

Association for Environmental Archaeology

AEA Newsletter 144

August 2019

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Dear members,

Welcome to the August 2019 newsletter. I hope you are enjoying the summer, whatever the weather, and that your endeavours are going well. Don't forget to submit your photos on the theme of public engagement to our photo competition; closing date 1st November 2019.

It has been a busy few months for me as chair and for the managing committee. We continue to negotiate a new publication agreement for the journal *Environmental Archaeology* with our publishers Taylor and Francis. I will be updating members on this at our Annual General Meeting which will take place during the autumn conference in Sheffield on 30th November at 17.30.

A couple of initiatives that we have been working on have also just borne fruit. We have been collaborating with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) Finds Group to develop a specialist competence matrix for environmental archaeologists to support them in applying for membership of CIFA and I am pleased to say that this matrix has now been published:
<https://www.archaeologists.net/matrices>.

In addition, the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education has approved an apprenticeship standard for an Archaeological Specialist see <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/archaeological-specialist/>. This is a big step towards providing an alternative pathway for those interested in developing specialist skills

within archaeology. For me both these initiatives illustrate the growing recognition of environmental archaeology as an essential part of archaeological research and practice. If the idea of working on these types of initiative appeals to you then please do consider joining the AEA managing committee. We are still accepting nominations (see page 23).

It only remains for me to say that look forward to seeing many of you at our 40th anniversary celebrations in Sheffield. Please note early bird registration for the conference closes on 1st September.

**Gill Campbell,
August 2019**



Gill in Lecce at the International Work Group for Palaeoethnobotany (IWGP) conference

How archaeology and anthropology can help build a sustainable food future

We are all becoming more and more aware that what we eat has a detrimental effect not only on our health but on the planet itself. About a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions (GHGe) each year are a result of how we feed the world. The global warming this causes is now damaging food production through extreme weather events such as droughts. The global food system is also failing us, leaving billions of people underfed, undernourished or overweight. A significant overhaul is needed to meet these challenges of feeding a growing world population. But how do we achieve a productive, resilient, nutritious and sustainable food system? It is becoming increasingly evident that interdisciplinary approaches are needed to tackle such complex issues. Yet, important cultural and historical information is not always integrated within existing food system research and implementation.

Our recent paper in [World Archaeology](#) stresses this point, highlighting how archaeology and anthropology provides a rich, diverse, and global dataset resulting from the successes and failures of numerous societies and their interactions with the environment.

Archaeology and sustainable agricultural practices

As we know traditional agricultural practices developed over thousands of years and many systems have often developed distinctive, ingenious practices that have stood the test of time in their robustness and resilience. Take rice-fish farming practiced in Asia, where small-scale farmers add fish to their paddy fields. This not only increases their food production, with fish providing an important source of protein, but helps with pest control and increases the rice yields by up to 10%, enabling families to not only put meals on tables but to sell surplus food at market. This agricultural system has a long history with models of rice-fish farming dating back to the later Han Dynasty (25–220 AD). Yet, rice-fish farms are threatened by the expansion of highly productive mono rice or fish systems, which pose a number of negative health and environmental impacts.

These ancient practices not only provide sustainable agricultural solutions, but also allow small scale farmers to tap into and capitalise on their ancient traditions.



Rice paddies

A small number of crops are dominating globally

We are also very much aware that of the estimated 300,000 edible plants on the planet, we only cultivate a fraction and at least half of our plant-sourced protein and calories come from just three crops: maize, rice and wheat. As large commercially valuable monoculture crops are grown in greater numbers around the world crop diversity is therefore under threat.

If we continue to restrict the types of food we grow and its genetic variation we increase the risk of climate change, droughts, pests and diseases wiping out parts of our food supply. Think the Irish potato famine of the late 1840's!

Unfortunately, many traditional agricultural practices in many parts of the world are rapidly changing and crop diversity is reported to be declining. As a result, anthropological and archaeological research is providing important insights into more recent changes in agricultural practices.

There has also been growing concern that these new farming practices, e.g. extensive crop production found in Sub-Saharan Africa, are exacerbating environmental impacts such as depleting water supply, soil/water/air pollution, biodiversity loss and soil erosion. Whereas many of the crops that have a long history in these regions are more adapted to the local environment, requiring less inputs, with the potential to be more resilient to future climate change.

Building a sustainable food future

The integration of historical contexts into research and policy interventions is still novel, but I believe we should be playing more of a role in the decision-making around how we build a sustainable food future.

