ARCHEOLOGICAL STORYTELLING

& Community Engagement via StoryMaps

MATTHEW D. HOWLAND[1,2], BRADY LISS[1,2], MOHAMMAD NAJJAR[2], and THOMAS E. LEVY[1,2]

1: University of California, San Diego, Department of Anthropology

2: University of California, San Diego, Levantine and Cyber-Archaeology Laboratory

Scan me

VIEW THE STORYMAP

English: bit.ly/Faynan

bit.ly/FaynanAR :لعربية

The Kingdom of Copper

Copper Production and Social Complexity in Iron Age Faynan, Jordan

And yet, Faynan was home to one of the first complex societies to develop during the early Iron Age.

Iron Age settlement spread across the region, represented here by the three-site network of Khirbat en-Nahas, Khirbat al-Jariya, and Khirbat al-Ghuwaiba. Click each site on the map to learn more.

**How was Faynan able to develop into a complex society during the Iron Age?**

Copper ore from Faynan, Jordan. Photo Credit: ELRAP Staff.

Copper

In the ancient world, copper was an incredibly important resource. In some ways, copper in the Iron Age was like oil today, playing a critical role in the daily functioning of life. Copper would ultimately also drive the development of complex society in Faynan.

Copper was used for many purposes, including making jewelry, ritual items, tools, and weapons.

The Late Bronze Age Collapse
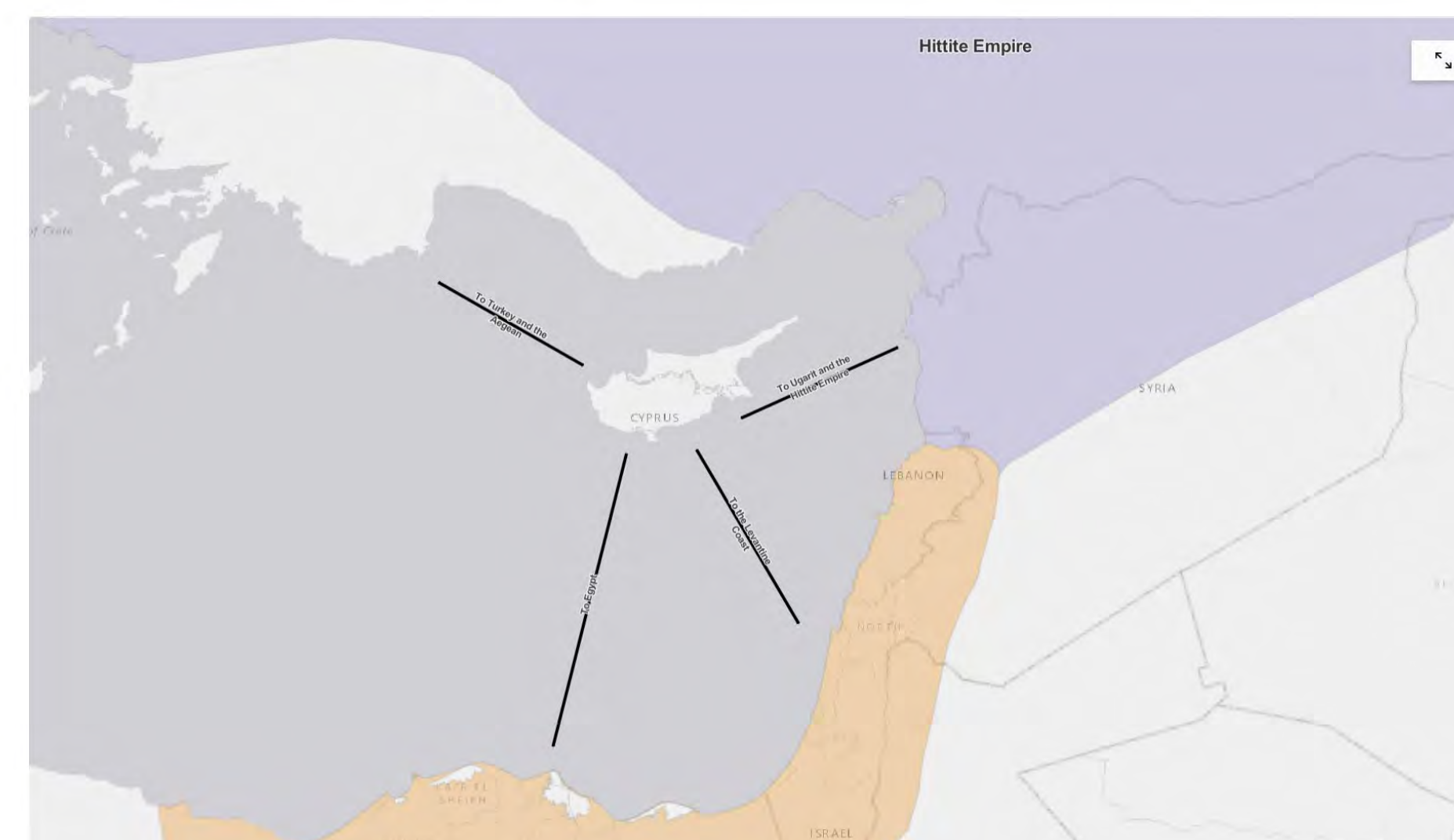
The scale of copper exchange in the Mediterranean-wide economic system of the Late Bronze Age (ca. 1550-1200 BCE) matched the scale of copper production on Cyprus. Copper was a prized import by the vast empires that controlled the Levant at the time.

