

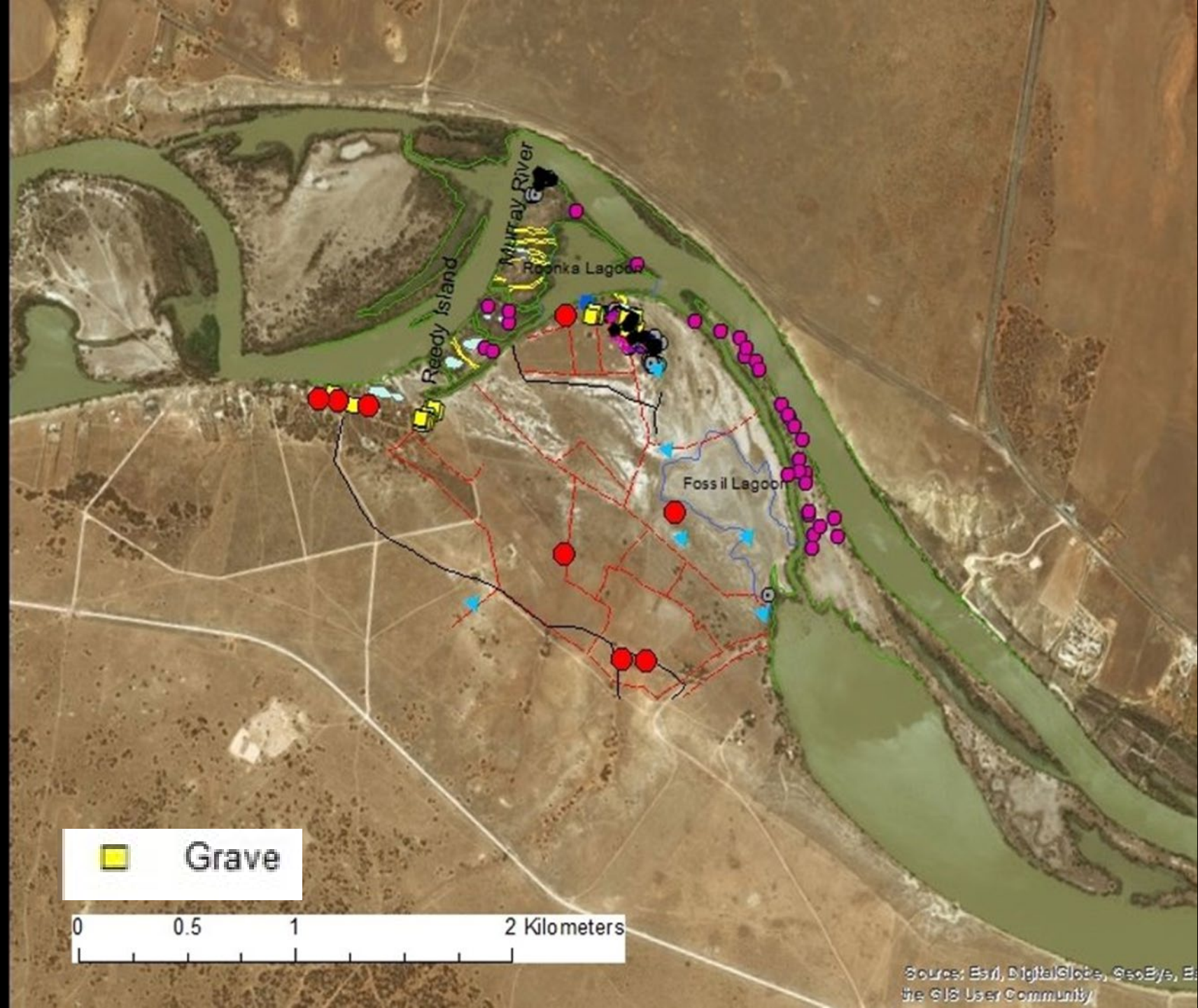
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# Time's scales: Working with time at Roonka

The Roonka Project: Judith Littleton, River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation, Harry Allen, Joshua Emmitt, Sarah Karstens, Fiona Petchey, Keryn Walshe