**Kelly Reed, Programme Manager and Researcher,
Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Food,
University of Oxford**



Different maize varieties



40th ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE

University of Sheffield
29th November – 1st December 2019

LIVING THROUGH CHANGE: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTIONS

Talks for the 40th AEA Conference at the University of Sheffield have now been selected. They cover the full breath of diversity in environmental archaeology, fittingly representing the diversity in our discipline at the 40th anniversary of the Association. A preliminary programme has been released to showcase the exciting range of talks that will comprise the two-day conference in Sheffield. There will also be an excellent selection of posters presented at the conference, as well as keynote speeches by Gill Campbell and Mark Knight, and a discussion session chaired by Umberto Albarella.

Early bird rates available until 1st September 2019

AEA Member Standard Rate £80

AEA Member Student/Unwaged/Retired £60

AEA Member Standard Rate £100

AEA Member Student/Unwaged/Retired £80

www.sheffield.ac.uk/archaeology/events/aea40



Saturday 30th November 2019

Session A

McDonald et al. (University of Glasgow) - People, Pollen and Place in the Bronze Age : New chronologies for upland settlement and environmental change in the 2nd millennium cal BC

Huisman (Cambridge Archaeological Unit) - Wild wetlands and domestic drylands?
Human-environment interaction in the prehistoric East Anglian Fens

Walker (MOLA Headland Infrastructure) - The A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme: Preliminary archaeobotanical results from sites within the 'River Great Ouse' landscape block

Zamelska-Monczak et al. (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences) - Human-environment interactions in the early medieval Santok, NW Poland

Pospieszny et al. (University of Bristol) - Isotopic analyses of charred plants through the ages. Cases from northern Poland

Session B

Rebolledo (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) - Early fishing along the Atacama Desert Coast

AONO et al. (Tohoku University of Art and Design) - Regional Differences of Environmental Adaptation in the Transition Phase from a Hunting-Gathering Society to an Agrarian Society

N. Ramsey (University of Cambridge) - Ecological Inheritance and the Non-Linear Transition to Plant-Food Production during the Levantine Epipaleolithic

Rose Jones et al. (University of Cantabria) - Living landscapes of the Past: Understanding Human-animal and environmental interactions during the upper Palaeolithic in Northern Spain

Woodbridge et al. (University of Plymouth) - Human land-use and biodiversity change in the British Isles

Session C

Walker et al. (University of Cambridge) - Assessing environmental change at Indus Civilisation Valley sites in northwest India through geoarchaeology

Ruiz-Pérez et al. (CaSEs Research Group, Universitat Pompeu Fabra) - Raised-field agriculture in the Bolivian Amazon during the late Holocene: phytolith evidence for their use and management

Nasonova et al. (Tyumen Scientific Centre of Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences) - Transformation of mountain meadows into terraced agricultural slopes in the North Caucasus

Shaw (Maynooth University) - Human-induced changes upland landscapes. A palaeoecological case study in Ribblesdale considering the sustainability of traditional land management

Forster (University of Oxford) - The changing landscape of Anglo-Saxon and later medieval England (FeedSax)

Session D

Weide et al. (University of Oxford) - The association of arable weeds with modern wild cereal habitats: implications for reconstructing Early Neolithic plant management in the Near East

Zurro et al. (CaSEs Research Group, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, IMF – CSIC) - A cross-cultural ethnoarchaeological approach to risk management in small-scale societies from arid and semiarid environments

Wu et al. (University of Oxford) - Potentials of stable carbon and nitrogen analysis on rice: results from a pot experiment

Delaney et al. (University of York) - Assessing the role of dental calculus as environmental evidence: a case study using Medieval England

Sunday 1st December 2019

Session E

Best et al. (University of Cardiff) - Feeding king and court: interpreting landscape use and change at Llangorse crannog

Jones et al. (University of Aberdeen) - Abandonment of Pictish Royal Sites: Understanding the wider social and environmental implications through detailed Palaeoecological analysis.

