

Association for Environmental Archaeology

AEA Newsletter 135

February /March 2017

Inside this issue:

Chair's piece	p1
Research Article	p2
Conference reports	p5
PhD Abstract	p9
Upcoming conferences	P10
News from the Committee	p16
Musings from social media	P17
AEA sponsored publication	p18
Key dates	P20

Chair's piece

**Richard Thomas,
AEA Chair**



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2017. I have been reflecting a lot on beginnings and endings recently, particularly as I approach the end of my term as Chair of the Association. For me, 2017 began with an ending. Over the last three years I have been a co-investigator on the AHRC funded Cultural and Scientific Perceptions of Human-Chicken Interactions project. In January we held final project event, hosted at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, where a giant chicken art installation (the wonderfully named 'dinnersaurus') designed and built by children at the London City Academy, was put on display alongside its antecedents (see below). It has been a fabulous project to be involved with: not only the opportunity to undertake genuinely interdisciplinary research, bringing together zooarchaeology, stable isotope and aDNA analysis, ecology and anthropology, but also to work with an array of people from completely different backgrounds: commercial and academic archaeologists, artists, the breed community, heritage professionals, special interest groups, industry, and school children. Interdisciplinarity within environmental archaeology is something I have lauded before in my Chair's piece, but it is not just about the subject matter, but the way in which it brings people and ideas together in pursuit of a common goal.

Of course every ending is also a beginning and offers the chance to look forward and there is certainly much to look forward to for Association members

in 2017. We have a day meeting at the University of Leicester in April on the theme of data visualisation in environmental archaeology, while our main conference takes us to Edinburgh – planned to coincide with the Scottish year of history, archaeology and heritage. In other news we will be launching a new annual prize - the Don Brothwell prize - for the best research article in our journal Environmental Archaeology. We will be announcing the first winners of our society prize at the 2016 AGM (to be held in Leicester) and of course we have our usual round of research grants, dissertation prizes, conference bursaries and four issues of our journal.



Dinnersaur towering over the T-rex, artist Ben Firmet and children from London City Academy, Oxford Natural History Museum

Please join us for a celebration of Jacqui Huntley & Vanessa Straker + Rearranged: AEA 2016 AGM to be held at Spring Conference Uni. of Leicester Sat 29th April 2017 (see Page 10)

Ongoing investigations on the Gower Peninsula reveal human footprints to be much older than previously suggested



Figure 1: Possible footprint trail at Port Eynon

In 2014 a small number of human footprints were identified in peat deposits within the intertidal zone of the beach at Port Eynon on the Gower Peninsula in South Wales (GGAT 2014). The footprints were suggested to be Bronze Age based on their purported association with other local intertidal archaeology including the Bronze Age trackways discovered in Swansea Bay in 2009 (P. Huckfield, 2016 pers. comm.). However, radiocarbon dates obtained in the last few weeks, along with evidence collected during more recent investigations suggest that they are likely to have been made in the Mesolithic period.

The footprints were re-identified in 2015 (Figure 1) during fieldwork associated with the ongoing doctoral research of the author and it was decided that further investigation was warranted. To date, only nine sites have been recorded in the UK hosting Holocene era human footprints (Figure 2) (Aldhouse-Green *et al.*

1992; Huddart *et al.* 1999; Bell 2007; Bennett *et al.* 2010; Eadie and Waddington 2013; Murphy *et al.* 2014; RCAHMW 2014). Due to their vulnerable position within intertidal zones being exposed to increasingly stormy conditions, it is imperative that as much information as possible is obtained from these locations before they are permanently lost to erosion.

Work is currently ongoing to record and investigate this particular set of footprints. The footprints were surveyed and recorded based on a methodology outlined by Scales (2007) as part of her investigations of similar deposits in the Severn Estuary. Due to the positioning of the footprints low in the intertidal zone, tidal windows were particularly short meaning traditional planning methodologies could not be utilised. Instead footprints were traced onto clear plastic sheets (Figure 3), georeferenced using GPS and reconstructed later using ArcGIS.