# Roonka, South Australia

Graeme Pretty c1968, Roonka



# Research Aim

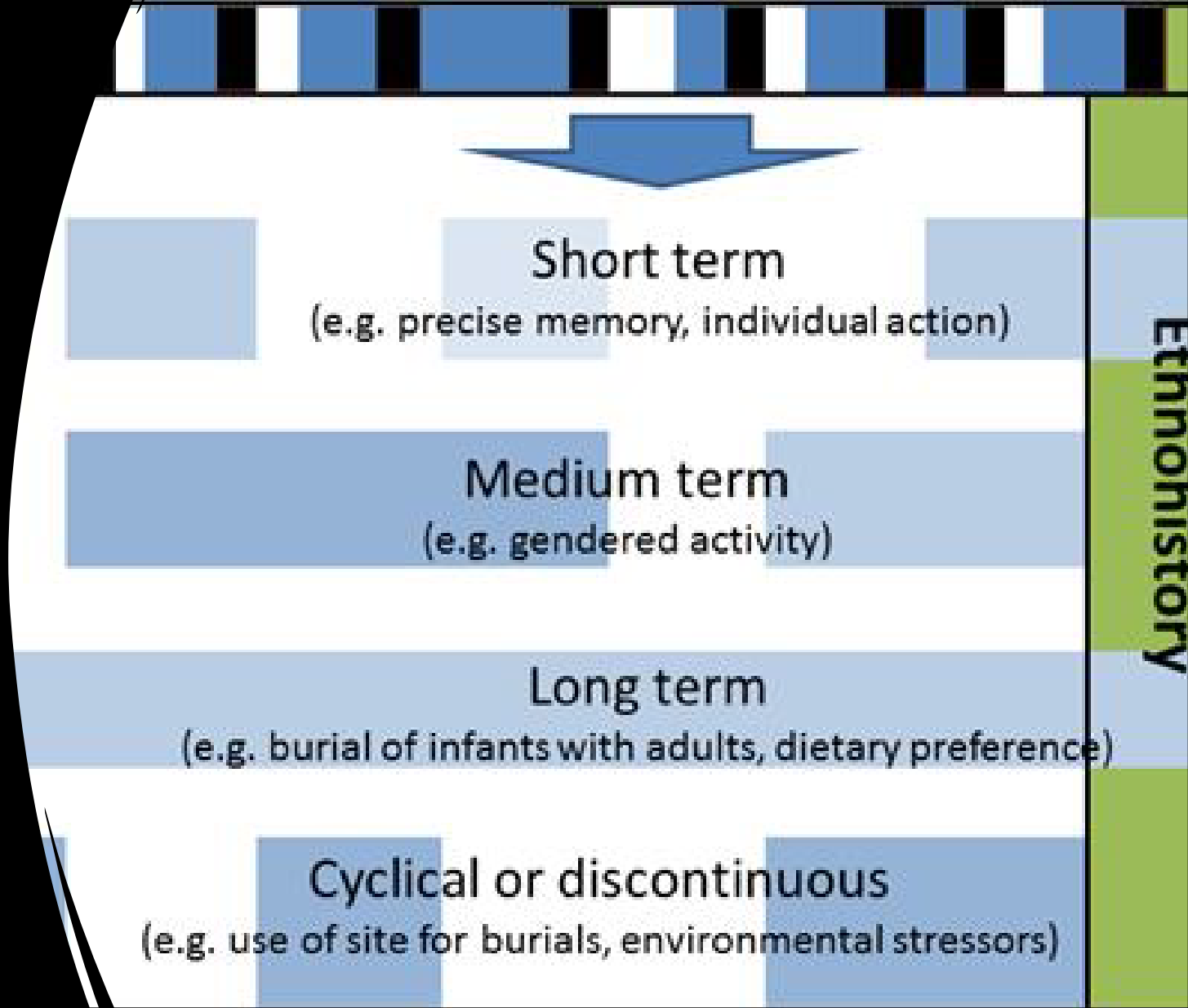
- *“The aim of this project is to analyse the Roonka site from the “bottom up” relying upon the excellent records of burial excavation as well as our new analyses of the human remains... We aim to trace changes in human health and behaviour over the Holocene as people adapted or accommodated changing climatic conditions.”*