Castilla-Beltrán et al. (University of Southampton) - Land use legacies in Cabo Verde: Microfossil analyses reveal culture-environment interactions in an arid Atlantic archipelago

O'Regan et al. (University of Nottingham) - What's mined is yours: examining the effects of atmospheric lead pollution on a regional scale
Atkinson & Hywel Lewis

Session F

Andy Seaman et al. (Canterbury Christ Church University) - Manifestations of Empire: Palaeoenvironmental Analysis and the End of Roman Britain: Preliminary Results and Interpretations

Rizzetto et al. (University of Sheffield) - The economy and environment of Ptolemaic and Roman Al-Qārah al-Ḥamrā, Egypt: archaeobotanical, anthracological, and zooarchaeological results

Lodwick (University of Oxford) - Imperial adaptations to new environments: investigating food supply to early Roman London

Smith (University of Birmingham) - Down with the Homies: The development of the synanthropic insect fauna from the Neolithic to the end of the Roman period in the UK

Speciale et al. (INGV - Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Naples) - The case of Ustica island (Palermo, Sicily): a multidisciplinary approach for the prehistoric paleoenvironmental reconstruction

Session G

Antolín et al. (IPAS, University of Basel) - The AgriChange Project (2018-2021): tracking and explaining agricultural change in the Neolithic in Western Europe

Garcia-Suarez et al. (University of Oxford) - Sustainability and adaptability in animal management strategies during the Neolithic of Central Anatolia: a micro-geoarchaeological study

Polo-Diaz et al. (University of Sheffield) - Early pastoralism and human-environment interactions in SW Europe: a high-resolution geoarchaeological approach.

Wright (University of Basel) - Exploring the diversity of cattle husbandry in Neolithic Switzerland: Environmental impact or cultural influence?

Gocman (Independent researcher) - Make yourself at home. Repetition of economic and cultural patterns in Late Bronze Age Lesser Poland - zooarchaeological evidence.

Session H

Joan Green et al. (University of York) - Give a dog a bone

Battermann (University of Leicester) - What does the fox say? Red foxes as a proxy for human engagement with the environment

Hadjikoumis (University of Sheffield) - A Hellenistic dog burial ground in Paphos, Cyprus: preliminary findings

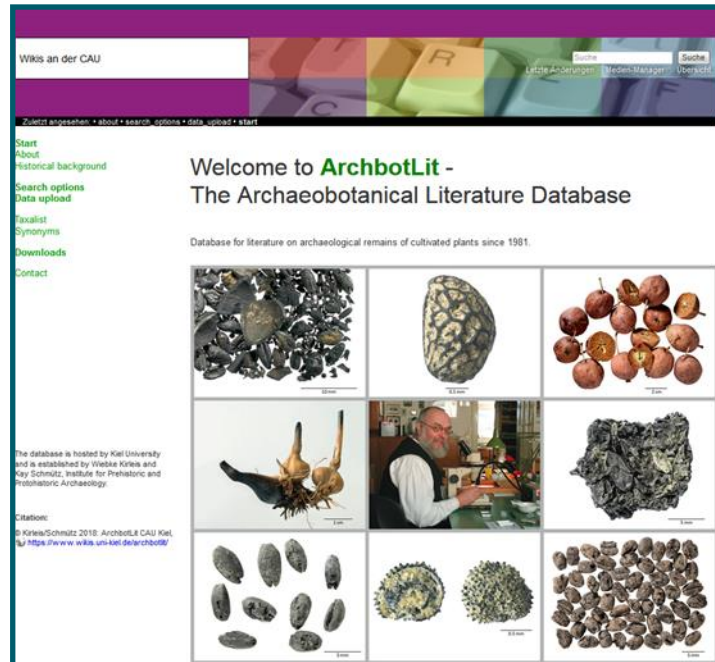
**The 40th Association for Environmental
Archaeology Conference
will be held at the University of Sheffield
Further information and registration at**

www.sheffield.ac.uk/archaeology/events/aea40



ArchbotLit – The Archaeobotanical Literature Database

An Update of the Search Engine for Literature on Archaeological Remains of Cultivated Plants since 1981



The database on literature regarding archaeological remains of cultivated plants was established by Jürgen Schultze-Motel, Gatersleben, Germany, in the 1980s and was published in the journal “Die Kulturpflanze” [e.g. Schultze-Motel, J., 1983. Literatur über archäologische Kulturpflanzenreste (1981/1982), *Die Kulturpflanze* 31, 281–297]. From 1992 onwards, it was continued in the journal “Vegetation History and Archaeobotany” first by Schultze-Motel [e.g. Schultze-Motel, J., 1992. Literature on the archaeological remains of cultivated plants (1989/90), *Vegetation Hist. Archaeobot.* 1, 53–62] and from 1995 onwards, Helmut Kroll, Kiel, Germany, took over [e.g. Kroll, H., 1995. Literature on archaeological remains of cultivated plants (1992/1993), *Vegetation History and Archaeobotany*, 51–66].