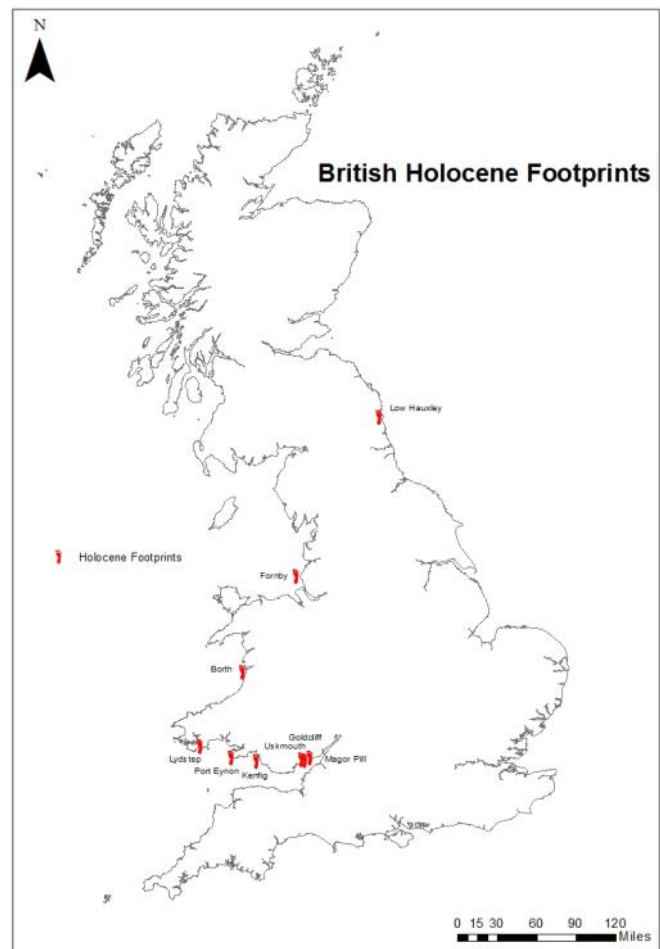


Figure 2: Current recorded intertidal sites with Holocene human footprints



Figure 3: Tracing footprints during a brief tidal window

From the results gathered so far it is clear that there are several different individuals represented by these footprints and that these include both adults and children, some apparently very young. Also present were hoof prints of varying sizes (Figure 4). Due to erosion these hoof prints are not particularly clear and have so far been recorded according to size. With the original theory that the deposits were Bronze Age, it was suggested that these prints might belong to domesticated species such as cattle and sheep. However the Mesolithic date now attributed has led to the need for reanalysis. Looking at contemporary sites, it is probable that these prints represent Red and Roe deer.

The sequence of sediments into which the footprints are set are also being investigated. Multiple bands of peat and clay are present preceding the footprints, suggesting a changeable environment. Pollen analysis is in progress to reconstruct the environmental changes leading up to the creation of the footprints. Initial results suggest the footprints themselves were

created in a landscape which had recently transitioned from a more enclosed carr woodland to open freshwater marshlands. The presence of a significant spike in microcharcoal prior to this transition might also suggest early human intervention within the surrounding environment.

Further processing is now required in order to narrow down the error margins of the most recently acquired radiocarbon dates and Bayesian analysis will be implemented in order to do this. However the raw dates provide a starting point for interpretation and suggest it is highly unlikely these deposits are contemporary with those in Swansea Bay as previously suggested. It does however place the site broadly in line with other known footprint sites in the Severn Estuary and Pembrokeshire. These sites also provided evidence of similar human demographics and environmental change that will now be investigated further.

The project will now go on to investigate who these people were and suggest why they were present in this

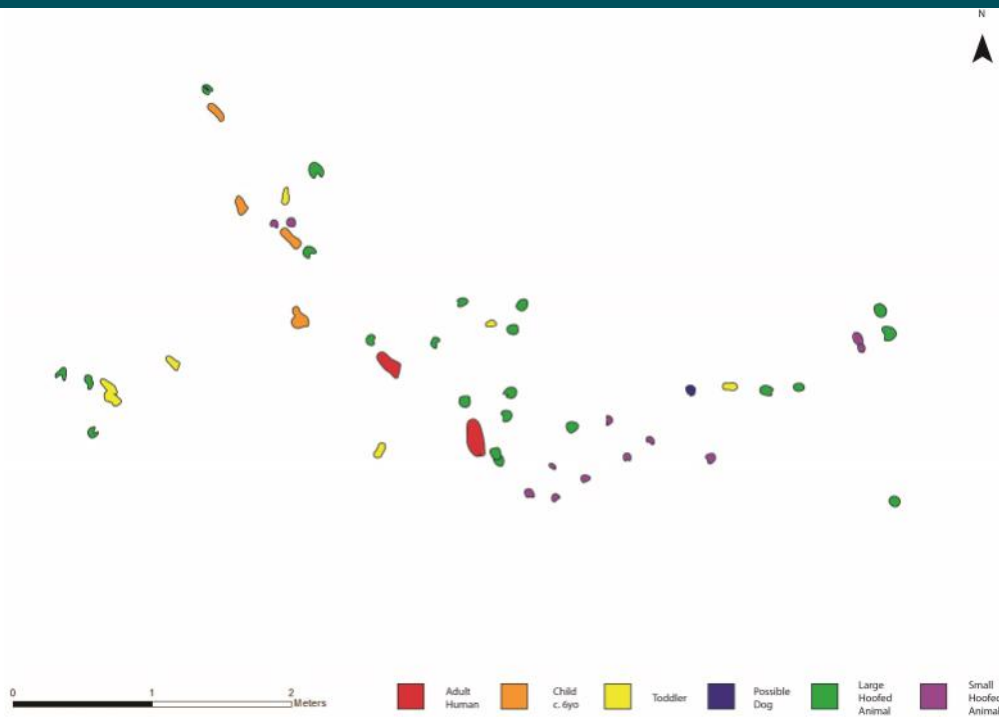


Figure 4: Plan of one of the exposures

apparently transient environment; investigating potential links with known Mesolithic activity sites along the Gower coastline.

Rhiannon Philp, Doctoral Student, Cardiff University
 philprl@cardiff.ac.uk

Acknowledgements:

Radiocarbon dates would not have been possible without funding provided by The Cambrian Archaeological Association, The Gower Society and The Cardiff University School of History, Archaeology and Religion Postgraduate Fund for which I am very grateful.

References

Aldhouse-Green, S., Whittle, A., Allen, J., Caseldine, A., Culver, S., Day, M., Lundquist, J. and Upton, D. 1992. Prehistoric human footprints from the Severn Estuary at Uskmouth and Magor Pill, Gwent, Wales. *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 149, 14-55.

Bell, M. 2007. *Prehistoric coastal communities: the Mesolithic in Western Britain*. York: Council for British Archaeology.

Bennett, M. R., Gonzalez, S., Huddart, D., Kirby, J. and Toole, E. 2010. Probable Neolithic footprints preserved in inter-tidal peat at Kenfig, South Wales (UK). *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association* 121(1), 66-76.

Eadie, G. and Waddington, C. 2013. *Rescue Recording of an Eroding Inter-Tidal Peat Bed at Low Hauxley, Northumberland (6109)*. Gateshead: Archaeological Research Services Ltd.

GGAT. 2014. *Port Eynon Footprints* [Online]. GGAT HER. Available at: <http://www.cofiadurcahymru.org.uk/arch/ggat/english/index.html> [Accessed: 10/12/14].

