STUDY AREA INTRO BRAINSTORMING

For over a century researchers have exploited the incredibly rich and well preserved archaeological record in the Périgord region of France.

INTRODUCTION TO THE RESEARCH

Archaeologically one of the most studied and world renown landscapes

This long history of inquiry, combined with their stunning vistas, has made the caves and shelters of the Dordogne world famous for their Paleolithic occupants.

valley known as La Voie Royale de la Préhistoire check original source and use in arguments about how prehistory has overshadowed the historical record

However, the equally rich Holocene record has been historically understudied.

After 10000 the landscape becomes void yet there is evidence this was not the case

This neglect happens despite the fact that archaeologists, visitors, and inhabitants alike are confronted with the impressive remains of these occupations at every turn in the road.

Archaeological evidence indicates occupations in the valley throughout the protohistoric and historic periods

historical research shows that this was a prominent space in the medieval landscapes

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY AREA

Description

Study area boundaries defined by administrative units

Made up of 43 Communes

1. a. Commune administrative district

Arrondissement de Bergerac

Canton de Sainte-Alvère (1 of 7)

Limeuil

Arrondissement de Périgueux

Canton de Thenon (1 of 11)

Bars

Arrondissement de Sarlat-la-Canéda

Canton du Bugue (9 of 10)

Le Bugue

Campagne

Fleurac

Journiac

Manaurie

Mauzens-et-Miremont

Saint-Cirq

Saint-Félix-de-Reilac-et-Mortemart

Savignac-de-Miremont

Canton de Montignac (14 of 14)

Aubas

Auriac-du-Périgord

La Chapelle-Aubareil
Fanlac  
Les Farges  
Montignac  
Peyzac-le-Moustier  
Plazac  
Rouffignac-Saint-Cernin-de-Reilhac  
Saint-Amand-de-Coly  
Saint-Léon-sur-Vézère  
Sergeac  
Thonac  
Valojoulx  

Canton de Saint-Cyprien (4 of 14)  
Audrix  
Les-Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil  
Meyrals  
Tursac  

Canton de Terrasson-Lavilledieu (6 of 16)  
La Bachellerie  
La Cassagne  
Coly  
Condat-sur-Vézère  
Le Lardin-Saint-Lazare  
Terrasson-Lavilledieu  

Canton de Sarlat-la-Canéda (5 of 12)  
Marcillac-Saint-Quentin  
Marquay  
Proissans  
Saint-André-d’Allas  
Tamniès  

Canton de Salignac-Eyvigues (3 of 8)  
Archignac  
Saint-Crépin-et-Carlucet  
Saint-Geniès  

1.  
a. Ancient communes (see Spéléo Dordogne 44)  

2. HOW?  
a. Vezere limits mark the location of two major High Medieval villages  
b. communes not along Vezere picked to see life beyond the river (focus on river)  
c. Beune included to get view comparative view of rivers  
d. Lower point out towards Sarlat MAJOR MEDIEVAL VILLAGE but did not include the commune itself  
e. rough square area made–while somewhat arbitrary to choose square designed to include all environements  
f. study area was defined that encompassed both the major river valley, major river tributaries, and the upland regions  

3. WHY?  
a. This area is important to our understanding of this key transition in history for three reasons.  
   i. First, the topographic relief and landscape variability of the study area combine to create a landscape of immense environmental diversity of the region, making it a particularly useful for testing the applicability of settlement hypotheses
from other studies of Medieval settlement patterns.

ii. Second, it is an area of multiple, contested, and overlapping political influences which provides unique incite into the negotiation of political boundaries and state formation.

iii. Finally, this study addresses a major hole in our understanding of the development of the Frankish Kingdom, which is primarily known from sites in the north and east of France.