

# Association *for* Environmental Archaeology

AEA Newsletter 142

February 2019

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Dear members,

Welcome to our new members and the first newsletter of 2019. This newsletter contains some important dates for your diary. It also features reports and information on recent conferences and workshops including the winners of the best poster and best paper from the 2018 conference in Aarhus.

This year is the AEA's 40th birthday and we are celebrating this significant milestone by returning to Sheffield for our annual conference. It will take place from 29th November to 1<sup>st</sup> December and will explore the human-environment interactions that lie at the heart of our discipline. The spring conference is entitled *Environmental Archaeology: Practice, Society and Politics* and will take place in Cork on 27<sup>th</sup> April; the deadline for abstracts is 22<sup>nd</sup> March. So dust off your soap boxes and head to Ireland for some lively debate and maybe a pint or two.

If you find yourself in Oxford on 4<sup>th</sup> March, the first AEA sponsored seminar of 2019 takes place at lunchtime at the Institute of Archaeology. If you would like the AEA to consider sponsoring a seminar in your place of work or study please get in contact the Canan Cakirlar, our seminar officer. We are very keen to support events happening in different parts of the world.

Finally we need your help in choosing the winner of the AEA photo competition featuring #ScientistsandSamples, so please vote for your favourite. The entries often feature cattle, who seem fascinated by archaeology and archaeologists, from describing cores or taking an interest in finds washing. It makes me wonder if there is scope for another photo competition with cattle as a special category!

**Gill Campbell,  
February 2019**



Gill at the Moesgaard Museum during the Autumn conference at Aarhus

## Discarded shells on land:

# A zooarchaeological study of the Hjørnø Sund mollusc assemblage

Johan S Larsen<sup>1,2</sup> • Claus Skriver<sup>3</sup> • Peter M Astrup<sup>3</sup> • Per Borup<sup>4</sup> • Jesper Drejer<sup>1</sup> • Marcello A Mannino<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Horsens Museum, Sundvej 1A, 8700 Horsens, Denmark.



### Introduction

Archaeological investigations from 2010 onwards have targeted the submerged remains of a Mesolithic shell midden on the small island of Hjørnø in Horsens fjord (eastern Jutland, Denmark). The shell midden was sampled for detailed study in 2015 in 1m<sup>2</sup> grids, covering a total of 10m<sup>2</sup>.

The assemblage consists of around 18000 identifiable shells (NISP), attributed to at least 3000 individual specimens (MNI). Two discernible strata were detected during the excavation, which were most evident in the two farthest sampled squares (squares 1 and 9), consisting of around 10000 identifiable shells (NISP). While artefacts were found among the shells, a zooarchaeological analysis has been undertaken in order to determine whether the accumulation was the result of human activity, or if the shell matrix was the result of natural formation processes.

### Methods

Once the material had been brought to Moesgaard Museum, each specimen was identified and counted, bivalves were sorted in right/left valve, each specimen was visually checked for epizootic encrustations, and 945 specimens were measured with three measurements. The two aforementioned layers had a widely different composition, where the lower consisted mainly of oysters, while the upper consisted mainly of cockles, as seen in the following table:

	Species	#MNI	#NISP	%MNI	%NISP
Lower layer	<i>Cerastoderma edule</i>	90	317	26,01	12,78
Upper layer	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	166	1970	47,98	79,44
Lower layer	<i>Cerastoderma edule</i>	1638	6746	91,56	88,68
Upper layer	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	28	524	1,56	6,89

That change in composition is often connected to the transition from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic (~3950 BC), which did not agree with the dating of the artefacts. This prompted an additional study, where samples were taken for <sup>14</sup>C dating, in order to determine the time for the transition in the assemblage, which can be seen in the table above. The resulting dates place the midden and its shift in main species to ~5500-5300 cal. BC, which is around the time of the transition from the Kongemose culture to the Ertebølle culture (Larsen et al. 2018).



Figure 2: Cockles from square 9. Photo by J.S. Larsen.

Figure 2: Overview of the submerged site. Photo by M. Hamberg.



Figure 1: The location of the site (red dot). Modified from Larsen et al. 2018.