Huddart, D., Roberts, G. and Gonzalez, S. 1999. Holocene human and animal footprints and their relationships with coastal environmental change, Formby Point, NW England. *Quaternary International* 55 (1), 29-41.

Murphy, K., Caseldine, A., Barker, L., Fielding, S., Burrow, S. and Carlsen, S. 2014. Mesolithic human and animal footprints at Lydstep Haven, Pembrokeshire, 2010: the environmental context. *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 163, 23-41.

RCAHMW. 2014. *Submerged Forest, Borth Sands* [Online]. Available at: <http://www.coflein.gov.uk/en/site/506500/details/SUBMERGED+FOREST%2C+BORTH+SANDS/> [Accessed: 19/2/16].

Scales, R. 2007. Footprint-tracks of people and animals. In: M. Bell ed. *Prehistoric coastal communities: the Mesolithic in Western Britain*. York: Council for British Archaeology.

Chickens and People: Past, Present and Future

27th January 2017, University of Oxford Natural History Museum

The 'Chickens and People' conference at the University of Oxford Natural History Museum marked the end of the three-year AHRC-funded project titled 'Cultural and Scientific Perceptions of Human-Chicken Interactions'. The presentation of preliminary research results by 25 researchers from six UK universities attracted a diverse audience including chicken keepers, students, researchers, and many AEA members who were rewarded with an insight into the interdisciplinary research conducted by experts with backgrounds in science as well as the humanities.

Mark Maltby opened the conference and set the tone for what was to become an enjoyable day focussed on chickens with the well-chosen words "time flies...". The warm welcome was followed by Henriette Baron's presentation of her work on human-chicken co-burials of Wien-Csokorgasse (Austria). Her PhD research, which kick-started the research project in the first place, suggested that the relationship between humans and chickens goes far beyond consumption. The session that followed explored the spread of chickens across the globe and set the date and location for domestication of chickens at around 5,000 years BP in south-east Asia using a combination of ancient DNA, zooarchaeology and ecological modelling amongst other techniques.

However, this was only the exciting start to a day that demonstrated the importance of interdisciplinary research. Sessions on gender and cock-fighting, and the Iron Age-Roman transition followed, adding ethnography and residue analysis to the mix. Having established the complex values and emotional reaction involved in human-chicken relationships in the context of cock-fighting, the mainly urban consumption of chickens in Roman Britain, and the difficulty of separating pig and chicken residues from pottery it was time for lunch (which obviously included chicken sandwiches!). The break was also an opportunity for all participants to explore the work of the CoLA pupils who had not only studied chickens in class but also produced chicken-art, including a massive chicken skeleton that was on display next the museum's T-Rex.

After lunch, insights into the chicken's role in ritual and religion was provided using ethnology (Afro-Brazilian Candomble rituals) and iconography. Furthermore, the health and welfare of chickens in the past and present was explored through zooarchaeological material and written sources. Maybe unsurprising for many, the session on chickens and Christianity revealed the chicken's status as the original 'fast food' – although referring to the fact that as a two-legged animal its consumption on fasting days seemed legitimate. More fascinating findings included that the mortality profile of chickens might provide the answer to the Anglo-Saxon problem of separating secular and non-secular sites. Following the overview of chickens and religion a session on chicken breeds followed that introduced yet another method, Geometric Morphometrics, to the interdisciplinary project and enabled, to some extent, the distinction of different breeds. Talking of breeds: Peter Smith treated the audience to an overview of chicken fancying – or the breeding of chickens for show – before Naomi Sykes rounded off the day by responding to critiques and highlighting how the chicken project was not about chickens at all, but rather about humans and their history and relationship with the natural world.

The 'Chickens and People' conference highlighted the need for collaborative, interdisciplinary work and set an example for the integration of stable isotope analysis, radiocarbon dating, ethnography, zooarchaeology, ancient DNA, iconography, historical texts, and Geometric Morphometrics among other methods and sources. The resulting data are incredibly diverse, interesting, and innovative and the one-day conference an event that allowed the appreciation of the hard work of all involved.

Report by: Nora Battermann, (UG John Evans prize recipient 2016), Universites of Leicester and York

Integrated Microscopy Approaches in Archaeobotany Workshop

Over the weekend of the 25th and the 26th of February Reading University hosted the annual workshop on Integrated Microscopy Approaches in Archaeobotany. First established in 2016, this event is a unique opportunity for both students and experts in geoarchaeology, plant macro remains, palynology, and phytoliths from commercial and academic backgrounds to present their research and learn new skills in the field of archaeobotany.

The IMAA workshop combines poster and podium presentations with microscopy sessions. Here, participants can learn new modes of analysis, as well as discuss and share their own botanical samples with colleagues. For instance at last year's workshop, I was introduced to charcoal identification and grasped some basic techniques in characterising arboreal morphologies, which lead to me incorporating it into my own PhD research on cremation burials.

This year the workshop focused on phytoliths, charcoal identification, tropical pollen, non-pollen palynomorphs, and the micro-contextual analysis of ash, dung as well as plant remains in thin sections. The popularity of the event was evident in the many

international participants who attended, coming from as far afield as North America. Clearly in the world of Archaeobotany, the IMAA is not to be missed!

Workshop overview:

On Saturday the 25th, Catherine Barnett started off the event with her paper on the Late Iron Age and Roman oppidum of Silchester. Next, Frank Mayle journeyed across the ocean to talk about pollen analysis in the domestication of Amazonia. Continuing with this theme of landscape formation, Alex Brown presented his research on Late Glacial and Early Holocene palaeoenvironments in the Southern North Sea basin. Then in the afternoon, we were all introduced to the fascinating world of phytoliths. Terry Ball introduced their morphometric analysis and Luv Vrydaugh discussed their application to both local and regional scales using examples from Brussels. The focus then shifted towards plant remains where Michael Wallace presented his morphometric method in distinguishing between cereal grains and Charlene Murphy closed the talks by discussing her work on seed coat thickness of both modern and archaeological horsegrams.



