

Association for Environmental Archaeology

AEA Newsletter 138

February 2018

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Dear members,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2018 and my first chair's piece! First and foremost I would like to extend a huge thanks to Richard Thomas for the outstanding job he has done in chairing the association over the last four years and to the managing committee members for their sterling support. At the AGM in Edinburgh we said goodbye to Julia Cussans, Emma Jenkins and Nicki Whitehouse and welcomed Tom Fowler, our new student representative, and Dr. David Smith on to the managing committee. In addition Rhiannon Philp was re-elected as an ordinary member and Michael Wallace re-joins us as website officer. I look forward to working with them over the next 4 years as we seek to strengthen and build on the association's success and extend its influence worldwide. I tried to find a suitable picture to accompany this piece and what better than borrowing a piece of public sculpture – the Speaker's Chair, outside the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia which commemorates the role of speaker in a parliamentary democracy and recognises the service of individuals both past and present.

It is membership renewal time so if you have friends and colleagues who didn't get this newsletter it probably means they have not paid the correct



subscription rate. Rates are £45 waged, £35 student/unwaged/retired for 2018 membership. Please do encourage your fellow environmental archaeologists to join or re-join the association.

We have an exciting spring conference coming up in Birmingham which will focus on pests, from woodworm beetles to mice in buildings, archaeological features and collections. More details of this appears in the following pages.

Gill Campbell,

February 2018

SPOTLIGHT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM AT OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Inter-office working in environmental archaeology at OA dates back to 2001 when Oxford Archaeology and the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (now OA North) joined forces, bringing expertise in archaeobotany, palynology and ecology. Since then, the Cambridge office (OA East) has been established, and the archaeozoologists in each office are now also part of the environmental team. Together with our geoarchaeologists, we provide a comprehensive in-house palaeoenvironmental and palaeoecological service across all three offices.

For this short piece we are turning the spotlight on a range of largely archaeobotanical projects undertaken by each of our offices. We look at the role of experimental archaeology to answer questions raised during projects, demonstrate the need for intelligent research-focused sampling on-site to enable multi-proxy evidence to be used, and show how, even in the absence of archaeological artefacts or features, the heritage of a site can be recorded and documented.

