Navigating Early Medieval Europe

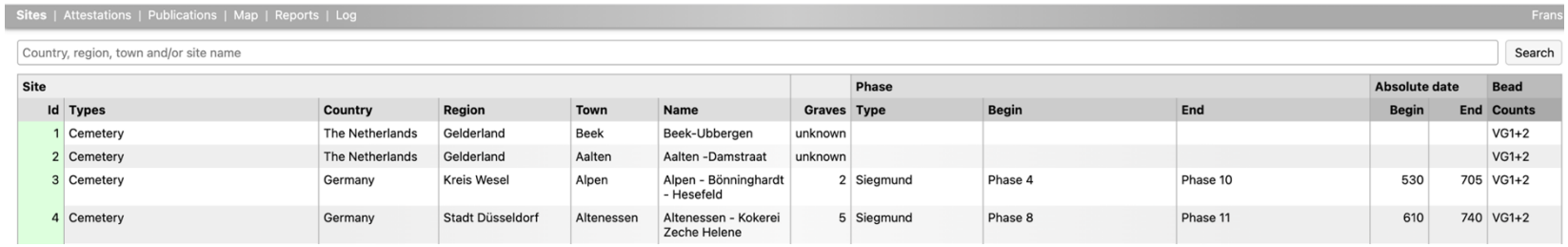
The Rural Riches Database Manual

1. Recording sites and bead counts (version 02)

RURAL RICHES

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Go to: https://merovingianarchaeology.org/rr/ and log in with your username and password
After Log in, you will see a table with information on sites as in the image below.



Site							Phase			Absolute date		Bead
Id	Types	Country	Region	Town	Name	Graves	Type	Begin	End	Begin	End	Counts
1	Cemetery	The Netherlands	Gelderland	Beek	Beek-Ubbergen	unknown						VG1+2
2	Cemetery	The Netherlands	Gelderland	Aalten	Aalten -Damstraat	unknown						VG1+2
3	Cemetery	Germany	Kreis Wesel	Alpen	Alpen - Bönninghardt - Hesefeld	2	Siegmund	Phase 4	Phase 10	530	705	VG1+2
4	Cemetery	Germany	Stadt Düsseldorf	Altenessen	Altenessen - Kokerei Zeche Helene	5	Siegmund	Phase 8	Phase 11	610	740	VG1+2

In the grey top bar are six tabs available to you: 'Sites', 'Attestations', 'Publications', 'Map', 'Reports' and 'Log'.

In this manual we discus 'Sites' and explain how to add data on sites to the database.

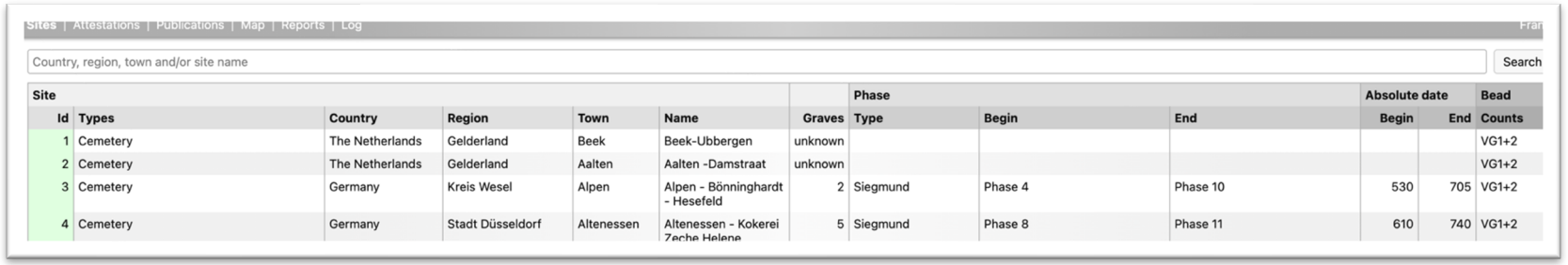
Log-in name and password are provided by David Schaper (database expert of the project) on request by the Principle Investigator (now F. Theuws, Leiden University).

E-mail David Schaper: info@yoursoftware.nl

Important NOTE: SAVE your work regularly while filling in forms, it avoids disappointments. The save button is at the bottom left of each page.

Sites

Section 1: Find a site and add information



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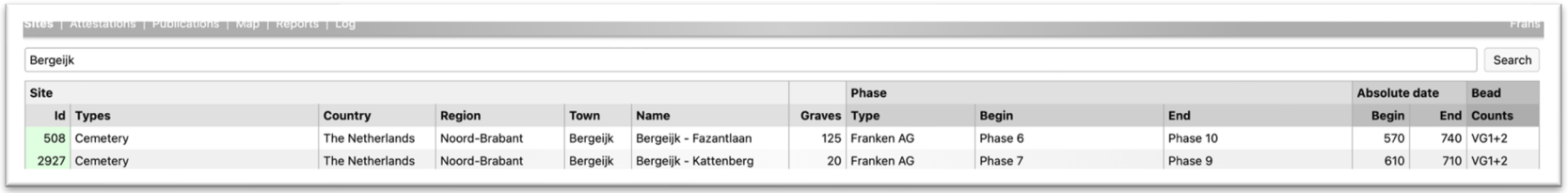
To record data on a site there are two possibilities:
1. You want to add information on a site for which there is already a record.
2. You want to create a new record on a site for which there is no information yet in the database.

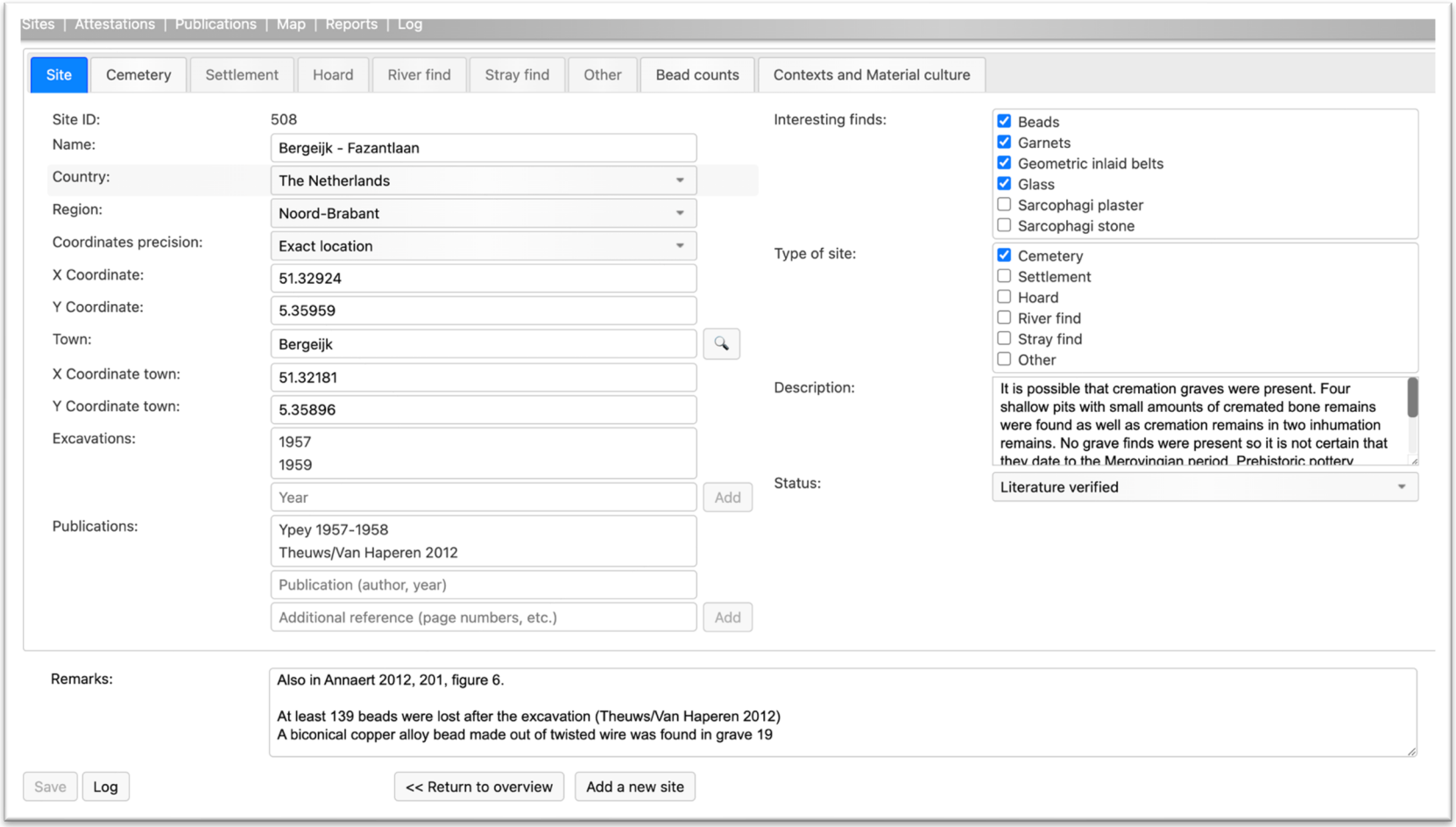
We first explain what to do in case of possibility 1, then possibility 2.