Nick Branch opens the 2017 IMAA Workshop



Catherine Barnett running the charcoal surgery

In the afternoon multiple breakout sessions were held in the various microscope laboratories of Reading Universities Archaeology Department, where participants could learn about charcoal with Catherine Barnett, tropical pollen with Macarena Cardena, and Phytoliths with Marta Portillor and Martin Hodson.

A wine reception, sponsored by the AEA was followed by a meal at a nearby venue.

The following day, presentations started by focusing on animal management with a particular emphasis on dung! Rowena Banerjea discussed colonising animal husbandry and alimentation activities in Prussia and Livonia. This potent theme continued with Georgia Koromila's micromorphological investigations of archaeological Dung in the Greek Neolithic, Marta Portillio's paper on livestock dung fuel from phytoliths and calcite microfossils and Koen Deforce's talk on pollen assemblages from Medieval cess pits. After, Yannick Devos discussed the importance of distribution patterns in understanding the depositional history of phytoliths and Wendy Matthews presented new

evidence for changing relations between humans and fire in the ancient Middle East. Jade Whitlam closed the talks with her discussion on the plant macrofossils she had identified from Neolithic Kurdistan and their role in understanding taphonomy.

In the final microscopy session of the weekend, Rowena Banerjea ran the micromorphology breakout session, and Lionello Morandi lead a session looking at non-pollen palynomorphs.

Acknowledgments:

With special thanks to the organisers, Rowena Banerjea, Catherine Barnett, Macarena Cardenas, Lionello Morandi, Lisa Lodwick, Marta Portillo and Dan Young, whose dedication resulted in the 2017 IMAA workshop being the biggest to date, with international and cross-disciplinary collaborations in both academia and industry.

Report by: Emily Carroll, PhD student , University of Reading

Introducing: **ArboDat 2016**©

The British [Archaeobotany Working Group](#) (AWG) held a session at Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth (Home of Historic England's labs and particularly the Environmental archaeology team) on Saturday 11th of February to distribute/introduce the new British/Irish version of the [ArboDat 2016© database](#).

The, free of charge, database programme (based on acceptance of on an agreement and future exchange) for the recording and storing of archaeobotanical data, developed by Prof. Dr. Angela Kreuz and team and now being looked after by Dr. Felix Bittmann (bittmann@nihk.de - Niedersächsisches Institut für historische Küstenforschung NIHK Wilhelmshaven. <http://www.nihk.de/home-nihk.html>) is widely used

in regions of German/Belgium/Austria/Egypt (over 40 working groups across Europe and beyond). It has already been adopted as the industry standard in France for certain funded projects. The programme automatically provides summaries of the input data alongside some basic evaluation, habitat tools, useful features include recording fractions sorted and the ability to transfer extant data.

The long term aim is that by storing archaeobotanical data in common standardised formats it will be more easily shared within the localised working groups but also for future wider comparison and synthesis research.

For further details about the British /Irish version of ArboDat and for future meetings/events as well as joining the UK based AWG group which as well as acting as the local working group for ArboDat aims to provide exchange of ideas, techniques and keep Professional UK archaeobotanists in touch, please contact Dr Ruth Pelling

(AWG@HistoricEngland.org.uk) The plan is to hold a second meeting in Nottingham later this year to look at the early use of the English language/regional version (which Historic England have worked very hard on to include region specific dating, site, feature types) and to make it available to other users.

Report by Danielle de Carle, University of Leicester



PHD OPPORTUNITY

Reconstructing the 'Wildscape'; Thorne and Hatfield Moors Hidden Landscapes (Wildscape HHLP)

The following PhD studentship is available from the 1st April 2017, deadline 17th March, at Plymouth University, associated with the newly funded 'Wildscape' project. It will be supervised by Dr Nikki Whitehouse, Prof Ralph Fyfe & Dr Ben Gearey.

For further details please visit:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/the-graduate-school/postgraduate-research-studentships/reconstructing-the-wildscape>

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on 17 March 2017.

Peatland hydrology, climate change and human societies in Middle and Late Holocene Ireland

This thesis presents the results of an investigation of the relationships between peatland hydrology, climate change and human activity in the raised bogs of Ireland. In recent decades raised bogs have been shown to be valuable terrestrial archives of both climate change and archaeological activity for the Middle and Late Holocene, revealing evidence for significant centennial scale climate variability and abrupt climate events. However, recent compilations of palaeohydrological records from such sites have revealed evidence for significant inter-site (potentially autogenic) variability, particularly at the decadal to centennial scales thought to have had the most significant impact on human societies. Whilst recent investigations have revealed some evidence for a relationship between peatland hydrology and human activity at individual sites, broader patterns have been inconclusive, leading to the conclusion that the timing and extent of

peatland use was not climatically-determined. The palaeohydrology of ten raised bogs in central Ireland has been reconstructed using plant macrofossil analysis, providing a reconstruction of changes in bog surface wetness (BSW) (driven by summer precipitation and temperature). These palaeohydrological records have been compared to site-specific and broader Ireland-wide archaeological datasets in order to examine the evidence for a predictable, consistent relationship between human activity and BSW. The palaeohydrological records are indicative of a combination of both local variability and climatic forcing; however, using the 'time-window' approach the data has provided evidence for regional transitions to wetter conditions indicative of climate forcing at *ca.* 3400, 2800, 1200 and 350 cal BP. Comparison of the palaeohydrological and archaeological datasets indicates that at individual sites, human activity was more likely to occur in drier bogs. However, no clear linear relationship between climate change and human activity at the broader regional/sub-regional scales could be identified.

