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Data Acquisition and Integration Protocol on the Ahuahu/Great Mercury Island Archaeological Project

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Introduction

On the Ahuahu/Great Mercury Island Project a diverse range of technology is used to record large quantities of data. A rigid protocol is followed to ensure consistent recording standards to a) maintain inter- and intra-season comparability of data; b) reduce inter-operator variability; and c) minimise data loss. Following a rigid workflow also reduces disruption to the excavation process. The data generated are joined to a master relational database with a hierarchical schema that combines the various data types from multiple sites across multiple field seasons.

Significance for Archaeological Data Management and Analysis

The range of technology used on the Ahuahu/Great Mercury Island Project in combination with standardized recording protocols produce high quality and high resolution data for use in detailed archaeological analysis. The spatial hierarchical schema combined with the relational database allows the manipulation and querying of the data in any way a user requires. This data management creates a flexible but robust database that can be compared with other databases past, present, and future.