### Conclusion

The zooarchaeological investigation of the molluscs from Hjørnø Sund shows that the assemblage is anthropogenic. The evidence for this is that:

- i. Very few species being present in the assemblage, as expected by human selection (6 species giving 18000 fragments).
- ii. Edible species are only represented by what are probably adult specimens (based on 945 measured specimens, sampled throughout the entire assemblage).
- iii. The amount of right/left valves is similar, which is compatible with dumping of whole specimens following consumption of molluscan flesh (detectable in ~5000 whole or partial valves across the two main species).
- iv. Epizootic encrustations only occur on the outside of the shells (each specimen was checked for encrustations on both sides).
- v. Land snails are present in the assemblage, which attests that it accumulated in an emerged setting.
- vi. Charcoal was embedded in numerous valves, further attesting to emerged deposition.

The study of the mollusc assemblage also attested a shift from oysters to cockles around the beginning of the Ertebølle culture, which indicates that such events likely occurred at different times in the Mesolithic and that hunter-gatherers, such as those who occupied the Hjørnø midden, adapted to them.

### Literature

Larsen, J.S., B. Philippson, C. Skriver, P.M. Astrup, P. Borup, M.A. Mannino: From oysters to cockles at Hjørnø Sund: Environmental and subsistence changes at a Danish Mesolithic site. *Radiocarbon* 60:5, pp. 1507-1520.

### Acknowledgements

This research is made possible by the Aarhus University Research Foundation (AUFF grant no. 21276), which made <sup>14</sup>C dating feasible.

Layout adapted to fit page.

## AEA Winners @ Aarhus 2018 Conference

### Winner of best student paper:

#### Recreating past effects of seaweed-fertilisation on the isotopic and chemical composition of barley to further palaeodietary reconstructions

Magdalena Blanz<sup>1,2</sup>, Ingrid Mainland<sup>1</sup>, Philippa Ascough<sup>3</sup>, Mark A. Taggart<sup>4</sup>, Jörg Feldmann<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>Environmental Research Institute (ERI), University of the Highlands and Islands, Castle St, Thurso, KW17 7JD, UK

Historical and archaeological evidence indicates seaweed was a common fertiliser along European North Atlantic coastlines. The effect seaweed fertilisation has on crops in terms of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  and other dietary biomarkers that are transferred from plants up the food chain needs to be established, as this will influence interpretations of dietary and provenance reconstructions.

In this study, bere barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) was grown with seaweed-fertilisation in a field trial on the Orkney Islands (UK). Isotopic analysis showed  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of seaweed-fertilised plants to be elevated by  $0.6 \pm 0.5$  ‰ (average  $\pm 1\sigma$  for five replicate plots) in grain, and  $1.1 \pm 0.4$  ‰ in straw compared to unfertilised plants. Notably, no significant differences were found for  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ . Strontium concentrations were elevated in seaweed-fertilised crops compared to unfertilised crops (by factors of 1.2 to 1.4), indicating possible effects on  $87\text{Sr}/86\text{Sr}$ .

These results indicate that even short-term seaweed-fertilisation can significantly affect the isotopic and chemical composition of plants. Consumption of seaweed-fertilised plants can thus cause e.g. elevated  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values in consumer skeletal material (particularly when plants are the main source of dietary protein), leading to an overestimation of the amount of animal protein in the diet if seaweed-fertilisation is unaccounted for.



## Celebrating our Woodland Heritage, University of Bradford 16-18 Nov 2018

This was truly a multi-disciplinary conference! The breadth and diversity of participants and attendees – including archaeologists, palaeoecologists and dendrologists, to foresters and woodland managers; educationalists and community engagers to ecotects and wood workers – demonstrated the multiple interests in, and intrinsic values of, woodland heritage. As well as covering the range of disciplines, the attendees were researchers, practitioners, managers and engagement officers/educationalists.

The conference kicked off with a poetry reading of *The road not taken* (Robert Frost, 1916), by Suzi Richer and Ben Gearey, who challenged us to explore the places ‘in between’, and reflect on our own knowledge bases, perceptions and preconceptions, and how that might influence our subsequent interpretations and visualisations. With this in mind, exploring and recognising the links and cross-overs between the multiple topics and approaches discussed throughout the conference became deeply rooted (pun intended!).