The apparent contradictions between the interpretation of the data at regional/sub-regional and local scales highlight the issues of chronological uncertainty and local variability in both archaeological and palaeohydrological records. It was therefore concluded that investigations of human-environment interactions should examine these relationships on a site-by-site basis, in order to provide a more detailed understanding of the complex relationships between human activity in peatlands, local environmental conditions and regional climate change.

Dan Young
PhD abstract
University of Reading



Early Bronze Age (3530-3443 cal BP) plank trackway TN-LTN006 at Littleton Bog, County Tipperary. Photograph by the author.

Saturday 29th April 2017

The AEA Spring Conference/AGM, Uni. of Leicester

New directions in data visualisation in environmental archaeology

+ a celebration, on their retirement, of **Jacqui Huntley & Vanessa Straker**
long standing AEA Committee members and Historic England Science Advisors

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/archaeology/facilities/aea-spring-meeting-2017>

Recent AEA conferences focussed attention on the challenges of Big Data and synthesis within environmental archaeology. For the 2017 spring meeting we would like to develop this theme exploring new ways of visualising environmental archaeological data. With the development of new analytical methods and an ever-expanding suite of technological solutions for data analysis and visualisation, new opportunities for presenting complex datasets with increased clarity are emerging. Coherent data presentation is critical to achieve meaningful dissemination of environmental archaeological research both within and beyond the discipline. The latter arena is becoming increasingly important as the value of archaeological research in debates, policy development concerning heritage management and responses to environmental change are being made apparent.

Call for papers: please send a 200 word abstracts for 20 min papers, 5 min ignite presentation and posters (student competition) to Richard Thomas (rmt12@le.ac.uk) by Friday 24th March 2017. Informal enquiries about other topics are welcomed.

Funding: towards attendance particularly aimed at student, commercial and unwaged members, announcement to come soon. Forms will be available on the AEA website.

Registration: opens 10th March –24th April 2017



UCL's Institute of Archaeology is proud to be hosting the **2017 UK Archaeological Science conference**. The conference will take place within UCL's central London campus from the **5-8 April 2017**.

UKAS is a biennial international conference which aims to bring together researchers from all areas of archaeological science. The conference attracts scientists with expertise in a wide range of analytical techniques including biomolecular and ancient DNA analysis, stable isotopes, mineralogy and metallurgy, archaeobotany, conservation and heritage science, residue analysis, geoarchaeology, and computational modelling.

Research themes covered include mobility, migration and cultural exchange, plant-animal-human relationships, material culture and technologies, climate and environment, subsistence and diet, heritage management, and the application of archaeological science in commercial archaeology.

Contact details

To stay up to date with the latest news and announcements join the conference mailing list by sending a blank email to ukas2017-news-subscribe@ucl.ac.uk. You can follow us on Twitter: [@UKAS2017](https://twitter.com/UKAS2017). The conference committee can also be reached at ukas2017@ucl.ac.uk

WWW.OEAW.AC.AT

ÖAW

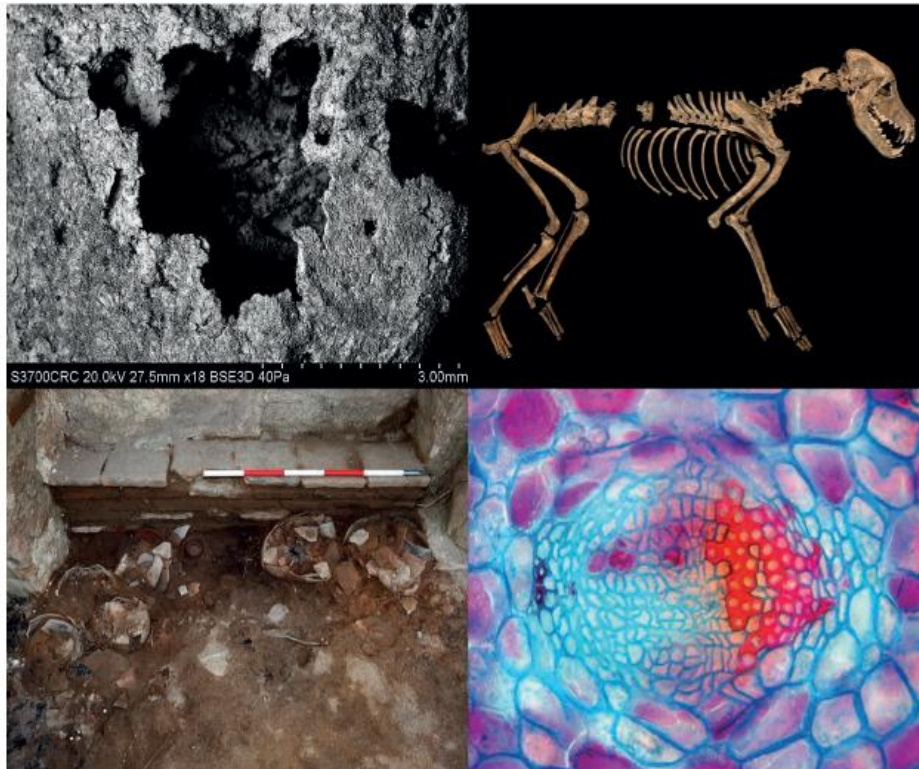
**AUSTRIAN
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES**

MARCH 23, 2017

09.00 – 17.00

AUSTRIAN ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES
THEATERSAAL

SONNENFELSGASSE 19, 1010 VIENNA



HUMANS, ANIMALS AND PLANTS : BIOARCHAEOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

KICK-OFF WORKSHOP OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
BIOARCHAEOLOGY AT THE AUSTRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE - AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

ÖAI

REGISTRATION:

Participation is free. Please register at event@oeai.at until March 2017

ÖEAI – AUSTRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF ARCHAEOLOGISTS (EAA)

