest and Mesoamerica, so readers may be surprised to learn that there have been practically no studies in Chihuahua.

It has long been recognised that stratified midden deposits are rare all over the Casas Grandes area, and recent surveys found that middens were seldom seen on 300 recorded Medio sites.

Michael E. Whalen

Paul E. Minnis

Casas Grandes Excavation Project

The most detailed descriptions of Medio period polychromes come from the large samples collected in 1958-1961.

This analysis did not focus on the developmental histories of the wares, and almost all discussion consists of notations of trait similarities among types.

For example, trait sharing observations about Babicora polychrome stop there, without considering earlier arguments that Babicora is one of the oldest of the Chihuahuan polychromes. (as in Sayce's developmental model)

(DiPeso et al. 1974b; DiPeso et al. 1974c; 2)

The Casas Grandes area of northwestern Chihuahua, Mexico lies in the southern part of the ancient Pueblo world.

There, Casas Grandes - or Paquimé - long has been known to be the largest and most elaborate community of the Medio Period.



Equally famous are the community's painted ceramics.

"... the classic type of the Chihuahuan series, in which forms, designs, and treatment were all carried to their highest development in excellence of execution and in variety." (1936:54)

Edwin S. Sayles



"... the signature ware of Casas Grandes," (2000:203)

"... the hallmark type and the primary focus for Casas Grandes stylistic complexity." (Minnis, 2003:76)



This painted pottery has attracted much scholarly attention from early days -

Brand 1933, *The Historical Geography of Northwestern Chihuahua*.  
Carey 1931, *An analysis of Northwestern Chihuahuan culture*.  
Chapman 1923, *Casas Grandes Pottery*.  
Kidder 1916, *The Pottery of the Casas Grandes district, Chihuahua*.  
Sayles 1936, *Some Southwestern pottery types*.

- to modern times:

DiPeso et al. 1974, *Casas Grandes, a fallen trading centre of the Gran Chichimeca*.  
Lekson 2008, *The Archaeology of communities: a New World perspective*.  
Townsend 2005, *Casas Grandes in the art of the ancient Southwest*.  
VanPool 2003, *The symbolism of Casas Grandes*.



Ramos Polychrome is the finest and most complexly decorated of all this pottery. One of the few ceramic traditions of the US Southwest and northern Mexico to use anthropomorphic and zoomorphic imagery in addition to geometric designs. The origins of the pottery, however, always have been obscure. The present study reviews current knowledge of the histories of the area's ceramic types and their design motifs. It presents new data to answer some long-standing questions, and it shows how ceramics helped to structure the Casas Grandes polity.

"Ceramics, Polity & Comics" *Advances in Archaeological Practice* (The Society for American Archaeology)

Vol. 3 No. 1, 2015. pp. 16-23

<https://doi.org/10.7183/2326-3768.3.1.16> copy viewable at: [johnswogger.wordpress.com](http://johnswogger.wordpress.com)

Recent re-appraisal of the nature of Mercian power under Penda has referred to it in terms of 'hegemony', although this can be a mercurial term. ... he epitomised traits of kingship that both looked back to the heroic age of warbands held together by gift-giving and loosely organised polities bonded by kinship, and forward to the age of inter-kingdom relations managed through diplomacy, hostage exchange, and ever more strategic use of marriage-based alliances. This transition continued well into the era in which Offa's Dyke was built.

Bapty, Ian & Ray, Keith, *Offa's Dyke: Landscape and Hegemony in Eighth Century Britain*, p. 103.

Conflict between Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and the various Welsh kingdoms could be inclined to break out at various intervals although they could also be allies. [...] Then, as now, the actual border between Englishness and Welshness was doubtless somewhat blurred in the borderlands, and inter-marriage normal.

Hill, David & Worthington, Margaret, *Offa's Dyke*, p. 108.