If you want to record data on a specific site, type in the name of the site in the search bar below the tabs, for instance the name of a village or town such as: Bergeijk and hit the return. Names of sites are as they are known in the archaeological literature, usually villages or hamlets. So, not modern municipalities which are often comprising a series of ancient municipalities and villages as a result of recent reorganisations of local government. You might get just one site in this village/town or several as in towns like Maastricht or Cologne. See image below for the result of the Bergeijk search.



Site							Phase			Absolute date		Bead
Id	Types	Country	Region	Town	Name	Graves	Type	Begin	End	Begin	End	Counts
508	Cemetery	The Netherlands	Noord-Brabant	Bergeijk	Bergeijk - Fazantlaan	125	Franken AG	Phase 6	Phase 10	570	740	VG1+2
2927	Cemetery	The Netherlands	Noord-Brabant	Bergeijk	Bergeijk - Kattenberg	20	Franken AG	Phase 7	Phase 9	610	710	VG1+2

Double-click on the specific site you want to deal with, in our case: Bergeijk-Fazantlaan (the top one).
Then you arrive at the general information form of that site (see figure below). In a new line of tabs, below the first grey bar with tabs, the 'Site' tab is highlighted.



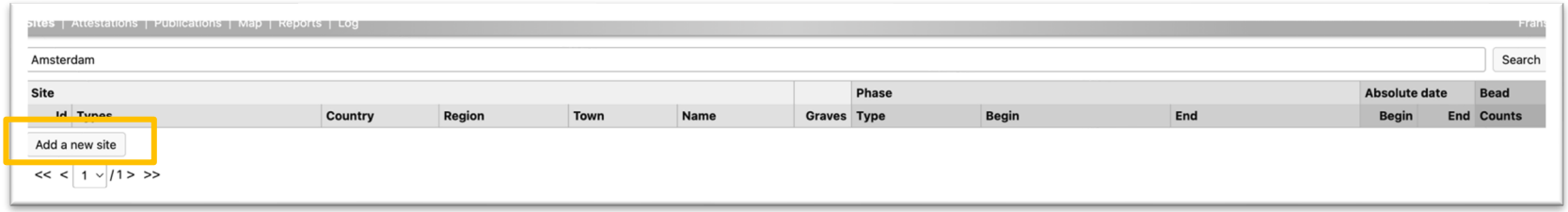
To add information to this site, continue to section 3. To go back to the list with selected sites click 'Sites' in the grey top tab bar or click the button 'Return to overview' at the bottom of the page.

Search possibilities!

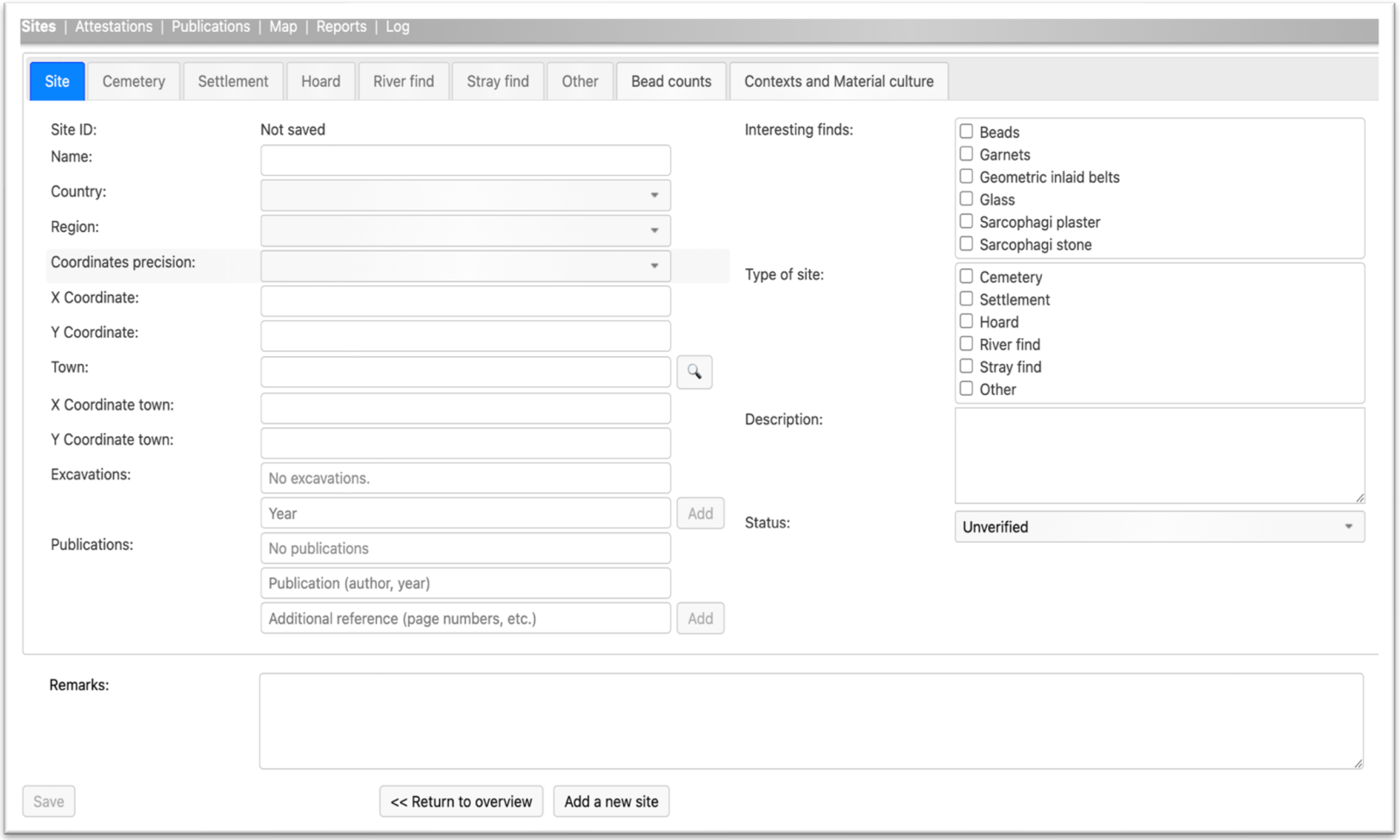
There are more possibilities to search in the list: you can also type in more than one name in the search bar. Try for instance 'Belgium Limburg' (with space between the words), you will get all sites in the Belgium province of Limburg. Try: 'Belgium Limburg stray find': you get all the stray finds in that province. 'Aisne cemetery' gives you all the cemeteries in the *département* Aisne. You can also indicate more specifically [field:]fragment to search for specific information. You can give more search commands (one for each field/column). Examples: region:mayen, town:mayen, name:mayen, or region:mayen, type:cemetery". No capitals.
Try for instance: town:Köln, type cemetery. You get all the cemeteries in Köln (Cologne)and sites with cemeteries and settlements. When the total number of records exceeds what is possible on one page. Click on > to go to the next page or click on 2 to go to the next page. >> brings you to the end of the list, << to the beginning.

Section 2: Create a new site

When your search for a specific site had no result, you will see the following screen (figure below): Amsterdam has no early medieval sites.



To add a new site, click 'Add new site' (see the orange box in the figure above). Next you get an empty 'Site information' form (see figure below). In the fields of this form, you can record general information on a site independent of its character (settlement or cemetery or …). Site is highlighted. To add general information on a site, go to section 3 below.


Sites | Attestations | Publications | Map | Reports | Log
Site
Cemetery
Settlement
Hoard
River find
Stray find
Other
Bead counts
Contexts and Material culture
Site ID:
Not saved
Name:
Country:
Region:
Coordinates precision:
X Coordinate:
Y Coordinate:
Town:
X Coordinate town:
Y Coordinate town:
Excavations:
No excavations.
Year
Add
Publications:
No publications
Publication (author, year)
Additional reference (page numbers, etc.)
Add
Interesting finds:
Beads
Garnets
Geometric inlaid belts
Glass
Sarcophagi plaster
Sarcophagi stone
Type of site:
Cemetery
Settlement
Hoard
River find
Stray find
Other
Description:
Status:
Unverified
Remarks:
Save
<< Return to overview
Add a new site

Section 3: Add general information on a site

Below it is explained what information to add for each field in the general site information form.