So from there, the main conference covered themes on:

- the use of palaeoenvironmental data to model past landscapes, and explore the viability of reinstating past woodland communities;
- mapping woodland-related heritage assets and landscapes using (variously) field recording, aerial survey techniques and archival/documentary/oral records;
- woodland surveys, and past industrial activities (notably charcoal production), and the use of such surveys to inform the management of sites;
- the selection and use of wood and timbers, with examples from archaeology, wood working/experimental archaeology, and Ecotecture (building structures from living trees).

As well as the opportunity to read the posters, the breaks were also time to admire the skill and craft of Lorna Singleton, with her oak swill basketry (<http://lornasingleton.co.uk/>).

Although many of the projects mentioned over the course of the conference included some level of education, outreach and community involvement, none better described and explained the value of interacting and engaging with woodlands, than the work by Rachel Street and Annie Berrington, who demonstrated the importance of accessing the natural environment through forest school activities. Their enthusiasm was contagious!

The second and final day of talks was finished with keynote speaker, Professor Ian Rotherham (Sheffield Hallam University) covering ‘ghost’ woodlands, The Vera hypothesis, and his suggestion of a particular temporal baseline to aim to reinstate woodlands.

The days of presentations came full circle, finishing with an original poem: the insightful and amusing *The curried rhizome*, written over the course of the conference by attendee Christopher North.

The next day was a tour of Hirst Wood, Shipley (on the northern edge of Bradford, next to part of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal and the River Aire) led by Chris Atkinson from Pennine Prospects; as well as visiting former and remnant heritage assets (a hollow way, cottages, mill, quarrying, hut circle) and seeing the site of the excavation in 2017 of a charcoal burning platform, there was a demonstration of woodland crafts and activities, including wood working and turning, horse logging, pottery firing and forest school activities.

This was then followed by a meeting of a small (but select!) few from the *Charcoal and Wood Work Group* (<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/current/heritage-science/charcoal-wood>)

[-work-group/](#)), hosted by Dr Jill Thompson and Hywel Lewis back at the University of Bradford. Congratulations and many thanks to those who organised and ran the event: Christopher Atkinson (Pennine Prospects) and Robin Gray (formerly of Pennine Prospects), and Dr Jill Thompson, Hywel Lewis and Claire Copper (all University of Bradford).

**Dr Zoë Hazell**, Historic England

January 2019

With thanks to Dana Challinor.

Further information and resources:

The conference programme is available to download at:

<https://woodlandheritageconference2018.com/>

*Celebrating our Woodland Heritage Project* <https://www.celebrate-our-woodland.co.uk/>

Atkinson, C., Keenhold, K. and Woods, T. 2018 *Celebrating Our Woodland Heritage: Hirst Wood, Shipley: An Archaeological Woodland Survey* Pennine Prospects, Report No: PP10/280717 <https://www.celebrate-our-woodland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/PP10-280717-BMDC-Hirst-Wood-Report.pdf>



Photos from the visit to Hirst Wood, showing the holloway (left), and the charcoal burning platform (right) terraced into the slope and marked out by the group (both images by Z. Hazell, © Historic England).



## #ScientistsandSamples

We asked for your stunning photos of scientists and samples and you delivered! It could have been something as simple as sampling in action, processing and sorting a sample or analysing a sample; or it could be a more imaginative take on the title. We also wanted to see the people as well as the samples or sampling in process. Here is the shortlist of the top five entrants, keep an eye out on our twitter and Facebook feeds for your chance to vote for your favourite:

Prizes: 1st Prize - £50; 2nd Prize - £30 and 3rd Prize - £20. Good luck!

*The AEA Committee*













# **VOTE FOR YOUR TOP THREE!**

**Cast your vote by emailing  
envarch@envarch.net with your top  
three choices.**

**Keep an eye out for further  
information on our social media  
platforms:**

**Twitter: @Envarch**

**Facebook:  
Association for  
Environmental Archaeology**

## IMAA Workshop 2019

### University of Reading 16th-17th February

For the fourth year running, environmental archaeologists from both the academic and commercial sectors made their way to Reading to take part in the two-day Integrated Microscopy Approaches in Archaeobotany workshop. Each day provided a fantastic selection of papers in the morning, followed by afternoon sessions of microscopy workshops and targeted discussion.