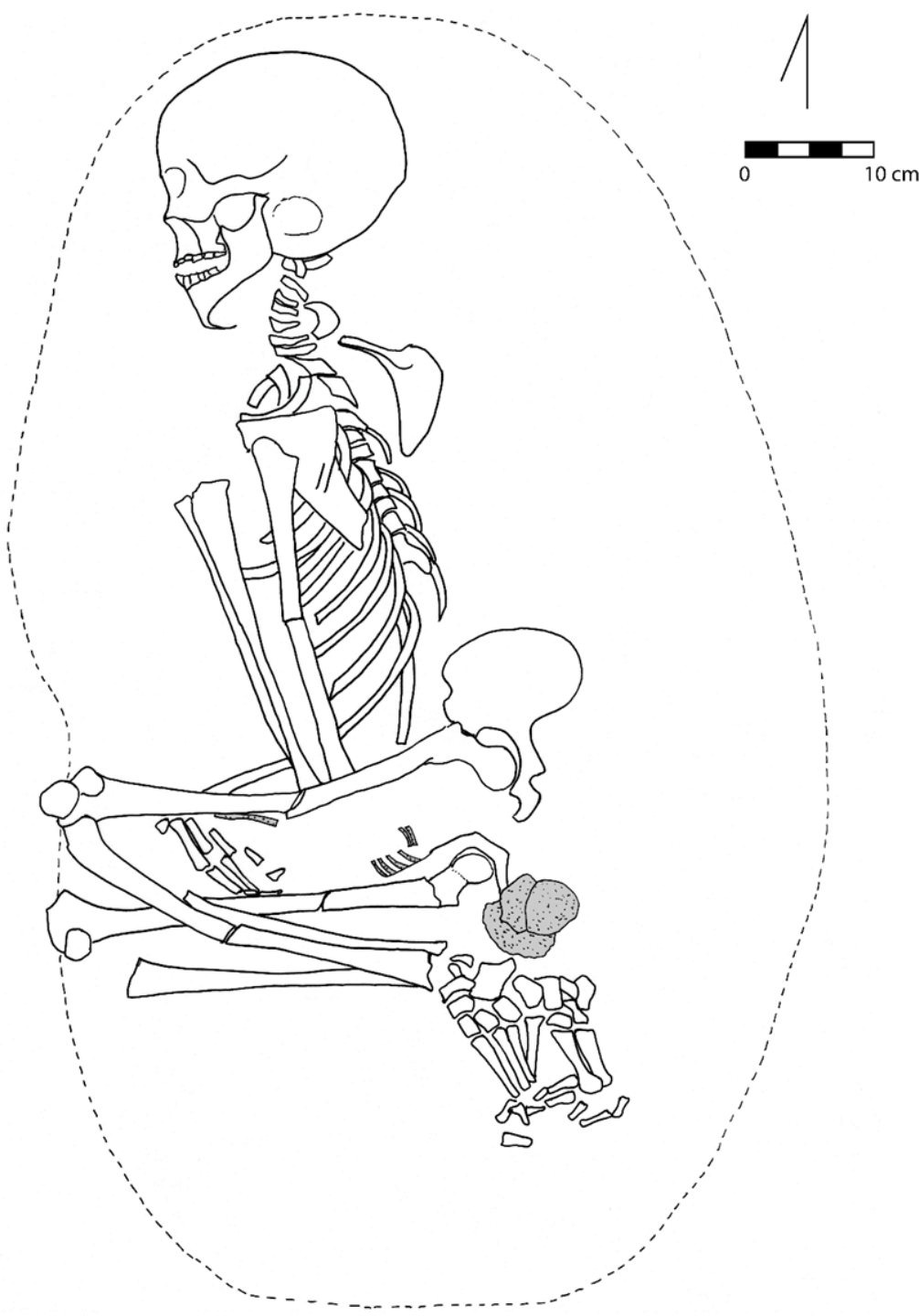


# Thinking about time

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Contexts analysis: Osteobiography plus Burial