MAASTRICHT; 30th August - 3rd September 2017

BUILDING BRIDGES

<http://www.eaa2017maastricht.nl/>

Conference themes:

1. Twenty-five Years after Maastricht: Archaeology and Europe's future
2. The Valletta Convention: the next 25 years
3. Trans- and Metadisciplinary Approaches in Archaeology
4. The 'Third Science Revolution' in Archaeology
5. Comparing Archaeology Across Regions and Periods
6. Interpreting the Archaeological Record

Select sessions:

- Plants as fibre resources: approaches from the science and arts perspectives
- The archaeobotany of non-food plant exploitation
- European towns and their environment in high definition; the third revolution in urban archaeology
- The interaction between forensic archaeology and bioarchaeology
- Reconstructing prehistoric identities and life histories through isotopes
- The archaeology of European peatlands from an interdisciplinary perspective: how to move forwards
- The Power of Populations: Integrating Bioarchaeological and Historical Methods for the Assessment of our Medieval Past.
- Within the Woodlands: Exploitation of Wild Plants during the Medieval and Post-Medieval period
- Farming by fire: the archaeology of slash and burn cultivation in a comparative perspective
- European Hunter-Gatherer Wetland sites: New Data, Models and Perspectives

The abstracts for these and many other sessions can be viewed at:

<https://www.klinkhamergroup.com/ea2017/sessions/overview/>

Deadlines:

Call for papers and posters: **Wednesday 15th March 2017**

Early bird registration: 30th April 2017

INTO THE WOODS: OVERLAPPING PERSPECTIVES ON THE HISTORY OF ANCIENT FORESTS

April 18-20, 2017 in Padova (Italy).

The aim of this conference is to allow specialists and researchers from various cultures and different professional fields to meet and exchange views about the study of ancient forests. Foresters, planners, developers, ecologists, biologists, agriculturalists, geographers, historians, philosophers, ethnologists, cartographers, archaeologists, archaeobotanists, sociologists etc., from all backgrounds, are invited to join this debate about our various and varying concept of "ancient forests".

meeting.ancientforest@gmail.com



The **5th PAGES Open Science Meeting (OSM)** will be held in Zaragoza from **9-13 May 2017**. It is the premier scientific events of Past Global Changes (PAGES), a core project of Future Earth and a scientific partner of the World Climate Research Programme. PAGES and the local organizing committee, Quaternary Terrestrial Environments group (Pyrenean Institute of Ecology-CSIC), welcome you to Spain.

Select sessions:

- From the Mediterranean to the Caspian: palaeoclimate variability, environmental responses and human adaptive strategies
- Disturbance dynamics across spatial and temporal scales: fire, wind, pathogens and post-disturbance run off as drivers of environmental change
- Historical Climate Reconstruction and Impacts of the Common Era
- Volcanic eruptions: the thread connecting climate records, societal change and future climate projections?
- From early human impacts to the Great Acceleration: A paleoscience perspective on the climate-landscape-human multiple connections
- Regional syntheses of human-climate-environment interactions
- Changing island ecosystems
- Ancient DNA for understanding past biodiversity, human history, and drivers of ecosystem changes: achievements, limits and perspectives
- Palaeoecological perspectives on the role of animals in community dynamics and trophic interactions
- Do species move, adapt or die? Exploring past biodiversity, ecological change and community dynamics in the fossil record

The abstracts for these and many other sessions can be viewed at: <http://www.pages-osm.org>



European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2017 Vienna | Austria | 23–28 April 2017

The EGU General Assembly 2017 will bring together geoscientists from all over the world to one meeting covering all disciplines of the Earth, planetary and space sciences. The EGU aims to provide a forum where scientists, especially early career researchers, can present their work and discuss their ideas with experts in all fields of geoscience. The EGU is looking forward to cordially welcoming you in Vienna.

Full details at: <http://egu2017.eu/home.html>

Department of Archaeology



Late Iron Age Oppida

A review of recent and current research into Late Iron Age British towns and their landscapes

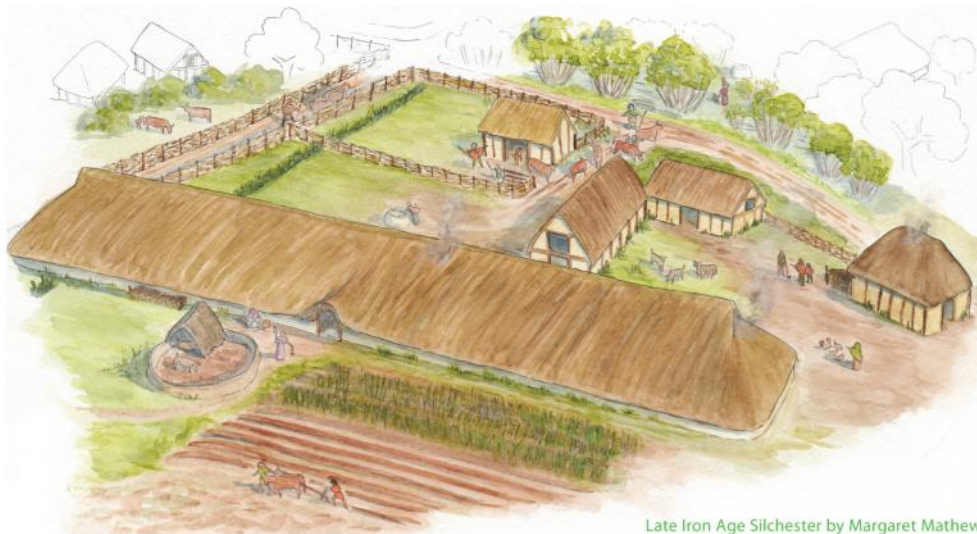
The Henley Business School

University of Reading

Whiteknights Campus

Saturday 22nd April 9-5.30pm

& complimentary wine reception from 5.30-7 in the Archaeology dept.



