

Project Title : Land use of Moats and Mounds of
Ancient Settlements In Provincial
Capitals
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Abstract

Moats and mounds (as seen particularly in aerial photographs of proper scale) are clear evidences which are left at present of ancient settlements. Thailand has in her possession the aerial photograph set NS3 with the scale 1:50,000, whose domain covers the whole country as of the year 1981. The study of this aerial photograph set reveals that these moats and mounds have been destroyed by both nature and man. Some, especially those in heavily populated areas such as the 25 provincial capitals have been severely damaged, but some, which have not been affected very much, still retain their characteristic state. Therefore, it becomes necessary to study them from the aerial photograph set WWS of the year 1953. A comparative study of the two aerial photograph sets shows that only within an approximately 30 year span, moats and mounds in provincial capitals have been rapidly destroyed owing to population expansion as well as the development of community and technology for agricultural purposes. If these are allowed to continue, moats and mounds marking ancient settlements will no longer remain as archaeological evidence. In Thailand, there are still a large number of moats and mounds which are being destroyed just like the ones in provincial capitals. Thus, it is recommended that the concerned government sectors and individuals take prompt action to preserve them, by using proper measures of punishment so as to set a good example for the preservation of ancient settlements of the whole country in the future.