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**EDITORIAL**

The summer edition of the Newsletter contains articles on important issues that we, as well as the authors, hope will stimulate discussion. One of these is accreditation (*'Call for Views..'* by Andy Howard, p.5). The Committee would like to hear the views of AEA Members prior to discussing this further (deadline **30<sup>th</sup> September**). The issue outlined by Davies, Bunting and Whitehouse in *'Bridging the Gap: crossing the palaeoecology – ecology divide'* is also highly relevant and deserves response.

We also draw attention to the forthcoming elections for committee members at the AGM in Aarhus in September, and the offer of grants to attend the Aarhus conference (p.4, please note - the deadline for applications is **15<sup>th</sup> August**).

**NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

**AEA AGM & ELECTIONS 2007**

The Annual General Meeting for the AEA will be held at the Aarhus conference (12-14 September 2008).

**Draft agenda:**

1. Report on the committee's activities
2. Treasurer's report
3. Election of new committee members
4. Any other business

**Accounts**

A summary of the AEA financial accounts will be presented at the meeting.

## Elections

Elections for new members of the committee will be held at the AGM.

### The current committee structure is as follows:

#### **ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS (elected term in [ ]; \* indicates committee members retiring or stepping down at the AGM)**

Gianna Ayala (Sheffield, England) – Conference Officer [2005-2009]

Amy Bogaard (Oxford, England) [2006-2010]

Ralph Fyfe (Plymouth, England) – Membership Secretary [2006-2010]

Maaïke Groot (Amsterdam, Netherlands) [2007-2011]

Andy Hammon (English Heritage, York, England) [2006-2010]

Jen Heathcote (English Heritage, Cambridge, England) – [2005-2009]

Andy Howard (Birmingham, England) – [2007-2011]

Jacqui Huntley (Durham, England) – Treasurer [2007-2011]

\*Ingrid Mainland (Bradford, England) – Co-ordinating Editor of the Journal [2004-2008]

\*Mirosław Makohonienko (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland) – [2005-2008]

Meriel McClatchie (Belfast, Northern Ireland) – Secretary [2005-2009]

Peter Hambro Mikkelsen (Moesgård Museum, Højbjerg, Denmark) – [2005-2009]

Naomi Sykes (Nottingham, England) – [2007-2011]

\*Richard Thomas (Leicester, England) – Publicity Officer [2004-2008]

Nicki Whitehouse (Belfast, Northern Ireland) – Chair [2007-2011]

#### **CO-OPTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Wendy Carruthers (Llantrisant, Wales) – Co-editor of the Newsletter

Paul Davies (Bath Spa, England) – JISC-mail Manager

Vanessa Straker (English Heritage, Bristol, England) – Co-editor of the Newsletter

In the last Newsletter, vacancies for the position of three ordinary committee members were advertised. To date, we have received three nominations for Ordinary Committee members. Brief personal statements by the nominees appear in this newsletter. Further nominations can be received up to the time of the AGM.

Please send or e-mail any further nominations (which must be seconded and accompanied by a personal statement by the nominee) to the AEA Secretary: Meriel McClatchie

E-mail: [meriel.mcclatchie@gmail.com](mailto:meriel.mcclatchie@gmail.com)

Postal address: see <http://www.envarch.net/membership/committee.html>

#### **ABSENTEE VOTING**

If you cannot attend the AGM, but would like to vote in the elections, you can do so through a **proxy** (someone who is attending the meeting and is willing to vote on your behalf as well as their own). All you have to do is **give a signed statement** or **send an e-mail** appointing whoever you wish to be your proxy to any member of the Committee at any time before the AGM (and tell your proxy how you want them to vote!).

If you wish, a member of the committee (see <http://www.envarch.net/aea/committee.html>) will act as your proxy. If you have any queries about absentee voting, please contact the AEA Secretary ([m.mcclatchie@ucc.ie](mailto:m.mcclatchie@ucc.ie)). Your vote matters!