The weekend kicked off with a session dedicated to Ethnographic approaches in archaeobotany. Ethnobiologist Sarah Edwards from UCL/University of Oxford began proceedings with a viewpoint from outside the archaeobotanical sphere, highlighting the methodological challenges related to the politics and ethics of ethnobiology research. This was followed by Marta Portillo from University of Reading, who presented taphonomic plant and dung evidence from ethnoarchaeological and experimental investigations in the use of dung as fuel.

After coffee, session two investigated experiencing woodlands past and present. Alex Brown from Wessex Archaeology presented examples of using woodlands as windows into the medieval cultural landscape in Poland, prompting discussion about managed woodlands for resource use and a great interest in the use of certain woodlands for bee keeping, with potential examples from closer to home suggested. Dan Young from the University of Reading followed by presenting evidence for the earliest appearance of Alder in the early Lateglacial Interstadial in Britain, which has been discovered in work undertaken prior to the onset of a flood prevention scheme in the Vale of Mowbray, west Yorkshire.

Session three directly followed the woodlands session, this time focussing on wetlands as palaeobotanical archives. Luke Andrews from the University of York introduced his project investigating how faithfully climate manipulation experiments simulate real periods of climate change through peatland environment manipulation and carbon capture and release measurements. He explained that while peatland is generally seen as having negative feedback on global warming currently, this is not necessarily going to be the case in the future. Rob Batchelor from Reading followed with evidence from a pilot study reconstructing the vegetation of Greater London utilising archived evidence

from sites across the region to create extensive datasets mapping change in 250-year time slices. The potential for further investigation through the addition of other types of dataset, such as surface stratigraphy or diatom data to map salinity was also highlighted.

Lunch time on Saturday provided the chance to explore the University of Reading campus via the Whiteknights Tree Walk. This proved to be entertaining, possibly or the wrong reasons, as tree after tree on the list appeared to have been cut down, lost to disease or unrecognisable due to the lack of foliage present at this time of year. A number of impressive trees were eventually located and the chance to grab some fresh air fully welcomed.



Searching for trees on the lunchtime tree walk

The afternoon microscopy session focussed on charcoal and charred remains and was initiated with a fascinating talk by Lara Gonzalez Carretero from UCL and MOLA about charred food remains and the ability to identify and distinguish bread-like and porridge-like remains, focussing on evidence from excavations on the A14. The Q & A session that followed highlighted a need to share information and expertise across companies working on the large infrastructure projects such as the A14 to make the most of the evidence being collated. It also proved the worth of workshops such as IMAA in bringing together representatives from both the academic and commercial sectors.

Two concurrent sessions ran after coffee; a round table discussion about phytolith extraction methods took place, while the second microscopy session focussed on wetlands. This session began with a fascinating and slightly disconcerting talk about pollen analysis as an



indicator of wetland site degradation by Petra Dark of the University of Reading, focussing on 60 years of pollen evidence from Star Carr and showing the steady loss of evidence within the areas of greatest archaeological potential due to changing ground water levels. The talk also highlighted the importance of being able to utilise comparable data between pollen investigations and the need to include original data within publications in order to achieve this.

Following the microscopy session, the AEA sponsored wine reception provided a chance to catch up with colleagues from different sectors and view the posters on display. Posters presented research regarding the visibility of dung tempering in archaeological pottery (Amicone, Gur-Arieh and Morandi: University of Tübingen and Pompeu Fabra University); the use of archaeobotanical archives in providing new perspectives regarding plant use in the development of agriculture in early Neolithic Syria (Kate Dudgeon: University of Reading); micromorphological investigation of burning practices in Neolithic northern Greece (Georgia Koromila: University of Reading); palaeoenvironmental investigations of the Tankerton Beach Tudor shipwreck in Kent ( Inés López-Dóriga and Alex Brown: Wessex Archaeology); the use of earth floors in Romania as a source of ethnographical information (Lenka Lisá, Petra Kočár, Petr Netolický, Romanoa Kočárová, Pavel Lisý, Monika Martinisková and Aleš Bajer); archaeobotanical investigations at the Oxford Greyfriars (Julia Meen: Oxford Archaeology) and the study of starch grains in the study of Japanese historical papers (Ayako Shibutani: National Museum of Japanese History, Japan).

