

Association for Environmental Archaeology

AEA Newsletter 137

November 2017

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Chair's Piece **Richard Thomas** **AEA Chair**

I cannot quite believe that my four-year term as Chair of the Association is nearly at an end! It has been an immense personal and professional privilege to be elected and serve in this position and I have found the experience hugely rewarding. Thanks to the dedicated, collective efforts of members of the management committee, combined with a passionate and engaged membership, the Association has grown from strength to strength. Personal highlights of the last four years include: the launch of an annual research grant fund; the award of an impact factor for our journal *Environmental Archaeology* with copy increasing to four issues per year; and some enormously stimulating day meetings and conferences. The strength of the Association, and environmental archaeology more broadly, is reinforced by increased membership numbers (up 20% between 2013 and 2016), with a growing international reach, and the exceptional quality of submissions to student poster competitions and the John

Evans dissertation prize fund. It has also been hugely exciting to see the impact environmental archaeological research being increasingly recognised by both policy makers and the media.

There are lots of exciting AEA initiatives in the pipeline. Details of our autumn conference in Edinburgh and pest-themed spring meeting in Birmingham can be found within the newsletter. The AGM at Edinburgh will provide an opportunity to review our achievements over the past 12 months and elect new committee members (see biographies below). We will also be announcing details of a new AEA- sponsored prize award for the best article in *Environmental Archaeology* named in honour of Prof. Don Brothwell. Do also keep a look out for our seminar series and other sponsored events throughout the year, which we will advertise through social media (@envarch and Facebook.com/EnvironmentalArchaeology) and within our newsletters.

I would like to end by reiterating my sincerest gratitude to every committee member over the past four years: their commitment, collegiality, energy and insight has made the process of chairing a genuine pleasure. Finally, I would like to thank you, the membership, for affording me with the opportunity to serve the Association and for sharing your passion for environmental archaeology. I hope to see many of you at Edinburgh or at future meetings, and I look forward to watching the AEA continue to flourish.



The agricultural revolution of early modern Britain is well known: farming practices were rationalized, intensified and technologized and, perhaps most infamously, this process saw the rapid enclosure of most of England's remaining open field systems. Less well known but equally significant is the revolution that occurred several centuries earlier, which witnessed the first creation of those same open field systems, and which again fed a rising population – a population which had reached unprecedented levels by the 13th century. This early medieval agrarian revolution entailed nothing less than the cerealisation of England, in a pattern which also affected much of Europe: the expansion of cereal cultivation as the bedrock of demographic and economic growth. How, when, where and why this transformation occurred are some of the most abiding questions in British agricultural history, but more than 100 years of landscape-historical study have brought us to an impasse. We need a new approach.

Enter '**Feeding Anglo-Saxon England' (FeedSax)**, a new project targeted to address these longstanding conundrums from a fresh new bioarchaeological perspective. Funded by the European Research Council, and based at the Universities of Oxford and Leicester, the project will run for four years (2017-2021). The research team led by Prof Helena Hamerow (PI) will apply a suite of bioarchaeological analyses to track developments in English farming between the 8th and 12th centuries. For the first time, direct evidence from the plants that grew in those medieval fields, and the animals that ploughed and grazed there, will be brought to bear on these time-honoured questions using five main approaches.

1. Archaeobotanical analysis: analysis of crop stable isotopes and arable weed seeds, primarily from ten case study sites, will be used to reconstruct methods of cereal cultivation.

2. Analysis of botanical and settlement data: a dataset including over 4000 archaeobotanical samples from around 300 sites, along with settlement data and plans from published and unpublished excavation reports, will be used to address geographical variation across the whole of England.

3. Radiocarbon dating: an extensive programme of AMS dating (of seeds and bone) will be combined with Bayesian analysis to give the required precision when tracing the spread of innovations such as the mouldboard plough and crop rotation.

4. Analysis of animal bones: analysis of pathologies in cattle limb bones will elucidate the spread of the mouldboard plough, while analysis of stable isotopes in sheep will establish whether they were grazed mostly on arable.

5. Pollen analysis: a database of existing pollen records for early medieval England will be compiled and new pollen cores will be taken, to generate the first detailed palaeoecological models of land-use change for this period.

The project team will comprise Prof Helena Hamerow, Prof Amy Bogaard, Dr Mike Charles, Prof Christopher Bronk Ramsey, Dr Emily Forster and Dr Mark McKerracher at the University of Oxford, and Dr Richard Thomas and Dr Mathilda Holmes at the University of Leicester.

