

# Association for Environmental Archaeology

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AEA Newsletter 152

August 2021

Dear members,

As I am writing this the sun is shining and I have been enjoying getting out in the field a bit and seeing more people at work. It does however feel that we are in the midst of the storm, though as a wise colleague said 'same storm different boats'. The news is grim, with more closures of archaeology departments in the UK announced, record summer temperatures, wildfires and floods, as well as human conflict and the continuing devastation caused by the pandemic both direct and indirect. Environmental archaeology has never been more relevant for the perspectives it brings to catastrophic events and for the insights it provides as we struggle to alter our relationship with the planet.

This issue of the newsletter includes an article on environmental archaeology at Sheffield summarising their current teaching and research and highlighting the contribution the department to the discipline. There is also a great summary of the recent online seminar on 'Environmental archaeology in Ireland: new perspectives' held as part of Heritage Week Ireland 2021. There is also an article introducing the wonderful short film on archaeobotany and bucket flotation made by members of the Institute for Prehistoric and Protohistoric Archaeology, Kiel University (CAU). I was particularly impressed by the use of solar power, car batteries and paper bags for storing samples. A window into a more

sustainable archaeological practice.

In terms of AEA activities, I would like to draw your attention to a short piece summarising the results of our membership survey. Thank you to everyone who filled this in and for your comments and useful suggestions. Given that many respondents to the survey would consider opting for an online subscription the journal rather than receiving both a hard copy and an online subscription we will be putting a proposal to the membership at the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) to revise subscription fees. This proposal will be circulated well before the AGM for your consideration and published in the next newsletter.

Wishing all our members the very best.

**Gill Campbell, August 2021**



## Sheffield and the making of environmental archaeology

The development of environmental archaeology in Britain—and arguably worldwide—is inextricably associated with the University of Sheffield. It was in Sheffield that the first specialised courses in environmental archaeology were pioneered, and a large proportion of the world’s archaeologists currently researching the past relationship between human societies and their natural world were trained in Sheffield. The success of the Sheffield environmental archaeology school rests on the integration of the study of past ecologies with other areas of investigation in archaeology. Rather than being the subject of an independent subdiscipline, the environment is seen as a research theme to be investigated in an interdisciplinary fashion. The Sheffield approach continues to influence the development of archaeological thought across the world.

Sheffield archaeologists have also been very closely associated with the AEA. The very first issue of the journal *Environmental Archaeology* (“Fodder: Archaeological, Historical and Ethnographic Studies”) featured the proceedings of a conference organised in Sheffield, and Glynis Jones was the first editor of the journal, which marked a successful transition from the former *Circaea*. It is fitting that the 2019 AEA conference, celebrating the 40th year

of the organisation, was held in Sheffield. This was very successful, attracting excellent participation and demonstrating that the Sheffield archaeology team had not lost any of its verve. The active contribution of Sheffield young scholars and students was especially heart-warming.

Despite the scaling down of the Department due to under-investment by the University, Sheffield is still seen worldwide as a leading school in environmental archaeology. The hands-on experience combined with a theoretically informed approach continues to attract students and stimulate interest and admiration in the research community. The investment we have put into the creation of some of the most complete and best organised bioarchaeological reference collections in the world helps us substantially in our teaching and research.

The decision taken by the University of Sheffield Executive Board to close the Department of Archaeology will undermine the study of our past, the research prominence of British archaeology, and the academic standing of the university and the city. Students and staff, as well as local, regional, national and international communities, have been united in condemning it as an act of cultural vandalism. Our struggle to save our department carries on with the



support of our Unions and the determination of thousands of conscientious individuals, unprepared to accept the demise of the place they love and admire.

In the following sections, we briefly present some of our core areas of teaching and research in 'environmental archaeology', but it is worth pointing out that an investigation of the environment features in all our archaeological projects.

### ***Zooarchaeology***

Graeme Barker and then, even more prominently, Paul Halstead, developed zooarchaeology in Sheffield, training hundreds of students and creating suitable laboratories and reference collections. They focused on the study of vertebrates, while Paul Buckland and his collaborators developed, in parallel, the field of archaeoentomology, which was especially suited to the understanding of ancient environments. The arrival of Umberto Albarella in 2004 further stimulated the field.