> To REMOVE contents of a field one can either move the cursor to the field and click on the red X to the right or delete and retype or use the reference list and go to the top (where there is a blank choice). Reference lists are checked by clicking on the arrow in the right end of the field.

Suggestion: record **FIRST** the relevant literature for your site (go to **manual 2**) and then start to record information on the site.

Site ID	Automatically generated number. Don't bother.
Name	Type the name of the archaeological site, preceded by the name of the town (for instance: Bergeijk-Fazantlaan). Use the name of the town that is usually mentioned in the archaeological literature. This might even be a small hamlet in a larger municipality today.
Country	Choose the country the archaeological site is in from a reference list (click on the triangle in the field).
Region	Choose the region (province, *département*, *Kreis or Bundesland*) the archaeological site is in from a reference list. The list depends on the country chosen. For Germany there are different levels. At first sites were recorded in specific Kreise because only a small part of Germany was recorded in the database. Now it is better to assign a site to one of the Bundesländer. Typing the first letters of region brings you quicker to the correct region.
Coordinates precision	Fill in how accurate the coordinates of the site are that you're supplying. Choose from a reference list. Is the coordinate of the site exact, or is the site in a circle of about 100 m, or 500 m or within one square kilometre, or 50 or 100 kilometres? The location of many 19th century finds is not exactly known, so you have to make an estimate how precise the information on the location is. If there are no coordinates available at all for a specific site (or stray find) but it is said that the find comes from a specific village/town you have to fill in the same coordinate as that for the town and choose 'Locality' from the list.
X Coordinate site	Fill in the X coordinate of the location using the WGS84 coordinate system. To find them, https://twcc.fr/ can be used. You can also use Google Maps. Any other coordinate system is not accepted.

Y Coordinate site	Fill in the Y coordinate of the location using the WGS84 coordinate system. To find them, https://twcc.fr/ can be used. You can also use Google Maps. Any other system is not accepted.
Town	Fill in the name of the town/village/hamlet in which the site is present. There are no strict rules for the choice. This is usually the nearest habitation core of some size (hamlet, village), not necessarily the modern administrative municipality which can be very large in some regions encompassing many ancient villages. Moreover, these often have no meaning to studies of ancient landscapes.
X Coordinate town	Fill in the X coordinate of the town/village/hamlet associated with the archaeological site using the WGS84 coordinate system. We usually search in Google maps for the village and use those coordinates. At times another more obvious location is chosen. To find them, https://twcc.fr/ or Google maps can be used. Any other coordinate system is not accepted. **These town coordinates must be identical for all sites related to this town. If you add a new site to this 'Town' and the town coordinates already have been determined before ,the database will give you a choice to choose them. It is wrong when several different town coordinates for the same town are provided, this may occur when different persons are creating site records. If you notice this it should be corrected. So all sites in Cologne have the same town coordinate.**
Y Coordinate town	Fill in the X coordinate of the town/village/hamlet nearest to the archaeological site using the WGS84 coordinate system. We usually search in Google maps for the village and use those coordinates. At times another more obvious location is chosen. To find them, https://twcc.fr/ or Google maps can be used. Any other coordinate system is not accepted. **These town coordinates must be identical for all sites related to this town. If you add a new site to this 'Town' and the town coordinates already have been determined before, the database will give you a choice to choose them. It is wrong when several different town coordinates for the same town are provided, this may occur when different persons are creating site records. If you notice this it should be corrected. So all sites in Cologne have the same town coordinate.**
Excavations	Supply the years that excavation(s) took place on this site. Type the year in the 'Year' field and click 'Add'. Don't forget to push the add button or the data will not be recorded. This should be done for each year an excavation took place. This may thus lead to at times a list of ten or more years. This should be excavations at a certain level of sophistication. Explorations of cemeteries in the 19th century to sell the objects or for collecting objects without any further recording (grave context, plan, grave drawings, relations between grave finds) should not be considered 'excavations'.

Publications	Supply the literature your site is described in, and the page numbers you are taking information from. The literature reference is in an abbreviated form. **First** you have to record the publication in the 'Publications' list (see manual 2). Check whether it is not already in the list!! Then the procedure is as follows: type a name of an author in the 'Publication (author, year)' field and then choose from the list that appears by clicking on the right publication. Then type in page numbers or illustration numbers or both in the 'Additional reference (page numbers etc.)' field and then click on 'Add'. This is not necessary when it concerns a monograph on the site. You can repeat this several times to add as much literature on the site as possible. You can remove it when wrong by moving the cursor to the field and clicking the red X to the right. Moving the cursor to the field will also show the complete reference when you want to check whether you have chosen the correct publication.
Interesting finds	The Rural Riches project focussed on a number of specific objects (beads, garnet decorated objects, iron belt mounts with geometric silver inlay and glass vessels) and sarcophagi. If any of these objects or fragments thereof were found on the site, tick the boxes. The person who enters data on glass vessels should tick the 'glass' box as well. This allows a quick glance at where glass vessels were found/recorded. Sarcophagi was chosen because they are important in the history of discoveries of early medieval sites.
Type of site	**An important field.** Select the type of site by ticking the relevant box. Multiple boxes can be ticked when a single site consists of various elements such as burials in a settlement or a church (in this database a type of settlement) in a cemetery. With each selection of site-element an extra tab will become available (highlighted) in the tab bar at the top of the form. IMPORTANT NOTE: ticking boxes only refers to a SINGLE SITE. When in one village more sites are present with different elements even when they are nearby, for instance a cemetery and a settlement or a church and a cemetery when they are not at the same location, one has to create two site records. This is to avoid that for instance in towns everything is one site. When a stray find is mentioned in a village where there is already another type of site one has to create a new site for the stray find when is not known whether the stray find came from the already recorded site. This happens a lot with 19th-century finds. For more information see Section 4: Site specific information.
Description	Describe the site with any information you deem important. At the very least the archaeological findings (structures, features) should be described briefly. These descriptions vary according to the information in the publications or the person filling in the form. Some recorders provide a lot of information others were more briefly. Typically, well excavated large cemeteries have usually not been described in great detail

because of the wealth of information available. Moreover, a lot of information of such sites is recorded in other fields. The information provided (combination of year of discovery, excavation years, numbers of graves etc.) is often sufficient to identify a site as important to more general research.

Status

This tab is used to register stages in the progress of recording in the database made with this site. It is for internal use. It refers to the general site information (this form) and the information in the site-specific form (see below), **not** on the more detailed information such as in the Contexts and material culture forms, for that information is for most sites as yet incomplete. Only a limited number of cemeteries have been fully recorded, more specifically those needed for the research in the context of the Rural Riches project.

Initially, the site is qualified as *unverified.* When work is still needed on recording the site in the database, select *in progress.* When all information is supplied but literature is missing, select *verified.* If all possible information for this site is supplied and the literature is added, select *literature verified.* The colours on the map refer to the status of the site in terms of recording. Green is in principle verified or literature verified although more information can still be added. Blue is in progress, red is still unverified. The map should in principle turn green in the course of time.

When recording a site (incompletely) just to create a site for the purpose of recording material culture (for instance from an overview of brooches, choose 'In progress'.