Only in the late 1990s, the attempt was undertaken to establish an online version of the database by Helmut Kroll, Rainer Pasternak (both Kiel, Germany) and Alexander Medović (Novi Sad, Serbia). This online database “archaeobotany.de”

that runs on a commercial platform is an important tool to get targeted access to archaeobotanical publications. This database comprises 9,422 single species data sets from literature on archaeological remains of cultivated plants from the years 1981–2004. It offers the opportunity for archaeobotanists, archaeologists, students and the interested public to be informed on archaeological remains of cultivated plants, increases the visibility of archaeobotanical studies beyond the inner circle and supports teaching in environmental archaeology. To sustain the online-database in the long run and in the public domain, it has now been converted into the wiki-platform **ArchbotLit** hosted at Kiel University and was released prior to the IWGP conference in Lecce at the end of May 2019. The new wiki-database ArchbotLit is a follow-up of the first online database by Kroll et al. All former entries were transferred into the new format.

The ArchbotLit is accessible at

<https://www.wikis.uni-kiel.de/archbotlit>

While search options are open access, data upload is restricted to archaeobotanists who register with us. The new database already comprises 9,953 species data sets, since the team from IPNA at Basel, Switzerland (thanks to the great engagement of Christoph Brombacher) already entered numerous publications.

The new ArchbotLit offers search options for multiple variables, such as species, site location and dating. Links or DOI for the pdfs can now also be included. The main change and new challenge is that the responsibility for the data upload has now been handed over to the authors of the respective archaeobotanical publications. This is in order to cope with the by far increasing number of publications that no longer allow for upload by a single person. This database

survives because of the contributions from the archaeobotanical community. Therefore we invite archaeobotanists worldwide to exchange data on this platform and by doing so, to increase the visibility and accessibility of our own publications.

For data upload we provide a Single-Import-Tool, to enter multiple records, we offer a Xlsx-Mass-Import-Tool. You first have to register with us with an informal mail stating "I want to register to ArchbotLit to archbotlit@ufg.uni-kiel.de – a measure to avoid spam entries.

Wiebke Kirleis, Helmut Kroll, Tanja Reiser, Clemens Schmid, Kay Schmütz, Institute for Prehistoric and Protohistoric Archaeology, Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel, Germany

We are eager to enlarge the number of active registered participants from the community of the Association for Environmental Archaeology and beyond!

For full details check www.wikis.uni-kiel.de/archbotlit.

In the case of any queries do not hesitate to contact us at archbotlit@ufg.uni-kiel.de.



AWG meeting, Worcester Woods 29th June 2019

The UK Archaeobotany Work Group (AWG) spring meeting was held in Worcester Woods Country Park on 29th June 2019, hosted by Liz Pearson, Senior Environmental Archaeologists at Worcestershire Archaeology. This was a hands-on meeting with the theme of plant textiles and dye plants which got us all thinking about what stages of fibre production or dyeing we might recognise in archaeobotanical samples. Liz is a keen allotment cultivator, spinner and textile crafter, as well as an active member of the AWG, and had brought along a range of tools and plant products associated with textile production, including bundles of flax which had been dew retted (bought from Flaxland <http://www.flaxland.co.uk/>) and home grown flax Liz

had water retted herself in a water-butt; water retted flax produces a paler colour, while dew retted is more silvery. Members of the group had a go at breaking or 'beetling' the retted stems (all using the dew retted material), followed by scotching and combing, then Liz demonstrated wheel spinning and we struggled with hand spinning. At each stage we thought about the by-products and products as well as the tools used.

The stages of flax processing are well established, but it was interesting to hear from Liz some different terminology, in part reflecting geographical differences. The stages as given by Pals and Dierendonk (1988) are shown in the table with local terms in italics.

Process	Purpose	Product/Waste
Pulling	Harvest	
Drying	Stiffening up the fibres	
Beating	Removal of capsules	Crushed capsules, seeds, weeds and their seeds
Rippling	Removal of capsules with a comb	Whole capsules, seeds, weeds and their seeds
Retting (dew or water)	Breaks down pectine in the bast by bacterial action	Retting pits with water – detritus rotting flax remnants, water plants; settlement noise
Breaking, Beetling	Separation of the wood parts from the bast fibres	Bast remnants; wood parts (<i>"scheven"</i> , <i>"shive"</i> or <i>"boon"</i>)
Swingling, Scutching	Cleaning out bits of stem by beating and combine	Bast remnants; wood parts (<i>"scheven"</i> , <i>"shive"</i> or <i>"boon"</i>)
Hackling	Cleaning and carding (combing)	Dust and small wood particles. Fibres include the strict or line (combed line flax) and tow (short lengths of line flax).
Spinning, weaving, dyeing etc	Fibres can be spun from a dressed distaff held over the shoulder, or from the lap. Lengths of fibre can be spliced together using water or saliva	