Larger boundary dykes, though unrecorded historically, are often assumed ... to mark the territorial edges of different ethnic or national groups. ... But the survival of the ethnic identity of villages divided by Offa's Dyke proves that it was not the absolute ethnic boundary that early scholars believed.

Zaluckyj, Sarah, *Mercia*, p. 187.



ND WYF YN POEN AM FANT  
O GERDDI HYFRYD YR YDYCH  
CHŶN EU HYSGRFFWNI AT E  
HARDDWICH, NAD OES GENNYCH  
UNRWYB BETH IW WNEUD A H,  
AC MAE HYNŶN DERFYND!



RYDYM NIŶ ENGLISH, A!  
THELU YW -



- MAE EI THELU YN  
GYFOETHOG IAWN, DAD ...



CYFOETHOG?

Recent re-appraisal of the nature of Mercian power under Penda has referred to it in terms of ‘hegemony’, although this can be a mercurial term. ... he epitomised traits of kingship that both looked back to the heroic age of warbands held together by gift-giving and loosely organised polities bonded by kinship, and forward to the age of inter-kingdom relations managed through diplomacy, hostage exchange, and ever more strategic use of marriage-based alliances. This transition continued well into the era in which Offa’s Dyke was built.

Bapty, Ian & Ray, Keith, *Offa’s Dyke: Landscape and Hegemony in Eighth Century Britain*, p. 103.

Conflict between Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and the various Welsh kingdoms could be inclined to break out at various intervals although they could also be allies. [...] Then, as now, the actual border between Englishness and Welshness was doubtless somewhat blurred in the borderlands, and inter-marriage normal.

Hill, David & Worthington, Margaret, *Offa’s Dyke*, p. 108.

Larger boundary dykes, though unrecorded historically, are often assumed ... to mark the territorial edges of different ethnic or national groups. ... But the survival of the ethnic identity of villages divided by Offa’s Dyke proves that it was not the absolute ethnic boundary that early scholars believed.

Zaluckyj, Sarah, *Mercia*, p. 187.

Recent re-appraisal of the nature of Mercian power under Penda has referred to it in terms of 'hegemony', although this can be a mercurial term. ... he epitomised traits of kingship that both looked back to the heroic age of warbands held together by gift-giving and loosely organised polities bonded by kinship, and forward to the age of inter-kingdom relations managed through diplomacy, hostage exchange, and ever more strategic use of marriage-based alliances. This transition continued well into the era in which Offa's Dyke was built.

Bapty, Ian & Ray, Keith, *Offa's Dyke: Landscape and Hegemony in Eighth Century Britain*, p. 103.

Conflict between Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and the various Welsh kingdoms could be inclined to break out at various intervals although they could also be allies. [...] Then, as now, the actual border between Englishness and Welshness was doubtless somewhat blurred in the borderlands, and inter-marriage normal.

Hill, David & Worthington, Margaret, *Offa's Dyke*, p. 108.

Larger boundary dykes, though unrecorded historically, are often assumed ... to mark the territorial edges of different ethnic or national groups. ... But the survival of the ethnic identity of villages divided by Offa's Dyke proves that it was not the absolute ethnic boundary that early scholars believed.

Zaluckyj, Sarah, *Mercia*, p. 187.