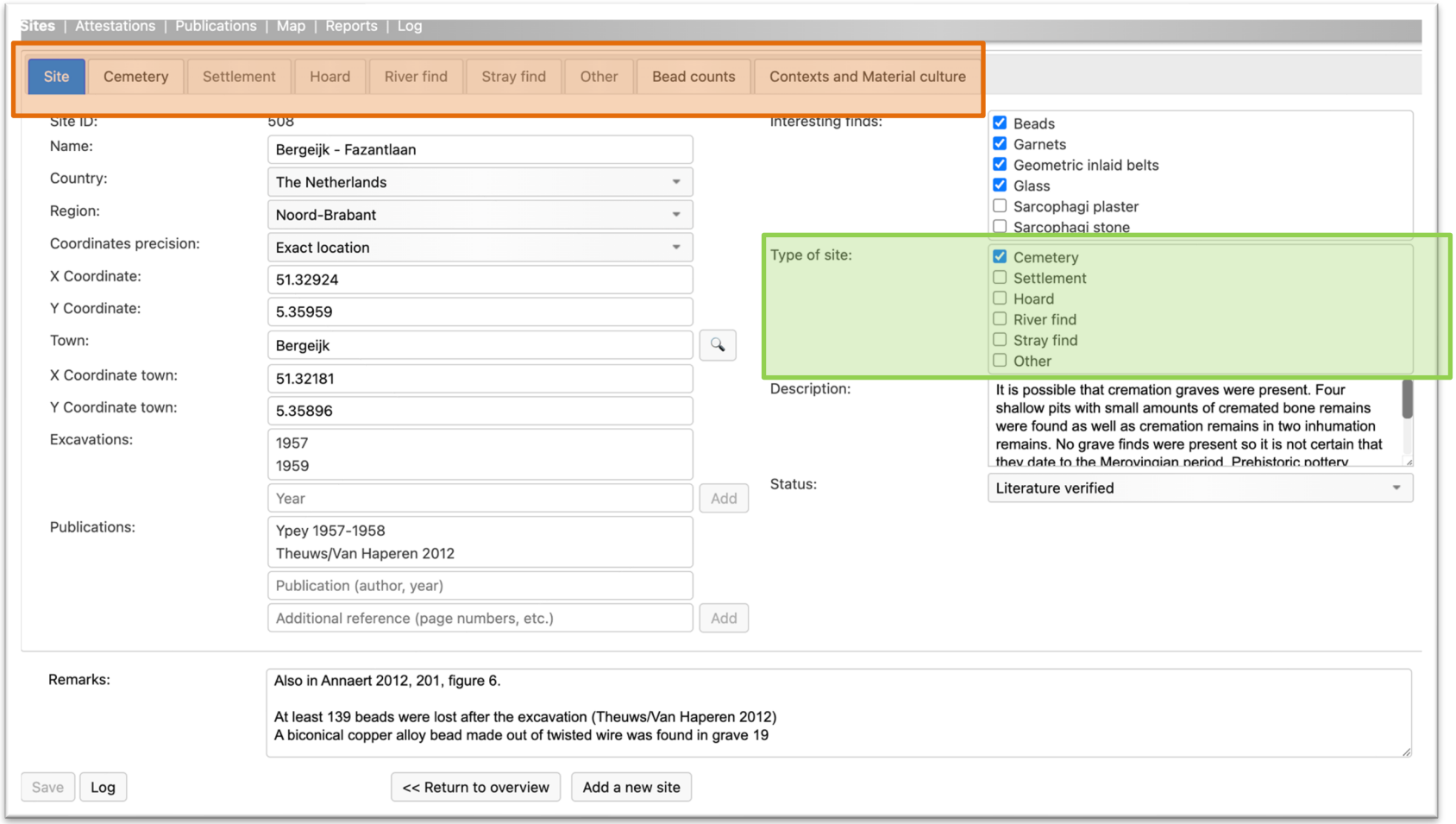
Remarks

Use this field to notify your fellow project members when you deem it especially interesting to them by using their name and noting *alert* after it. So: Arent-Alert, Frans-Alert, Femke-Alert etc. This will make it easy for them to find the sites you've marked as interesting for them. Use this field to supply information on the progress of recording of this site and problems with data recording. If some literature still needs to be checked for this site, note it down here. You can also make comments on the site. The remarks are first and foremost for *internal use*.

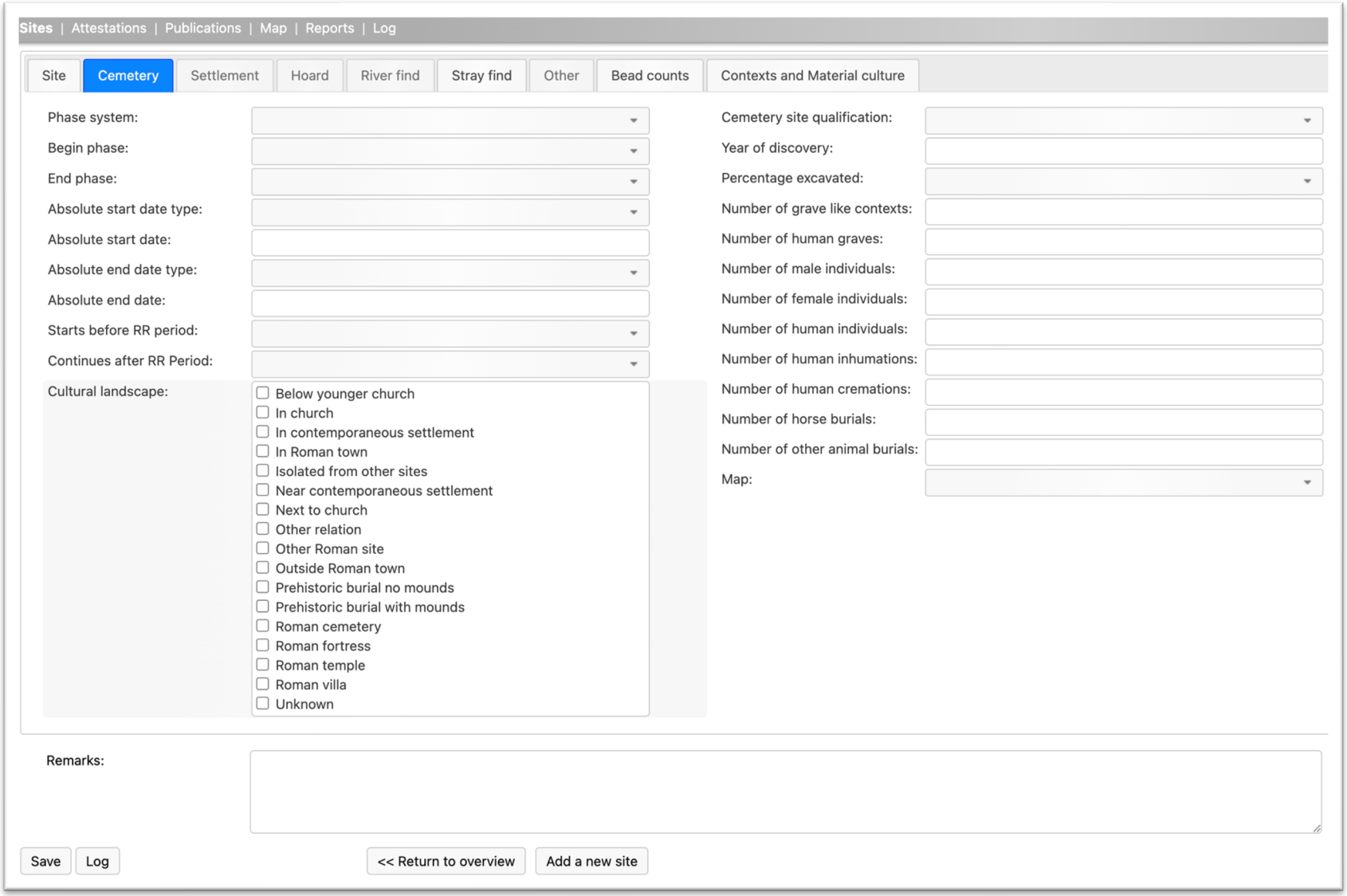
Don't forget to tick the Save button! It is best to do this regularly during the recording of data.

Section 4: Add site-specific information

When choosing a type of site in the 'Type-of-site'-field (see the green area marked below) a new tab is highlighted in the tab bar at the top of the form (see the orange field marked below). The figure below (the filled in form of the Bergeijk site) shows the cemetery form after you ticked the 'Cemetery' tab button. 'Cemetery' is highlighted.



Click on the newly available tab 'Cemetery' to continue with a more detailed description of your site. When clicking on 'Cemetery' you will get the following form:



'Cemetery' is highlighted

Dating the site

This form first shows to the left a number of fields related to the dating of the site. These fields are almost identical to any type of site you choose. So, we will deal with them first. Next the fields specific for a cemetery will be dealt with.

Phase system	If the site (in this case a cemetery) is chronologically structured by the authors of the publication you're retrieving information from, choose the phase-system the authors use from the reference list. They are the relatively modern chronology systems by Ament (1976), Siegmund (1998), the Franken AG (Müssemeier/Nieveler/Plum/Pöppelmann 2003), Stauch (2004), Legoux, Périn and Vallet (2016) and Friedrich 2016. If you choose one of these then a choice for the start and end phases can be given. The choices possible depend on the system chosen. In the case that no such phase-system was used by the authors or the phase-system they use is not listed (such as that by Böhner 1958), you can supply information on the chronology of the site in the *Absolute start date,* and *Absolute end date* fields. The *Absolute start date type* and *Absolute end date type* fields allow to provide information on how you obtained the absolute dates such as dendrochronological or 14C dates. If the date is based on the typo-chronological dating of pottery or other finds you choose 'Other'. If you have sufficient information, you can determine the phasing of the site (usually a cemetery) yourself in one of the phasing systems. As this is quite time consuming it is advised to use the absolute dating system. Later one can record phasing dates. For settlements we do not use the phasing system but the absolute dating system. **We ask to ALWAYS add absolute dates even when a phasing system is used. Queries for selecting sites dating to certain periods use these fields. We realize that these dates have their margins, uncertainties and may give false impressions of accuracy. In order to standardise the use of these absolute dates a scheme is provided at the end of this manual with the dates to be used for the various typo-chronological systems (the dates in red, if begin and end dates are variable).**
Begin Phase	If you have chosen a 'Phase-system', you can choose the start phase of the site from the reference list.