#### **BIOGRAPHIES OF CANDIDATES FOR AEA COMMITTEE**

##### **As Ordinary Committee member:**

**Ellen Hambleton** (Bournemouth University, England)

I am an archaeologist specializing in the study of animal remains. After studying BSc Archaeological Science at Sheffield, I obtained a NERC research studentship at Durham University and completed my PhD in 1998. My doctoral research involved a comparative study of archaeological faunal assemblages to investigate animal husbandry regimes in Iron Age Britain. I continue to research in this area and have recently completed the regional review of late Bronze Age and Iron Age faunal remains from Southern England, commissioned by English Heritage. I am interested in the exploitation and social significance of animals and animal products to past societies and the integration of zooarchaeological and environmental archaeological studies within the broader sphere of archaeological research.

Since joining Bournemouth University in 1998, I have been involved in a range of zooarchaeology and human osteoarchaeology research projects. I have worked on archaeological faunal material from a wide range of periods and sites around Britain and have undertaken research and consultancy for archaeology field units, museums and government bodies, including English Heritage and CADW. I have collaborated on research projects in France and Russia. I was appointed Lecturer in Zooarchaeology in 2003, Senior Lecturer in 2007

and teach on undergraduate and postgraduate archaeology programmes. I supervise several PhD students and am Programme Leader for MSc Osteoarchaeology and the new MSc Zooarchaeology. Having been a member of the AEA for over 10 years, I would welcome the opportunity to take on a more active role as a committee member and to foster links between the AEA and students studying related undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

*Proposed by: Helen Smith, Seconded by: Mark Maltby*

**Zoë Hazell** (English Heritage, Portsmouth)

My research background and training has been in Geography and Quaternary Science, specialising in a range of palaeoecological/climate techniques and applying them in research projects investigating both natural and anthropogenic-driven environmental changes. These have mainly been peatland-based proxies; using them to reconstruct Holocene palaeo-moisture records of New Zealand sites for my PhD, as well as current work on sites from Dartmoor. More recently I have been developing my skills in wood and charcoal identifications, on applications from the analysis of Romano-British furnace fuels to c. 1800 AD naval coffins. As part of English Heritage's Portsmouth-based 'Environmental Studies Team' (where I have been working since 2005 after completing my PhD) I have been able to apply my broad, palaeo-environmental knowledge within the discipline of Environmental Archaeology.

I am keen to integrate further with Environmental Archaeology, and see my participation with the AEA Managing Committee, as an ordinary member, in assisting me in achieving this. I have been a member of the AEA since 2006; my previous active involvement with the organisation has been co-organising a 2006 one-day meeting, and seeing it through to publication of a selection of the papers, which will be in print in the forthcoming issue of Environmental Archaeology 13(2).

*Proposed by: David Earle Robinson, Seconded by: Andy Hammon*

**Fay Worley** (English Heritage, Portsmouth)

I gained my BSc in Bioarchaeology from the University of Bradford in 2000, specialising in zooarchaeology. I remained at Bradford for my doctoral research examining the use of animals in Iron Age to Viking cremation burials in Britain. My research involved primary analysis of cremation deposit assemblages and experimental work. After 19 months working as a project officer (animal bone specialist) within the commercial sector, I took up the role of Zooarchaeologist for English Heritage, a position I have now held for just under two years. Amongst other things, this role allows me the opportunity to raise awareness of zooarchaeology, both within the archaeological community and the general public, through a series of training days, lectures and activity sessions. I am an active member of the Professional Zooarchaeology Group (PZG), a forum aiming to establish and maintain links between zooarchaeologists working in the commercial, academic and public sectors within the UK, and a committee member for the APWG (Animal Palaeopathology Working Group). I have wide ranging interests in zooarchaeology with research topics currently including the funerary use of animals, the exploitation of sea mammals, palaeopathology and the skeletal development of sheep. I have been a member of the AEA for many years and would now enjoy the chance contribute to the group by serving on the committee.