Delegates then made their way to the Sizzling Spice restaurant for a fantastic meal to round of a great first day.

Day two dawned with a session focussed on taphonomy. Phillip Jardine provided an introduction to the use of chemical analysis of pollen and spores as a new tool for constructing past vegetation and environmental change. Phillip pointed out that the way we do palynology has not changed much in the last 100 years, but that the use of methods such as FTIR spectroscopy could provide more dynamic (and crucially non-destructive) approaches to archaeological study. Luc Vrydaghs from Université Libre de Bruxelles followed with a statistical analysis comparing the effectiveness of phytolith analysis of bulk samples and thin sections. The paper argued that a combined approach using both evidence sources could provide a much fuller picture. Juan José Garcia-Granero from University of Oxford then presented some notes on the use of starch grain analysis in the identification of past food processing, focussing particularly on taphonomy caused by cooking and brewing vs

that caused by grinding and the difficulties faced in distinguishing between the two.

After coffee, Wendy Matthews from University of Reading presented on the use of integrated approaches in the use of micro and macro botanical assemblages to inform on the built environment, sustainability and health in the past, focussing on early sedentary archaeology, that may also have bearing on the future. This was followed by a session dedicated to plant use in the middle ages. Rowena Banerjea of the University of Reading talked about the All Along the Watchtowers project, investigating differential preservation of plant remains and organic materials at castle sites within the Baltic region using micromorphology. Koen Deforce from the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, OD Earth and History of Life followed with a presentation on the taphonomic constraints and archaeobotanical potential of plant remains in medieval burials.

After lunch, the microscopy session focussed on context. Kelly Reed from the University of Oxford opened the session with a presentation, questioning the best strategies for sampling in funerary and ritual contexts in order to obtain meaningful archaeobotanical assemblages.

After coffee, a discussion session was held focussed on environmental archives. Lisa Lodwick from the University of Oxford spoke about the use of archived archaeobotanical material in isotopic investigations of past farming practice and the trials and tribulations of obtaining these archives. There followed a very positive and productive discussion regarding best practice in environmental archiving, with delegates from both the academic and commercial sectors participating, all agreeing that the archive is the legacy and should therefore be both well organised and easily accessible to future researchers, no matter how it originated.

The entire weekend was a great success and highly enjoyable. Huge thanks should go to the organisers: Dr Rowena Banerjea, Dr Catherine Barnett, Dr Dan Young, Josie Handley and Paul Flintoft. We look forward to next year!

**Rhiannon Philp**

Archaeology Wales, AEA Newsletter Editorial Team



Packed afternoon microscopy session

# Environmental Archaeology: Practice, Society, Politics

## University College Cork, 27th April 2019

This conference intends to reflect on and debate the practice of environmental archaeology within the broader context of society and politics in the era of 'Post-Truth' and the environmental and social challenges related to an increasingly volatile World. What is the current status of the subject in the face of such momentous problems? Recent publications have suggested that environmental archaeology requires 'an ethical promise' (Riede *et al.* 2016) whilst others have called for increased emphasis on the role of research in terms of understanding and planning for future environmental changes and challenges (Murphy and Fuller 2017). Is it relatively easy to draw 'lessons' from the past, but much more difficult to translate these into effective practice? Developments in public archaeology include closer reflection and critical analysis of this area of engagement and involvement (e.g. Richardson and Almansa Sanchez 2018); what is the role of the environmental archaeologist in the context of 'public engagement'? Other developments include calls for the 'de-colonisation' of subjects such as anthropology (<https://anthrodendum.org/2018/06/15/the-decolonial-turn-2-0-the-reckoning/>) the importance of inclusivity and collaboration within ecology (Ramirez et al. 2018); whilst issues such as gender and power politics are relatively poorly debated within the practice of environmental archaeology. In order for the discipline to continue to prosper and grow, we need to ensure thriving communities of practice, but how can we ensure this at a time when many archaeology departments, in the UK in particular, are threatened by economic policies and models? Other directions might include closer contacts and collaborations with subjects outside the traditional cognate disciplines such as archaeology, but what challenges as well as opportunities might these bring? Themes could include but are not limited to:

