

Association *for*Environmental Archaeology

Inside this issue:

Chair's Piece

Peatland
Archaeology 2
COP26

EAI Seminar 4

ICAS-EMME 2022

ICAZ Medieval period 6 Working

AEA AGM 8

Revised
Subscription 9
Rates Proposal

Committee Nominations

AEA Research Grants

Trending in Environmental

Key Dates 16

AEA Newsletter 153

November 2021

Dear members,

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2021. This issue contains details of the AGM, which will take place online on 3rd December at 18:00 GMT. I would like to draw your attention to the proposal to revise our subscription rates for 2022. This has been under discussion by the Managing Committee over the summer and we feel the proposal put to you represents the best way forward. In a nutshell there will be a reduction of £10.00 for those who do not wish to receive a hard copy of the journal with an option to donate part or all of that saving to support the activities of the AEA, in particular the small research grants fund and the provision of conference bursaries.

Following the AGM there will be a key note presentation by Prof Katheryn Twiss entitled "Digging in: A grateful exploration of archaeology, food, and community". has Kathy worked extensively in southwest zooarchaeologist. She is interested how societies, especially 'complex' societies, produce and consume food and the ecological and cultural consequences that arise. It promises to be a fascinating evening.

We also have some announcements to make at the AGM about changes to the editorial team of Environmental Archaeology. These are unrelated to the issues we have been having with members not receiving hard copies of the journal for this year: our publisher has been having problems with the printer they use. I do hope everyone has now received their first three issues of the journal for this year, bound in a single volume. If not, do get in touch with our membership secretary at hello@envarch.net and we will try to rectify the situation as soon as possible. On the upside we are now plastic free, as the journal is packed in carboard rather than a plastic cover. This should also mean it reaches you in good condition.

Wishing all our members the very best and hope to see many of you at the AGM.

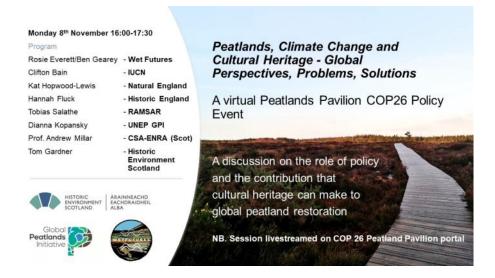
Gill Campbell, November 2021



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Peatland Archaeology, Climate Change and COP26



Unless you've been living under a particularly effective news-proof rock, you will be well aware that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP (Community of Parties) conference just took place in Glasgow. Amidst the protests, clamour, heated debates (and hot air...) and world leaders (both dozing and wide awake...) locked in critical discussions, a few archaeologists could also be found, including the authors of this report and more besides. Peatlands, Climate Change and Cultural Heritage: Global Perspectives, Problems and Solutions was a hybrid event, with an associated evening reception held in the auspicious space of Glasgow Cathedral's Lower Church. The event was hosted by Historic Environment Scotland, and ran through the 'Peatland Pavilion' in the Blue Zone, organised by the United Nations (UN) Global Peatlands Initiative (UN GPI) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) 'Peatlands Programme'. Peatland archaeology might not seem to be an obvious candidate for a session at an international conference on climate change, so a short explanation is called for.

Whilst peatlands were for many years regarded, in the words of ecologist and writer Fraser Darling, as '...wet deserts...', and often targeted for drainage, 'agricultural improvement' and peat extraction, over the last few decades it has become clear these ecosystems are critical for biodiversity, hydrological controls, atmospheric carbon sequestration and a range of other 'ecosystem services', to coin the expression used to describe the benefits provided by healthy 'natural' environments. The restoration/ rehabilitation of peatlands has gathered significant pace across the world over the last decade or so, not least because degraded peatlands emit damaging greenhouse gasses, and healthy peatlands can be net carbon sinks, with the potential to mitigate some effects of global heating. Fifty per cent of the global peatlands, and eighty per cent of UK peatlands, are degraded, and billions of dollars of public money is now being invested across the world in restoring these peatlands, which brings the restorers into contact with archaeological and palaeoecological deposits.