Nowadays, the Sheffield Zooarchaeology Team is famous worldwide and regarded as an example of dynamism, collaboration, and collective decision-making. Sheffield was the best represented team in the world at the last two conferences of the International Council of Archaeozoology, in Argentina (2014) and Turkey (2018). The MSc in Osteoarchaeology (combining the study of human and animal bones) has successfully complemented the MSc in Environmental Archaeology and Palaeoeconomy (now converged into the MSc in Archaeological Science) in establishing many current upcoming scholars in the field. Our famously inclusive and engaging short courses have opened the doors of the university to hundreds of external students, professionals and enthusiasts. We work on many periods and research themes and in many geographic areas.

This is a deliberate choice to make our work flexible and potentially attractive to students coming from all over the globe. The Aegean area, Central

Mediterranean and Britain are areas of special focus, building on many years of research tradition, but we also work in Iberia, the Alpine area, central Europe, Scandinavia, western Asia, North America and Australia.

Our methodological work on issues such as taxonomic identification, butchery, ageing, dental microwear and biometry is especially renowned. We also collaborate with palaeogeneticists and, especially, isotopic specialists; more recently we have ventured into the analysis of geometric-morphometrics. Prominent projects focus on the Stonehenge landscape (ritual, mobility, settlement), patterns of Neolithisation in South-East Europe (domestication, feasting, consumption), the zooarchaeology of transition and cultural transmission (Mesolithic to Neolithic, Mid to Late Iron Age, Iron Age to Roman, Roman to Medieval, Medieval to Modern), and the use of animals in the Middle Ages (social status, hunting, fishing, husbandry development, breed 'improvement'). Our reference collection is world-renowned and arguably the best in the country; the possibility that it could be destroyed or dispersed represents an inconceivable loss for the worlds of archaeology and comparative osteology.

### ***Archaeobotany***

Archaeobotany was introduced to the Sheffield Department by Robin Dennell, and later taken up by Glynis Jones in 1984, shortly after the MSc in Environmental Archaeology and Palaeoeconomy was initiated. This course, augmented by Mike Charles, Kevin Edwards and Rob Craigie, went on to train generations of archaeobotanists and palynologists (as well as other environmental specialists), many of whom have gone on to environmental positions at university archaeology departments and archaeological units across Britain, the rest of Europe, and more distant institutions in places such as Western Asia and the USA.

The Sheffield archaeobotanical laboratory benefits from extensive reference collections (seeds,

charcoal, roots/tubers, pollen, phytoliths and starch) as well as a microscopy imaging suite and flotation facilities. Sheffield Archaeobotanical Consultancy (SAC), established in 2010 within the Archaeology Department, provides professional services to academic research projects, commercial archaeological units, government organisations and community heritage groups. SAC is involved in the Stonehenge research project investigating ancient foodways and the recent discovery of Stonehenge's origins in the Preseli Mountains. In the local area, SAC has provided environmental analyses for the Sheffield Castle and Sheffield Manor Lodge investigations, two nationally important excavations.

The Sheffield Centre for Archaeobotany and Ancient Land-use hosts a number of major interdisciplinary research projects, funded by the ERC, NERC and other national and international funding bodies. The most recently completed projects include an evolutionary approach to the origins of agriculture, in collaboration with the Department of Animal and Plant Sciences at Sheffield, which emphasises the role of plant ecology in driving the domestication process; and the final resolution (thanks to the meticulous work of our collaborators at the University of Manchester) of the previously intractable identification of an extinct glume wheat found only at early archaeological sites in Europe and Western Asia, which has significant implications for our understanding of past crop diversity and agricultural origins. The results of both projects were published in 2021 and have already attracted considerable interest both within and beyond the archaeological community.

Current archaeobotanical field projects focus on urbanism and identity in the Bronze Age Levant through the site of Tel Beit Yerah (Tel Aviv University), and highland agriculture and cultural transitions in the Bronze Age Caucasus at the sites of Chobareti and Rabati (Georgian National Museum and the University of Melbourne). Other research projects include a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship researching cultural connections across

the Bell Beaker horizon through the crop choices and cultivation strategies at Bell Beaker and contemporary sites, and the ERC-funded ADAPT project (PI Terry Brown, Manchester) examining how crops from Western Asia adapted or failed to adapt to new environmental conditions as agriculture spread across Europe.