For more information, please visit the project homepage: <http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/feedsax.html>



Historic England



University of
Reading

CURATING THE LOWER AND MIDDLE PALAEOLITHIC

We're pleased to announce the launch of a new project, the goal of which is to develop, through consultation, new guidance on the management of Britain's Lower and Middle Palaeolithic remains

The British Lower and Middle Palaeolithic record has international status and importance reflecting over 150 years of research, the distinctive position of Britain on the north-western fringes of the Eurasian Palaeolithic world, and an increasingly well-understood Pleistocene framework. Lower and Middle Palaeolithic remains in Britain, comprising both artefacts and Pleistocene biological materials, sediments and landforms are often deeply buried. Their exposure is therefore usually, though not exclusively, dependent on major developments (e.g. infrastructure projects and aggregate extraction, both terrestrial and marine). This is in contrast with Upper Palaeolithic sites which are typically present as near-surface lithic scatters, and are addressed in other guidance documents. This can result in an over-emphasis on the different or distinctive nature of the Palaeolithic record, leading to it being regarded sometimes as problematic. While various comprehensive scholarly reviews of Palaeolithic archaeology in Britain have been published, the presence, character and significance of the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic record can sometimes be missed or misunderstood by those involved in development-led site investigations. Guidance must therefore be based on a sufficient understanding



of the Palaeolithic record and its Pleistocene context and of the resources necessary for their successful investigation.

The overall aim of this project is to generate clear and accessible guidance that will advise curators, Local Planning Authorities, consultants and contractors in the management of Britain's Lower and Middle Palaeolithic remains. Current practices and future needs will be evaluated through consultation with a full range of interested parties. The target audience will be reached through a programme of dissemination via key practitioners, institutional websites and social media.

The project is a joint venture between Historic England and the University of Reading. In the first instance a short survey will be circulated in due course across multiple channels (including via the AEA) to canvas opinion on current guidance needs. The project team would welcome as many responses as possible so that the guidance can be tailored to all needs as best we can.

Rob Hosfield, Hannah Fluck, Chris Green & Rob Batchelor

MODERN CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE PRACTICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE REVIEW

J. Eva Meharry, Rebecca Haboucha and Margaret Comer

Contemporary climate change threatens the archaeological record as well as the living cultural practices of affected communities and their economic and social resilience. The *Archaeological Review from Cambridge's* inaugural conference, 'Modern Climate Change and the Practice of Archaeology', held at Jesus College, Cambridge, on 7-8 April 2017, aimed to bring together research on these pressing issues. Believing that climate change is the challenge of this generation, the conference focused on emerging scholars and young professionals from Europe and North America. To kickstart the conference on the evening of 7 April, Robert Van de Noort, author of *Climate Change*



Archaeology, reflected on 'The Resilience of Past Communities in Their Responsibilities to Climate Change' in his keynote address. Questioning what role archaeology can play in climate change debates, Van de Noort emphasized how the study of past societies can teach contemporary society about resilience and adaptation to modern climate change. He prescribed a cocktail of antidotes, including the need to think and act long term, integrate local stories of adaptation with global narratives and tell these stories in a style relatable to people.

Opening the conference the following day, Cambridge's Professor Marie Louise Stig Sørensen observed that archaeologists were among the first to recognize the significance of climate change. Sørensen challenged participants to think critically about how to disseminate the important lessons of their research, including using language that resonates with contemporary society: for instance, instead of speaking of 'Bronze Age people', call them 'climate refugees' when relevant.

The themes highlighted by the keynote speakers were immediately touched upon in the first session, 'Climate Change and Adaptation'. Rowan Jackson's talk, 'Perspectives from the Past: Archaeology's Contribution to Contemporary Climate Change Adaptation Theory', outlined a 'social and ethical contract' that calls for archaeologists studying the effects of climate change on society to better engage with policymakers; to encourage museums to consider how they display stories addressing co-evolution between climates and cultural changes, in order to connect with broader audiences; and to conduct further interdisciplinary work with heritage professionals. Claudia Comberti's paper, 'Climate Change Adaptation Past and Present: The Role of Ancient Landscapes', delved into a specific case in the Amazon, examining the use of ancient, Indigenous knowledge in top-down, NGO-run climate change adaptation projects, and then contrasting this with bottom-up approaches. Comberti highlighted the benefit of autochthonous communities making decisions to use traditional knowledge and technologies in ways that reflect their needs on the ground.

In the second session, 'Assessments and Responses', Ellie Graham's paper looked closer to home at 'Scotland's Eroding Heritage: A Collaborative Response to the Impact of Climate Change'. Graham emphasized the importance of partnering with community members on projects that aim to create lasting mitigation or adaptation strategies to climate change, particularly by training community members to identify and protect cultural heritage remains along the Scottish coast. Christy Mog and Caitlin Rankin discussed 'Parkaeology and Climate Change', using the United States National Park Service (NPS) case site of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Alaska. Mog and Rankin emphasized how archaeologists must work quickly to research melting alpine snow and ice because the cultural heritage inside can provide critical information for future cultural and natural preservation efforts. Finally, Rachel Reckin's paper considered 'Climate Change, the Cryosphere and Cultural Resources in the American West'. Reckin argued that, in the US, despite the difficulties posed by vast geographical regions and the sheer number of ice patches, creating positive stewardship and an outlet for the public to assist may help people protect the archaeological materials



uncovered inside melting glaciers.