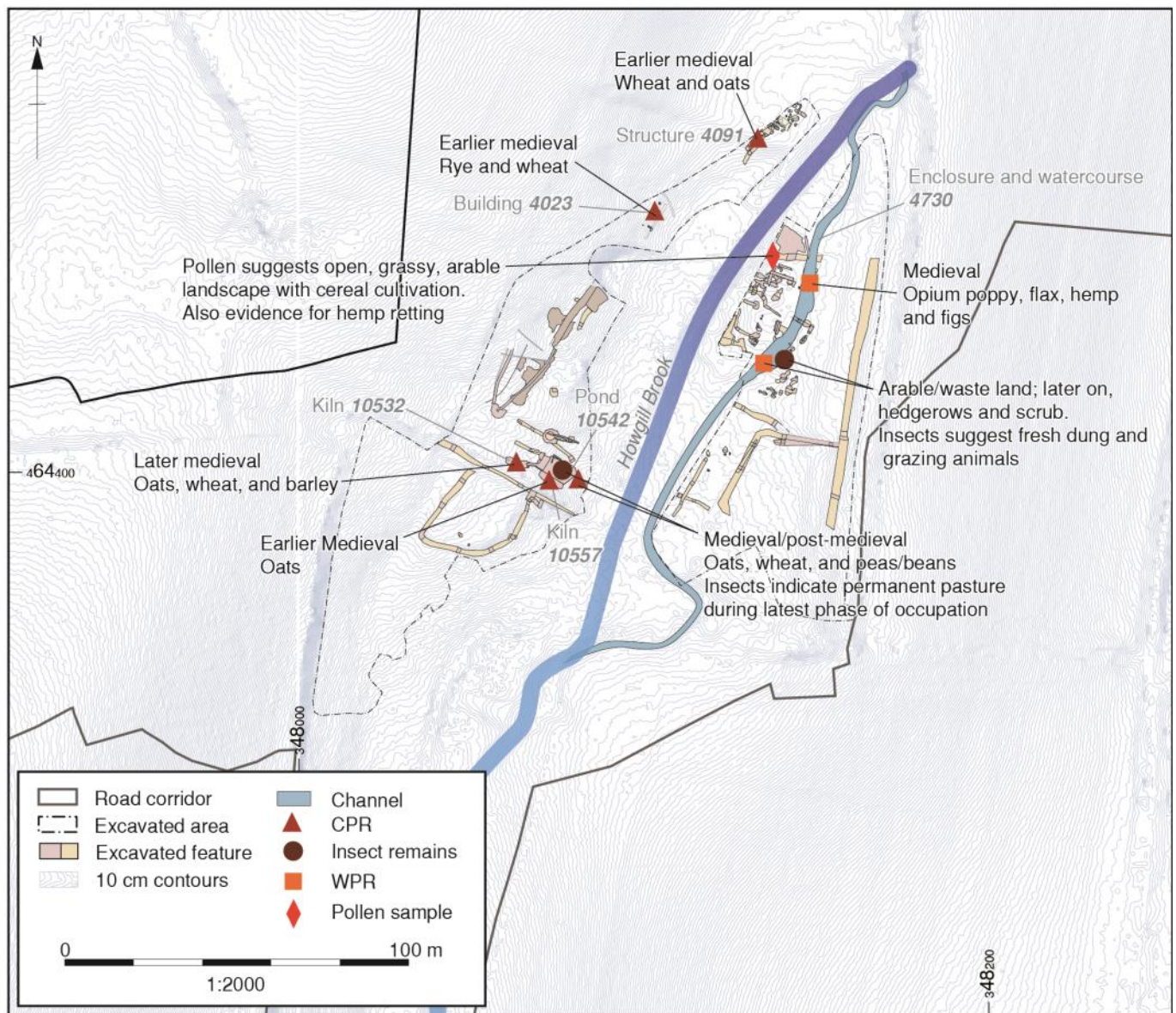


Figure 1: Sampling at Bay Gateway, Lancaster

The whole story: the advantages of multi-proxy environmental analysis

The value of incorporating a wide range of palaeoenvironmental evidence, provided by both our internal team of specialists and our external specialists, cannot be underestimated, especially where a range of feature types containing charred and/or waterlogged deposits exist. The Bay Gateway, a road built to the north of Lancaster by Lancashire County Council and substantially funded by the Department for Transport, is a recent example. The information about the site obtained from analysing a range of evidence, including pollen, fungal spores, waterlogged and charred plant remains, insects, and charcoal, together with animal and fish bone, provided a comprehensive account of the agricultural landscape and the various food and plant-based preparation activities carried out at Howgill Brook, which has been identified as being part of Beaumont Grange, an estate belonging to Furness Abbey and dating to the 12th-17th century.

Along with the dating results, changes in the environmental data were seen to reflect periods of reduced activity, followed by subsequent shifts in agricultural practices. This was probably linked to significant local and national historical events (for example, the 15th/16th century climatic downturn). Alongside the building and documentary evidence, a complete 'package' was produced, which has provided an extremely detailed account of the life and conditions of this small agricultural settlement in north Lancashire.

The Bay Gateway project exemplifies just how rich the archaeological record can be through proper investment, intelligent sampling and through inclusive and creative site narratives. Thankfully, the time of specialist reports being confined to separate sections or (worse still) appendices, is nearly a thing of the past!



Palynology at Beck Burn, Solway Moss, Cumbria

Solway Moss in Cumbria is situated on an interfluvium between the rivers Sark and Esk, 2.5km north-east of the Solway Firth. The site is an area of active peat extraction, resulting in a largely flat, brown and bleak landscape. During 2016, a windfarm was erected by EDF Energy Renewables at Beck Burn on the Moss. There is no public right of access to the site which is an operational site for peat harvesting and renewable power generation.

As part of the EDF work, OA North collected cores from three of the windfarm turbine locations (where peat had previously been extracted) and one from a nearby area of apparently uncut peat. Although aerial photographs had shown crop marks indicative of prehistoric settlement in the wider vicinity of the site, there were no known archaeological features. Finds were limited to the recovery in 1991 and 1992 of the remains of the 'Solway cow' and 'Solway sheep', which were dated to the early medieval and post-medieval periods, although the peat deposits within which the remains occurred were not contemporary with the finds.

The peat itself is a significant archaeological asset, especially in the absence of any other archaeological evidence. Through detailed palaeoenvironmental (pollen) work, data have been extracted, dated and interpreted to provide a chronology of vegetational and cultural change at the site, revealing that organic sediments as old as the earliest Holocene (c 9000 cal BC) and as young as the late medieval/early post-medieval period (c 1500 cal AD) are present in the cores.



Figure 2: View of Beck Burn site, Solway Moss, prior to installation of windfarm (left) and Core 3, extracted from turbine location 3, showing contact between organic sediments and mineral sediments (right).

Experimental spelt germination

Charred cereal grains are recovered from most archaeological sites where there has been human occupation. This is hardly surprisingly as cereals have been a staple food since they were first cultivated in the Neolithic period, but it is often unclear whether cereals were cultivated for food (bread) or for drink (beer).

Archaeobotanists often find charred grains that show obvious signs of germination; that is, where the embryo has developed into a shoot. This shoot may still be attached and it is sometimes possible to see how it has grown along the back of the grain causing a groove. Often the shoot is absent, but the presence of the dorsal groove indicates that the grain has germinated and the germinated grain may also have shrunken sides. Barley is usually thought of as the cereal for brewing, but there is a mounting body of evidence that during the Roman period spelt wheat was malted, particularly in southern England. At Langford Lane near Bicester (excavated by OA South), and at two Roman sites excavated recently by OA East (at Over in Cambridgeshire and Kettering in Northamptonshire), large deposits of charred cereals have been identified and sampled, producing abundant quantities of germinated spelt grain and detached sprouts.