- How might environmental archaeology influence 'real world' problems and debates such as those around climate change and ecosystem degradation? Case studies, theory and method.
- Environmental archaeology and the 'public'; especially debates around public archaeology in the contemporary context. Examples, problems and potential.
- Gender, power and the practice of environmental archaeology: provocations and reflections.
- Beyond archaeology and Quaternary Science: interfaces and collaborations of EA with 'non-traditional' subject areas: case studies and progress.
- Commercial environmental archaeology in uncertain times: challenges and connections
- Teaching and learning environmental archaeology: problems and reasons to be cheerful.



## CLOSING DATE FOR ABSTRACTS: 22ND MARCH 2019



**Please contact Dr Ben Gearey @  
b.gearey@ucc.ie**

### References

Murphy, C. and Fuller, D. Q. 2017. The future is long term: current and future directions in environmental archaeology. *General Anthropology* 1, 1: 7-10.

Ramirez, K.S. et al. 2018. The future of ecology is collaborative, inclusive and deconstructs biases. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1038/s41559-017-0445-7>

Richardson, L.-J. and Almansa-Sanchez, J. 2018. Do you even know what public archaeology is? Trends, theory, practice. *World Archaeology* 47, 2: 194-211.

Riede, F., Andersen, P. and Price, N. 2016. Does environmental archaeology need an ethical promise? *World Archaeology* 48, 4, 1-16.

## INQUA 2019: Dublin, 25th-31st July 2019



Please find below details of what we hope will be a very interesting session for INQUA 2019:

### **Quaternary's three Rs, Retrieval, Reuse and Reflection: Optimising pre-existing data to reimagine the past**

Quaternary scientists have been prolific over the last century, generating vast datasets from across the globe. Such datasets, when collated, provide the 'Big Data' that is desperately required to not only further our understanding of the earth system, but to inform social sciences and help define / underpin public policy. Over the past 50 years, many databases have been developed with the sole purpose of collating and making accessible a vast array of different Quaternary data, spawning a new sub-discipline known as palaeoinformatics. While existent datasets do have inherent complexities, such as variable methodologies, they provide the opportunity to test and even debunk existent hypotheses or identify previously unforeseen underlying trends. Utilising such data is fundamental for the underpinning of scientific methodology and provides the opportunity to rapidly, and cost-effectively, contribute to pressing social and public policy questions, along with strengthening the movement for open access science dissemination. This session focuses upon end-users utilising both existent databases and /or their own data retrieval endeavours, showcasing studies where new advances / perspectives have been gained solely through collating and re-evaluating pre-existing data. A key component of this session will be the collective experience of such an endeavour, showcasing the techniques employed to overcome limitations inherent in existent datasets such as archive accessibility, data reprocessing and metadata integrity.

We hope that this session will prove of interest across the wide range of disciplines used in Quaternary science and therefore attract scientists from often disparate fields to showcase and collectively discuss their experiences of handling and analysing such datasets, techniques employed, and identify future endeavours that might help expedite this process. The full list of session abstracts for INQUA 2019 is now available online along with registration: <http://www.inqua2019.org/call-for-abstracts/>

**Michael Grant and Ben Gearey**



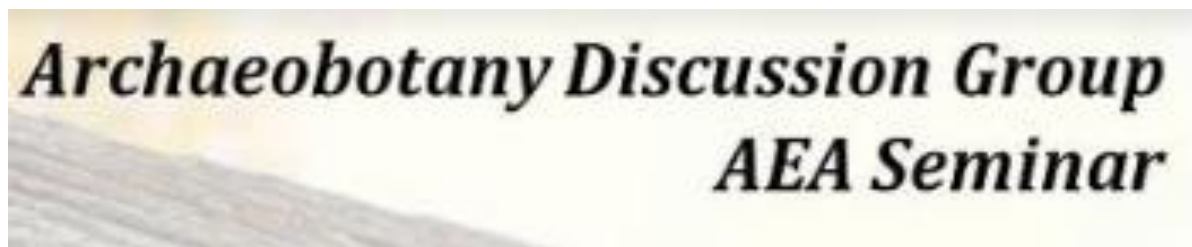
## AEA SPONSORED SEMINAR

The University of Oxford's Archaeobotany Discussion Group is delighted to be hosting the *Association for Environment Archaeology* seminar on Monday 4th March 2019.