After lunch there was a microscope session: Gill Campbell showed the group a range of animal and plant fibres under the high powered microscope, demonstrating the differences between animal and plant fibres, and we had time to show each other mystery seeds and get help with identification. It was an extremely hot day but terrific fun, and it was really useful to be able to visualise the various stages and the by-products/products they produce. Many thanks to Liz, and to Worcester Woods Country Park.

Ruth Pelling,
Ruth.Pelling@HistoricEngland.org.uk

References

Pals, J. P. and van Dierendonck, M. C. 1988 Between Flax and Fabric: Cultivation and Processing of Flax in a Mediaeval Peat Reclamation Settlement Near Midwoud (Prov. Noord Holland) , *Journal of Archaeological Science* **15**,237-251

For more details of the AWG please see

<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/current/heritage-science/archaeobotanical-work-group/>



The AWG being introduced to flax processing by Liz Pearson. Photograph by Zoë Hazell



Breaking or beating

Retted stems are pulled through a wooden breaking or beating machine to break the woody parts of the stalk into smaller pieces by which can be separated from the flax fibre. Photograph by Kelly Reed



The broken wood fragments, called 'shives' or 'boon' fall through the fibre to the ground. Photograph by Ruth Pelling



Scutching

Swinging a wooden scutching knife down the flax to scrape it to remove, or scotch out, the shives that remain. Note the bundles of retted flax. Photograph by Emma Aitken

Hackling

Pulling the flax through a hackle with nails spaced fairly far apart to remove the straw, then with nails closer together to achieve supple and glossy fibres ready for spinning. The fibres that come off on the hackle are gathered to provide a lower quality product (the tow). Photo by Zoë Hazell



PalaeoFest 2019

The [Wildscapes Project](#), led by Nicki Whitehouse, Ben Gearey and Henry Chapman, aims to synthesise palaeoenvironmental and archaeological data from the Humberhead Levels to provide a coherent account of Holocene environmental change and human-environment interactions in what was formerly a truly wild landscape consisting of a complex mosaic of wetland environments. The former wetlands have been described as a Florida Everglades-like landscape by local historian Colin Howes, but their extent is now greatly reduced owing to drainage for agricultural intensification and industrial-scale peat extraction. The project is financed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and includes a substantial outreach and training component, with another aim being to connect local communities with their landscape and heritage.

During the first two years of the project we have held over a dozen workshops and public lectures, but one of the more unusual events we have organised was 'PalaeoFest', a four-day palaeoenvironmental extravaganza held at Hatfield Moors Education Centre from 30th June – 3rd July

2019. Nika Shilobod and Kim Davies, the PhD student and postdoctoral researcher on the project respectively, have been running a series of geoarchaeological workshops over the last year, giving volunteers the chance to learn how the sediments beneath their feet can tell us how the landscape has changed over time. Some of the volunteers have blogged about their experiences [here](#).

The idea behind PalaeoFest was to give people the opportunity to learn more about how we reconstruct past landscapes and environments once we have extracted a sediment core, and to get some practical experience of one particular technique: pollen analysis. Volunteers would be working on a core collected by Nika from the former Messic Mere last autumn, and we hoped that taking a citizen science approach to data collection would enable us to both connect with local communities and generate new data to add to our understanding of environmental change in the region. Prior to PalaeoFest we held a series of three palynological 'taster' sessions to give people the chance to find out what they were letting themselves in for by signing up!



Wildscapes project volunteers coring to locate Messic Mere, July 2018 (photo: Nika Shilobod)

PalaeoFest began with an introduction to the Wildscapes project from Nicki Whitehouse. Then it was time for the volunteers to get stuck in – those who had attended one of our earlier taster sessions got straight on with some counting, with Nicki and Suzi Richer on hand to help with identifications, while the newcomers were given an overview of the science of palaeoecology by

Jane Bunting, and an introduction to the technicalities of pollen identification and counting by Michelle Farrell. Following a coffee break, it was time for more counting, and for people who had not attended before, to learn the basics of pollen counting via the 'CoPol' software package (contact Jane Bunting m.j.bunting@hull.ac.uk for details if interested).