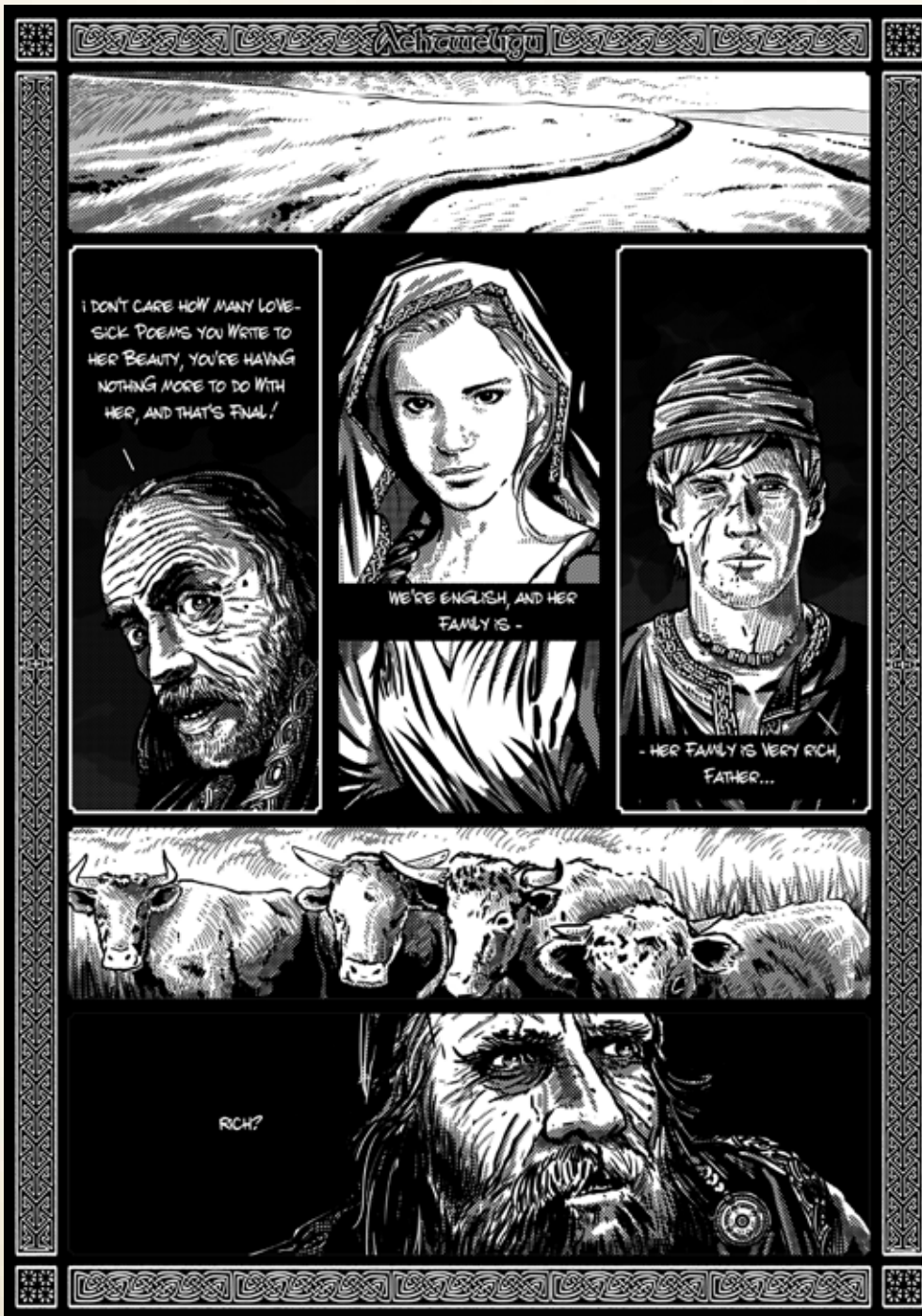




Figure 8. Marriage, violence, ethnicity and greed along Offa's Dyke, C.8th Mercia/Powys border. (JG Stogger)

Comics used to bring visibility to aspects of scholarship can do all the same things that we have seen comics do in public outreach: they can add visual context to explanation, introduce and de-complicate subjects, locate specific information within broader frameworks, make connections and links with other research – even invite participation. Narrative can be used to ground and humanise both research and interpretation – something which becomes important if one wishes to present models of past social practice as dynamic, and landscapes as inhabited.