**Dr Zoe Hazell, Senior Palaeoecologist at Historic England, will be speaking on "From fire and flame, to watery grave: archaeological wood and charcoal research highlights from Historic England".**

The seminar will take place at 1pm, in the seminar room at the Institute of Archaeology, 36 Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2PG (near the Ashmolean Museum), followed by light refreshments.

Please contact [mark.mckerracher@arch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mark.mckerracher@arch.ox.ac.uk) if you have any queries about this event.



## 20th Fish Remains Working Group (FRWG) Portland, Oregon, USA

26 -30th November 2019

For further details contact: [virginia@pdx.edu](mailto:virginia@pdx.edu)

**If you would like the AEA to consider sponsoring your event please contact our seminar officer Canan Cakirlar at [c.cakirlar@rug.nl](mailto:c.cakirlar@rug.nl)**

## Early Neolithic in Europe – conference in Barcelona, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> November

### ENE —2019 Conference

6-8 November, Barcelona



The origin of the Neolithic and inherent economic, social and ideological changes, as well as their expansion worldwide is one of the most significant events in the history of humankind. The Neolithic constitutes a key theme in Prehistory and Archaeology, as it witnessed the development and consolidation of new social and cultural communities and the decline of the hunter-gatherer way of life.

This conference aims to be a meeting of researchers studying the early Neolithic in Europe and surroundings areas, in relation with the neolithisation process in the continent.

This process followed different rhythms and presented singularities in each geographic area, and was therefore a very complex phenomenon.

In order to address this scientific challenge, the conference is organised in **nine thematic sessions**:

1. **Neolithic spread and supraregional interactions;**
2. **Chronology and modelling;**
3. **Human–environment interaction;**
4. **Population characteristics and dynamics;**
5. **Territory and settlement;**
6. **Subsistence;**
7. **Technological processes;**
8. **Funerary practices and symbolism.**

We positively welcome multidisciplinary approaches, regional syntheses and/or contextualised case studies.



## Abstract submission is open until 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019

<https://ene2019.org/>

### Scientific committee

- **Jean-François Berger**, *Université Lumière Lyon, Département de Géographie*
- **Amy Bogaard**, *University of Oxford, School of Archaeology*
- **Annelou van Gijn**, *Universiteit Leiden, Department of Archaeology*
- **Daniela Hofmann**, *University of Hamburg, Archäologisches Institut*
- **Mattias Jakobsson**, *Uppsala Universitet, Department of Organismal Biology and Human Evolution*
- **Christian Jeunesse**, *Université de Strasbourg, UMR7044 - Archéologie et histoire ancienne: Méditerranée - Europe*
- **Goce Naumov**, *University Goce Delcev, Institute of History and Archaeology*
- **Catherine Perlès**, *Université Paris Nanterre, UMR7055 - Préhistoire et Technologie.*
- **Stephen Shennan**, *University College London, Institute of Archaeology*

### Organising committee

- **Ferran Borrell**, *CSIC-IMF, Barcelona*
- **Ignacio Clemente**, *CSIC-IMF, Barcelona*
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  - **Juan F. Gibaja**, *CSIC-IMF, Barcelona*
  - **Juan J. Ibáñez**, *CSIC-IMF, Barcelona*
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  - **Millán Mozota**, *CSIC-IMF, Barcelona*
- **Ariadna Nieto-Espinet**, *CSIC-IMF, Barcelona*
  - **Xavier Terradas**, *CSIC-IMF, Barcelona*
- **Silvia Valenzuela-Lamas**, *CSIC-IMF, Barcelona*

# 40th Conference of the Association for Environmental Archaeology

University of Sheffield, 29th November - 1st December 2019

## Living through change: the archaeology of human-environment interactions

As environmental archaeologists we recognise that human activity can impact local and regional environments, and, conversely, that dynamic environments can stimulate responses in human behaviour. The role of humans as agents of environmental change is increasingly central to debates far beyond our discipline and, given current global politics and the present threats of environmental change, it is more important than it has ever been for environmental archaeology to contribute powerful, vivid and evidence-based accounts of human-environment interactions from the deep and recent past. At the forefront of the study of past human-environment relationships, environmental archaeologists are keenly placed to explore what it means to live through long- and short-term environmental change.