### ***Geoarchaeology and Palaeoenvironments***

The Department of Archaeology at Sheffield has a rich and long history of international geoarchaeological research and excellent postgraduate teaching. David Gilbertson joined Sheffield in the 1970s as one of the first physical geographers to be based in an archaeology department, undertaking some of the most innovative geoarchaeological research projects with colleagues in the department and wider university (from Creswell Crags to the Outer Hebrides). The 1990s saw the appointment of Charles Frederick to teach geoarchaeology and who further developed the profile of geoarchaeological research, most notably on projects in the Aegean and North America. He was followed by Gianna Ayala who collaborates on international landscape projects focussing on human impact throughout the Mediterranean, Aegean and central Asia.

Geoarchaeology at Sheffield has always spanned different subject areas and has been a key component of postgraduate degrees in Environmental archaeology and Palaeoecology, as well as Landscape archaeology. Since the 1970s geoarchaeology teaching at Sheffield has provided students with unique field and laboratory experiences. In the early 2000s Sheffield was home to one of the few Geoarchaeology MSc programmes that were taught jointly within the Archaeology and the Geography departments. In 2009, the two departments co-hosted the Developing International Geoarchaeology conference. Students have been supported to develop their own independent geoarchaeological projects for undergraduate and MSc dissertations projects through to doctoral research, exploring broad themes including how

agricultural practices have transformed the landscape, pollution and environmental degradation caused by metal working, historic responses and adaptation to climate change, and historic water management. Students have also conducted research with department staff on large international projects investigating Neolithic landscape development and adaptation to climate change (Çatalhöyük, Turkey), site formation processes along with the use and construction of domestic spaces (Bronze Age Knossos, Crete) and sustainability in fluvial systems (Vulci, Italy).

'Futures Fens', funded by NERC, includes a project applying palaeoecological research techniques to identify habitat and land-use regimes that could form models for future sustainable conservation management of fenland landscapes. Another NERC PhD project based in west Wales is using diatoms, foraminifera and pollen to reconstruct Holocene sea-level change and its impacts on vegetation and human settlement. We are also using a

geoarchaeological approach to research the historic charcoal industry of Yorkshire.

These examples only scratch the surface of the multitude of approaches that the Sheffield team is using for the study of past human communities in their ecological contexts. The curtailing of this cutting-edge research would represent a major blow to the development of archaeology in Britain and beyond.

**Umberto Albarella, Gianna Ayala, Bob Johnston, Glynis Jones, Catherine Longford & Angela Maccarinelli**

*(Dept. of Archaeology, University of Sheffield)*



## Environmental Archaeology Ireland (EAI) Seminar Series



For those who don't know us, Environmental Archaeology Ireland (EAI) was established in 2016 to provide a collaborative forum where practitioners could discuss and share results, build professional relationships, establish strategies for the development of the profession and raise awareness of environmental archaeology. This year we have launched a series of online seminars to disseminate recent findings and promote environmental archaeology in Ireland to a wider audience.

Our first event took place during Heritage Week (Ireland) online on Thursday 19th August 2021. The theme of the event was "*Environmental Archaeology in Ireland: New Perspectives*". We featured short presentations on recent research findings from Dr Daisy Spencer, Environmental Archaeologist at IAC Ltd (pollen), Dr David Stone, who recently completed a PhD at UCD School of Archaeology (plant macro-remains) and Dr Steve Davis,

Assistant Professor at UCD School of Archaeology (insects).

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion, chaired by Dr Ellen O Carroll, Research Fellow at UCD School of Archaeology.

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Dr Daisy Spencer opened the seminar with a talk on 'New Insights into Prehistoric Farming from Pollen Analysis'. This paper introduced the basics of pollen analysis and how it can be used effectively in archaeological investigations with a particular focus on anthropogenic indicators (pastoral herb taxa and cereal-type).

The pollen records from two study lakes (Lough Inchiquin and Rosroe Lough) in Co. Clare, western Ireland were discussed in relation to human-environment interactions throughout prehistory. A comparison of the two records was made which highlighted differing periods

of pastoral and arable farming, and woodland regeneration, within the catchments of both lakes. While people had modified the landscape since the Early Neolithic at Lough Inchiquin, it wasn't until the Early Bronze Age that this started to occur significantly at Rosroe Lough.

The Late Bronze Age was found to be the period of most intensive farming in both lake catchments, which was to be expected at Rosroe Lough, but more of a surprise for the Burren landscape surrounding Lough Inchiquin. The pollen results were linked to the archaeology in both landscapes to enhance the archaeological narratives of each area.