Germinated grain does not necessarily mean malting, however. Accidental germination can occur quite easily in stored grain that has become damp or even whilst the crop is still in the fields before harvest. It had been thought that an assemblage of deliberately germinated grain would have a high percentage of grains showing evidence of germination and that the degree of sprout development would be uniform. To test this theory, and so better understand archaeobotanical



Photo 3: Sprouted spelt from Over – showing attached sprout (left) and dorsal groove (right)

assemblages of sprouted grain, Rachel Fosberry at OA East grew two varieties of spelt wheat and attempted to induce germination.

For the first experiment some grain was dehulled and the rest left as hulled grain. After steeping both batches in water overnight, germination started almost immediately, with the embryo emerging after 24 hours. There proved to be very little difference in germination rates between the hulled and clean grain, which was surprising, as it is usually assumed that storage of hulled grain would prevent accidental germination. The second surprise was the different germination rates within each sample. Again, it has been presumed that deliberately germinated grain would produce sprouts of roughly equal length, whereas the opposite seems

to be true, with some sprouts developing much more quickly than others. Of particular significance, the experiment confirmed Rachel's hypothesis that the dorsal groove only develops in grain germinated whilst still hulled in a spikelet. This was clearly the case as in the clean, dehulled, grain the sprout grew up away from the grain whereas in the hulled grain the shoot was



Photo 4: Experimental germination of modern spelt wheat

constricted and grew along the back of the grain to escape from the spikelet, causing the groove.

The experiments also demonstrated that even under identical conditions deliberate germination is not guaranteed. Attempts to encourage germination by gentle heating in a covered propagator were unsuccessful and smelt vile! Clearly a decent air-flow is required.

The results of these simple experiments have shown that it is not necessary to dehusk spelt wheat when malting for beer production and that uneven germination cannot be used as evidence that germination was accidental. This was consistent with Rachel's findings from the charred assemblages from Over and Kettering, and strengthens the likelihood that spelt wheat was used for brewing at these sites.

After drying the malt the grains would be removed

from the spikelets, along with the developing coleoptiles and roots, and the waste products most likely burnt as fuel. This is what we see at Langford Lane, where along with charred spelt grains showing the signs of germination within the spikelet there were charred deposits rich in detached coleoptiles and cereal chaff.

In other news

Apart from the policy and process review, we have been investigating better ways of standardising our data to make them more accessible between offices and nationally. This has been achieved by the use of new databases to record both archaeozoological and archaeobotanical data, in the latter case utilising the ArboDat database now widely used across Europe and by Historic England.

Denise Druce, Rachel Fosberry, Julia Meen, Rebecca Nicholson and Mairead Rutherford



Historic England



Association for
Environmental
Archaeology

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)

AEA Spring Conference Fund

The AEA is delighted to announce the availability of the Conference Fund to members of the AEA to assist attendance at the Birmingham conference (21 April 2018). Prioritisation of applicants for funding will be based on the following criteria: (1) those presenting papers or posters; (2) those with limited alternative sources of funding (particularly postgraduate students and those in the private sector); (3) members of at least six months standing. Applications from students must be accompanied by a letter of support from their supervisor. An application form is provided at the end of this Newsletter.

Successful applicants will be required to provide a statement of expenditure and activities undertaken within 3 months after the event has taken place in order to receive reimbursement. Moreover, successful applicants will be requested to provide a report on the conference for the AEA Newsletter or website.

The deadline for applications is Thursday 29 March 2018. Any queries should be directed to the AEA Conference Officer: Lee Broderick (lee@zoarchaeology.co.uk)

RAISING THE PROFILE OF PALAEOECOLOGY AMONG ECOLOGISTS: PROPOSED NEW BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON PALAEOECOLOGY

Varied rates of ecosystem processes and species lifespans mean that ecological dynamics play out over a range of spatial and temporal scales, including those well beyond a human lifetime. The current 'planet-wide experiment' of climate change and the accumulation of evidence from long-term monitoring data over the last few decades emphasise that the timescales needed to understand the effects of socio-ecological and environmental change extend over decades, centuries and millennia, but ecologists still often overlook or are unaware of the insights available from sedimentary records, and regard "long term" data as monitoring series of a few decades. Palaeoecological contributions to environmental archaeological questions have strong relevance, as they can be used to explore the interactions of humans and their environment over the long term, and shed light on popular current concerns such as sustainability, the resilience of communities built around subsistence economies and the long-term implications of our natural resource management choices.

Palaeoecology is outside the toolkit of many ecologists and often not well integrated with modern ecological research, to the detriment of both ecology and palaeoecology. Engagement with the British Ecological Society is low amongst palaeoecologists, even though the society now recognises palaeoecology as a suitable field for grant support and palaeoecological perspectives are increasingly represented in BES journals. To shorten the link between the disciplines of ecology and palaeoecology and improve understanding of the long term perspective among conservation practitioners, **we therefore propose the creation of a Special Interest Group in Palaeoecology within the BES.**

The aims of this Special Interest Group will be to:

- Serve as a forum for palaeoecology, a research community which is currently spread across multiple different organisations, including the AEA.
- Raise the understanding of and engagement with contemporary ecological science among palaeoecologists and of palaeoecological methods by neoecologists and conservation scientists through training and networking opportunities.
- Increase membership of the BES among the palaeoecological community.
- Act as a starting point for ecologists wishing to work with palaeoecological data.