End Phase	If you have chosen a 'Phase-system', you can choose the end phase of the site from the reference list.
Absolute start date type	If a start date of the archaeological site relies on 14C, dendrochronology, historical data, coins or any other absolute dating method, choose the type of dating method from the reference list. When the dating is based on a method other than listed in the reference list, such as pottery or other material culture use 'other' in the reference list from this *Absolute-start-date-type*-field. In case the authors of the publication only provide a calendar date without referring to any specific method of dating, use 'unknown' from the reference list and supply the numbers in the *Absolute start date*-field and the *Absolute-end-date*-field. In case the authors of the publication only state that a site is Merovingian, or Anglo-Saxon or Lombard or early medieval, select the *unknown*-option from the drop-down window and leave the *Absolute start date*-field and the *Absolute-end-date*-field OPEN. Do **NOT** fill in 500 -700 to qualify it for instance as Merovingian because then this site will appear as an early site in the searches for dated sites. In case you yourself assign absolute dates on the basis of the finds illustrated, use the 'Other' and explain in the 'Remarks' how you determined the date. **We ask to ALWAYS add absolute dates even when a phasing system is used. Queries for selecting sites dating to certain periods use these fields. We realize that these dates have their margins, uncertainties and may give false impressions of accuracy. In order to standardise the use of these absolute dates a scheme is provided at the end of this manual with the dates to be used for the various typo-chronological systems (the dates in red, if begin and end dates are variable).**
Absolute start date	Supply the absolute start date according to your absolute dating method. In case you cannot supply all the information in this field (only numbers are allowed), supply more information in the *remarks*-tab.
Absolute end date type	Same instructions as the *absolute-start-date-type*-field only applying them to the end-date of your archaeological site.

Absolute end date	Supply the absolute end date according to your absolute dating method. In case you cannot supply all the information in this field (only numbers are allowed), supply more information in the *remarks*-field. Dates after 1300 AD cannot be filled in: type 1300. This indicates that the site continued to be in use in late medieval and Modern Times which will at times be the case when a early medieval cemetery near a church is still in use.
Starts before RR period	If this archaeological site's start date dates to before 450 CE, select *YES* from the drop-down window. If the start date of this site is after 450 CE, select *No* from the drop-down window.
Continues after RR period	If this archaeological site dates to after 725 CE, select *YES* from the drop-down window. If the end date of this site is before 725 CE, select *No* from the drop-down window.

Specific cemetery information

Next to information on the date of the cemetery, information on the cultural context in which the cemetery was present and some numerical information on the burials present is recorded. It is explained in the table below what kind of information is requested in each field.

Cultural landscape	Tick the boxes that are applicable to the cemetery. More than one box can be ticked. If the early medieval cemetery was found on the site of a Roman cemetery, tick that box etc. Note: Below younger church: a church was built ON TOP of the cemetery in LATER times (for whatever reason). In church: concerns burials in a contemporaneous church. Next to church: concerns burials next to a contemporaneous church. Other relation: any other affiliation or cultural situation that you deem interesting. If you tick this box, please describe why in the description box in the general-information page.

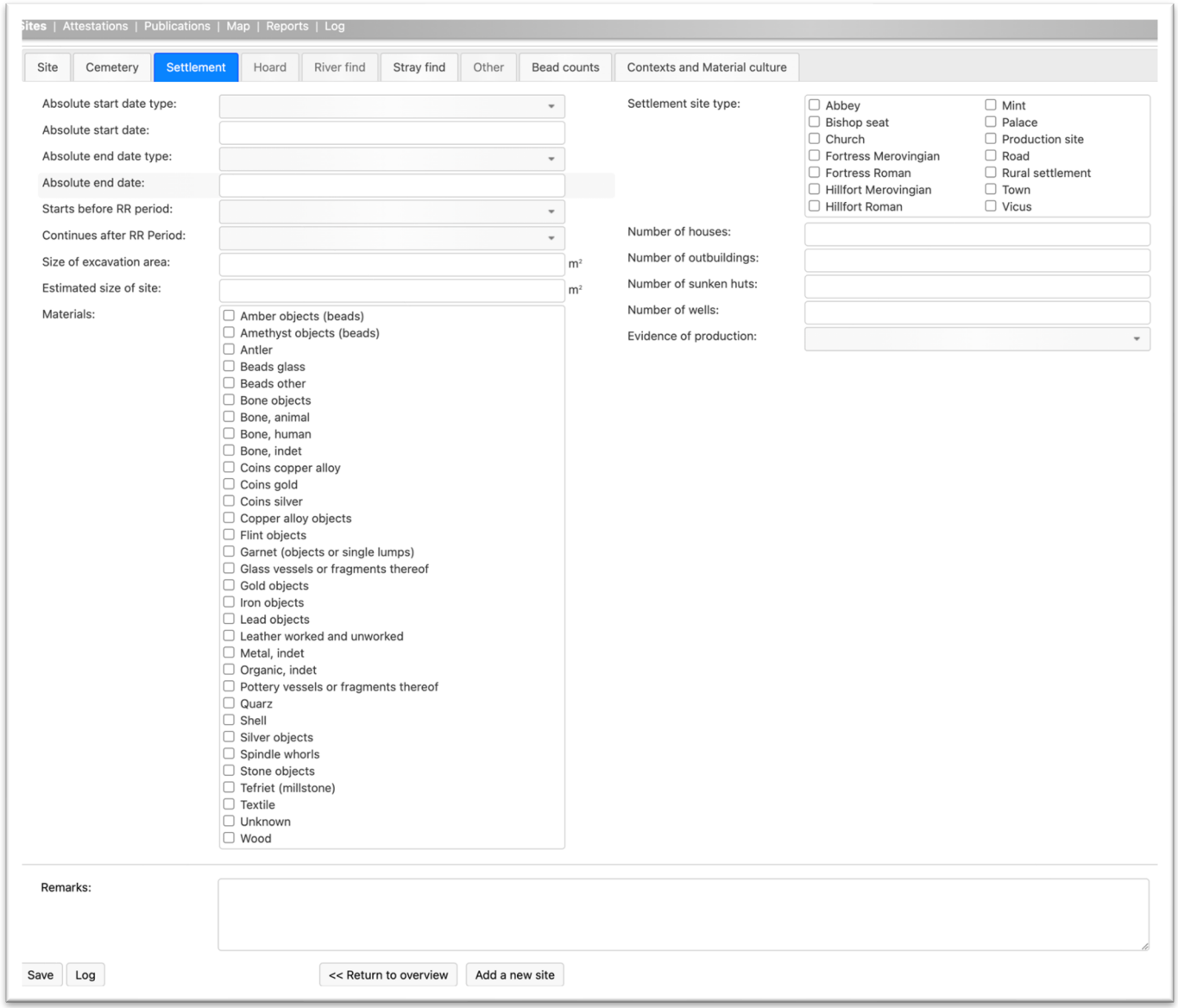
Cemetery site qualification	Are you certain that the site is a early medieval place of burial? We do not (as yet) record Roman and Carolingian cemeteries. Criteria for a certain-qualification: grave structures or a large collection of complete finds that can only have been found in a cemetery context which is securely dated to the period 450-725. Large series of complete finds of different categories such as metal finds, pottery and glass vessels not found in a river are unlikely to be a hoard or originating from a settlement context. Criteria for a probably-qualification: grave structures: burials with an indication for an early medieval date or graves without grave goods assigned by the author to the period 450 - 725. The presence of such grave structures can also exist in the form of written information from the 19th century without the presence of drawings or photographs. no grave structures: Two or more archaeologically complete objects dating to the relevant period. The emphasis is on complete: shards etc. do not count. Criteria for a possibly-qualification: grave structures: without objects and with meagre indications for an early medieval date such as an author's statement without supporting evidence. For instance, there are many 19th century reports of 'Frankish' graves without grave goods. They might also be Carolingian or younger. no grave structures: one object more or less complete. The emphasis is on complete: shards etc. do not count. Other single objects such as brooches, that are complete should be described in the River find (when found in a river) or Stray-find forms. Note to users: there will always be a touch of subjectivity in the qualification of cemeteries because the information provided especially in 19th-century reports is not always clear. Different scholars evaluate similar situations possibly slightly different.
Year of discovery	Record the first year that note was taken of this site. If this is not known (which happens for 19th-century discoveries) note the first year of recording or publication. If this is the case make a note in the remarks field.