Late Iron Age Silchester by Margaret Mathews

£35 to include entrance, lunch and all refreshments & book of abstracts

Further details such as the full programme, to book a place on the conference and offer a poster abstract (200 words max) can be accessed via:

reading.ac.uk/silchester/silchester-and-the-media/sil-news-and-events

The Prehistoric Society has kindly offered 10 student bursaries to cover conference fees. Please indicate if you wish to apply for one when booking your place online as above.

Contact info:

Website: reading.ac.uk/silchester/silchester-and-the-media/sil-news-and-events

Department of Archaeology
University of Reading
Whiteknights, RG6 6AB

Contact: Jenni Eaton
Email: j.e.eaton@reading.ac.uk
Phone: 0118 378 6762



7th Developing International Geoarchaeology (DIG) Conference

4th – 7th September 2017
Newcastle University, UK
School of History, Classics and Archaeology

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/historical>

@dig2017



CALL FOR PAPERS: DIG 2017

We invite submissions for paper and poster presentations on any area of geoarchaeology, from landscape to artefact characterisation. Submissions which successfully combine analytical techniques, and which integrate scientific analysis with robust archaeological interpretation are encouraged. Oral presentations will be allocated 20 minutes.

Please send abstracts of up to 300 words to dig2017conference@gmail.com as a .doc or .pdf attachment.

Please include name, affiliation, contact details and paper/poster preference. If you are a student or ECR and wish to be considered for a paper/poster prize please include proof of eligible status.

The deadline for abstract submission is 31st March 2017.

<http://conferences.ncl.ac.uk/dig2017/>



SEEKING NEW AEA CHAIR

Looking ahead to Autumn 2017 Richard Thomas will come to the end of his stint at the helm of the AEA, and many thanks go to him for his efforts over the last 4 years. We are therefore looking for nominations for a new chair to take the association forwards into our 40th anniversary year in 2019.

If you have a suggestion of an outstanding environmental archaeologist you would like to see in the role, or would like to find out more about it yourself please contact Richard (rmt12@leicester.ac.uk) or the Secretary Fay Worley (fay.worley@historicingland.org.uk) for further details. Elections will take place at the AEA Autumn conference.

We will also be seeking nominations for three Ordinary Members and one Student Representative to join the Committee this autumn. Further details to follow, but in the meantime please email Fay Worley if you would like further details on these roles."

Environmental Archaeology within the ClfA Finds Group

Ruth Pelling, having served on the AEA committee for several years, including as Membership Secretary, has recently become a member of the ClfA Finds Group Committee. This is a useful move in terms of ensuring there is some form of representation within the ClfA and the Finds Group for environmental archaeology.

The first meeting of the ClfA Finds Group took place in November 1989. The function of the group is to represent the interests of finds workers (including environmental specialists) to ClfA and in all the activities of the Institute. It also:

- advises council on finds related issues and reviews relevant documents etc.
- acts as a focus for all members of the ClfA who have an interest in finds.
- produces a newsletter and holds seminars and meetings, to discuss the latest issues.

Due to the broad field the work of the group focuses on themes such as practice and the relationship between finds and other areas of archaeology. The main aim is to promote finds work constructively within the structure of the profession.

The Finds Group has produced the documents *Guidelines for Finds Work* and the [Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials](#).

Join the Group

Membership of the Finds Group is open to anybody with an interest in Finds, in the broadest sense of the word, and does not require ClfA membership. ClfA members may join the group for free, while non-members are asked to pay a £10.00 annual fee to cover mailing costs.

For further information please visit the website: <http://www.archaeologists.net/groups/finds>

Due to full member numbers at Rome a rearranged **AGM** for 2016 will be held at the Spring conference in Leicester 29th April 2017.

Elections to the committee were held electronically results announced in the last newsletter.

N.B. to contact the new Treasure Mark please use treasurer@envarch.net



Musings from Social Media



Association for Environmental Archaeology
 Published by Suzi Richer [?] · 30 November 2016 · €

Our journal 'Environmental Archaeology: The Journal of Human Palaeoecology' now has an impact factor and has recently gone to four issues a year.

If you have a piece for publication, have a look at what we cover and our guidelines, and consider submitting it to us.

More information can be found on the publication webpages:
<http://envarch.net/environmental-archaeology/>



Environmental Archaeology | AEA
 Environmental Archaeology publishes 3 issues a year. AEA members receive a hard copy and online access to all back issues.
 ENVARCH.NET

Association for Environmental Archaeology
 Published by Suzi Richer [?] · 28 November 2016 · €

It's #NationalTreeWeek in the U.K. But we'd love to see your photos of any archaeological wood, or any nuts, seeds or pollen from trees from around the world... just post them to our page and we'll share them.

Ps we could also take it wider and include any tree-dwelling insects, animals, birds... just to make sure no one is left out 😊

Photo: four-pored *Tilia* pollen grain



AEA @Envarch · 21/01/2017
 If you're completing a UK tax return this weekend don't forget you can claim tax relief for your AEA membership.

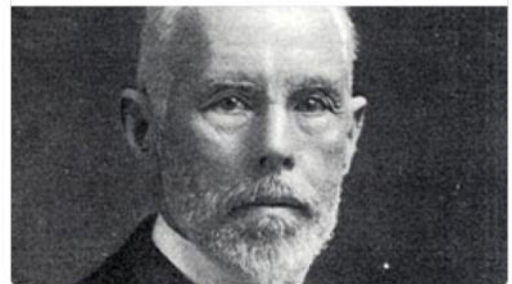
AEA @Envarch · 19/01/2017
 Latest issue of our journal is online. Members: is your subscription current? Check to avoid getting your copy late!
tandfonline.com/toc/yenv20/22/...