For example: within discussions about the past meaning of Offa's Dyke authors often consider its implications as a social frontier, as a materialisation of a borderlands between cultures, of a space between Mercia and Powys, between 'Englishness' and 'Welshness', and as a meeting point shaped by the rivalries of power and kinship:

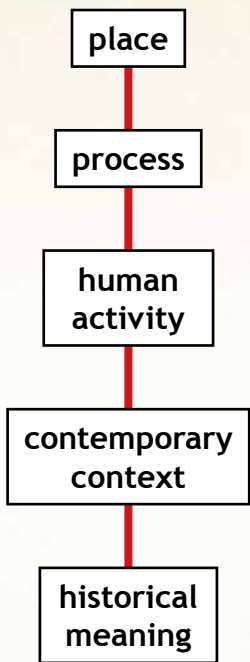
"Recent re-appraisal of the nature of Mercian power under Penda has referred to it in terms of 'hegemony', although this can be a mercurial term. ... he epitomised traits of kingship that both looked back to the heroic age of warbands held together by gift-giving and loosely organised politics bonded by kinship, and forward to the age of inter-kingdom relations managed through diplomacy, hostage exchange, and ever more strategic use of marriage-based alliances. This transition continued well into the era in which Offa's Dyke was built." (Bapty, Ian & Ray, Keith, *Offa's Dyke: Landscape and Hegemony in Eighth Century Britain*, p. 103.)

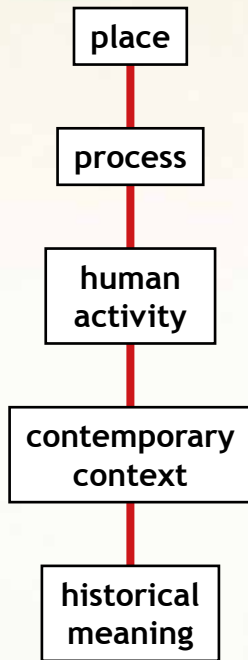
"Conflict between Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and the various Welsh kingdoms could be inclined to break out at various intervals although they could also be allies. [...] Then, as now, the actual border between Englishness and Welshness was doubtless somewhat blurred in the borderlands, and inter-marriage normal." (Hill, David & Worthington, Margaret, *Offa's Dyke*, p. 108.)

"Larger boundary dykes, though unrecorded historically, are often assumed ... to mark the territorial edges of different ethnic or national groups. ... But the survival of the ethnic identity of villages divided by Offa's Dyke proves that it was not the absolute ethnic boundary that early scholars believed." (Zaluckyj, Sarah, *Mercia*, p. 187.)

But such interpretative discussions lose their impact in text alone. After all, when we talk about marriage or hostage-taking, even wealth or trade, we are talking about events and situations that impact individual lives at the level of emotion: of love, jealousy, ambition, greed and pride. Academic text is somewhat unsuited for this kind of discussion – it renders it dispassionate, objective and remote; if such interpretations are to have meaning in scholarship, if we are to be able to understand how these things might drive policy, economics and culture, and thus how they might be reflected in historical and archaeological data – then we must render such discussions passionate, subjective and intimate.

By contrast, in combining text and image, we can bring to such interpretations historical and cultural grounding, a narrative flow, and a sense of emotional depth – all things which are actually meaningful to include in such discussion. Such interpretative presentations can be rendered as easily for academic publication as for popular, and can usefully stimulate parallel discussions at various levels.

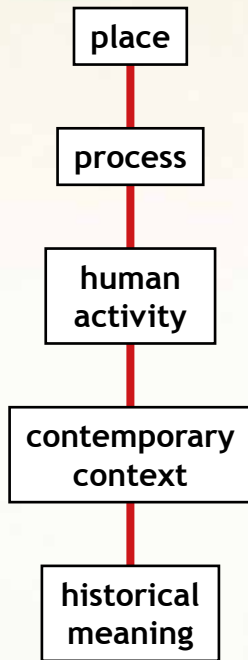




“... tell about how the dyke works in the **landscape**, how it varies in relation to **geology** and **topography**, and how it varies in relation to **modern land-use**...”