Counting of the Messic Mere pollen sequence gets underway at PalaeoFest (photo: Suzi Richer)



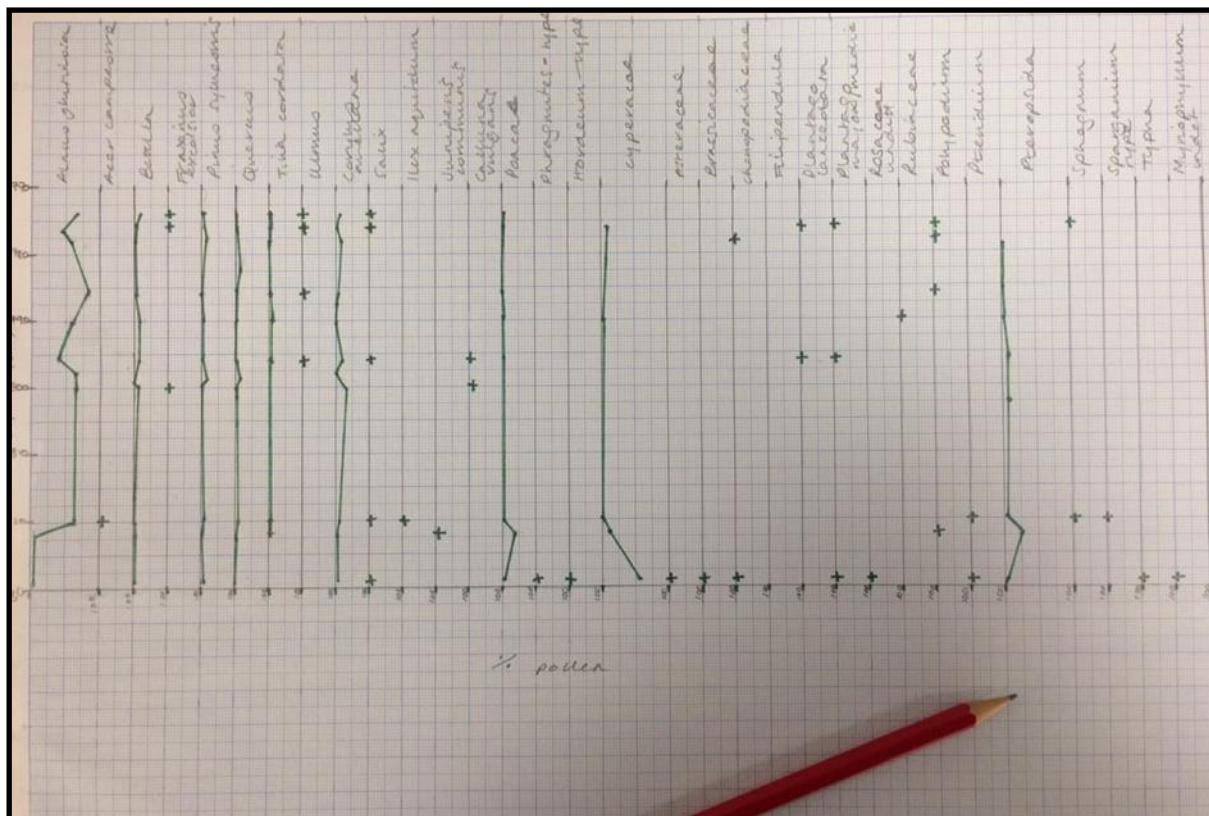
Tim Holt-Wilson very happy to have recognised and successfully identified his first pollen grain – it was alder! (photo: Suzi Richer)

The next two days were devoted to data collection, and on the final day it was time to bring all the data together, with the volunteers producing and interpreting their very own pollen diagram. To help with interpretation Nika gave a fascinating talk on her work to locate Messic Mere and situate it within its landscape and archaeological context. We produced a short pollen diagram from the basal sediments from Messic Mere, which showed that these were laid down in a marshy fen which was later colonised by alder trees to form carr woodland, whilst the wider landscape was wooded with pine, oak and other deciduous trees.

Overall, the Wildscapes team had a very enjoyable four days working with a fantastic group of enthusiastic volunteers, and we even managed to add a little bit more data to the unfolding story of Holocene environmental change in the Humberhead Levels.

There will be further coring opportunities in coming months and interested colleagues should contact Nika Shilobod if they would like to join us in the field (nika.shilobod@plymouth.ac.uk).