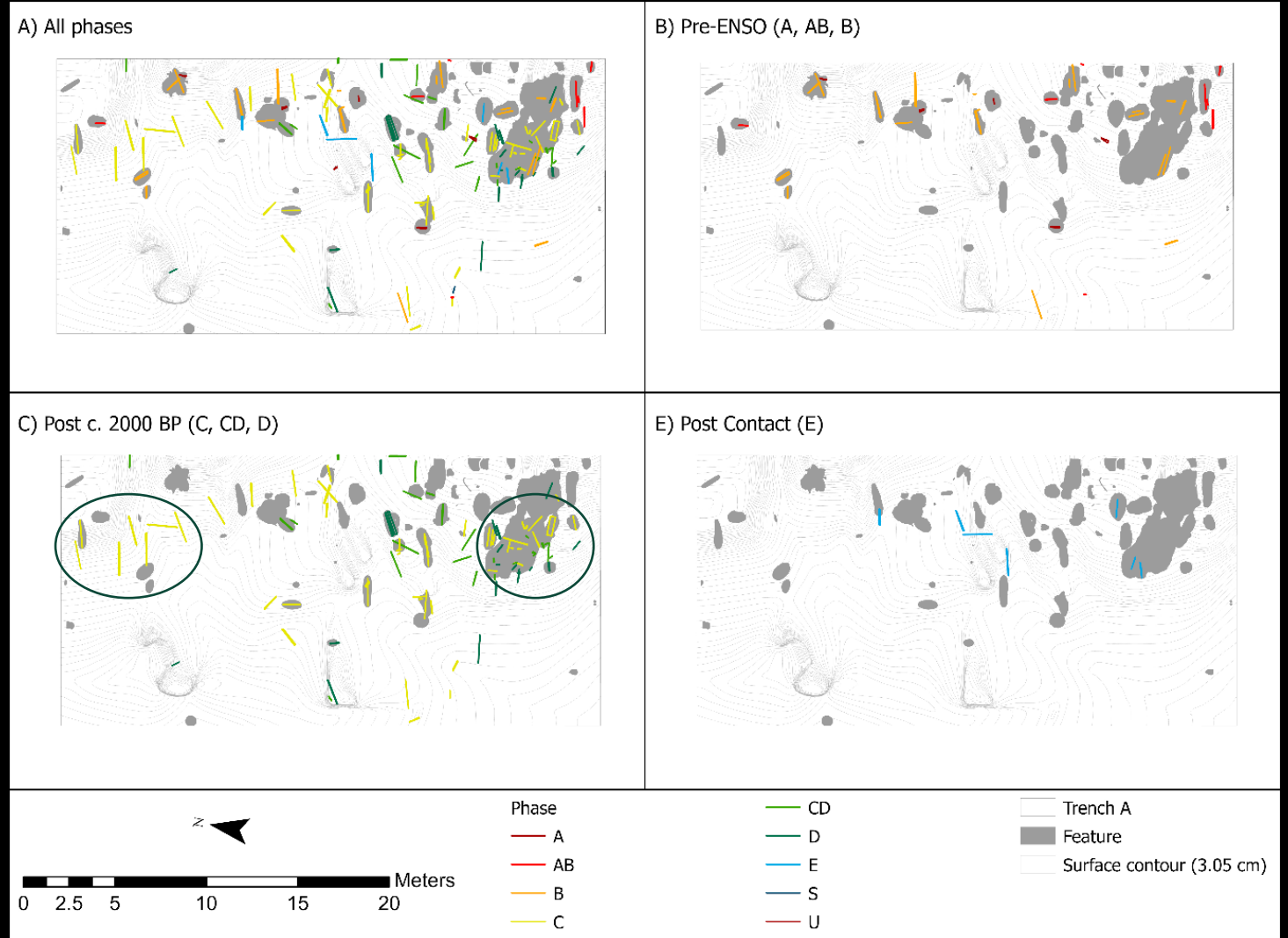


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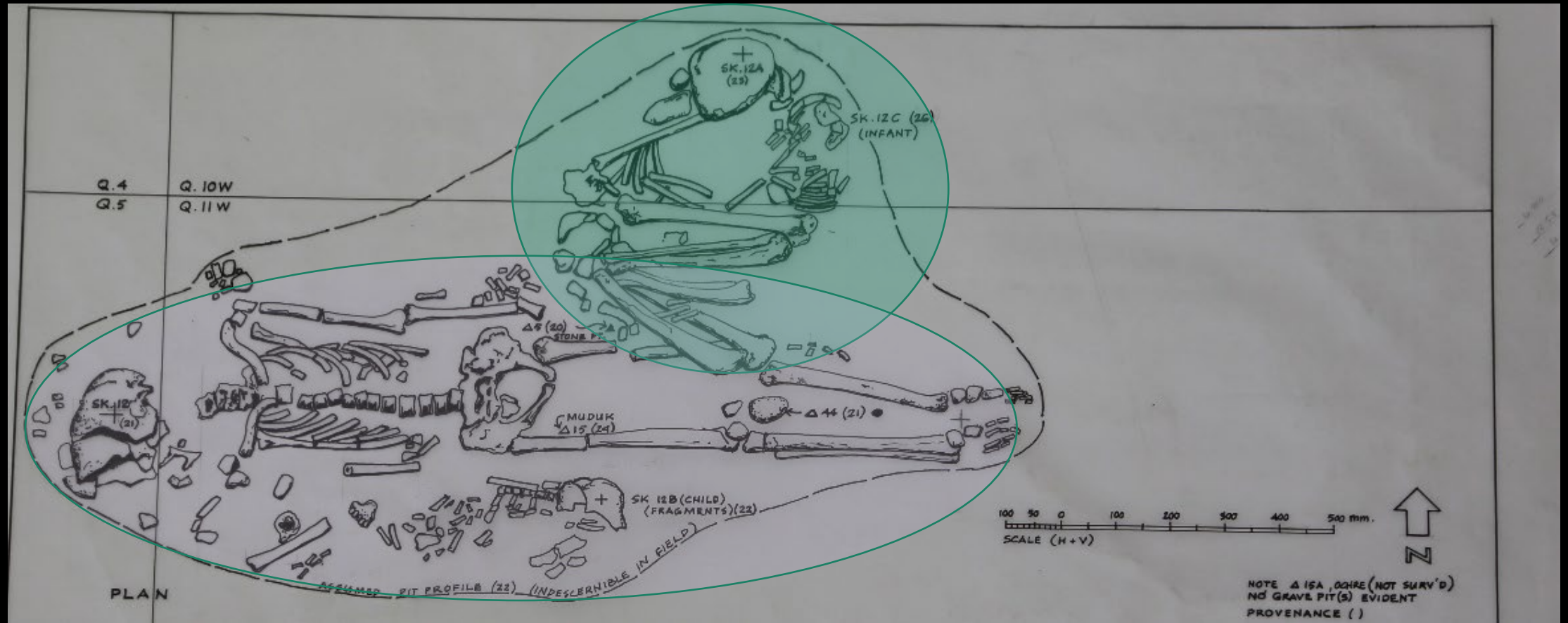
## Time 1. Burials as events and lives

- Burial is.. a deeply significant act imbued with meaning. It represents one of the most formal and carefully