

## Lyminge Archaeological Project - IADB User Guide

*Please note: expansion and development of the IADB is an ongoing effort within the project and as such records within it are subject to change, addition or redaction at any time without notice.*

### To start

To access the IADB, go to [http://www.iadb.co.uk/i3/portal\\_main.php?DB=LYMINGE](http://www.iadb.co.uk/i3/portal_main.php?DB=LYMINGE). You can log in with User Name: **GUEST** and password: **GUEST**.

Select the project of interest by selecting **Projects** (leftmost option in the top menu bar) then **All Projects**. This will bring up the list of excavations (by year) and a few associated projects. Select the project you are interested in.

The main project window will be empty aside from the **Project Index** pane on the left. This contains a file tree with all aspects of the available project data. **Contexts, Finds, Photos, Sections** etc. can be browsed in list form from this menu.

### Types of record

The IADB contains project records which are interlinked on the basis of context number. Click on the **Contexts** folder in the **Project Index** pane and a list of contexts for that season will become available. You can use the various search options at the top of the window (Context number / Type / Keywords etc.) to find whatever types of specific context you are interested in investigating. Context records display a scanned copy of the original paper record sheet taken in the field and will list associated sections and finds in the pane to the left of the scan. The relationship with neighbouring contexts will be displayed in the "Stratigraphy" area below the scanned record sheet. Plans, photos and other records associated with the context will be available below this.

You can view the records and images for associated contexts, sections, plans, photos, finds and environmental samples by clicking on the links in the relevant section of the context window.

### Searching

All contexts and finds have associated keywords such as "post hole", "pit", "iron", "charcoal" which describe material, form and usage in general terms. By entering search terms such as "Medieval ditch" or "copper brooch" in the search box in the top left of the window (next to the "IADB:" text) you can browse the entire project by applicable keywords.

Search functions are also available in the main **Contexts** and **Finds** lists from the **Project Index**.

### Sections

Digitised section drawings are available for most contexts. These have selectable areas corresponding to **fill** contexts and in some cases to small finds.

**Note:** *cuts displayed on section drawings are not selectable objects, but their records are accessible through those of their fills which are selectable on the diagrams.*

### Objects

Under the **Objects** folder in the Project Index can be found several items which comprise pre-identified sets of contexts. One of these will represent the entire trench and the others will

correspond to identified buildings. Clicking on the plan thumbnails displayed next to these objects will allow you to see the plans and layout of the contexts from these phases of the project.

### Using Plans

Custom plans can be created for whatever collections of contexts you wish to view by going to **Utilities > Plan Browser** and adding contexts (by individual number). Pre-defined collections of context plans are available under the **Objects** menu in the **Project Index** pane. All plans display selectable elements corresponding to **cuts** and (in some cases) fill contexts as defined in the post-excavation plans for the trench.

When you have the plan browser window open (for example, by selecting the thumbnail for an object), you can view small finds in the database on the plan by going to **Drawing options > Plot finds > Small finds** then tick the box for whatever types of finds (by material) that you are interested in. This will plot the locations of the appropriate objects on the plan. By selecting an option under “Show Sections” you can see the location of the section diagrams in the database on the plan.

To export the plan for your use, click the **More Actions** button at the bottom of the browser window and you'll see the export options. The SVG option is most appropriate for use with Adobe Illustrator, etc.

**Note:** *At present the site grids are not tied into the British National Grid, so these trench plans cannot be overlain onto a map layer in a GIS very easily. Colours and horizons visible on plans are system generated in relation to the context matrix for the site and do not relate to archaeologically defined phases.*