If supported, a SIG would be given quite significant funding and professional administrative support to organise events by itself or jointly with other organisations such as the AEA, including training, conferences and field based meetings. In order to make the case for this SIG to the British Ecological Society, we need to demonstrate support and interest from both within and outside the current BES membership. **If you are interested in hearing how we get on, or becoming more involved, please get in touch so we can add you to our mailing list.**

Dr Althea Davies (co-secretary: University of St. Andrews): ald7@st-andrews.ac.uk

Dr Jane Bunting (co-secretary: University of Hull): M.J.Bunting@hull.ac.uk

Dr William Gosling (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Dr Encarni Montoya (Institute of Earth Sciences Jaume Almera, Spain)

Dr Nicki Whitehouse (Plymouth University)

THEORETICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP (TAG) CONFERENCE REVIEW (Cardiff; 18-20th December 2017)

Review of 'The Wind in the Willows: Employing Narrative in Environmental Archaeology' Session

This was a very interesting session that aimed to examine the role that a more narrative style of writing may have upon the impact of environmental archaeological investigations. The paper by Alex Fitzpatrick and Valerie San Filippo, one a zooarchaeologist and the other a creative writer, in particular highlighted the dichotomy of the scientific and narrative writing styles – concluding that most people may find a scientific report in the strictest sense immensely boring!

This is no great surprise and as highlighted in the introduction to this session, and in a number of the papers to follow, it is our job as environmental archaeologists to ensure our data and subsequent interpretations have the sufficient impact they deserve, not just to the specialist reader but to the wider public. As Suzi Richer emphasised it is essential that we know our audience. A number of papers discussed novels set in the prehistoric past which had made excellent use of palaeoenvironmental information to really transport the reader back to a certain time in human history. Much like the discussions Terry O'Connor reported to have had with the creators of the Jorvik reconstruction, broadening our own hypotheses of our data to create a more 'lived-in' landscape would allow us to engage more readily with readers and perhaps develop new ideas along the way. As Don Henson suggested we need to create 'persuasive stories about imagined (but well informed) pasts'.

The session as a whole was engaging and thought provoking. It demonstrated to me that we should not only be encouraging the use of palaeoenvironmental data in creative writing to reach a wider audience but that we should also be employing a certain amount of narrative interpretation in our own scientific papers and remembering to put the people back into the environments we create.

Daisy Spencer, NUI Galway

Review of 'Theorising Visualisation' Session

Environmental archaeology also featured in the Theorising Visualisation session on the final day of the conference. Rhiannon Philp presented her 3D printed pollen as a resource for visually engaging diverse audiences with microscopic archaeology during the demonstration section of the session. Much like a poster session, delegates were invited to move between exhibitors and interact with new and exciting visualisation techniques, prompting some great discussions and feedback.



Image: 3D printed pollen grains in the Theorising Visualisation session at TAG 2017. Image courtesy of Li Zhong Sou (University of Bradford) @LZSou

Rhiannon Philp, University of Cardiff

Review of 'Historical foodscapes: combining zooarchaeology, stable isotope analysis, osteology, and nutritional science to explore economy, diet and nutrition from the Middle Ages to the present day. Challenges and reflections' Session

Organisers: Alice Toso, Veronica Aniceti, Holly Hunt-Watts

On the very last afternoon of TAG 2017, the session 'Historical foodscapes: reconstructing social, political and historical dynamics through diet and food consumption' showcased the multidisciplinary characterising food studies in past societies. The wide array of research issues that food studies can tackle was exemplified by the presentation of the organisers' PhD projects, that opened the session. Part of a WRoCAH studentship network, the three studies looked at food and identity from very different viewpoints: animal exploitation in Islamic and Christian Sicily (Veronica Aniceti, University of Sheffield), stable isotope analysis on human remains from Islamic and Christian Iberia (Alice Toso, University of York), food consumption in low-income

families in modern Britain (Holly Hunt-Watts, University of Leeds). Two different contributions focussed on the Indus civilisation; Jennifer Bates (University of Cambridge) employed archaeobotanical evidence for reconstructing the social and cultural value of food consumption, while Akshyeta Suryanarayan (University of Cambridge) explored food-identity relationships through organic residue analysis on ceramics. The two final presentations looked at Anglo-Saxon Britain: Mauro Rizzetto (University of Sheffield) considered changes in animal husbandry between the late Roman and the early Anglo-Saxon periods, while Samantha Leggett (University of Cambridge) investigated changes in human diet during the 7th century through stable isotope analysis. With the wide geographical and chronological ranges and the many complementary methodologies presented in these five papers, the session made clear once again the considerable potential of integrating different approaches to the study of food production and consumption.