The fate of archaeological remains in peatlands is tied intimately to the fate of these environments: degraded peat, degraded cultural ecosystem services. For example, the most important area in England for organic peatland archaeology is the Somerset Levels, southwest England, home to iconic sites such as the Glastonbury Iron Age 'Lake Village' and the Neolithic 'Sweet Track' as well as associated deposits of key palaeoenvironmental significance. Studies funded by Historic England have determined that, as well as the direct damage and destruction by drainage, erosion and peat cutting, low and unstable water-tables will have negative impacts on these archaeological sites, irrespective of direct removal of peat. Conversely, the saturated, anoxic conditions

that allow peat-forming plants to grow should be beneficial to the preservation of archaeological remains and deposits. and hence peatland 'rewetting' and restoration programmes should allow optimal conditions for preservation in situ. However, the knowledge transfer between organisations and agencies undertaking such programmes and the broader curatorial/heritage communities has been rather uneven in the past and there remains a danger that restoration programmes could undertake works that might inadvertently damage archaeology. In addition, there has been a drive for some years to promote and better communicate the value of archaeology and heritage, to the wider public and to communities involved in local peatland restoration and conservation schemes.

The Glasgow session was intended to improve communication and open new dialogues between the different groups, individuals and organisations involved in all aspects of peatland policy, research and management in the context of ecosystem restoration. Speakers at the session, which can be viewed online as a recording (after registration) here, included environmental archaeologists from Historic Environment Scotland, WetFutures, Historic England, and Natural England, and ecologists and restoration specialists from the Scottish Government, RAMSAR, the UN, and the IUCN. Importantly discussion focussed on the opportunities that an engagement peatland cultural heritage, with including palaeoecology and archaeology, could bring to the wider movement to restore peatlands globally, rather than simply viewing heritage as a 'constraint' in the system. All speakers agreed peatland restoration would, in principle, be positive for the preservation of peatland cultural heritage (with appropriate controls in place), understanding the palaeoecology, archaeology and heritage of global peatlands could help restoration practitioners engage local and indigenous groups, design more resilient schemes, and add value to any carbon credits generated by restoration. At the evening reception in Glasgow Cathedral's undercroft, Dublin-based archaeologist Cathy Moore gave a fantastic keynote presentation of the recently published excavations of the stunning peatland archaeological site of Edercloon, Co. Longford, Ireland, and Gareth Beale, (University of Glasgow) presented the work of Bright Edge Deep, an online exhibition exploring the cultural and scientific life of peatlands, led by Nicki Whitehouse (University of Glasgow).

So where next? All this positive talk is only as good as the action that comes out of it. The project team, principally Historic Environment Scotland and WetFutures, are now embarking on a mission to establish a Joint International Working Group on Peatland Cultural Heritage. This group will advise the UN GPI and IUCN, and act as a support and knowledge sharing network for restoration practitioners across the world. at local. governmental and international levels, across the world. The aims and structure of this group are still to be fully defined, so if any AEA members (or any global government bodies...) feel like contributing then please contact the authors, through the AEA, to arrange a chat.

Importantly, we cannot stand in the way of peatland restoration; it needs to happen in order for nations to reach net zero carbon emission targets, and rewetting peatlands can be positive for the heritage assets within them. But appropriate controls, and crucially funding, is needed to protect the finite archaeological resource, while not unnecessarily standing in the way of restoration. The skills present within the AEA membership will be crucial to this delivery globally, and future research (planned by government bodies and universities) and skill sharing (planned by the Chartered Institute Archaeologists (CIfA) and government bodies) will present opportunities for further discussion. Watch this space, and get in contact!

Ben Gearey¹, Tom Gardner ² & Rosie Everett ³

¹WetFutures & University College Cork

² Historic Environment Scotland



Rosie Everett and Ben Gearey speaking at Glasgow Cathedral © Hannah Houston

Environmental Archaeology Ireland (EAI) 2021—22 Seminar Series



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 important issues in environmental archaeology.



This year we have launched a series of online seminars to disseminate recent findings and promote such to a wider audience. Our first event took place online on Thursday 19th August 2021 from 7pm to 8.30pm. 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). You can watch a video of the presentations here (the panel discussion was not recorded).

https://media.heanet.ie/page/69feadc5f8a44c759f5126bdaca3d2b7

Our second event took place online on Thursday 21st October 2021 from 7pm to 8.15pm. We featured short presentations on research findings from Dr Penny Johnston (Department of History, Politics and Philosophy, Manchester Metropolitan University) and Dr Scott Timpany (Archaeology Institute, University of the Highlands and Islands). You can watch a video of the presentations here (the panel discussion was not recorded).

https://media.heanet.ie/page/4fa34ba074df4d75ac8eb2bfb35f30b4

Our third event will take place on Thursday 27th January to bring in the New Year. More information about the speakers and presentation titles will be indicated on our website in the coming weeks. Save the date!

http://eaireland.net/

An Environmental History of Ancient Cyprus: Landscapes, Plants and Animals Through Time

Session Chairs: Dr Evi Margaritis, Dr Angelos Hadjikoumis and Prof Paul Halstead

We would like to draw your attention to the session we are organising at the 3rd International Congress on Archaeological Sciences in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East (ICAS-EMME 3). The congress will be hosted at the Cyprus Institute from the 14th to 18th March 2022, co-organised by STARC, CAARI (Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute) and the ARU (Archaeological Research Unit, University of Cyprus). The session is entitled *An Environmental History of Ancient Cyprus: Landscapes, Plants and Animals Through Time*.