Percentage excavated	Choose an estimated percentage of how much of the cemetery was excavated or destroyed from a reference list: 100 %: nearly every grave was excavated or destroyed, none remain in the ground. If 90% of the site is excavated chose this possibility to indicate that it is almost completely excavated or destroyed. 75% not all graves were excavated or were destroyed, but most were. Authors might give indications that some graves remain in the ground. 50% around half of all graves were excavated or destroyed. Authors give indications that a substantial percentage of graves remain in the ground. 25% only a small percentage of all graves was excavated. Authors give indications that a very high percentage of graves remain in the ground or were destroyed. 0% A cemetery was recognised through aerial-photography or prospection methods, but no excavation took place. This option should NOT be used for completely destroyed sites. It is meant for intact sites that have not been disturbed. If all graves of a cemetery were destroyed, select the 100 % option. Unknown. If it is unknown chose this option. It often occurs in relation to 19th-century cemeteries. These percentages cannot be used to calculate the original number of graves present. They are crude estimates.
Number of grave-like contexts	Record the total number of **all** grave-like contexts (that includes animal graves) **and related contexts**. Count all grave-like structures, also structures that have some relation to the processing of human/animal bones: inhumation graves, cremation graves, pyres, excarnation-platforms, horse graves and other animal graves. Do not count: any building structures on the site nor post-structures surrounding graves. These should be noted in the burial ritual section of the database.
Number of human graves	Record the number of graves, that is burial pits for the interment of humans (inhumations and cremations). This may be a smaller number than the total number of human burials because multiple burials can occur in one burial (pit).
Number of male individuals	Record the number of 'male' burials. A burial is the interment of a single person. A burial pit may contain multiple burials. This figure poses of course problems. In some cases, it

	can be based on the analysis of skeletal remains (sex). In others one has to rely on the grave goods (gender, or burial 'masculine style'). When no anthropological research was possible or has been carried out many deceased will remain 'indeterminate'. More details can be given under 'Contexts and material culture'.
Number of female individuals	Record the number of female burials. A burial is the interment of a single person. A burial pit may contain multiple burials. This figure poses of course problems. In some cases, it can be based on the analysis of skeletal remains (sex). In others one has to rely on the grave goods (gender, or burial 'masculine style'). When no anthropological research was possible or has been carried out many deceased will remain 'indeterminate'. More details can be given under 'Contexts and material culture'.
Number of human individuals	Record the number of burials, that is the number of human persons interred in the cemetery. This is the total of inhumated and cremated persons. Do not count animal burials.
Number of human inhumations	Record the total number of human *inhumated* individuals (so no cremations).
Number of human cremations	Record the total number of human *cremated* individuals (so no inhumations).
Number of horse burials	Record the number of horse burials (so the number of individual horses, not the burial pits).
Number of other animal burials	Record the number of other animal burials.
Map	It is important for an evaluation of the usability of the cemetery for further research te know whether a plan of the cemetery exists (and is published). Choose either Yes or No, of if you have no information leave it open (blank) as it is.

Specific settlement information

In case you ticked the *settlement* box in the General description page and the 'Settlement' tab button, the form visible in the figure below will appear. 'Settlement' is highlighted. Instruction on the recording of dates is provided above.



Instruction on the data to be recorded in the other fields is provided in the table below.

Size of excavation area	Size of the excavated area in m^2.
Estimated size of site	Size of the area that is settled (with buildings on it) in m^2. It is often not possible to estimate the original surface area of the site. Do not record anything in that case.
Materials	The database is not meant to record in detail all finds at a settlement site. The intention is to record the presence of certain goods and objects that may be of help to qualify the settlement. Tick the boxes of the materials found on this site. If you think other materials are also relevant please mention them in the Remarks field at the bottom of the form.
Settlement site type	To determine the type of site is a tricky business. The list we provided is actually unbalanced. Some sites can be qualified on the basis of archaeological evidence such as a church, a rural settlement or a hillfort. Other are more based on evidence from written sources such as bishop's seat (how to know on the basis of archaeological evidence?), a palace, what is the difference between a town and a vicus in early medieval times? Nevertheless, we provided these possibilities (the most common ones present). Tick the box that is applicable. *You can tick more than one box.* Below we give indications or definitions, of the types of sites, but obviously there are difficulties in defining these elements of the early medieval landscape. *Abbey*: a site of worship *inhabited* by a number of monks/priests/clergy not being a bishop's church. Early communities of religious persons may not be as easily qualified as abbey than later large abbeys such as Fulda or Stavelot-Malmédy. *Bishop's seat*: a site of worship that is also the seat and residence of a bishop. *Church*: any site of worship NOT being an abbey or a bishop's seat. This includes funerary memorial chapels, parish churches, isolated chapels etc. More detailed information on the nature of the site can be given in the description field in the general information form. *Fortress Merovingian*: a site (maybe of Roman origin) (still) used as a fortress in early medieval times NOT being a fortress on top of a hill (hill fortress). *Fortress Roman*: a fortress in use in late Roman times NOT being used anymore in early medieval times. We record these because there seems to be a marked difference between the two periods in

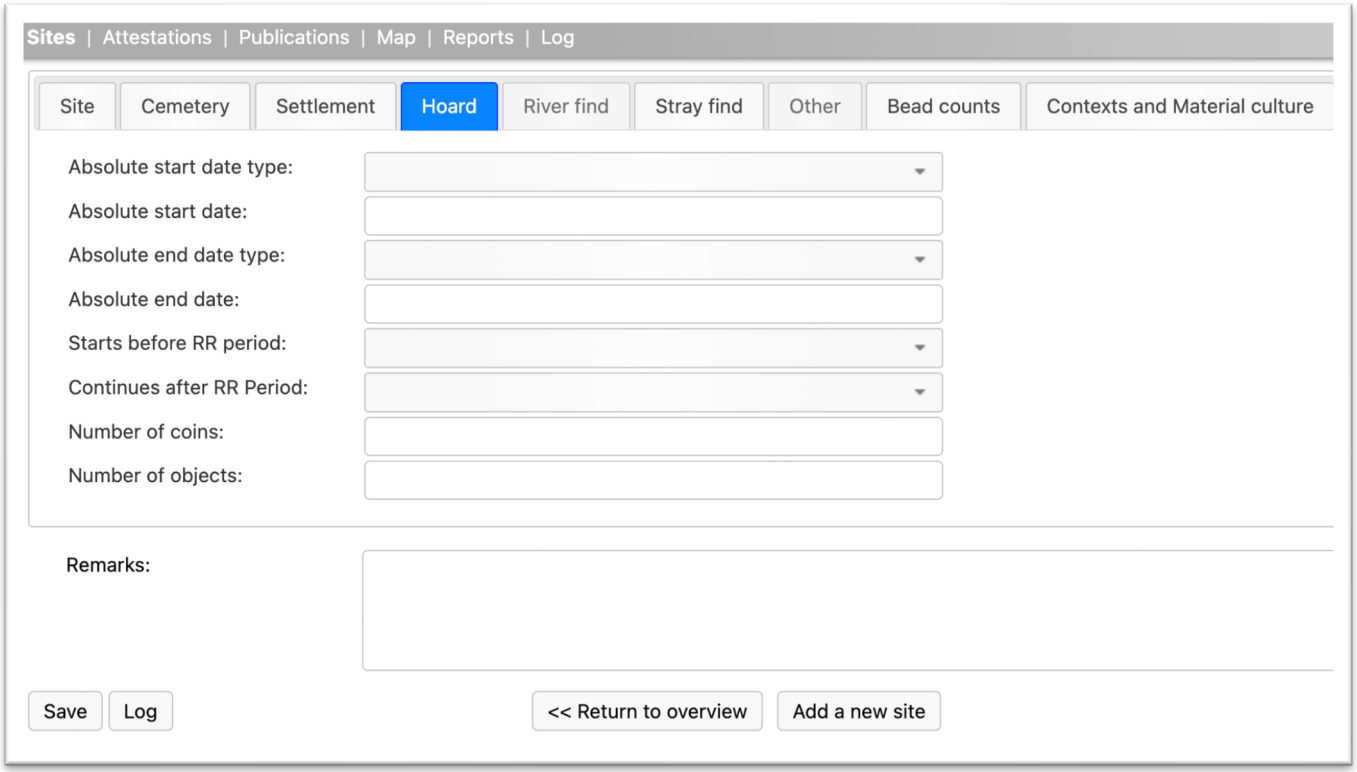
some regions.
Hillfort Merovingian: a defended site on top of a hill in use in early medieval times. It could be a former Roman hillfort
Hillfort Roman: a defended site on top of a hill in use in (late) Roman times. We record these because there seems to be a marked difference between the two periods in some regions.
Mint: a site where coins are produced (can be almost any of the other sites listed). This qualification will usually occur next to another one from the list.
Palace: a ROYAL residence, specifically created to be a royal residence. So not one of the other types of settlement visited by the king once UNLESS it is a royal villa. If a royal visit is recorded note this in the description field of the 'General information' tab.
Production site: a site that is MAINLY dedicated to the production of non-agricultural products. Production on a site mainly dedicated to the production of agricultural products (a rural settlement of peasants/ farmers/agricultural workers) where production takes place will be recorded as 'Rural settlement' with 'Evidence of production' (see below).
Road: a (Roman) road in use in early medieval times.
Rural settlement: A site MAINLY dedicated to the production of agricultural products (a rural settlement of peasants/ farmers/agricultural workers). *An archaeologically excavated settlement.*
Town: in this database a town is a site that was also a town in late Roman times (provincial capital or civitas centre) and that was still occupied in early medieval times. They are usually also bishop's seats. In some towns many sites can thus have this qualification.
Vicus: an agglomeration that has a mixed series of activities (agricultural production, craft production, trade, religious) on a scale that is usually larger than in any rural settlement (examples are Maastricht, Huy, Andernach).