Session Three, 'Contemporary Environmental Archaeology', began with Andrew Hoesen's paper, 'Contemporary Environmental Archaeology, Climate Change and the Environmental Humanities', in which he argued that, if we want to adapt to climate change, we need to develop a hybrid approach to conservation, one that bridges the gap between natural and cultural heritage. Christina Vestergaard's talk, 'Modern Climate Change and Contemporary Environmental Archaeology', employed the case study of a Danish brown coal mine to demonstrate the ecological consequences of industrialization through residual, mundane artefacts, and argued that people are more inclined to retain the need for adaptation if they sense the personal relevancy of the 'mild apocalypses' unfolding in their own backyards.

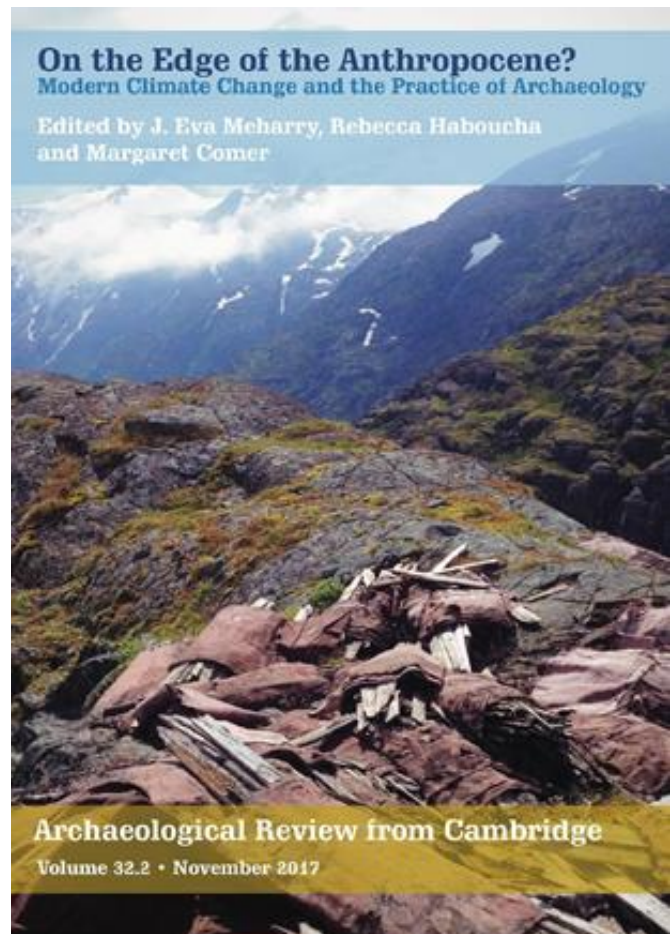
Following a break-out session *en plein air*, the final three papers addressed 'Climate Change and Policy'. Stephanie Ostrich spoke about 'CITiZAN's Rapid Recording Toolkit as a Response to Heritage Threatened by Climate Change'. She emphasized the importance of educating people through archaeological training programmes and public outreach lectures and guided walks, allowing people to experience the landscape from an archaeological perspective. This was followed by Victoria Herrmann's paper, 'Culture on the Move: Towards an Inclusive Framework for Cultural Heritage Considerations in Climate-Related Migration, Displacement and Relocation Policies', which underscored the importance for climate change mitigation and adaptation policy to address the need to protect and/or document critical cultural heritage features. Herrmann further encouraged participants to submit peer-reviewed research to policy makers to get a "seat at the table". Finally, Hannah Fluck's paper, 'Climate Change, Heritage Policy and Practice in the UK: Risks and Opportunities', outlined the present English policy landscape regarding cultural heritage and then argued that climate change policy should better examine historical and archaeological evidence of resilience to climate change's past effects, in

addition to opening the policy-making process to the public.

Van de Noort rounded out the conference with a comprehensive ten-point conclusion, notably emphasizing how archaeologists are "on the edge" of an increasingly pressing discipline. We, as researchers and practitioners, need to lead projects in disparate "on the edge" environments, from coasts and cliffs to ice patches and glaciers, because it is these locations where change is most readily unfolding.

To read more about this topic, ARC's Volume 32.2, *On the Edge of the Anthropocene? Modern Climate Change and the Practice of Archaeology*, published in conjunction with the conference, is available from 20 November (<http://arc.soc.srccf.net/current.html>). To view the official conference video, visit the Cambridge Archaeology YouTube page (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxWeBsbpxJ>).

The conference was generously supported by the *Archaeological Review from Cambridge*, Association for Environmental Archaeology, Cambridge Division of Archaeology, the Gates Cambridge Scholar Support Fund and the Royal Anthropological Institute. Photographs courtesy of J. Eva Meharry.