Mauro Rizzetto, University of Sheffield



THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF WOODLANDS

An International, Multi-Disciplinary Conference

19-21 April 2018, Białowieża, Poland



University of Reading



European Association
of Archaeologists



Association for
Environmental
Archaeology



UNIwersytet Gdański



CELEBRATING OUR WOODLAND HERITAGE

A national and interdisciplinary conference

Friday 16 - Sunday 18 November 2018

University of Bradford

in collaboration with Pennine Prospects

CALL FOR PAPERS

We are pleased to announce that the call for papers is now open, for [Celebrating Our Woodland Heritage](#).

We hope to attract academics from a range of disciplines, archaeologists (both professional and community), land owners, teachers and volunteers – anyone who seeks a deeper understanding of the heritage value of our woodlands.

We invite proposals for presentations and/or posters from individuals involved in the study or promotion of our woodlands, to share in this celebration of our unique heritage.

For general enquiries and all submissions please contact: woodlandsconference@bradford.ac.uk

Please note the closing date for paper submissions is 22 June 2018 and posters is 16 October 2018.

The past century has seen the development of many techniques for investigating woodland heritage spanning the disciplines of archaeology, ecology and history. More recently, open source tools such as LiDAR and 3D technology have provided community groups, individuals and academic researchers alike with incredibly detailed models of the landscape. This has created a fresh platform from which to question both the *how* and *why* of woodland change. What drove shifts in woodland cover and composition? Which forces led to different management of wooded landscapes? What effect did these changes have on communities, their resource use, and their experience?

The current challenge to woodland historians and archaeologists is to imagine more cohesive interpretations of past wood resource use and management, and then to share these stories with a wider audience.

Several landscape-scale projects across the UK, have achieved high levels of public engagement and begun to create a thriving cross-disciplinary approach embracing both community and academic research. It is clear that there is much to be gained from sharing and discussing the methods and outputs of these projects. Understanding the successes and challenges experienced during this type of collaborative work is vital, for example achieving educational goals, publishing data post-project, and effectively engaging with land owners and managers.

Both academic and community-led research have opened up a world of potential for broad-perspective interpretation, and further dialogue between these approaches can bring us closer to an understanding of the various roles of trees and woodland products in social and economic systems of the past. This includes, but is not limited to, contributions from traditional survey and excavation, pollen analysis, economic and social history, charcoal studies and landscape archaeology. There are many examples of pioneering academic research, ranging from the archaeology of charcoal production sites (Hazell et al. 2017) to the economic motivations behind evolving estate woodland management in East Anglia (Barnes and Williamson 2015). Richer and Gearey's (2017) work on improving the accessibility of pollen data to non-specialists is expanding ways of supporting public perceptions of the 'living archaeology' of cultural wooded landscapes.

This conference will explore key themes which can broaden our horizons and improve connections between all parts of society interested in woodland history, including:

- **What an interdisciplinary understanding of past wooded landscapes can offer to the wider fields of archaeology and history**
- **The challenges of collaborative research across disciplines and different spatial scales**
- **How community-based landscape archaeology projects investigate woodlands: their methods, contributions and potential**
- **Open source technologies for community and individual research**

The organising team welcomes the submission of papers and posters for presentation at the conference, particularly those discussing the key themes.



European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2018
Vienna | Austria | 8–13 April 2018

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://egu2018.eu>

**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



**THE
PREHISTORIC
SOCIETY**
SINCE 1935



UNIVERSITY
of York

The Prehistoric Society Europa Conference 2018 Coastal Archaeology in Prehistory



University of York, 22–23 June 2018
A conference celebrating the achievements of
Professor Geoff Bailey, University of York,
in the field of European prehistory

Image: © Maritime Archaeology Trust and the DISPERSE Project

2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

The 2017 AGM and Managing Committee elections were held on Saturday December 2nd at the University of Edinburgh. A total of 29 members attended, with additional proxy votes received in advance of the election. The AGM marked the end of Richard Thomas’ term as Chair of the Association. In AOB Mike Allen thanked the Association for its contribution towards the publication of *Molluscs in Archaeology: Methods, Approaches and Applications*, noting that sales of the book had been very good.



Membership Secretary Jo McKenzie reported that our membership has continued to expand with 56 new members joining in 2017 (31 Ordinary and 25 Student members). Almost half of our new members are non-UK based, with membership increasing in the USA, Germany and the Netherlands in particular, and the AEA pleased to gain its first Russian and Argentinian members.

However, it’s been an unusual year for membership, with 2017’s subscription rise having an effect on membership numbers overall. Our total membership is down on last year – but this is largely due to the **70+ members who pay by standing order but have still not updated**

their SO amount to the new rate. We’ll be making direct contact with all such members this winter. Please - check your Standing Order before the 2018 payment!