NOTE: a site can have more than one qualification. A town may also be a bishop's seat. Tick more than one box in that case.
A number of sites will only be known through written sources. We intend to include all religious elements in the early medieval landscape whether known from texts or excavations.
Another point is that at times many sites (such as those in Cologne) together make up a town. Later we create a way of grouping sites and qualify them as towns or abbeys or bishop's seats etc. with the help of polygons to be drawn on the map.

Number of houses	Record the number of houses or main buildings (that were probably) used to live in. This figure mostly applies to 'Rural settlements.' Often there will be problems to distinguish houses/main buildings from other types of buildings. So, the figure is often indicative.
Number of outbuildings	Record the number of any out buildings (that were probably) used as outbuildings NOT being sunken huts.
Number of sunken huts	Record the number of sunken huts.
Number of wells	Record the number of wells
Evidence of production	Choose 'Yes' or 'No' from the reference list to indicate if evidence of non-agricultural (craft) production was found at this site.
Remarks	The field can be used to make any comments you deem necessary

Specific Hoard information

In case you ticked the *hoard* box in the General description page and the 'Hoard' tap button, the form illustrated below will appear. 'Hoard' is highlighted. For information on the dating fields see above.



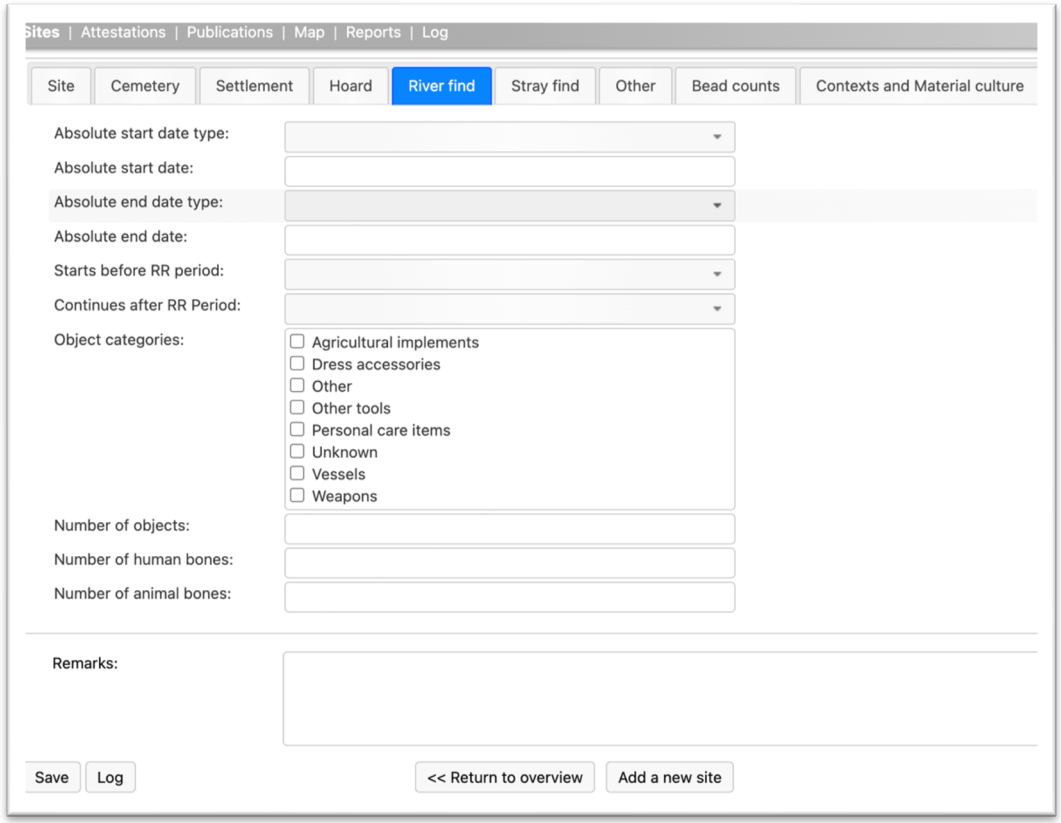
Instructions on what information should be recorded in the fields is provided in the table below. The information collected is limited, but sufficient to have an idea of the contents of the hoard. In the description field of the General information form more details on the hoard can be provided.

Number of coins	Fill in the number of coins. Additional information can be recorded in the description section of the general site information form.

Number of objects	Record the number of objects other than coins if these are found in the hoard. Additional information can be provided in the description section of the general site information form.

Specific River find information

In case you ticked the *River find* box in the General description page and the 'River find' button, the tab illustrated below will appear. 'River find' is highlighted. For information on the dating fields see above.

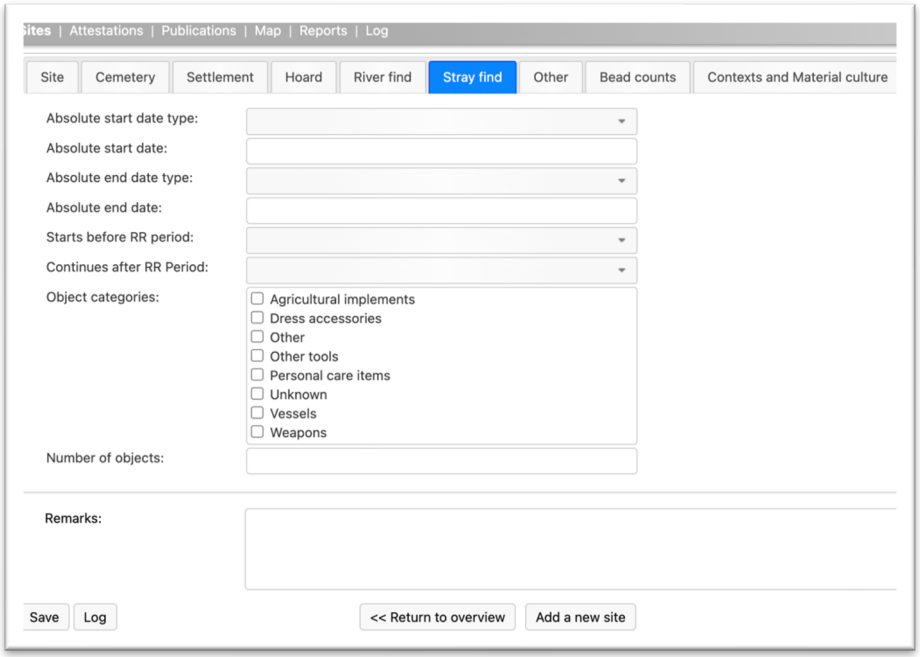


Instructions on what information should be recorded in the fields is provided in the table below.

Object categories	Tick the box of the category applicable to your stray find. If your object does not really match one of the categories choose 'Other' and explain in the remarks field. Additional information can also be provided in the description section of the General information form.
Number of objects	Record the number of objects. Additional information can be provided in the description section of the general site information page.
Number of human bones	In some river deposits human bones are present. Record how many bones were recovered.
Number of animal bones	In some river deposits animal bones are present. Record how many bones were recovered.

Specific Stray find information

In case you ticked the *stray-find* box in the General description page and the 'Stray find' tab button, the form shown below will appear. A stray find is a find without context dating to 450-725. A description can be given in the general information form. For information on the dating fields see above.