Association for Environmental Archaeology Conference (University of Edinburgh, 1-3 December 2017)

Grand Challenge Agendas in Environmental Archaeology



Conference abstract

How do we approach today's great themes in international environmental archaeology? How will this feed into the next research agenda? What are environmental archaeology's grand challenges? 'Grand challenges for archaeology' have recently been proposed to focus the disciplines efforts and capabilities on the most important scientific challenges (Kintigh *et al.* 2014, *PNAS* 111, 879-80). Those identified focus on investigating the dynamics of complex socio-ecological systems, addressing key questions of emergence, complexity, demography, mobility, identity, resilience, and human-environment interactions. Environmental archaeology is ideally situated to contribute directly to these challenges, concerned, as it is, with the human ecology of the past – the relationship between past human populations and their physical, biological and socio-economic environments – through the analysis and interpretation of animal and plant remains within the depositional environment of the archaeological site and its surrounds. These approaches allow analysis of the dynamics of socio-ecological systems at varying spatial and temporal scales. Combined with the continued advancement of scientific methodological applications this is enabling increasingly powerful insights into human paleoecology, for example via analyses of palaeodiets, disease ecology, and past climatic change. Particular challenges lie in how to integrate data generated from diverse methodological approaches, and how to model and test cultural and ecological agency in the past, and how to tap the full potential that lies in increasingly large and disparate datasets being generated by the different practitioners of environmental archaeology. Public and fiscal responsibility also challenges environmental archaeological research to contribute to debates of relevance to the modern world, with its important potential insights on human-environment interactions, biodiversity, food security, and societal resilience.

Registration

You can register for the conference on-line here:

<http://www.epay.ed.ac.uk/conferences-events/college-of-humanities-and-social-science/school-of-history-classics-and-archaeology/grand-challenge-agendas-in-environmental-archaeology>

Please email AEA2017@ed.ac.uk with any enquiries.



Historic England

Association for
Environmental
Archaeology

First call for papers!

PESTS OF SOCIETY

AEA Spring one-day conference
Saturday 21 April 2018
University of Birmingham

Organised by: David Smith (University of Birmingham),
Zoë Hazell and Ruth Pelling (Historic England)

Supported by the Association for Environmental Archaeology (AEA)

Encountering evidence of infestations and damage caused by pests, both invertebrate and vertebrate, to material from archaeological and other historic environment contexts is common, yet it is less-commonly studied in its own right. Insect pests in particular are an understudied aspect of environmental archaeology, even though they have a clear potential to severely damage timbers and food products, thereby potentially reducing the lifespans of buildings and the viability of stored products.

This AEA spring conference will present a one-day series of papers which will document both modern and archaeological examples of pests, from a range of situations, such as historic buildings, museum collections, and archaeological materials (including maritime), the damage they cause and the implications of their actions.

The day conference will be followed by a day school on 22 April 2018 (led jointly by the Charcoal and Wood Work Group and the Archaeobotanical Work Group) where methods and approaches to identifying pests and the types of damage they cause will be explored.

Conference sessions and themes:

1) Pests of food production and storage

From field to store: this session will cover synanthropic pest infestations/damage to crops and food supplies (including livestock) caused, for example, by insects and rodents.

2) Pests in buildings and structural timbers

This session will deal with evidence of pest damage in archaeological (including maritime) contexts (wood, charcoal) and in standing buildings. The damage could be contemporaneous or post-depositional, or provide evidence for reuse of old timbers.

3) Pests in Collections

This session will report on infestations of museum reference collections, and also of fixtures, fittings and decor in historic properties (eg textiles).

4) Pests in the wider environment/landscape

This can include evidence of pestilence in humans as well as plants eg Dutch elm disease.

Please email abstract submissions for presentations and posters to:

Zoe.Hazell@HistoricEngland.org.uk

Deadline: 16 December 2017

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF WOODLANDS
An International, Multi-Disciplinary Conference
19-21 April 2018, Białowieża, Poland

Call for papers:

New research areas and methodologies provide new archaeological challenges. The development of multi-disciplinary archaeological studies of human-environment relations, and the widespread use of LIDAR and other non-invasive techniques for discovering and recognizing archaeological sites, has resulted in increasing archaeological investigation of the role of woodland complexes in the history of human culture, as well as the long-term temporal and spatial dynamics of the forested areas themselves.

This conference will focus on the study of human-environment relations, with particular emphasis on the degree of anthropogenic impact on natural plant communities, and archaeological research conducted within areas of woodland. This type of research is inseparable from the need to collaborate with forestry services and the staff of national and landscape parks in the protection and care of archaeological heritage located in commercial and protected natural forests. Effective protection and care of archaeological heritage requires an understanding of the social depositories of this heritage, with access to the results of archaeological research as well as the monuments themselves. Proper dissemination of archaeological knowledge is an important social role for modern archaeology, and within the context of woodlands it has been neglected in some regions and underdeveloped in others. This conference will bring together specialists from archaeology, environmental archaeology, landscape archaeology and forestry departments engaging with cultural landscapes.





Up to 30 minutes papers (and posters) are invited. Geographical range: the Europe. Time scale: from the Mesolithic until the 1st part of the 20th century.

In addition to the papers and poster sessions, the conference will include discussion panels dedicated to:

- Methodologies for woodland research.
- Integrated protection of natural and cultural heritage in woodland areas and the responsibilities of archaeologists.
- The social dimensions of woodland archaeology.

The conclusions formulated during the discussions will become an important part of the post-conference publications and will serve as a benchmark for developing the methodology of archaeological research in woodland areas, as well as contributing to archaeological heritage legislation and related policy making. Official language of the conference: English and Polish.

Proposals for topics and abstracts of papers and posters should be sent to: archeologia.obszarow.lesnych@gmail.com by 15 December 2017.