Dr David Stone was next with a talk entitled 'Archaeobotany in Azerbaijan: Contributions of plant macro-remains analyses to the understanding of agriculture in the Late Antique and Islamic Period Bardha'a (2nd—16th century)'. This paper discussed aspects of his recent PhD research in Azerbaijan. As part of 'The Archaeological Exploration of Barda Project 2015—2019' he conducted fieldwork to collect soil samples for archaeobotanical research, recovering material ranging over a 1400-year period, providing the first archaeobotanical evidence of crops cultivated in Late Antique and Islamic Periods in Azerbaijan. Analysis revealed that different agricultural landscapes existed between the Sassanian (2nd—6th century) and Islamic periods (11th—16th century) in Azerbaijan, with the expansion and diversification of the range of crops cultivated and the introduction of several new important species to the region. Further differences in agricultural production were also observed between the earlier (11th—12th century) and later (13th—16th century) Islamic periods excavated indicating changing practices and adaptations to changing climatic or social events in the region.

Dr Steve Davis closed the session with a paper on 'Archaeological Insect Analysis in Ireland:

Past, Present and Future'. This was really a position piece masquerading as a potted history. He briefly summarised the work in Ireland since the late 1970s, in particular the early work of Russel Coope and extensive contribution of Eileen Reilly. This was used to highlight the current gaps in our knowledge and in our process—the idea, for example, that results that confirm expectations can be seen as disappointing. The lack of joined up thinking in what we sometimes do - small numbers of incompletely sampled features from complex urban sites - means that putting all this together to tell stories about the past based on data is very aspirational at the moment. We need to be asking the right questions and taking the right samples to be getting the right answers.

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The seminar was a great success with engaging talks and around 45 attendees. Interesting questions followed on the use of environmental archaeology for present day issues sparking replies on rewilding and climate change from our speakers. Other questions focused on specific aspects of the papers and how they got into this particular field of research. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that came to the seminar. If you missed it and, having your interest peaked by these summaries, would like to watch we have posted a video of the presentations [here](#) (the panel discussion was not recorded).

Our next seminar will take place online (via zoom) on Thursday 21st October 2021 from 7pm to 8.30pm. More details can be found on the [EAI website](#) in the coming weeks.

We hope to see you there!!

**Daisy Spencer, David Stone & Steve Davis**  
*On behalf of the EAI*

# 12<sup>th</sup> International Meeting for Phytolith Research

**7-11 September 2021  
Kiel, Germany**

The 12<sup>th</sup> IMPR is approaching!

It will be held as a virtual conference as part of the 27<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists.

More than 100 contributions belonging to six IMPR-sessions are waiting for you to explore phytolith research!

We are looking forward to meeting you!

*The 12<sup>th</sup> IMPR organizers*



**EAA**  
**2021** Kiel, 8-11 Sept.  
Widening Horizons



Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

**Contact:**

12impr@email.uni-kiel.de

>> [www.e-a-a.org//eaa2021](http://www.e-a-a.org//eaa2021)  
>> [phytoliths.org](http://phytoliths.org)  
>> [www.12impr.uni-kiel.de/en](http://www.12impr.uni-kiel.de/en)

## SAA Zooarchaeology Interest Group Poster Session

The Zooarchaeology Interest Group of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) will be sponsoring a poster session and a session of papers at the SAA meeting (March 30—April 3) in Chicago. If you are interested in presenting a paper or a poster, please contact Pam Crabtree ([pc4@nyu.edu](mailto:pc4@nyu.edu)) for more information.



## Black Diamonds

### Bucket flotation for archaeobotanical investigations of archaeological dry soil sites

Environmental Archaeology / Archaeobotany at the  
Institute for Prehistoric and Protohistoric Archaeology  
CAU Kiel



A German—English educational film documenting archaeobotanical sample preparation on excavation was produced within the CRC1266 as a by-product of research into social and agricultural transformations in the Late Bronze Age in cooperation with the Cluster of Excellence EXC 2150 ROOTS. The professional film shoot was realised by Roman Adler from Kiel. The short film introduces archaeobotanical sample preparation and gives helpful and practical advice on safely handling archaeobotanical material.

The film accompanies the sample extraction on the CRC1266 excavation in Dobbin (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania) under the direction of Dr Jutta Kneisel. It explains the importance of archaeobotanical investigations for archaeological research.