Howard Williams, *Here's why the Offa's Dyke centre is awesome*, <https://howardwilliamsblog.wordpress.com/2017/06/18/heres-why-the-offas-dyke-centre-is-awesome/>





“This section of the book is an attempt to explain, **through a series of comic strip sketches**, the conclusions and theories so far reached by the authors about the planning, building and functioning of Offa’s Dyke.”

David Hill & Margaret Worthington, *Offa’s Dyke*, p. 113



36 The minor alignments were probably set out using sounding poles



37 The line would have been cleared by cutting the trees and burning the undergrowth





# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Want to know more? Find out about Offa's Dyke, Oswestry Castle and Oswestry's markets on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Want to know more? There's information about the Wat's Dyke Way Heritage Trail on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



There's more information about the upcoming Offa's Dyke Collaboratory research meeting on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

## COMICS

Making earthworks visible through:

- being part of a broad local heritage context
- exploring contemporary meaning
- understanding "hidden in plain sight"
- linking with local stakeholders
- linking with professional scholarship
- local print distribution
- local online/social media communities
- re-inventing show & tell to de-complicate, introduce and remind
- connecting with larger historical themes
- signposting ways to get involved

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Want to know more? Find out about Offa's Dyke, Oswestry Castle and Oswestry's markets on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



Want to know more? There's information about the Wat's Dyke Way Heritage Trail on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

# Oswestry HERITAGE

written and illustrated by John G. Swogger



There's more information about the upcoming Offa's Dyke Collaboratory research meeting on the [Oswestry Heritage Comics Facebook Page](#).

## COMICS

*the Oswestry Heritage Comics model*

*Making earthworks visible through:*

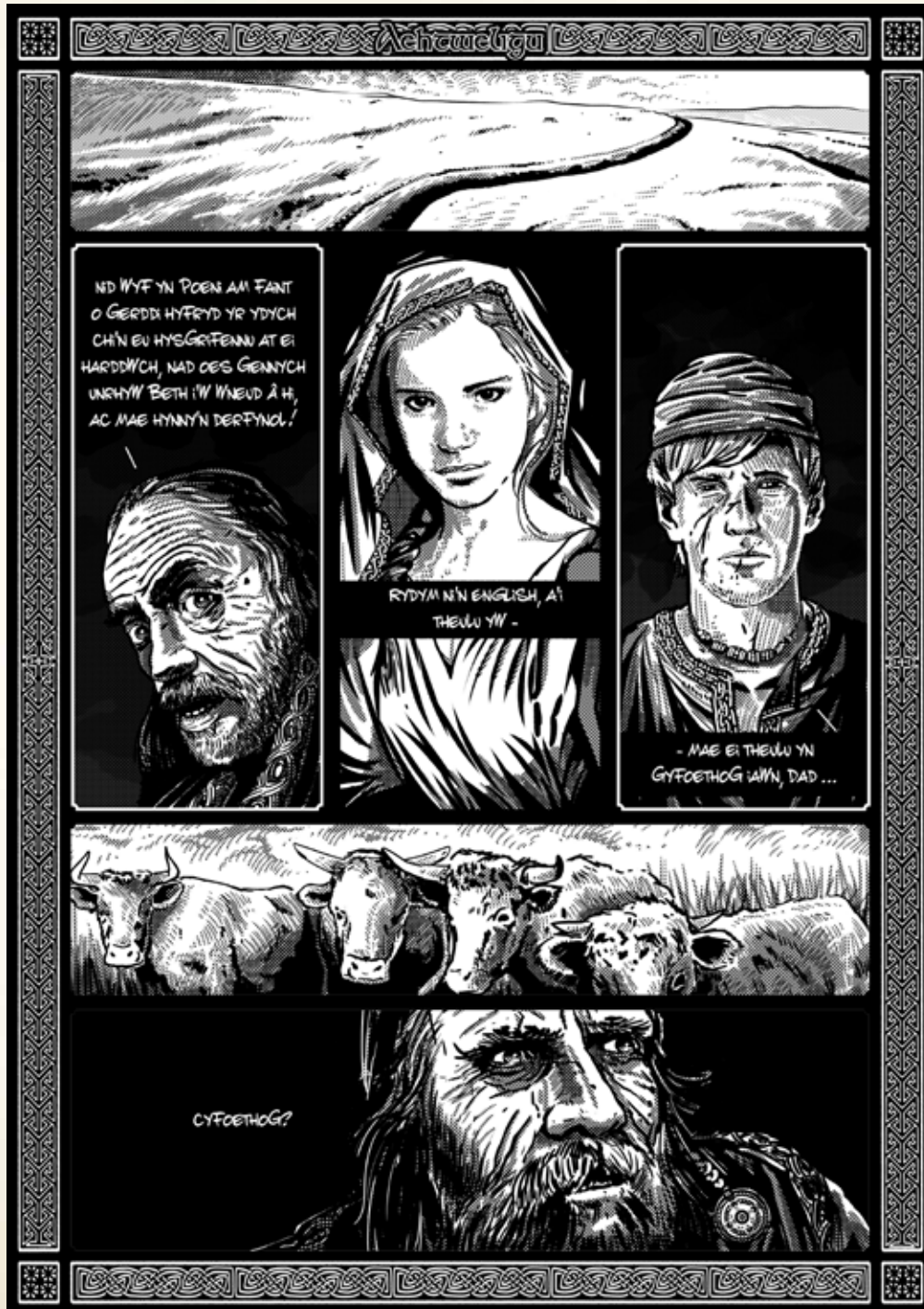
- *being part of a broad local heritage context*
- *exploring contemporary meaning*
- *understanding "hidden in plain sight"*
- *linking with local stakeholders*
- *linking with professional scholarship*
- *local print distribution*
- *local online/social media communities*
- *re-inventing show & tell to de-complicate, introduce and remind*
- *connecting with larger historical themes*
- *signposting ways to get involved*