Texts of abstracts in Word format should not exceed 200 words and one or two pictures. Please include in the abstract the full title of the presentation, the first name (s) and author (s), along with the degree or scientific title, affiliation, and full mailing and email addresses.

Costs

There is no conference fee. The conference will take place in the seat of the Bialowieza National Park. The alimention and accommodation, with reduced price for the participants of the conference, will be possible in the Bialowieza National Park hotel and restaurant.

Details of the program and the organization of the conference will be communicated on: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Archaeology-of-Woodlands-Archeologia-obszar%C3%B3w-le%C5%9Bnych-191926358833335/> and on the website of the conference which will run from the beginning of November 2017.

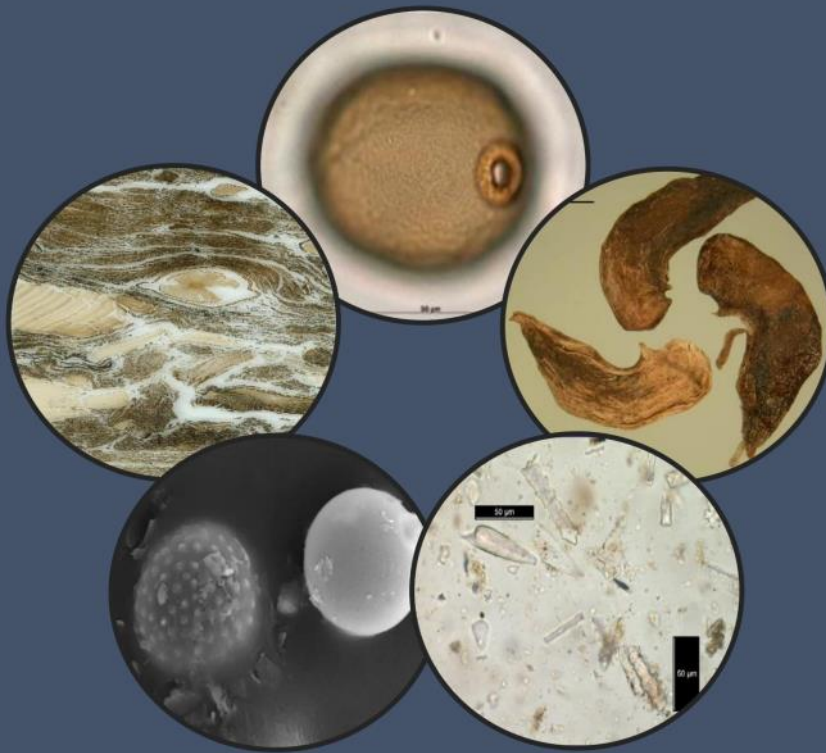
Excursion

The natural and archaeological heritage of the Bialowieza Primeval Forest.



WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED MICROSCOPY APPROACHES IN ARCHAEOBOTANY

The next IMAA workshop will be held in the
School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science, University of Reading on
24th-25th February 2018



We invite participants to bring samples, slides, and to present a short talk, or poster within these themes:

- Woodland exploitation
- Subsistence networks and diet
- Plant use in funerary, religious and ritual contexts
- Beyond the microscope: method development and microanalysis
- Wetland archaeobotany
- Wild plants in the archaeological record

To express your interest in attending please email imaaworkshop@gmail.com
Further details see <http://blogs.reading.ac.uk/integrated-microscopy-approaches-in-archaeobotany/>
Follow us on twitter #IMAA2018

TAG 2017 CARDIFF

Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference



18th –20th
December

9th International Workshop for African Archaeobotany, IWAA

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, 26-29 June 2018

Organized by the Department of Historical Sciences, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and the Instituto de Historia, CSIC (Spanish National Research Council)

PRE_REGISTRATION FORMS by the 1st October 2017 to the conference e-mail: iwaa2018@cchs.csic.es



Call for papers 9th ICAZ Bird Working Group Meeting. "The archaeology of human-bird interactions. A conference in honour of Dale Serjeantson.

Humanities Research Institute of the University of Sheffield (UK), June 8-11, 2018

Abstracts of 150-200 words to bwg2018@sheffield.ac.uk, must include five keywords, the author's name/s, affiliation details, email address and whether you are submitting it as oral or poster presentation

Deadline January 15, 2018 and accepted authors informed by March 2018



AEA Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Saturday 2nd December at the AEA conference in Edinburgh <https://www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology/news-events/events/grand-challenge-agendas-aea-conference-2017>

Agenda

- Report on Committee activities and John Evans Prize Result
- Election of new committee members
- Treasurer's report including summary accounts
- Any Other Business
- Election Results

If you have any business for item 4, please contact the Secretary (Fay Worley fay.worley@HistoricEngland.org.uk) or Chair (Richard Thomas rmt12@leicester.ac.uk) before the AGM.

AEA Managing Committee Elections 2017

We have received the following nominations for candidates wishing to serve on the AEA Managing Committee. The elections will be held at the autumn conference in Edinburgh. Voting will be in person at the AGM or by proxy (see below).