Instructions on what information should be recorded in the fields is provided in the table below.

Object categories	Tick the box of the category applicable to your stray find. If your object does not really match one of the categories explain in the remarks field. Additional information can also be noted down in the description section of the general site information page.
Number of objects	Record the number of stray finds. Additional information can be provided in the description section of the general site information page.

P1

Tiny India
Aluminium glass

Confetti

Black doughnut white wave

Large Cologne

Black doughnut > 6 mm

P2

Red cylinder white spiral

Millefiori

Reticella

Pentagonal yellow

P3

White-blue-red

Dice

White biconical

Amber P1-P5

Meerschaum 6th century

Rock Crystal P1-P2

Shell disc beads 2nd half 7th century

Amethyst 7th century

Segmented metal foil beads P1-P3

Bead counts

Next to the in-depth analyses of beads on a limited number of sites we record the presence of specific beads types on all sites in the research area.

Click on the 'Bead counts' tab button and the form illustrated to the right will appear. 'Bead counts' is highlighted.

In the illustration all fields are open (white), however when you chose 'Cemetery' only those fields will be open under the heading 'Cemetery'. The same goes for 'Settlement'. 'Other beads are open after choosing any other type of site. The types of beads meant are illustrated on the previous page, and a clarification can be found in the bead appendix 1.

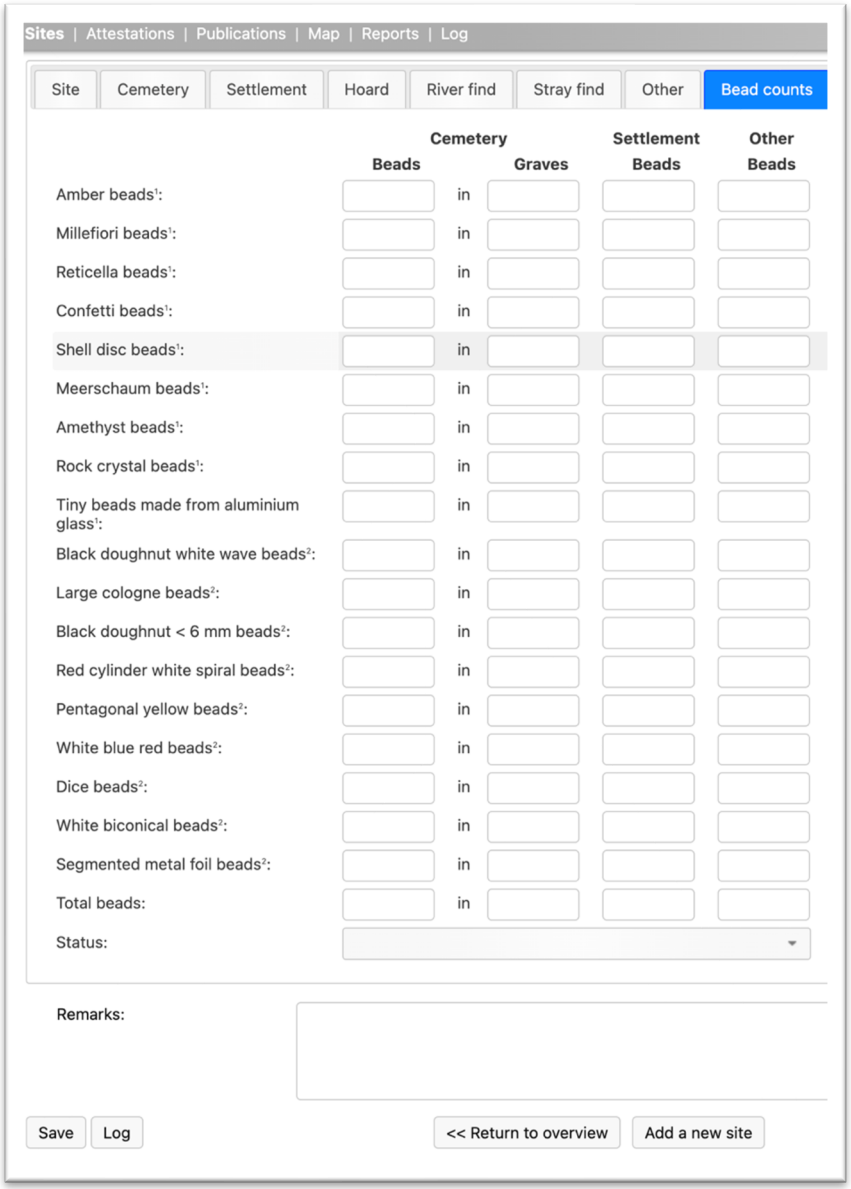
Record how many beads of each type occur in how many graves. In case there are none type 'n' for none or 'o'(zero) and 'none' will also appear. Do this both in the 'Beads' column and the 'Graves' column. Type 'u' for unknown if no data are available (19th century discoveries).

Total beads: record the TOTAL number of beads on the site, so NOT ONLY the ones in the list above.

Status:

Choose 'Verified group 1 and 2' when the whole list has been recorded.

Group 2 was a later addition to the list after group 1 had already been recorded for many sites.



Moselle valley Böhner 1958		Lower Rhine/Middle Rhine Ament 1976		Lower Rhine Siegmund 1998		Lower Rhine Franken AG 2003		France Legoux/Périn/Vallet 2004/2016		South Germany Koch/Stauch		South Germany Friedrich 2016		Middle Rhine Grunwald 2007	
Fase	Datering	Fase	Datering	Fase	Datering	Fase	Datering	Fase	Datering	Fase	Datering	Fase	Datering	Fase	Datering
Stufe I	c. 350 - c.450			1	400 - 440	1 - 2	400 - 460/480 **400 - 470**			SD1	430 - 460	1	400 - 450		
Stufe II	c. 450 - c. 525	AM I	450/480 - 520/530 **450 - 525**	2	440 - 485			PM	c. 440/450 - c. 470/480 **445 - 475**	SD2	460 - 480	2	450 - 480/490 **450 - 485**	AM Ia	460/480 - 500/510 **470 - 505**
				3	485 - 530	3	460/480 - 510/525 **470 - 520**	MA 1	c. 470/480 - c. 520/530 **475 - 525**	SD3	480 - 510	3	480/490 - 520/530 **485 - 525**	AM Ib	500/510 - 520/530. **505 - 525**
Stufe III	c. 525 - 600	AM II	520/530 - 560/570 **525 - 565**	4	530 - 555	4	510/525 - c. 565 **520 - 565**	MA 2	c. 520/530 - c. 560/570 **525 - 565**	SD4	510 - 530			AM II	520/530 - 560/570. **525 - 565**
				5	555 - 570	5	c. 565 - 580/590 **565 - 585**			SD5	530 - 555	4	520/530 - 560/580 **525 - 570**	AM III	560/570 - 580/590 **565 - 585**
		AM III	560/570 - 600 **565 - 600**	6	570 - 585	6	580/590 - 610/620 **585 - 615**	MA 3	c. 560/570 - c. 600/610 **565 - 605**	SD6	555 - 580				
				7	585 - 610					SD7	580 - 600	5	560/580 - 610/620 **570 - 615**	JM Ia	580/590 - 610/620 **585 - 615**
Stufe IV	c. 600 - c. 700	JM I	600 - 630/640 **600 - 635**	8	610 - 640	7	610/620 - 640/650 **615 - 645**	MR 1	c. 600/610 - c. 630/640 **605 - 635**	SD8	600 - 620			JMIb	610/620 - 640/650. **615 - 645**
		JM II	630/640 - 670/680 **635 - 675**	9	640 - 670	8	640/650 - 670/680 **645 - 675**	MR 2	c. 630/640 - c. 660/670 **635 - 665**	SD9	620 - 650	6	610/620 - 650/660 **615 - 655**	JM IIa	640/650 - 670/680 **645 - 675**
		JM III	670/680 - 720 **675 - 720**	10	670 - 705	9	670/680 - c. 710 **675 - 710**	MR 3	c. 660/670 - c. 700/710 **665 - 705**	SD10	650 - 670	7	650/660 - 700 **655 - 700**	JM IIb	670/680 - 710/720 **675 - 715**
Stufe V	c. 700 - c. 800			11	705 - 740	10	c. 710 - < 750 **710 -750**			WU11	c. 670 - c. 700				
										WU12	c. 700 - c. 725	8	700 - 750	JM III	710/720 - c. 750. **715 - 750**
										WU13	c. 725 - c. 750				
										WU14	c. 750 - c. 800			K1	750 - c. 800 **750 - 800**
										WU15	c. 800 - c. 875				

The red data in the absolute data fields of the database