Explore the map at right by clicking the empires and trade routes to learn more.

Khirbat en-Nahas

Large-scale production of copper began at Khirbat en-Nahas (shown here) and ultimately reached its peak at this site as well. Over 60,000 tonnes of copper slag are present at the site today.

Cultural Heritage Risk at Khirbat en-Nahas, Jor...

Learn more about the risks faced by archaeological sites in today's world

https://ecolocline.maps.arcite.com
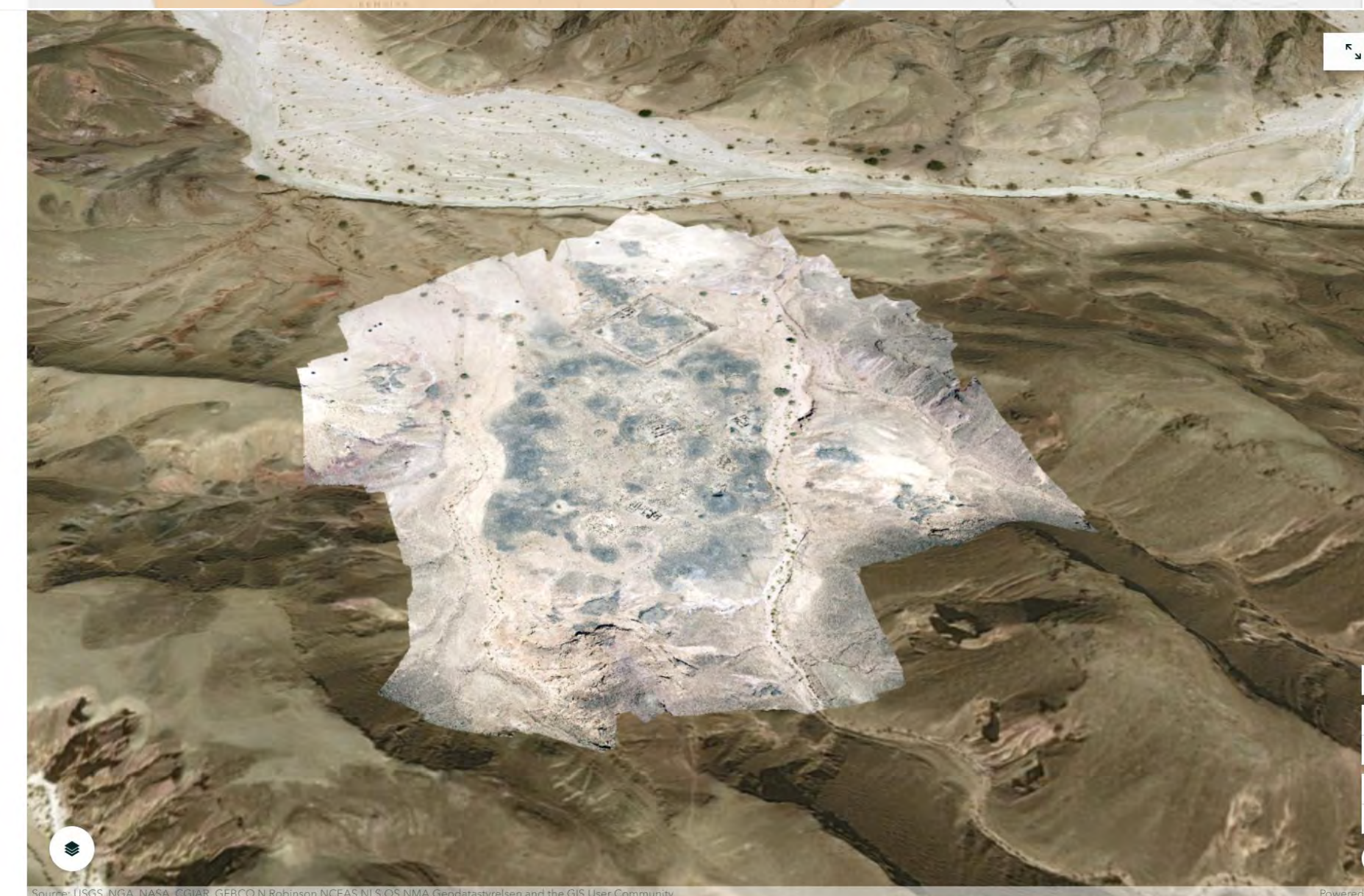
Summary

- Archaeology is a fundamentally spatial field. The spatial datasets that 21st century archaeological projects collect are easily adaptable into modes of digital storytelling.
- The StoryMaps application, produced by ESRI, is a free service that allows for the generation of multimedia stories using spatial data. Users navigate StoryMaps by scrolling through text and media and interacting with maps.
- This poster presents the *The Kingdom of Copper* StoryMap illustrating Iron Age copper production and social complexity in Faynan, Jordan.

Community Engagement in Faynan

- The StoryMap is translated to share with Arabic-speaking stakeholders.
- We aim to install a router and laptop in the Faynan Museum (at right) to provide internet access to the StoryMap to the locals of Faynan.
- The StoryMap needs work to reflect the relationship of stakeholders to their cultural heritage in order to do better community engagement.

Conclusions

- StoryMaps have great potential to be entertaining and educational tools for archaeological digital storytelling.
- *Garbage In, Garbage Out*: Their usefulness depends on the quality of the input datasets and text.
- StoryMaps are a straightforward way to turn archaeological data into educational outreach.
- StoryMaps can be good tools for community engagement, as long as consideration is taken of internet and authorship biases and language barriers.