prepared deposits that archaeologists encounter even though the actual ceremony ..may have been noisy, chaotic and disputed.. (Parker Pearson 1999:5)

Time 2. The medium term – burials with each other



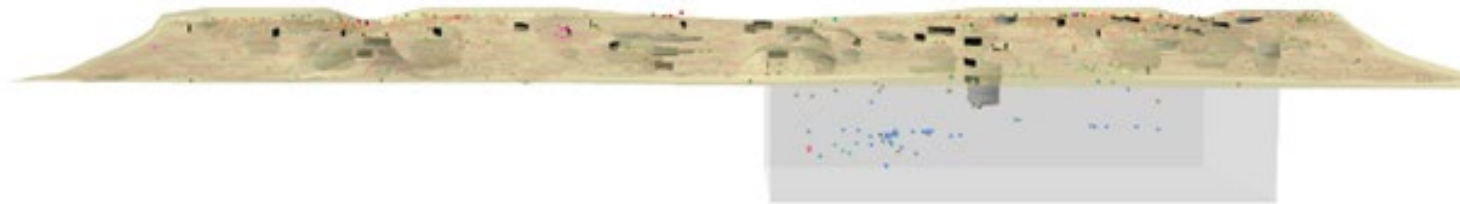
# Time 3. The long term (e.g. children)