Members were reminded that prompt payment of subscriptions in January guarantees journals will be received on time and makes the job of managing Membership significantly easier. We will be contacting all members with out-dated Standing Orders shortly. **If you haven’t received your journals – please check your SO.**

	UK	Rest of Europe	Non-Europe	Total
Honorary	7	2	3	12
Ordinary	127	48	16	191
Student	52	13	16	81
Retired/unwaged	7	1	1	9
Ordinary (NEW ONLY)	16	9	6	31
Student (NEW ONLY)	14	4	7	25

Payment Method (2017)	Number
IBAN	2
Worldpay	189
Cheque	4
Cash	1
Standing Order	86
Honorary Members	12

Subscriptions due: 1st January 2018

Remember – our rates are now **£45 waged, £35 student/unwaged/retired** (our current € IBAN rate will be revised in time for 2018; WorldPay uses live rates)

Membership Awards

Congratulations to our outgoing recipients of the 3-year membership awards (2015-17):

- The Library, Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka (Institutional award)
- Dr Premathilake Rathnasiri, Sri Lanka (Individual award)

We are currently seeking nominations for our 2018-20 awards. These awards are open to any institutions or individuals who would benefit from AEA membership but do not have the means to pay.

Archaeological Society Membership Prize

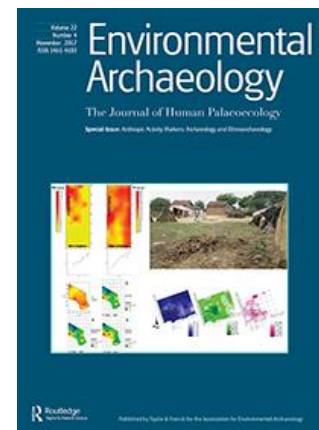
Our inaugural 2017-20 Archaeological Society Membership Prize winners, the South Somerset Archaeological Research Group (SSARG), a community based group run by volunteers based near Wincanton in Somerset, with a strong interest in environmental archaeology were featured in Issue 134 of our Newsletter. Well done SSARG!



Journal Editor Tim Mighall reported that the journal continues to do well and saw its Impact Factor reach 1.288 for 2016, a 50% increase on the previous year. The five year IF is 1.165.

Tim welcomes more independent papers and reported a number of special issues planned including Integrated microscopy approaches in Archaeobotany, Neolithic food and Farming systems; Reconsidering past Andean Pastoralism complexity: a multi-disciplinary approach in Environmental Archaeology. Volume 22 (2017) has comprised 3 issues of independent papers and one special issue.

For 2018, Volume 23 will include a special issue (issue 1) and a volume of independent papers (issue 2). Both are currently in production.



Publicity Officer Suzi Richer reported that following a break during which we focussed on meeting sponsorship, the Seminar Series is back for 2017-18. So far three seminars are booked:

Gordon Cook, New Combined Studies of Radiocarbon and Stable Isotopes – Towards a Better Understanding of Diet and Chronology, Glasgow, 08/11/17

Karen Milek, Reindeer Residues and Herders' Huts: Geoarchaeological approaches to the origins of northern pastoralism, Durham, 06/12/17

Mark Knight, Must Farm Pile Dwelling Investigations, University of Leicester, 28/03/18

During 2017 we sponsored the UK Archaeological Science (UKAS) Conference, UCL, London, 5–8th April 2017 and had a stand at Past Global Changed (PAGES) Open Science Meeting Zaragoza, 9–13th May 2017. We also sponsored three drinks receptions:

African Archaeology Research Day (AARD), University of York, UK. 25th November 2017.

Integrated microscopy workshop in Reading 25–26th February 2017.

Modern Climate Change and the Practice of Archaeology in Cambridge 7–8th April 2017.

Members were reminded to follow both our website and social media platforms for news on jobs, studentships, grants, bursaries and conferences. We are also tweeting publication announcements from the journal.

Both Facebook ([facebook.com/EnvironmentalArchaeology](https://www.facebook.com/EnvironmentalArchaeology)) and Twitter ([@Envarch](https://twitter.com/Envarch)) continue to grow with Facebook up 247, and Twitter up 185 from last year.



Newsletter editors Rob Batchelor, Dani de Carle & Student Rep, Rhiannon Philp thanked members for contributing copy for the 2017 newsletters.

Please keep sending your short news, notes & early research summaries, recent PhD abstracts and forthcoming conferences/workshop announcements. The next deadlines for copy are the 20th January and 20th April 2018.



Conference Officer Lee Broderick reported that a total of £1052.15 was awarded in bursaries to help support attendance at the 2017 autumn conference in Edinburgh. The bursaries were distributed to student members and members working in the commercial sector.

The AEA 2018 Spring Meeting will be in Birmingham on 21st April on 'Pests of Society', to be followed by a Charcoal and Wood Work Group day school on 22nd April.

The 2018 Autumn Meeting will be announced shortly. Please get in touch with Lee if you'd be interested in hosting a conference.



Student Representatives Rhiannon Philp and Daisy Spencer have continued to showcase student research and experiences via the student blog, including featuring student posters from AEA conferences for the first time. Any student members who would like to be part of the student blog should submit their posts to d.spencer1@nuigalway.ie

Rhiannon has been working as part of the newsletter editorial team for the past year and will hand over to Daisy at the end of her term. Both Daisy and Rhiannon assisted with administration and assessment of John Evans Prize and Small Grants applications throughout this past year.



Small Research Grants Administrator Julia Cussans was unable to attend the AGM so the 2017 Grants recipients were announced by Niklas Hausmann, who will be taking on the role from 2018.