Session Abstract

People and environments, variably anthropogenic or natural, are in a constant state of interaction and re-negotiation. Their interactions normally cause changes that are archaeologically detectable. The corpus of work on relevant proxies such as plant and animal remains, soils and landscapes, climate and other environmental attributes from ancient Cyprus is growing fast. This session aims to bring together archaeobotanical (macro, micro and wood), zooarchaeological, geoarchaeological, landscape, stable isotope and ethnographic studies in order to reconstruct the environmental, agricultural and economic history of Cyprus through time. It thus invites new contributions of any chronological period to that corpus and, at the same time, encourages broader and more synthetic approaches that encompass several lines of evidence.

The aim of our session is to promote environmental archaeology in Cyprus and enhance its future research agenda, by bringing together all specialists that have spent research time working on relevant topics.

The papers will be published as part of a special issue of Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Cyprus!

https://icasemme.cyi.ac.cy/an-environmental-history-of-ancient-cyprus-landscapes-plants-and-animals-through-time

Evi Margaritis and Angelos Hadjikoumis

ICAZ Medieval period Working Group

Contributed by: Idoia Grau-Sologestoa (<u>idoia.grau@unibas.ch</u>), Veronica Aniceti, Mauro Rizzetto and Pam Crabtree

We are delighted to announce the creation of the Medieval period Working Group (MWG) of ICAZ (International Council for Archaeozoology) (https://alexandriaarchive.org/icaz/workmedieval).

A long tradition of archaeozoological studies has widely proven that medieval societies can be fruitfully investigated through the analysis of animal remains, providing key information on a period that saw the birth and development of important economic models and socio-political structures. In the Middle Ages, with significant geographical and chronological variations, the establishment of different settlement types prompted the development of various mechanisms of animal exploitation, as well as of redistribution and consumption of their products; in addition, the basic principles of social differentiation were also applied through the procurement and intake of different – animal – food products. Such mechanisms of exchange, specialisation and socio-cultural differentiation often produced several defined patterns of animal use, which can be detected by archaeozoologists.

Within this research context, the MWG has been founded in 2021 as an important platform where archaeozoologists, in all career stages, dealing with the Middle Ages can present, share, compare and discuss their data. The MWG is also open to researchers investigating geographic areas outside Medieval Europe but adjacent and/or related to it. Similarly, archaeozoologists working on the Late Roman period/Late Antiquity and the early post-medieval period, on topics relevant to the study of the Middle Ages, are encouraged to join; in this sense, the MWG complements well the work carried out by the Roman Period and the Zooarchaeology of the Modern Era working groups.

The coordinator of the MWG is Dr Veronica Aniceti (University of Bergen, Norway), and the ICAZ liaisons are Dr Idoia Grau-Sologestoa (University of Basel, Switzerland), Prof. Pam Crabtree (New York University, USA), and Dr Mauro Rizzetto (American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece).

Meetings

The 1st Meeting of the Medieval period Working Group will be held at the <u>University Museum of Bergen</u>, in Norway, between the 28th and 30th of September 2022.

The Organizing Committee consists of Dr Veronica Aniceti, Prof. Anne-Karin Hufthammer, Prof. Hanneke Meijer, Dr Liselotte Takken Beijersbergen, Dr Olaug Flatnes Bratbak (UM/UiB), Dr Samuel Walker (former PhD student at UM/UiB), and Prof. Ramona Harrison (AHKR/UiB).



View of Bergen. Photo by Mauro Rizzetto.

The Meeting will be held in a hybrid format; in-person participation (up to 100 people) is strongly encouraged but it will also be possible to attend and present remotely. The Organizing Committee is currently working on a proposal (Bergen University Funds) for supporting the organization of the Meeting.

The call for abstracts will open in early 2022.

The Organizing Committee plans to publish the Proceedings of the 1st Meeting of the MWG as a special volume of a peer-reviewed journal. The details (journal, timing, etc.) will be agreed together with the delegates after the Meeting.