## COMICS

*beyond the Oswestry Heritage Comics model*

*Making earthworks visible through:*

- *re-presentation of interpretation and data*
- *exploring and exploiting unique mechanics of narrative and temporality*
- *extending discourse to interdisciplinary and non-specialist spaces*

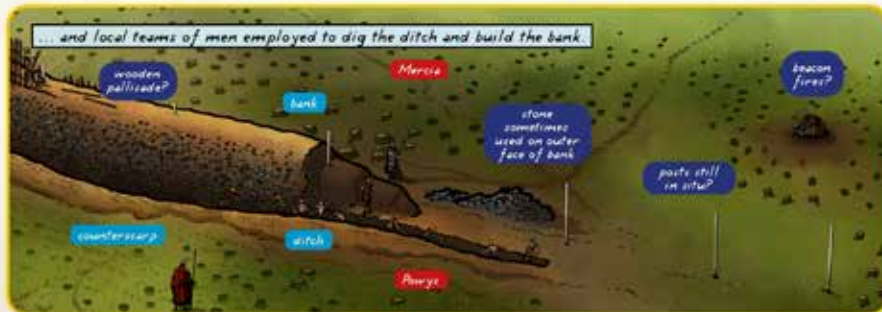


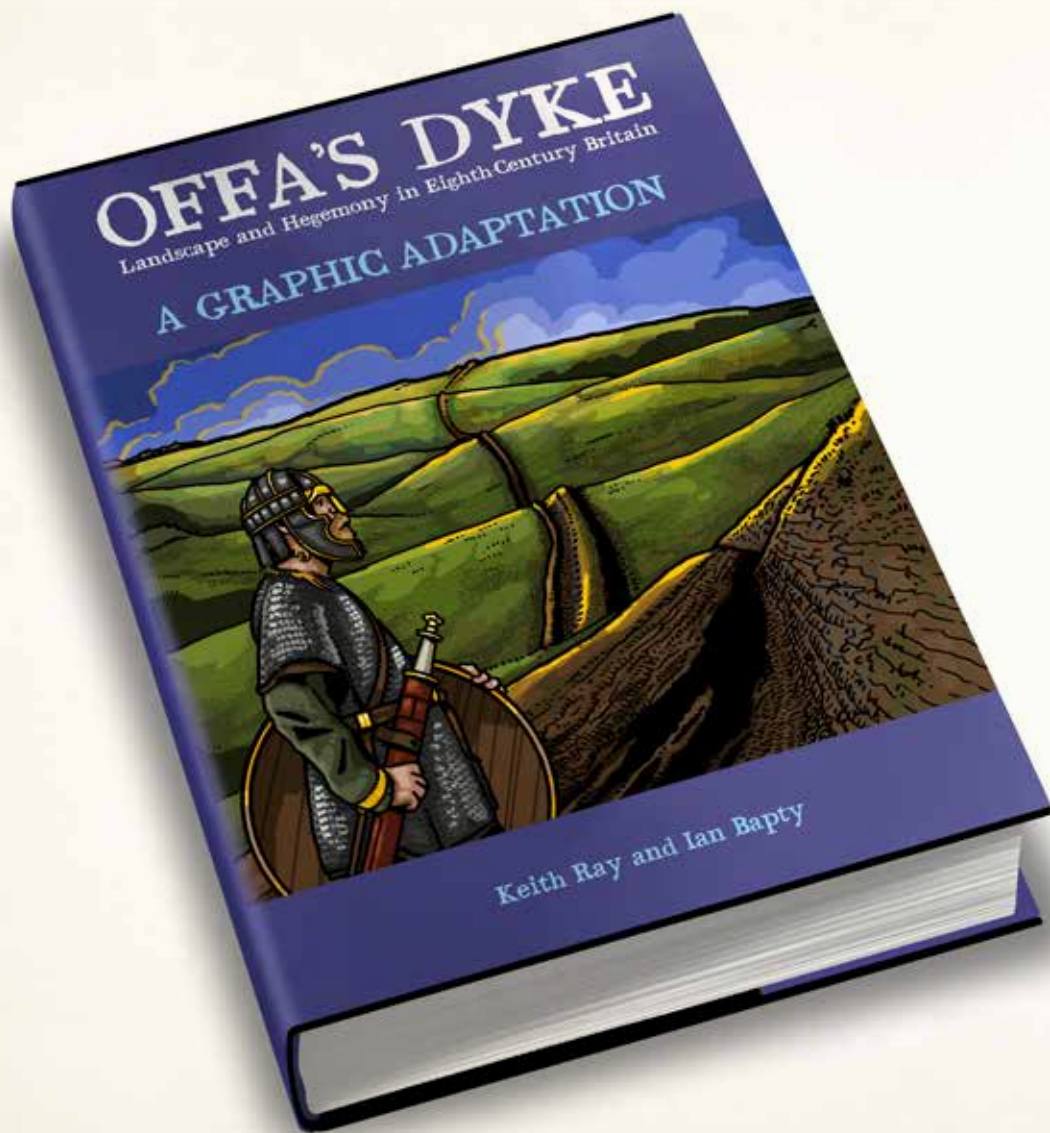
COMICS

beyond the Oswestry Heritage Comics model

*Making earthworks visible through:*

- making "outreach" "reach out"
- taking information beyond specialist spaces
- aiming at local government, enforcement agencies, developers, etc.
- turning information about the monument into an action plan for its preservation and protection
- communication as activism





“The future of the Dyke lies not only with the promptings of historians and archaeologists, and still less so with heritage professionals, as within a digitally mediated world, experienced and mapped by new generations through the recording and **exploration of heritage in a variety of media.**”

Keith Ray & Ian Bapty, *Offa's Dyke*, p. 376

<http://johnswogger.wordpress.com>

[Oswestry Heritage Comics on Facebook](#)

*Every Tuesday in the  
Oswestry & Border Counties Advertiser*

<https://qube-oca.org.uk/oswestry-heritage-comics/>