The search for old plant remains, i.e. archaeobotanical analyses, allows us to decipher the diet of the time and make statements about agriculture. In this case, the cooperation between archaeologists and archaeobotanists through the subprojects of the CRC1266 expands the knowledge about an archaeological site and the living conditions and makes it possible to understand how everyday life was organised at that time.

The 11-minute short film shows the individual steps that each archaeobotanical sample has to go through—step by step and excellently explained, understandable for professionals and laymen. The advantage of bucket flotation, which is presented here by Prof. Dr. Kirleis and her team, is that the samples can be mudded near the excavation site—even in waters with extremely low water levels. Another advantage: instead of a 10-litre bucket full of sediment, only a sample bag with a drop of water needs to be brought to the laboratory! At the Institute for Prehistory and Early History, samples are washed and dried in the laboratory and then sorted and determined at the binocular—a microscope.

With this educational film, a digital format is now available that can be used to prepare practical archaeobotanical exercises and archaeological excavations at universities, and can also be used for museum education and in the Kiel research workshop for pupils and teachers in the archaeo:lab.

You can watch the video via the [Kiel University You Tube channel](#).



## BOX OFFICE BEARS

### **Box Office Bears (BOB): A research project on animal baiting**

Box Office Bears: Animal baiting in early modern England, is a UK Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded project bringing together researchers from the Universities of Nottingham, Roehampton and Oxford and project partner Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA).

Baiting is the pitting of one animal against another for human entertainment. Most often it involved dogs against bears or bulls, but occasionally lions or other animals were included too. In the early modern period in England (c. AD 1500—1700) it was regulated by the monarch's Keeper of the Bulls, Bears, and Mastiff Dogs, and rivalled the theatres in popularity.

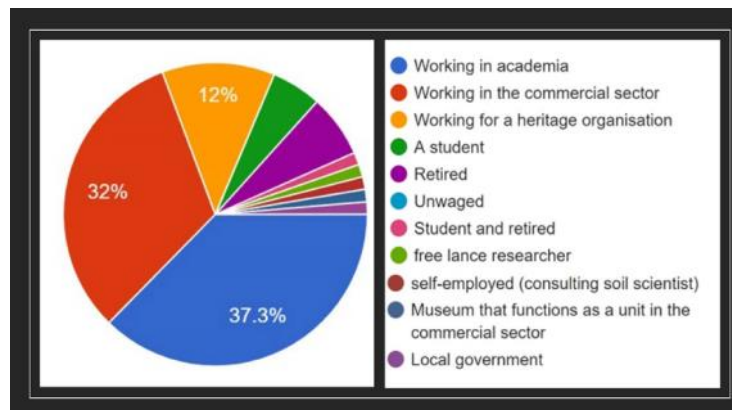
In the BOB project we are combining zooarchaeology, archive studies, stable isotope analysis and archaeogenetics to explore the lives of the animals and people involved in this cruel 'sport' during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. During this time a number of large arenas were built on Bankside in London to house the dogs and bears and give the best views of the performances, but bears were also taken on the road to various other areas of the country, where baiting took place in less formalised spaces such as marketplaces.

Our project is focused on England, but we are interested to know about other evidence for animal baiting in Europe and further afield. If you know of sites where baiting activity took place, or can suggest archival sources to look at, then please get in touch with Lizzie Wright ([lizzie.wright1@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:lizzie.wright1@nottingham.ac.uk)) or Hannah O'Regan ([Hannah.Oregan@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Hannah.Oregan@nottingham.ac.uk)).

## AEA Membership Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who responded to the membership survey. We truly appreciate your feedback as it helps the managing committee think about where to direct our efforts and what changes to make and propose to members.

We had 75 responses to the questionnaire, with the location of those responding mirroring that of the overall membership. We also gained some information on whether our members are working in academia or in the commercial sector and the proportion of retired members etc.



Of the activities that the AEA carries out and the benefits of being a member of the AEA, subscription to our journal, being part of a research community, and having an input into policies and issues affecting the discipline were ranked highest, followed by the small research grants, reduced or no fees at conferences including the provision of conference bursaries, and sponsorship of seminars and webinars. The John Evans Dissertation prize and the other membership awards and prizes were ranked lowest. While these results require further unpicking, they do indicate that the Association has got the balance of where we put our resources about right and that we are concentrating on the things that matter most to our members.