Michelle Farrell, on behalf of the Wildscapes Project team (Nicki Whitehouse, Ben Gearey, Henry Chapman, Jane Bunting, Kim Davies, Nika Shilobod, Suzi Richer & Michelle Farrell)



The final product: a pollen diagram for the basal sediments from Messic Mere (photo: Jane Bunting)



AEA

Spring conference 2020

Open Science Practices in
Environmental Archaeology

Open Science Practices in Environmental Archaeology Saturday 28th March 2020

The 2020 AEA Spring meeting will be taking place at the University of Oxford. Whilst the quantity of data produced through environmental archaeology, and the range of analytical techniques used to analyse it continues to grow, too often, methods, data and findings are not made available.

This one-day conference aims to discuss the collection, sharing, reuse, and reproducibility of all forms of environmental archaeological data and to explore how open science concepts are being implemented. Topics include open methods, open data, open source software, open access, open education and citizen science. We are keen to hear from those adopting these concepts in their research, which could include methodological standardisation, data compilation, meta-analysis, and the use of open publication platforms.

The CFP will be announced in September.

We look forward to seeing you in Oxford!

Organisers: Lisa Lodwick, Tom Maltas, Tina Roushannafas, Rubi Wu

Contact: aea2020spring@gmail.com

Early Neolithic in Europe – conference in Barcelona, 6th-8th November



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
9. Symbolism.

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

<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

Organizing committee

Ferran Borrell, CSIC-IMF, Barcelona

Ignacio Clemente, CSIC-IMF, Barcelona

Miriam Cubas, Universidad de Oviedo

Juan F. Gibaja, CSIC-IMF, Barcelona

Juan J. Ibáñez, CSIC-IMF, Barcelona

Niccolò Mazzucco, CSIC-IMF, Barcelona

Millán Mozota, CSIC-IMF, Barcelona

Ariadna Nieto-Espinet, CSIC-IMF, Barcelona

Xavier Terradas, CSIC-IMF, Barcelona

Silvia Valenzuela-Lamas, CSIC-IMF, Barcelona



Session 272

Crop Husbandry Across the Iron Age and Roman Periods: Bringing Together the Picture of Human-crop Interaction across Europe

Whilst European wide-narratives of changes in animal husbandry are available for the later prehistoric and Roman periods, with a shift towards cattle husbandry and an increase in animal size widely observed, the picture for crop husbandry remains fragmented. The study of crop choice and farming practice are crucial for examining how societies interacted with their landscape, and how these practices were shaped by changing climatic, and socio-cultural factors, namely the expansion of Phoenician and Greek influence, and later, of the Roman empire and the subsequent establishment of villa agriculture systems. This session aims to bring together researchers working across Europe to present regional syntheses in order to establish where and when the key shifts in crop choice took place, and to begin to evaluate the reasons why these changes happened – was the development of market-orientated crop production, shifts in culinary tastes, or local environmental factors more important for crop choice decisions

Session 60

Beyond "Founder Crops": New Insights into Understudied Food Plant Resources

Whilst European wide-narratives of changes in animal husbandry are available for the later prehistoric and Roman periods, with a shift towards cattle husbandry and an increase in animal size widely observed, the picture for crop husbandry remains fragmented. The study of crop choice and farming practice are crucial for examining how societies interacted with their landscape, and how these practices were shaped by changing climatic, and socio-cultural factors, namely the expansion of Phoenician and Greek influence, and later, of the Roman empire and the subsequent establishment of villa agriculture systems. This session aims to bring together researchers working across Europe to present regional syntheses in order to establish where and when the key shifts in crop choice took place, and to begin to evaluate the reasons why these changes happened – was the development of market-orientated crop production, shifts in culinary tastes, or local environmental factors more important for crop choice decisions

Within the framework of this session we would like to bring together researchers working on the cultivation of wild plants and the domestication of minor crops in Southwestern Asia, Northern Africa and Europe. We also encourage new archaeobotanical and paleogenomic discoveries to be presented, to track and date changes in the phenotypes and genotypes of plants that are considered marginal, but were instead crucial for the survival of ancient and modern-primitive communities. Papers that discuss the mechanism of exploitation of minor crops among modern traditional societies from an ethnographic perspective are considered relevant to the discussion.

AEA Photo Competition 2019

The last newsletter announced the opening of the AEA Photo Competition 2019!

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you to get out there, get snapping, and take part!

