

Mind maps as a tool for documenting the process of creating visualisations of archaeological features. The example of the visualisation of a medieval house discovered at the Siecieborowice site (Poland).

When creating a visualisation of archaeological features using 3D graphic software, it is vital to document the process of preparing a reconstruction together with the interpretation processes. With the use of mind maps, it is possible to present in a simple way how the works on the visualisation proceeded.

Mind mapping is a method of creating non-linear notes in the form of diagrams developed by Tony and Barry Buzan. A mind map organises information in a hierarchical way and shows relationships between particular elements. It is an expression of multi-directional thinking and a visual record of an idea. A map is created around a core concept (a keyword or an image) to which related verbal or visual representations are added. The ideas branch off, building a colourful tree-like structure (Buzan 2003). The method records knowledge and models systems. It is a visual representation of brainstorming, a knowledge base, a memory map and visual thinking.

In archaeology properly prepared diagrams provide a source of knowledge about the data gathered and the relationships amongst them. They present the information acquired through an analysis of sources and reference material as well as details about the methods used, technical solutions and parameters adopted.

Basing on the example of the visualisation of a medieval house discovered at the Siecieborowice site (Poland), the formulated hypotheses and the entire research procedure were presented in graphic form using *Coggle* mind mapping software. The remains of a rural homestead established around a mid-13th century house were discovered during a rescue archaeological survey in 1998 in the village of Siecieborowice, south-western Poland. The excavations were carried out by the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Wrocław. The methodology of the 3D reconstruction of the house from Siecieborowice was developed in accordance with the guidelines included in the London Charter (2009) and the Seville Charter (Lopez-Menchero and Grande, 2017).

The aim of the poster presentation is to evaluate whether mind mapping software is a useful tool for documenting the visualisation process. The advantages and disadvantages of this method will be discussed.

References:

Buzan, T., (2003). The mind map book: Radiant Thinking - Major evolution in human thought. BBC Books.

Lopez-Mencheró, V.M., Grande, A. (2017). The Principles of the Seville Charter. <https://www.cipaheritagedocumentation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/L%C3%B3pez-Mencheró-Grande-The-principles-of-the-Seville-Charter.pdf> (Accessed: 31 May 2024).

The London Charter for the Computer-based Visualisation of Cultural Heritage, (2009). https://londoncharter.org/fileadmin/templates/main/docs/london_charter_2_1_en.pdf (Accessed: 31 May 2024).