Seeing While Moving:
Direction-Dependent Visibility of Bronze Age Monuments Along a Prehistoric Ridgeway in Cumbria, England

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The Two Elements of a Humanised Landscape

Places and their Properties

Routes of Movement Between Places

Non-Direction-Dependent Visibility from Bronze Age Monuments

Direction-Dependent Visibility along the Ridgeway
Methodology: Modelling the Human Experience of Visual Perception

Routes of Movement Between Places

- Lack of understanding the human experience of visual perception while walking along routes
- By determining the direction of movement along the route, the available field of view can be calculated
Case Study: Bronze Age Monuments Along a Prehistoric Ridgeway

• Previously known as the ‘Street of the Britons’ – early origins suspected

• Close proximity to Bronze Age monuments suggests it was used during this era

• Increase in monuments linked to environmental factors stimulating population growth
Results:

Bronze Age Monuments Along a Prehistoric Ridgeway

- Bronze Age monuments visible when walking along the ridgeway – common features in the landscape
- High proportion of monuments visible in the northern and southern section may have acted as important markers
Discussion

- Direction-dependent visibility more accurately models the human experiences of visual perception.

- Provide new insight into the social perceptions of past people and their relationship with the landscape.

- Lack of attention to the study of daily movement in archaeology:
  - Direction-dependent visibility provides a methodology to explore further.
Thank you

Any questions?