Nominations from AEA members are welcome up until the start of the AGM. Please email the AEA Secretary, Fay Worley fay.worley@HistoricEngland.org.uk if you would like to stand, or with any additional queries.

How to vote in the election

Every AEA member is entitled to vote in the election. You can vote for up to three candidates for Ordinary Member, one for Chair and one for Student Representative.

Members can vote in person at the AGM, or by proxy. Your proxy can be any other member of the Association who is attending the AGM, including members of the committee. To vote by proxy, you must provide a signed or emailed statement appointing your proxy to a member of the committee before the AGM. Your proxy will be given your voting slip in addition to their own. If you need help to find a proxy, please contact Fay Worley (fay.worley@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

Candidates for Chair

Gill Campbell, Head of Environmental Studies, Historic England

Nominated by Dr Andy Howard, seconded by Dr Richard Thomas

I am standing for chair of the Association for Environmental Archaeology because I want to lead and strengthen the breadth, reach and influence of the organisation. The next few years will provide both challenges and opportunities for the AEA. With the changing position of the UK within Europe it is vital that the AEA remains the collaborative and international organisation it has come to be. At the same time and more importantly, the time depth that environmental archaeology brings to human impact and climate change can provide lessons and solutions to the challenges we all face in a rapidly changing world. I hope to use my skills and experience to help the AEA meet these challenges and to make our voice heard.

I started my career as environmental archaeologist in 1981 when I began my degree in environmental archaeology at Institute of Archaeology, University of London (now part of UCL). After finishing my BSc I took a M.Sc. in 'the Utilisation and Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources' at University of Birmingham to strengthen my botanical skills and knowledge before moving on to work as an on-site environmental archaeologist and project archaeobotanist on various sites in the UK. I started working for English Heritage (now Historic England) on contract in 1988 based at Oxford University Museum before joining the organisation as senior archaeobotanist in 1999. Whilst at Oxford I became membership secretary of the AEA and edited the

newsletter with Vanessa Straker until 1996 when my second child was born.

In my current role, as Head of Environmental Studies at Historic England, I manage a team of six environmental archaeologists covering human remains, animal bones, palaeoecology, archaeobotany and geoarchaeology. Our team provides advice on good practice in environmental archaeology and undertakes and commissions collaborative research. We also carry out a range of training and public engagement activities. My current projects include the Tintagel Castle Research Project, investigations at Marble Hill House, London, and ongoing work at Whitby Abbey, Yorkshire.

I also convene the joint English Heritage and Historic England Science Network and I am a trustee of the National Heritage Science Forum, co-chairing the working group on resources. Work for this group has included establishing grants to fund Gold Open Access publication, setting up the NHSF kit catalogue to aid sharing of scientific equipment and facilities and the publication of a checklist for writing memoranda of understanding to aid organisations wishing to collaborate on projects and programmes (<http://nhsf.kit-catalogue.com/>).

Candidates for Ordinary Member (three positions available, four nominations submitted)

Dr Catherine Barnett, Senior Research Fellow, University of Reading

Nominated by Dr Rob Batchelor, seconded by Dr Ruth Pelling

I was lucky enough to get my hands on the charcoal from Hambledon Hill during my Masters degree in Geoarchaeology and Bioarchaeology at UCL and so began my long term relationship with environmental archaeology. Following that, several years as a heritage and ecology consultant with the engineering company Babtie Group gave me experience in how to persuade developers and the commercial sector to care about what we do.

I moved to the University of Reading in 2000, in order to undertake a multi-proxy PhD study of the Kennet Valley Mesolithic sites. This included establishing a well-dated pollen, sedimentary, macrofossil and microcharcoal sequence at Thatcham Reedbeds and Ufton Green, that demonstrated repeated landscape burning within 500 years of the start of the Holocene and contemporary with that at Star Carr. I then joined Wessex Archaeology as the senior environmental archaeologist, later becoming the Principal Archaeological Scientist there. My role included being the environmental manager for HS1, gaining funding for and being manager for the Kennet Valley predictive sediment mapping project, as well as undertaking numerous geoarchaeological and archaeobotanical analyses, radiocarbon dating programmes and preparing site strategies over the course of 10 years.

I returned to Reading Uni in 2014 to take on the role of Senior Research Fellow and Research Manager for the Silchester post excavation and Iron Age Environs projects in the Department of Archaeology. The job has made me take a huge jump forward in time from my usual early prehistoric comfort zone but is so exciting and varied. I undertake the gross sediment, wood and charcoal analyses and manage the radiocarbon dating programme myself as well as manage the other specialists and the overarching project through to publication. We have a number of excellent archaeobotanists, palaeoecologists, geoarchaeologists and micromorphologists here, as well as facilities, and so have been able to offer an Integrated Microscopy Approaches to Archaeobotany workshop for the last two years, for which I am co-organiser. The workshop has brought together many AEA members for a free weekend of learning from each other and eating good curries, and we hope to make it an annual event.

I've been a member of the AEA for more years than I care to remember and benefitted greatly from it so I'd be delighted to be given the opportunity to step up and contribute more directly as a committee member.