Inspired by the winning photo of last years competition (how could we forget those inquisitive cows) the theme for this year will be

“Public Engagement”

We invite submissions from our members on this theme in its broadest sense. Entries should be sent to the AEA Secretary with details of the photographer, the location, and the project which is associated with the photo.

(Don.O’Meara@historicengland.org.uk),

The deadline for submissions will be November 1st and a short list of entrants will be presented at the AEA conference in Sheffield 29th November – December 1st



AEA Annual General Meeting and Managing Committee Elections

The 2019 Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 30th November 17:30-18:30, at the [autumn conference](#) in Sheffield. This short meeting will include discussion of the Association and Managing Committee's activities over the last 12 months and plans for the future, present our accounts for the preceding year, announce the winners of the 2019 John Evan's dissertation prize and provide a venue for discussion of any other business proposed prior to the meeting.

If you would like to propose an item for AOB please contact the Secretary (Don O'Meara; envarch@envarch.net) or Chair (Gill Campbell; Gill.Campbell@HistoricEngland.org.uk) in advance of the AGM.

AGM Agenda:

- Report on Committee activities and John Evans Prize result
- Environmental Archaeology: Discussion of future plans for the journal.
- Election of new Committee members
- Treasurer's report including summary accounts
- Any Other Business
- Election results

Committee Elections 2019

If you would like to stand as, Ordinary Member or Student Representative please apply online <http://envarch.net/nominations/> providing the names and email addresses of two other AEA members who have agreed to nominate and second you. The positions are open to any member of the AEA, and we encourage you to email for more information if you would like to stand. The committee has representatives from a range of backgrounds (commercial, academic, student representatives, and heritage organisations). We try to ensure we have a range of representatives to cover the breadth of our membership.

A common questions posed by members is; how much time does will it take up? This very much depends on the member. We appreciate people have a whole range of personal and professional time pressures. There is no fixed time demand, and it relies very much on what you can contribute. This could be a quite involved activity such as conference officer, or as simple as monitoring and promoting one of our social media platforms. For students a common concern is that they are too junior to consider standing for the committee. Again, this is not relevant as long as you are passionate about promoting environmental archaeology, and keen to see what goes into the organisation of the AEA. For both Ordinary member and Student Rep positions there is no fixed role which needs to be taken on once you join the committee. Often for the first year of a committee member's term they can observe the role of the committee and decide what role they might like to take on from year 2 onwards.

The committee meets 4 times per year. Once at the autumn conference, one meeting is held virtually, and two meetings are held face to face (if you can attend). For geographic reasons these meetings are often held in the UK, but we encourage members from outside the UK to consider standing for election. We are exploring new ways of using teleconferencing to include committee members who cannot travel for meetings, and there are still many roles which can be supported even if the member is based outside the UK.

Please contact the committee through envarch@envarch.net for further information or with any queries.

Voting in the election:

Voting in the election is in person or by proxy. If you will not be able to attend the AGM, an attending member of the Association can vote on your behalf, provided a statement appointing your proxy is given to the Committee prior to the AGM. The Chair, Secretary and any other attending committee members are happy to act as proxy voters. Please contact us through envarch@envarch.net or our individual email addresses (<http://envarch.net/committee-members/>) if you would like us to act as your proxy.



Musings from Social Media



ZooarchLab Sheffield
@ZooarchLabSheff

Last weekend some of the team took part in the WE Wonder festival at Wentworth Woodhouse. They talked about #zooarchaeology and @UniShefArch!



Celebrating the career of Professor Mark Maltby #BUProud 1990-2019 as the cake says BU academic 1990-2019 #zooarchaeologist #scholar Fine human being #Maltbyfest



Dr Sara Machin
@saradigs

Flotation Friday Fun #environmentalscience #archaeobotany #Archaeology #digging #fieldschool #silchester



Benjamin Gearey
@BenjaminGearey

Hot off the press! @IntarchEditor 'Environmental Archaeology Theory+Practice: Looking Back, Moving Forwards' @EnviroSuzi @DrM_Farrell @seren_griffiths papers @m_law @geomythkavanagh @osteoconnor @LisaLodwick @marchant_robert intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue5...

Environmental Archaeology Crash Course bamburghresearchproject.wordpress.com/2019/07/25/env...





<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

EAA 2019
4th-7th September 2019

Early Neolithic in Europe conference, Barcelona
6th-8th November 2019

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

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

AEA Spring Meeting
28th March 2020

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 October 2019
Rhiannon Philp, Daisy Spencer and Tom Fowler