One of the important results from the survey was that 55 of 75 respondents would consider opting for an online only subscription to the journal. Of those that would consider this option 33% would opt for a reduced membership fee while 66% would consider paying the same membership rate to support the AEA's other activities. This means that the managing committee will be putting forward a proposal to the membership for revising our subscription rates to include an online

subscription rate only and reduced fees for student members. We are still working on the details of this but will be putting a proposal together for consideration at the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

In terms of whether the AEA should fund Article Processing Charges (APCs) for Gold Open Access publication of papers in *Environmental Archaeology* for those in receipt of a Small research Grant (c. £1,300 per article) there was not a clear mandate. This is a thorny issue and requires further thought and work, especially as publishing is undergoing such a period of rapid change.

Respondents were keen to continue to receive the newsletter by email, with the AEA jiscmail lists ranking highest in importance as a means of communicating AEA activities. Developing a members' area of the website further received a somewhat mixed response. 48% of respondents were in favour, 42% didn't mind either way and 9% were against the idea. This means that the managing committee need to think more about what a community hub on the website would look like and what purposes it would serve.

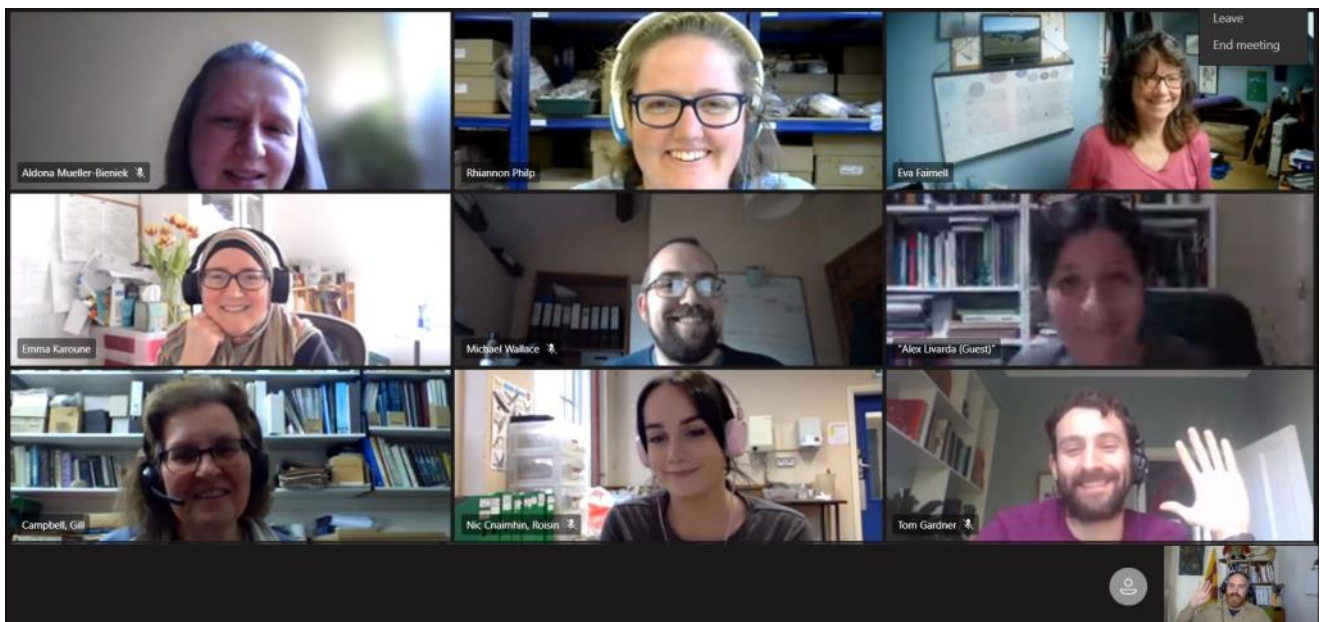
**Gill Campbell and Emma Karoune**

## 2021 AEA Managing Committee Elections: Call for Nominations

Elections for new committee members will be held during the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which will be held online. The date and time of the meeting will be communicated to members via email in the coming weeks.

This year we are seeking nominations for Chair (four-year term), three Ordinary Members (four-year terms) and one Student Representative (two-year term). If you would like to stand as Chair, an Ordinary Member or Student Representative please apply by emailing Don O'Meara or Gill Campbell: [envarch@envarch.net](mailto:envarch@envarch.net)

You will need to provide a personal statement and the names and email addresses of two AEA members who have agreed to nominate and second you. We welcome nominees from any country, but please note that meetings are conducted in English. We can receive nominations up to the beginning of the AGM, so please continue to submit your nominations for all three categories. Current nominations are displayed after the role descriptions in this newsletter.