Contact

If you want to contact us and/or become a member of the MWG, please write to mwg.icaz@gmail.com

You can also follow us on <u>Twitter</u> (account: @Medieval_ICAZ) and <u>Facebook</u>

Association for Environmental Archaeology 2021 AGM

3rd December 2021 18:00-19:00 GMT

Agenda

- 1. Introduction by AEA Chair (Gill Campbell)
- 2. AEA Committee elections (Don O'Meara)
- 3. Treasurer's Report (Mark McKerracher)
- 4. Membership Report (Jo McKenzie)
 - New membership rates (Gill Campbell)
- 5. Environmental Archaeology journal (Tim Mighall)
 - Update on Environmental Archaeology editorial team (Gill Campbell)
- 6. Don Brothwell Prize (Tim Mighall/Gill Campbell)
- 7. John Evans Prize (Aldona Mueller-Bieniek)
- 8. AOB for business raised by members in advance of the start of the AGM

Keynote lecture 19:00-19:45 GMT

Professor Katheryn C. Twiss, Stony Brook University

"Digging in: A grateful exploration of archaeology, food, and community"

Proposal for revised subscription rates starting 2022

Current membership rates

Standard rate (waged) £45.00 Student/ unwaged/ retired £35.00

This is for a hard copy of the journal for the current year and online access to the current volume and back issues.

Background

As a result of a new agreement with our publisher, Taylor and Francis, we have an opportunity to reduce subscription rates for those members who only require an online subscription to our journal Environmental Archaeology. This because one our major outgoings is the printing and posting costs incurred from supplying hardcopies of the journal. Not printing and posting unwanted hardcopies of the journal will also reduce our carbon footprint.

As part of our recent membership survey we asked whether members would like:

- 1. A hardcopy of the journal and online access (including back numbers)
- 2. Online access only (including back numbers)

55 of the 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.

These results mean that the AEA managing committee is proposing changes to the current subscription rates to come into effect in 2022. These changes are outlined below.

Proposed new subscription rates

Standard rate: hardcopy and online access to the journal = £45.00

Reduced standard rate: online access only = £35.00

Full student/unwaged/retired rate: hardcopy and online access = £35.00

Full student/unwaged/ retired rate: online access only = £25.00

For those opting for online access only (£35.00 or £25.00) there will be an option to donate £10.00 to the Association in support of activities such as the provision of research grants and conference bursaries, i.e. to continue to pay £45.00 or £35.00 but only receive an online subscription to the journal. It will also be possible to donate via a donation button.

2021 AEA Managing Committee Elections:

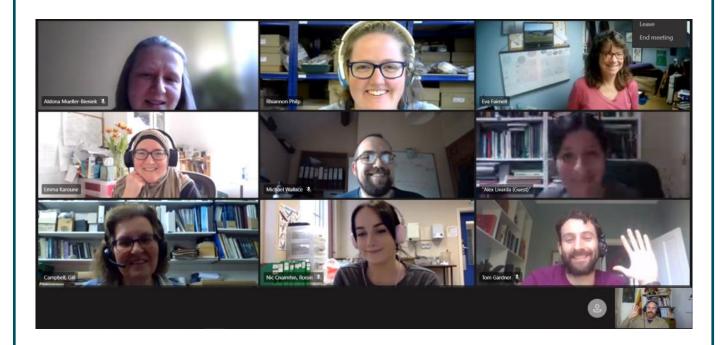
Call for Nominations

Elections for new committee members will be held during the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which will be held online on Friday 3rd December.

There is still time to submit nominations!

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

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 to 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

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

Seconded by: Michael Wallace michael.wallace@headlandarchaeology.com

Committee Position: Ordinary Member

Name: Matt Law

Affiliation: L - P: Archaeology/ Bath Spa University

Email: 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
Seconded by: Don O'Meara DO'Meara@HistoricEngland.org.uk

Committee Position: Ordinary Member

Name: Shyama Vermeersch

Affiliation: University of Groningen **Email:** <u>s.c.a.vermeersch@rug.nl</u>

Dr Shyama Vermeersch has a broad archaeological background thanks to her master's degrees in both Egyptology and archaeological sciences. She obtained her dissertation titled 'Developments in Subsistence Practices from the Early Bronze Age through the Iron Age in the Southern Levant' in 2021 at the University of Tübingen (DE). Now, Dr Vermeersch is a research and teaching assistant in zooarchaeology at the University of Groningen (NL). Her research interests include reconstructing past farming and provisioning systems in their cultural and environmental context by integrating both faunal and botanical lines of evidence. Dr Vermeersch has been a member of various excavation projects, and her work has been presented in international conferences and first -authored publications. Last but not least, she is also actively engaged in promoting gender equity, women in science, and making our archaeological results accessible to the general public.