The 40th conference of the Association for Environmental Archaeology will provide an opportunity to reflect on the discipline's past, and debate its future in the context of growing bodies of data, the integration of multiple proxies for change, new analytical techniques and fresh theoretical paradigms. We welcome papers that explore **environmental change** from the **human perspective** through engagement with questions of change, adaptation, sustainability and human impact. We welcome papers from across the breadth of the discipline, including – but not limited to:

- Human-induced changes to landscapes and environments at all scales
- Human response to anthropogenic and natural environmental change
  - Sustainability and adaptability in changing environments
  - Environment as a driver of economic and/or socio-political change
- The past as a proxy and model for future human-environment interactions
  - The Anthropocene and other conceptual paradigms
- The contribution of environmental archaeology to policy-making and public engagement

**Call for papers coming early 2019**

**Registration opens Spring 2019**

The conference will be hosted by the University of Sheffield on the city centre campus. For maps and general travel advice about visiting the University please see the University's webpages at: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/visitors/mapsandtravel>

**Conference website:** <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/archaeology/events/aea40>

For enquiries about the conference please contact the Organising

Committee: [aea2019@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:aea2019@sheffield.ac.uk)





# Musings from Social Media



AEA Retweeted

**Plants People Planet** @plantsppplanet · 5 Dec 2018

Plants, People, Planet is a new #OpenAccess journal from the New Phytologist Trust. We're focusing on the interface between plants, environment and society.

Read our first issue, online now! [nph.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/25722611/2...](http://nph.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/25722611/2...)

Read the #PressRelease: [eureka!ert.org/pub\\_releases/2...](http://eureka!ert.org/pub_releases/2...)

**HE Archaeology** @HE\_Archaeology

#icymi New guidelines to the recovery, analysis & conservation of waterlogged features [ow.ly/6FUP30mZsD4](http://ow.ly/6FUP30mZsD4)

Ruth Pelling Retweeted

**Robert Macfarlane** @RobGMacfarlane · Jan 16

The remains of a prehistoric forest of birch, hazel, willow, aspen, rowan, oak, Scots pine, alder, ash & elm have been discovered in the intertidal zone of Benbecula in the (now almost treeless) Western Isles. What a beautiful surfacing.

**BBC NEWS**

'Incredibly rare' find in prehistoric forest

Archaeologists find evidence of early human activity at a submerged prehistoric forest in the Western Isles

[bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)

20 623 1.9K

**Roman Palace** @romanpalace

#MysteryObject time! A real mystery this week.

Catalogued as "Tusk" (but nothing to do with Fleetwood Mac, we think).

Share far and wide: we want an answer for this one. Frankly, we haven't got a clue!

#zooarchaeology

**Benjamin Gearey** @BenjaminGearey

Call for papers!! @Envarch spring meeting will be hosted @UCC @uccarchaeology see link below (inc ref to @ARCHAEOfelix @Iornarichardson) looking for contributions from #ECR and other voices in particular [envarch.net/events/65/aea- ...](http://envarch.net/events/65/aea-...)

**Matt Law** @m\_law

I like samples from chalky sites

**Alex Fitzpatrick** @ArchaeologyFitz · Jan 7

Always cool to find articulated skeletal parts in an archaeological assemblage - here is a (possibly) Later Prehistoric bird coracoid and scapula, which basically makes up the right "shoulder". Notice the bit of soft tissue still preserved that keeps them intact! #ArchaeoAnimals

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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 Spring Conference, Cork**  
27th April 2019

**INQUA, Dublin**  
25th-31st July 2019

**John Evans Dissertation Prize deadline**  
31st July 2019

**20th Fish Remains Working Group**  
26th-30th November 2019

**AEA 40th Anniversary Conference, Sheffield**  
29th November-1st December 2019

## 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](mailto:newsletter@envarch.net)**

**Next deadline: 20th April 2019**

*Rhiannon Philp, Daisy Spencer and Tom Fowler*