Rhiannon Philp, Research Student, Cardiff University

Nominated by Dr Dani de Carle, seconded by Dr Suzi Richer

Having enjoyed being an AEA Student Representative for the past two years, I would like to continue my involvement with the committee by becoming an Ordinary member. During the last year I have played an active part in the newsletter editorial team and would like to continue in this role to help provide continuity as other editors come to the end of their own committee terms.

I am currently writing up my PhD at Cardiff University investigating intertidal deposits and prehistoric environmental change on the Gower Peninsula. I completed my BSc in Archaeology in 2009 and MA Archaeology in 2010, both at Cardiff. I then went on to work commercially for a number of British companies before starting my PhD in 2014. During this time I developed my interest and involvement in Environmental Archaeology. I was a member of the field team, but spent the majority of my time as assistant to the Environmental Archaeologist. My roles included sample management, processing, sorting and basic analysis. Through my PhD, I have gone on to develop new skills in Palynology and improved my understanding of further environmental proxies.

I believe the AEA to be an important link between the commercial and academic sectors and have found it to be a highly welcoming and engaging organisation to be involved with. I would very much like to continue working with the committee to help the organisation continue to progress.

Dr David Smith, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Archaeology, University of Birmingham

Nominated by [Lee Broderick](#), seconded by Dr Suzi Richer

One of the key roles of the AEA is to encourage students to enter our discipline and build contacts within it. The AEA played this vital role for me at the start of my own career (back in the Pleistocene). I went to my first AEA conference in 1992 at Durham. Though a newcomer at the time, I was made very welcome, AEA members showed interest in what I was doing and gave me encouragement. Many members of the committee kindly showed support at that time. I particularly liked the opportunity to hear about a wide range of environmental archaeological research, both within and outside my specialist interests, in such a friendly atmosphere. These initial acquaintances with AEA members shaped much of my later research interests and contacts.

After something of a hiatus (possibly linked to childcare responsibilities) from serving on the AEA committee, I have been asked to consider returning. I was last on the committee between 1994 and 1997 when I led one of the first attempts to come to grips with the whole issue of 'validation' - an issue which we seem to be returning to again and my previous experience of the issues concerned may be of use to the committee.

For those who don't know me, I am an archaeoentomologist and a Senior Lecturer in Environmental Archaeology at the Department of Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology at The University of Birmingham. In the mid-late 1980s I gained an MA in Environmental Archaeology and Palaeoecology and a PhD researching the use of farmyard materials as a modern analogue for the archaeo-entomological record from the Department of Archaeology at The University of Sheffield, mainly under the tutelage of Prof. Paul Buckland (see, I told you I was old!). In 1992 I came to Birmingham to work for Prof Susan Limbrey (yes, I'm that old!) as her research assistant and then worked my way up through the ranks at that institution. At present, I have the dubious honour of being one of the longest serving members of staff in the department at Birmingham.

I teach a wide range of environmental archaeological techniques to undergraduates and train postgraduates in archaeoentomology. I have been involved with the publication of a number of single and joint authored research papers over the years addressing diverse subjects; such as, smoke-blackened

thatch, the insect faunas from Holocene woodland, modern dung beetle faunas, salt marsh faunas and, perhaps infamously, the archaeoentomology of cesspits (when colleagues say my work is sh*t, I don't quite know whether they're being supportive or not). I also have recently published a small monograph on the archaeoentomology of London (*Insects in the City*). I have a habit of turning up and giving papers at various AEA conferences/ meetings and, worse yet, have been known to host a few.

One role with which the AEA has had some success over the years is promoting the development of Environmental Archaeology outside of northern Europe. This is an aspect of the committee's work that I welcome and wish to continue; I also think it helps us all to learn about how our colleagues approach similar issues elsewhere in the world.

For just over 25 years now, I have run an archaeoentomology consultancy through the University of Birmingham and have undertaken a wide range of work for a number of commercial archaeological field units. This has given me a clear insight into the problems faced by people working in environmental archaeology within field units and appreciation of the needs and objectives of commercial archaeology. I am particularly interested in representing this part of our community on the committee.

Dr Michael Wallace, Research Fellow at the Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield

Nominated by Professor Glynis Jones, seconded by Dr Ruth Pelling

I am a research fellow in early crop agriculture at the University of Sheffield currently researching crop exchange patterns amongst prehistoric communities. Much of my work is based around gaining new insights from archaeobotanical assemblages, and this includes "big data" analysis of multiple assemblages and isotopic (destructive) and morphometric (non-destructive!) analysis of crop remains.

I gained my BSc in Archaeological Science at the University of Sheffield in 2005, and this was later followed by an MSc in Environmental Archaeology and Palaeoeconomy. During these degrees my passion for archaeobotany developed, with two dissertations on a much loved subject: the contribution to the archaeobotanical record from animal dung. My PhD was part of the Crop Isotope Project (PI: Amy Bogaard, Univ. Oxford), during which I focused on the use of stable carbon isotope analysis to infer water conditions during crop growth, and with application across multiple Neolithic and Bronze Age Near Eastern sites. Since my PhD I have taken on a series of postdoctoral positions and other professional and teaching posts, including a small role in the Sheffield Archaeobotanical Consultancy.