2017 was the third year of AEA grants and saw highly competitive submissions. Thirty-one applications were received from AEA members based in Argentina, Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, USA and UK, for a total of £18,050.98. Applications were received from 28 members in academia (including 2 post-graduates and 12 doctoral students), one member in the commercial sector and two independent specialists. The deadline for 2018 grants is **31st January 2018** (for details of how to apply see <http://envarch.net/grants/>)

2017 Small Grant recipient	Title
Tansy Branscombe, University of Cambridge	Shellfishing at the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in the East Adriatic
Lidia Colominas, Institut Català d'Arqueologia Clàssica	Tracing ancient livestock farming in eastern Pyrenees as a shaper of mountain landscapes: a sediment DNA approach
Youri van den Hurk, University College London	Optimizing Zooarchaeological Research on Cetacean Remains
Jessica Watson, University at Albany	Paleoenvironment and Prehistoric Diet on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts



Prize Administrator Nicki Whitehouse handed over responsibility for this role to Jen Harland. Jen's first task was to announce the undergraduate and postgraduate winners of the 2017 John Evan's Prize. Congratulations to both Calum Edward (University of Plymouth) and Eleanor Green (University of York).

Jen then handed over to Gill Campbell to announce the Conference student poster prize, this year jointly funded by the Association and University of Edinburgh. The winning poster was *Investigating the feasibility of reinstating the 'natural' woodland of the Highlands by using long-term palaeoecological records* by Jasmijn Sybenga of the University of Highlands and Islands.

2017 John Evans Prize Winners:

Undergraduate

Calum Edward, BSc Physical Geography and Geology, University of Plymouth:

Investigating potential climatic and anthropogenic change, through sub-fossil non-biting midge (Chironomidae) larvae analysis, surrounding the Black Loch of Myrton crannog, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland.

Postgraduate

Eleanor Green, MA in Bioarchaeology, University of York

Give a dog a bone: Investigating the potential of studying prehistoric dogs via the ancient DNA analysis of canid coprolites from Bridge River, British Columbia, Canada

2017 Managing Committee Elections

The AGM marked the end of term for AEA Chair Dr Richard Thomas, Ordinary Members Julia Cussans, Emma Jenkins and Nicki Whitehouse, and Student Representative Rhiannon Philp. The retiring members were thanked for their contributions to the association over their terms.

Gill Campbell, Rhiannon Philp, David Smith, Michael Wallace and Tom Fowler were duly elected onto the committee. Following the AGM the AEA Managing Committee Structure is as follows

Chair Gill Campbell [17-21]

Secretary Fay Worley [14-18]

Treasurer Mark McKerracher [16-20]

Ordinary Members

Rob Batchelor [14-18] (Newsletter Editor)

Lee Broderick [15-19] (Conference Officer)

Dani de Carle [14-18] (Newsletter Editor)

Lynne Gardiner [16-20] (Books administrator)

Ben Gearey [15-19]

Jen Harland [16-20] (Prizes administrator)

Niklas Hausmann [16-20] (Grants administrator)

Jo McKenzie [15-19] (Membership Secretary)

Tim Mighall (co-opted Journal Editor)

Rhiannon Philp [17-21]

Suzi Richer [14-18] (Publicity Officer)

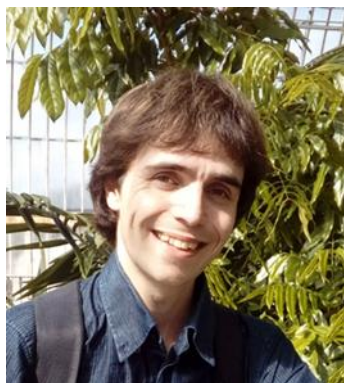
David Smith [17-21]

Michael Wallace [17-21] (Web Officer)

Student Representatives

Tom Fowler [17-19]

Daisy Spencer [16-18]



Treasurers Report, Mark McKerracher

AEA final finances 2015 and 2016

Sterling account main comments: Subscription income is stable. Overall expenditure is up, mainly due to increased cost of publishing journal (now four issues a year), and delay in receiving royalties. There were also higher than average conference bursaries for relatively far-flung conferences (Orkney, Rome) and the first small grants payments. 2016 therefore closed with a budget deficit, but this should be offset in future years by 2017's rise in subscription rates

Sterling account	2015	2016
Assets at start of year		
Bank current account	£20,270.06	£22,489.21
Bank savings accounts	£20,685.79	£20,489.17
Total assets at start of year	£40,955.85	£42,978.38
Income	2015	2016
Subscriptions	£14,397.75	£14,387.25
Books	£617.00	£3,734.50
Interest earned	£21.14	£9.05
Conference proceeds	-	£988.61
Maney Royalties and Editorial income	£2,808.55	-
Income sub-total	£17,980.44	£19,119.41
Initial total assets excluding books in stock	£58,936.29	£62,097.79
Expenditure	2015	2016
Stationery, flyers, publicity	£100.00	£570.80
Web page	-	£67.75
Journal production and postage	£10,864.00	£13,622.40
Committee meeting travel related	£1,340.40	£1,582.84
Book purchase	£809.80	£1,261.06
AEA Seminars	£121.90	£165.90
Conference support	£1,185.60	£3,829.76
Conference prizes	£75.00	£85.00
Standard bank charges	£75.68	£60.60
Credit card charges (Streamline)	£377.92	£261.57
Worldpay charges	£287.28	£311.92
Subscriptions reimburse	£720.33	-
Research grants	-	£2,984.48
Expenditure subtotal	£15,957.91	£24,804.28
Total assets minus expenditure	£42,978.38	£37,293.51
Sterling account	2015	2016
eoy current	£22,489.21	£16,803.71
eoy savings	£20,489.17	£20,498.22
	£42,978.38	£37,301.93

