

## Mapping the hinterland: GIS and archaeology

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In contrast with over 100 years of archaeological and antiquarian interest in the sacred and secular cities of Anuradhapura, almost nothing is known of the nature of non-urban communities within the hinterland of Anuradhapura and, as a result, the second phase of the Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka) Project was launched with the five-year aim of modelling the networks between urban and non-urban communities over the course of two millennia. Specifically, the project aims to define and interpret the following objectives: the spatial location and sequence of urban and non-urban communities; the morphology and function of urban and non-urban communities; the subsistence base of urban and non-urban communities; the soil and sedimentary sequence within the plain as a foundation for understanding resource patterns and enhancement within the plain. In line with these objectives, a methodology was developed to map the nature and location of non-urban sites, soils and resources, with a sample of sites later subjected to geophysical survey and excavation. This presentation will examine the methodologies utilised in order to identify and map those sites identified.

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