My research interests are primarily the origins of agriculture and the development of agricultural systems through prehistory. Of particular importance to my work is how local environmental adaptation in crops shaped the economy and society of past communities. I am a passionate believer in open science in archaeology, and believe that we should strive towards making as much of our data and assemblages available to future researchers.

Since 2017 I have been co-opted to the AEA committee as the website officer. Besides this I am a long-standing member of the AEA, who has contributed to several AEA conferences. I am an enthusiastic team member with a track record of contributing positively to several committees. I am also actively involved in equality and diversity initiatives. If elected I would be a committed member and endeavour to support the AEA in continuing its excellent work.

Candidates for Student Representative (one position available, one nomination submitted)

Tom Fowler, University of Nottingham

Nominated by Dr Fay Worley, seconded by Dr Richard Thomas

I am a multi-period social zooarchaeologist currently working on my PhD with the AHRC-funded project, *Exploring the Easter E.g.*. My research focusses on the introduction of the brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*) and the rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) to Britain and their broader cultural impact as well as their direct influence on the development of our modern Easter tradition.

My career in archaeology began as an undergraduate at the University of Nottingham in 2012, a move inspired by my interest in historical linguistics, place-names and folklore and mythology. Since then I have specialised in zooarchaeology, with a strong focus on multi-disciplinary approaches to studying human-animal relationships, and have contributed to both the *Dama International* and *Cultural & Scientific Perceptions of Human-Chicken Interactions* projects. I strongly believe that archaeology can, and should, be not only about understanding our cultural heritage but also contribute deep-time perspectives - from both the sciences and humanities - to modern social, political and environmental debates and problems. We can use archaeology to make the world a better place.

Environmental archaeology is particularly well-suited to encourage this approach, as numerous projects are already demonstrating, which makes our discipline more important than ever. As a student representative for the AEA I hope to continue the successes of previous representatives in promoting environmental archaeology to students and encourage greater communication and collaboration between specialists in all sectors - public, commercial and academic.

In recent months, particularly following the 2017 AEA Spring Conference on Data Visualisation, I have come to appreciate the pace of development in digital technologies and the opportunities for both research and outreach that this presents. It also creates, however, a widening gap between the skills that students across the Arts and Humanities are currently developing, and the skills they will need as the next generation of archaeologists, historians and museum specialists. I therefore wish to generate greater awareness of new digital technologies and methods that environmental archaeologists can make use of, and help establish collaborative approaches and networks to support the provision of training for students in these areas.



Musings from Social Media



AEA Retweeted

Ruth Pelling @struth28 · Sep 1

Working water mill in Maastricht specialising in spelt wheat tarts. Tasty - important research! #ancientgrains #archaeobotany #EAA2017

1 1 13

AEA @Envarch · Sep 23

Molluscs in Archaeology anyone? The sell-out book is available through Oxbow.

Dr Mike Allen @MikeMollusc

Replying to @Envarch

It can be bought from Oxbow at just £25 (over 400 pages) oxbowbooks.com/oxbow/catalogs... see review on Prehistoric Soc website

2 2

Association for Environmental Archaeology

Published by Suzi Richer [?] · 11 October at 10:57 ·

Deadline for abstracts for the AEA Autumn Conference in Edinburgh 'Grand Challenge Agendas in Environmental Archaeology' is this Friday. Have you submitted yours yet?

Details below:
<http://www.ed.ac.uk/.../news-ev.../events/call-for-proposals-aea>

AEA @Envarch · Oct 13

If you missed the call for papers for our Autumn conference (although there might still be a few hours!) what about the Spring meeting?!

Richard Thomas @AnimalBones

First call for papers @envarch spring meeting on theme "Pests of Society" Saturday 21 April 2018 @unibirmingham. Great theme!



Call for proposals - AEA Autumn Conference 2017

Proposals for papers and posters are sought for the Association for Environmental Archaeology Autumn Conference 2017. (Published 18 May 2017)

ED.AC.UK



AEA Retweeted

Dr Lisa Lodwick @LisaLodwick · Sep 18

Post by @m_law and me for @trowelblazers on Camilla Dickson - a brilliant archaeobotanist

Camilla Dickson

Camilla Ada Dickson, nee Lambert, was born in 1932 in Histon, Cambridgeshire. Although she had no formal scientific training, she became one of the most skilled ... trowelblazers.com

1 7 14

AEA @Envarch · Aug 28

STUDENT MEMBERS! Show us what YOU know and add to YOUR student blog! Email d.spencer1@nuigalway.ie with images/summaries of your research!



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[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 Autumn conference - 1-3 December 2017

TAG - 18-20th December

Integrated Microscope and Archaeobotany workshop -
24-25 February 2018

AEA Spring conference - 21 April 2018

The Archaeology of Woodlands conference - 19-21 April
2018

ICAZ - 8-11 June 2018

IWAA - 26-29 June 2018

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

Next deadline: 1st February 2018

Rob Batchelor, Danielle de Carle, Rhiannon Philp