# Time 4

## Discontinuous and cyclical

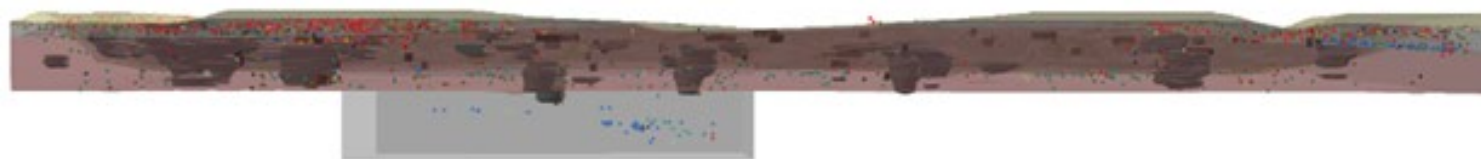
East view



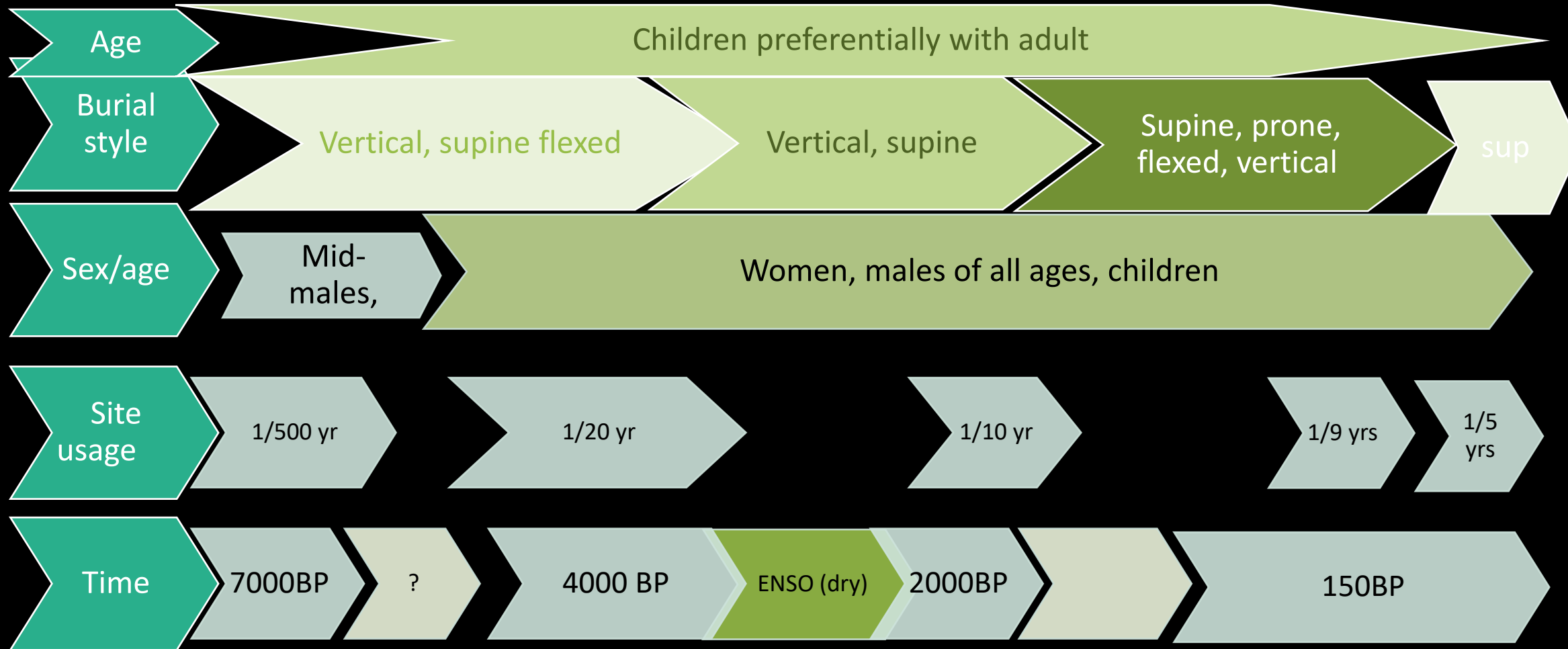
North view



West view



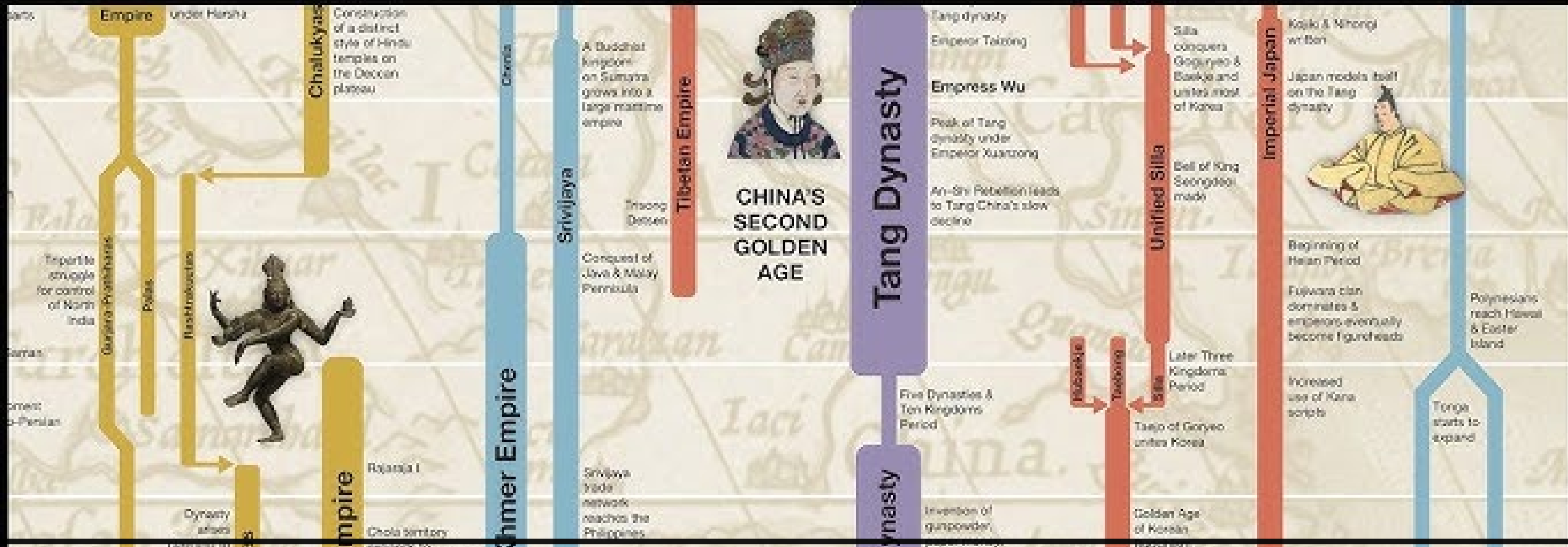
# Persistence and change (a first glance)



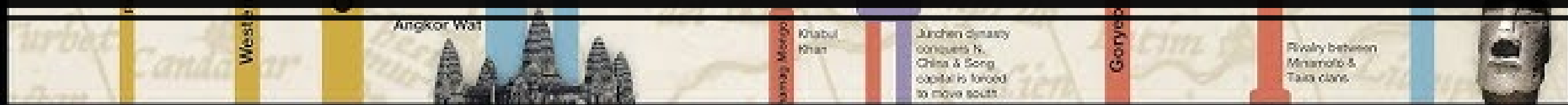
BUT



# Timeline of Asian History



Global time



## 2014-5

Application,  
inventory, dental  
recording,  
consultation

## 2016

Burial records,  
Formal agreement,  
**Museum decides  
to move collection**

## 2017-18

Negotiation with  
museum, final  
recording visit,  
**Change Museum  
policy**

## 2019

Site visits  
School plans  
**Pivot** to 3D  
reconstruction

## 2020-21+

Grant completed  
ongoing work  
3D reconstruction  
completed  
**COVID**

# Project Time

# So change and resilience?

- What sort of time are we talking about
- We all use different sorts of time at different times.
- And projects themselves incorporate time and change.



# Acknowledgements

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- We acknowledge and thank the Ngaiwaing, the Traditional Owners of Roonka, and the Ngaiwait, Nganguruku, Ngingtait, Eraweirung, Ngaralte, and Ngarkat.
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- The biological anthropology writing group.