## More about the roles

### *Chair*

The Chair leads the Association, enacting its mission to promote environmental archaeology worldwide and serving the membership of the AEA and the wider community of environmental archaeologists. The Chair does this in close collaboration with the Managing Committee, which meets regularly to identify and debate issues in environmental archaeology and decide on priorities for action. The chair also works with the Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary to ensure smooth running of the Association, in particular they make sure that the AEA's infrastructure is fit for purpose and its finances are well managed.

### *Ordinary Member*

The committee includes 12 elected Ordinary Members who contribute to the management and promotion of the AEA. Ordinary Members sit on review panels for prize and grant decisions and may take on a specific role such as Conference Officer, Grants Officer, Prize Administrator, etc., during their term of office. They help shape the direction and priorities of the Association, from working on policy to building relationships with other organisations.

### *Student Representative*

The committee includes two Student Representatives, with one new Student Representative elected each year. The post is open to both undergraduates and postgraduate students and is an excellent opportunity to get involved with the environmental archaeology community.

**Committee Position:** Ordinary Member

**Name:** Catherine Longford

**Affiliation:** University of Sheffield

**Email:** [catherine.longford@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.longford@gmail.com)

I am an archaeobotanist based at the University of Sheffield. I am interested in food and identity (both archaeological and modern), agricultural decision-making, crop choices and risk management in ancient societies. I've been a member of the AEA since 2004 when I was an undergraduate at the University of Melbourne, Australia. I completed my MSc in Environmental Archaeology and Palaeoeconomy and PhD at Sheffield. Following my PhD I worked for Headland Archaeology as a post-excavation supervisor before returning to Sheffield as a post-doctoral researcher on the ADAPT project for Glynis Jones investigating the spread of crops across Europe in the Neolithic. Currently I am a British Academy post-doctoral fellow researching cultural connections through crop choices and cultivation strategies in the Bell Beaker period. I have taught archaeobotany at the University of Nottingham and I am currently teaching MSc courses in archaeobotany at Sheffield. I've worked as an archaeobotanist on research projects in Bulgaria, Turkey, Israel, Georgia and the UK and commercially as part of the Sheffield Archaeobotany Consultancy. In 2019 I was on the organising committee of the 40th AEA autumn conference held at Sheffield and I would like contribute more to the AEA by joining the committee as an ordinary member.

**Nominated by:** Alexandra Livarda [alivarda@icac.cat](mailto:alivarda@icac.cat)

**Seconded by:** Michael Wallace [michael.wallace@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:michael.wallace@headlandarchaeology.com)

**Committee Position:** Ordinary Member

**Name:** Matt Law

**Affiliation:** L - P : Archaeology/ Bath Spa University

**Email:** [m.law@lparchaeology.com](mailto:m.law@lparchaeology.com)

I have been a member of the AEA since 2004, and currently divide my time between commercial work as the environmental archaeology manager for L - P : Archaeology, a medium-sized archaeology company in the UK with offices in London, Essex, Chester and Bristol; and teaching and research as Senior Lecturer in Environmental Change & Sustainability in the Geography department at Bath Spa University. My primary specialism is the identification and interpretation of mollusc shell assemblages, although I have fairly broad interests in ecological change, Quaternary sciences, site formation processes, environmental sustainability and past human health and lifestyles. I am especially interested in mentoring, training and wellbeing within the discipline, and working to ensure the sustainability of the specialisms, especially primary identification skills, that we rely on.

**Nominated by:** Gill Campbell [gill.campbell@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:gill.campbell@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

**Seconded by:** Don O'Meara [DO'Meara@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:DO'Meara@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

## AEA Research Grants

### **Apply for the next round!**

Applications for the AEA Small Research Grants are invited once a year, with an application deadline of 28th February.

Applicants are required to complete the application form detailing the total sum requested and breakdown of costs, how the grant will contribute to the overall research project and what the benefits will be. Please send your completed application form to the grants officer at [alivarda@icac.cat](mailto:alivarda@icac.cat)

All applications must be accompanied by a referee's statement of support.

Enquiries should be directed to the AEA research grants officer, [alivarda@icac.cat](mailto:alivarda@icac.cat).

Applications will be assessed by members of the committee and applicants informed of the results of their application by the end of March.