Nominated by: Canan Çakirlar Seconded by: Alexander Weide

Committee Position: Ordinary Member

Name: Sarah Elliot

Affiliation: Bournemouth University **Email:** selliott@bournemouth.ac.uk

I have been a member of the AEA since I was a master's student in 2008 when I completed my MSc in Geoarchaeology. During my time as a member I have co-organised the AEA conference at the University of Reading in 2012, and been a guest editor on the AEA journal special issue 'Environmental Archaeologies of Neolithisation' in 2014-2015. I would like to expand my involvement in the AEA by becoming a committee member. Particularly, I am keen to engage with the small grants applications. I am currently a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at Bournemouth University in partnership with the Council for British Research in the Levant. I am about to take a years position as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Cultural Ecology within the Institute for the Modelling of Socio-Environmental Transitions (IMSET), where my main role is to contribute towards collaborative applications for funding to develop and conduct research in paleoecology and paleoenvironmental reconstruction. I have conducted teaching on Environmental Archaeology and Geoarchaeology courses since 2011 at the University of Reading, University of Aberdeen and Bournemouth University.

My specialisms include phytolith analysis, micromorphology, geochemistry and faecal analysis. I have conducted research in the Middle East, Europe, South America, the Caribbean and Russia on wide temporal scales from the Palaeolithic right up to modern ethnographic case studies. I have conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Exeter, Bournemouth University, University of Aberdeen and the British Institute in Amman (Council for British Research in the Levant). Prior to my PhD I worked for two Environmental Archaeology companies at the University of Reading (AFESS and QUEST) for three years where I conducted a wide range of commercial Environmental Archaeology projects.

Nominated by: Tim Mighall Seconded by: Emma Karoune

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 <u>application form</u> 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 <u>alivarda@icac.cat</u>

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

Enquiries should be directed to the AEA research grants officer, <u>alivarda@icac.cat</u>.

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

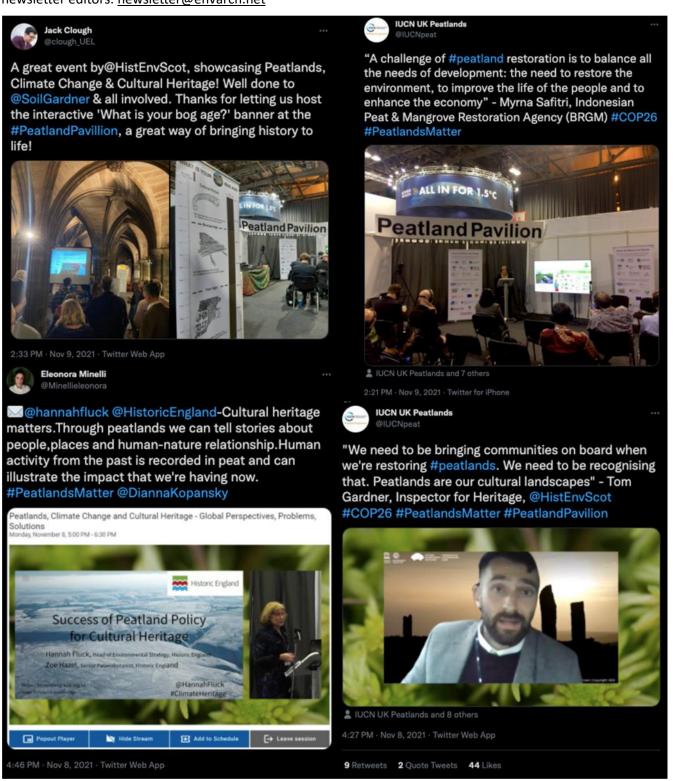


Trending in Environmental Archaeology



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— a COP26 special this issue!

If you have a particular social media campaign that you would like featured on this page, please email the newsletter editors: newsletter@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 AGM

3rd December 2021

EAI Seminar

27th January

AEA Small Grants Deadline

28th February 2022

SAA Zooarchaeology Interest Group Poster Session

30th March—3rd April 2022

ICAZ MWG

14th-18th March 2022

ICAS-EMME

14th—18th March 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

Next deadline: 20th January 2022

Rhiannon Philp and Daisy Spencer

With thanks to our proofreaders Eva Fairnell & Róisín Nic Cnáimhín