Euro account main comments: Subscription income is down as the transition to Worldpay continues. We are still looking to close this account as it is difficult to manage remotely, and therefore difficult to use the moneys received.

Assets at start of year	2015	2016
Bank current account	€6,408.95	€7,194.76
Income	2015	2016
Subscriptions	€810.75	€499.75
Initial total assets	€7,219.70	€7,694.51
Expenditure	2015	2016
Standard bank charges	€-24.94	€-22.74
Total assets minus expenditure	€7,194.76	€7,671.77
Assets at end of year	2015	2016
Bank current account	€7,194.76	€7,671.77

Proposed budget for 2018

Mark has formalised the allocation of funds by the Association and proposed a budget for 2018. AEA expenditure has not previously been budgeted and new yearly budgets should give the Committee and wider membership a better view of how funds are being used, and thus facilitate future planning. The proposed expenditure in the table below is based on a projected annual income of **£17,500**, with percentage breakdowns based on previous years' accounts and current commitments.

Account heading	% budget	£ amount
Committee expenses	6.0	1,050
Conference fund	6.5	1,138
Publicity & sponsorship	3.0	525
Website	0.5	88
Finance (fees, etc.)	4.0	700
Journal costs (net)	66.0	11,550
Prizes and Grants	14.0	2,450

The membership at the AGM accepted both the 2016 accounts and proposed budget for 2018.



Musings from Social Media



AEA @Envarch · 1 Dec 2017
 The autumn conference @EdinburghUni has kicked off with @NaomiSykes1 and relevance of env arch to the wider world...



AEA @Envarch · 3 Dec 2017
 That's a wrap for an inspiring and thought-provoking #AEAAutumn2017 many thanks to #Edinburgh and @uniofedinburgh - good luck to everyone and their Grand Challenges!

AEA @Envarch · 20 Dec 2017
 So nice to see so many members, and past and present committee members @TAGCardiff! Lots of sessions (and the key note) touched on or focussed on #EnvArch. Check out the #TAG2017 for more...

Richard Thomas @AnimalBones · 1 Dec 2017
 Heading off to @EdinburghUni for my final @Envarch conference as chair

4 specialists sat round a table at the @Envarch #AEAAutumn2017 conference - an archaobotanist, a zooarch, a soil micromorphologist & a palynologist. Naturally talk turns to who would win in a fight using equipment available to them. Palynologist: "well I have HF" #micdrop 😎

5:04 PM - 4 Dec 2017

5 Retweets 17 Likes

4 5 17

Terry O'Connor @osteocconnor · 4 Dec 2017

Replying to @daisypollinator @Envarch

And the Russian corer, thought to be the only deadly weapon never to have appeared in Midsomer Murders

AEA @Envarch · 25 Nov 2017
 It's our pleasure to have sponsored #AARDYork today - such a great range of environmental archaeology-themed papers. And even a wine that's inkeeping!



Association for Environmental Archaeology shared University of York, Department of Archaeology's post.
 14 December 2017
 Congratulations Eleanor!

University of York, Department of Archaeology
 13 December 2017

CONGRATULATIONS to Eleanor Green who received the 2017 John Evans Masters Dissertation Prize in Environmental Archaeology.

Her dissertation was titled: Give a dog a bone: Investigating the potential of studying prehistoric dogs via the ancient DNA analysis of canid coprolites from Bridge River, British Columbia, Canada.

<https://www.york.ac.uk/.../eleanor-green-awarded-john-evans-.../>



Eleanor Green awarded John Evans prize - Archaeology, The University of York

Eleanor Green was awarded the 2017 John Evans Masters Dissertation Prize in Environmental...

YORK.AC.UK

You Retweeted

Solway Coastwise @SolwayCoastwise · Jan 25

Amazing 8,000 years old tree stumps have been exposed by the winter storms that are gradually eroding Newbie Hills - a relative term on this flat seascape!





[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

European Geoscience Union - 8-13 April 2018

AEA Spring conference - 21 April 2018

The Archaeology of Woodlands conference -
19-21 April 2018

ICAZ - 8-11 June 2018

The Prehistoric Society Europa Conference—
Coastal Archaeology in Prehistory — 22-23 June 2018

IWAA - 26-29 June 2018

Celebrating our Woodland Heritage -1
6-18 November 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: 20th April 2018

Rob Batchelor, Danielle de Carle, Rhiannon Philp
and Daisy Spencer