## Open Science Skills Workshop

### Autumn 2021

We had very positive responses to the proposal of an open science skills workshop as our autumn event. Therefore, this is being planned to occur this coming November and will be an introductory workshop to all things open science and highlight lots of available resources.

We were very happy to hear your opinions about accessibility to this workshop, so we are trying to take as many of these into account as possible.

The workshop will be fully online and free.

It will be a full day session—the session will run twice on two different dates—one on a weekday and one on the weekend.

The weekend session will be timed to be accessible to our members in North and South America.

It will be kept to a small group, probably a maximum of 30 attendees for each session, so that it can be a combination of talks and small group discussion sessions.

We will also record the talks and make all the materials openly accessible so that members who are not able to attend can take advantage of these resources.

The specific dates and booking arrangements will be advertised on the AEA mail list as they are released.

If you have any questions about this workshop or are interested in helping, please do get in touch with Emma Karoune ([ekaroune@googlemail.com](mailto:ekaroune@googlemail.com)).





# Trending in Environmental Archaeology



Welcome to our Social Media roundup of all things Environmental Archaeology! Here you will find snapshots from social media selected by our Student Representative to provide a flavour of what has been happening online in the world of Environmental Archaeology during the last quarter.

If you have a particular social media campaign that you would like featured on this page, please email the

AEA Retweeted

**Dr Lisa-Marie Shillito**  
@ArchaeologyLisa

Here you can see I am REALLY interested in this soil core. Thanks to @vanwalt for an enjoyable day of training, and an excuse to get the Munsell out!

**Van Walt Ltd** @vanwalt · Jul 22

From the Sundarbans, Congo & Kurdistan, to a Roman fortification at Hadrian's Wall in the NE. This is where our latest training took place for the Van Walt Window Sampling System. Many thanks to @VindolandaTrust & the rest of the team. #windowsampling #soilresearch #archaeology

9:35 AM · Jul 22, 2021 · Twitter Web App

AEA Retweeted

**Don O'Meara**  
@don\_o\_meara

I am going to start leaving #archaeobotany reviews for hotels on TripAdvisor  
"Excellent low shelf for pre-draining resides and placing flots. Hair dryer worked well until it burnt out. Bath drain was clogged for some reason. 8/10"

8:15 PM · Aug 4, 2021 · Twitter for Android

AEA Retweeted

**Lindisfarne Landscapes Archaeology**  
@LDLandscape

Day 10. 🌱 Identifying potential sampling sites for soil #phytoliths with plant id expert & palaeobotanist @don\_o\_meara and support from @BSBIbotany. @lindisfarne\_nnr @ArcDurham @ArchaeologyNCL @ArchaeologyLisa @ekaroune @open\_phytoliths #lindisfarne #geoarchaeology

3:14 PM · Jul 15, 2021 from The Holy Island of Lindisfarne - Twitter for Android

AEA Retweeted

**Suzanne Pilaar Birch**  
@suzie\_birch

Pleased to share our #openaccess paper on #covid19 and #womeninarchaeology led by @JA\_Hoggarth, "Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women and Early Career Archaeologists"

mdpi.com  
Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women and Early C...  
The COVID-19 pandemic has had far-reaching impacts in all segments of life worldwide. While a variety of surveys have ...

2:07 PM · Aug 10, 2021 · TweetDeck

35 Retweets 3 Quote Tweets 64 Likes

AEA Retweeted

**The Turing Way Project**  
@turingway

Congratulations to our lovely and extra hardworking colleague @ekaroune and her team members for receiving this @EoscLife grant and pushing forward the open science and FAIR work in Phytolith community!

Follow them and their amazing work! 🌸



<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

### IMPR

7th—11th September 2021

### European Association of Archaeologists Conference

8th—11th September 2021 (online)

### EAI Seminar

21st October 2021

### AIAZ 2021

3rd—6th November 2021

### AEA Small Grants Deadline

28th February 2022

### SAA Zooarchaeology Interest Group Poster Session

30th March—3rd April 2022

## Notes from the Newsletter Editors

We are always keen to receive newsletter content, especially from our non-UK members. We accept short research pieces, thesis abstracts, conference announcements and calls for papers and are open to other suggestions.

To submit an article, please email word documents and images to:

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

**Next deadline: 20th October 2021**

*Rhiannon Philp and Daisy Spencer*

*With thanks to our proofreaders Eva Fairnell & Róisín Nic Cnáimhín*