Dr Lisa Lodwick @LisaLodwi... · 11/01/2017
 Just stumbled across the really cool Global Pollen Project

globalpollenproject.org

Michael Grant @mjg_298 · 10/12/2016
[@BritGeoSurvey](#) [@Envarch](#) [@QuaternaryRA_UK](#)

Michael Grant @mjg_298
 Today is the centenary of the passing of Clement Reid FRS, renowned geologist and palaeobotanist and key pioneer in British #Quaternary.



AEA @Envarch · 29/11/2016
 In recognition of #NationalTreeWeek here is the skull of a red squirrel



The following publication was in part the result of a jointly hosted AEA and Conchological Society meeting in 2014 at the Natural History Museum: <http://envarch.net/events/13/aea-spring-conference-with-the-conchological-society-of-great-britain-and-ireland-molluscs-in-archaeology/>

Molluscs in archaeology
methods, approaches
and applications

Edited by Michael J. Allen

STUDYING SCIENTIFIC ARCHAEOLOGY 3



MOLLUSCS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

METHODS, APPROACHES AND APPLICATIONS

EDITED BY MICHAEL J. ALLEN

STUDYING SCIENTIFIC ARCHAEOLOGY 3



- A new overview of a key topic for archaeologists, palaeo-ecologists, and anyone who is studying environmental archaeology
- A broad-based text book which concentrates on accessible analysis most archaeologists and students can undertake and understand
- Edited and with chapters by Mike Allen, a leading environmental archaeologist and land snail expert

The subject of 'Molluscs in Archaeology' has not been dealt with collectively for several decades. This new volume in Oxbow's *Studying Scientific Archaeology* series addresses many aspects of molluscs in archaeology.

It will give the reader an overview of the whole topic, both methods of analysis and approaches to interpretation. It aims to be a broad-based text book giving readers an insight into how to apply analysis to different present and past landscapes, and how to interpret those landscapes.

It includes marine, freshwater and land snail studies, and examines topics such as diet, economy, climate, environment and land-use, isotopes and molluscs as artefacts. It aims to provide archaeologists and students with the first port of call giving them a) methods and principles, and b) the potential information molluscs can provide.

It concentrates on analysis and interpretation most archaeologists and students can undertake and understand, and reviews the 'heavier' science in terms of potential, application and interpretational value.

"Particular strengths of this volume are that it integrates studies of terrestrial and marine molluscs, each often pursued separately, and covers a wide range of themes ranging from palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic topics to the use of molluscs as sources of information about technology, symbolism, dating and diet."

Professor Geoff Bailey, York University

9781909686854 • PAPERBACK • 304 PAGES • OXBOW BOOKS • ~~£25.00~~

£18.75*

*PRE-PUBLICATION PRICE VALID UNTIL ONE MONTH AFTER PUBLICATION

 OXBOW | books

STUDYING SCIENTIFIC ARCHAEOLOGY

is a new series from Oxbow Books, featuring a wide variety of scientific topics in archaeology aimed at students of all levels. They series examines the methods, procedures and reasoning behind various scientific approaches to archaeological data, and present case studies for extended examples to demonstrate how data are used and interpretations are drawn.



I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER COPIES OF *MOLLUSCS IN ARCHAEOLOGY*.

Postage within the UK (excluding Highlands, Islands, Northern Ireland and BFPO) costs £4.00 for one book and £6.00 for two or more. For all other areas, see www.oxbowbooks.com.

Payment can be made by cheque or credit card. Cheques should be made payable to Oxbow Books.

I enclose payment of

Please charge my credit card (Amex, Visa, Mastercard, Maestro/Switch)

Card No:

Expiry Date:.....

Security Code (reverse of card):

Name:

Address:.....

.....

Contact Number:

Email:

RETURN ORDER FORM TO: OXBOW BOOKS, 47 CHURCH STREET, BARNSELY, S70 2AS

TEL: +44 (0)1226 734350 | FAX: +44 (0)1226 734438

EMAIL: ORDERS@OXBOWBOOKS.COM | WWW.OXBOWBOOKS.COM





[http://
www.envarch.net](http://www.envarch.net)

The AEA

The AEA promotes the advancement of the study of human interaction with the environment in the past through archaeology and related disciplines.

We hold annual conferences and other meetings, produce a quarterly newsletter for members, and publish our conference monographs, as well as our journal 'Environmental Archaeology: The journal of human palaeoecology'.

Key Dates

AEA Spring Conference paper submission deadline;

24th March 2017

* * * * *

Applications for AEA Funding to support attendance at Spring Conference (see website soon for details) deadline;

31th March 2017

* * * * *

AEA Conference registration closes 24th April 2017

* * * * *

AEA Spring Conference & AGM; Leicester; 29th April 2017

* * * * *

Other Conferences

Humans, Animals & Plants Workshop; Vienna; 23rd March 2017

UKAS Conference; UCL; 5-8th April 2017

Into the Woods Conference; Padover; 18-20th April 2017

Late Iron Age Oppida Conference; University of Reading; 22nd April 2017

Into the Woods Conference; Padover; 18-20th April 2017

European Geosciences Union General Assembly ; Vienna; 23-28th April 2017

PAGES OSM; Zaragoza; 9-13th May 2017

EAA Conference; Maastricht; 30 August - 3rd September 2017

DIG Conference; Newcastle University; 4-7th September 2017

Notes from the Newsletter Editors

Please note that thesis submission forms can be found on the website which gives AEA members an opportunity to publish abstracts of their postgraduate thesis.

We are always keen to receive newsletter content, especially from our non UK members. To submit an article, please email word documents and images to;

newsletter@envarch.net

Rob Batchelor, Danielle de Carle, Rhiannon Philp