*Proposed by: Gill Campbell, Seconded by: David Earle Robinson*

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## PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

The AEA Managing Committee will propose an amendment to the AEA Constitution at the AGM in September 2008. The amendment will enable the election of a student representative to the Managing Committee each year. The AEA Constitution can be viewed at: <http://www.envarch.net/membership/constitution.html>

The proposed change to the Constitution is as follows (changes marked in red):

10. The affairs of the Association shall be handled by a Management Committee which shall include twelve ordinary elected members, **one student representative elected member**, and an elected Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

11. Three ordinary members of the Managing Committee **and one student representative member** shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting. Candidates for election must be Members of the Association and can be nominated by any Member of the Association. Nominations must be submitted to a member of the Managing Committee not later than the beginning of the Annual General Meeting. Elected **ordinary** members of the Managing Committee will normally serve until the fourth Annual General Meeting after the one at which they were elected and may not immediately stand for re-election, with the exception as given in clause 12. **Elected student representative members of the Managing Committee will normally serve until the second Annual General Meeting after the one at which they were elected and may not immediately stand for re-election.**

## THE JOURNAL

If you have paid your 2008 subscription but have not yet received your copy of 13.1, please contact the Membership Secretary ([membership@envarch.net](mailto:membership@envarch.net)) to check your current membership status.

The Journal's editor, Ingrid Mainland, would like to encourage AEA members to submit research papers, review articles or short contributions on any aspect of environmental archaeology. Full details regarding submission to the Journal can be found at the following website: <http://www.maney.co.uk/journals/env>, or contact Ingrid Mainland for further information.

### Journal Editor:

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### Online access for all subscribers

Online access to *Environmental Archaeology* (Volume 11 onwards) is now available to **all** AEA members. If you would like to **register** for access the Journal online, please email Rob Craigie, the AEA Webmaster ([r.craigie@shef.ac.uk](mailto:r.craigie@shef.ac.uk)), with your **chosen username** and a **password**. When your registration has been accepted, access to the Journal will be available through a link on the AEA website ([www.envarch.net](http://www.envarch.net)). Please note that access will only be made available to fully paid-up members.

Also note that **Institutional subscription** to *Environmental Archaeology* is **only £98** (\$186 in North America) and **includes online access to the full text**. If your institution is not currently subscribing to the Journal, please encourage them to do so. Information on institutional subscriptions to the Journal is available at: <http://www.maney.co.uk/journals/env>

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## CONFERENCES & MEETINGS CALL FOR ONE-DAY ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY MEETINGS

It was suggested at the 2007 AGM that the AEA should consider facilitating further one day meetings in environmental archaeology at venues outside of the UK. These would be 'local' AEA meetings, held in addition to the main AEA spring one-day meeting and autumn conference each year. We welcome proposals from non-UK AEA colleagues who would like to run one-day meetings to facilitate research in their geographical region. Such meetings would be advertised along with all other AEA activities.

If you are interested in proposing such a meeting, please contact the AEA Conference Officer, Dr Gianna Ayala ([g.ayala@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:g.ayala@sheffield.ac.uk)), for further information.

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### AEA CONFERENCE FUND

The AEA is happy to announce the availability of the AEA Conference Fund to all members of the AEA, of at least six months standing, to assist attendance at annual symposia and day-conferences. Priority will be given to those with limited alternative sources of funding (particularly postgraduate students and those in the commercial field). Applications from postgraduates must be accompanied by a letter of support from their supervisor. This year there are 5 grants for sums up to £150 to attend the Annual Symposium in Aarhus, Denmark. Successful applicants will be required to provide a statement of expenditure and activities undertaken **within 3 months** after the event has taken place in order to receive reimbursement. Moreover, successful applicants will be requested to provide a report on the conference for the AEA Newsletter.

Deadline for applications are **15<sup>th</sup> August**. Please submit the attached application form to Meriel McClatchie ([meriel.mcclatchie@gmail.com](mailto:meriel.mcclatchie@gmail.com)).

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## CALL FOR VIEWS ON RECOGNITION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY PROFESSION BY THE ASSOCIATION

In the last few months, the AEA Committee has received several enquiries regarding whether the AEA should recognize the professional status and technical abilities of its members in the same way that other organizations do (i.e. some sort of accreditation of specialist abilities). For example, if you are a member of the Royal Entomological Society, you can join as an interested amateur (and be a Member), or if you have more than a

passing interest and have made a substantial contribution to entomology, through publications or other evidence of achievement, you can apply to become a Fellow and are entitled to use the suffix FRES\_ (which may be regarded as an academic qualification). Other organisations that operate similar systems include the Royal Geographical Society (who offer Chartered Geographer status, allowing the use of the suffix CGeog) and The Geological Society (who offer Fellow status allowing the use of the suffix FGS).

Discussions within the AEA Committee suggest that such a system could be operated by the AEA, although it would involve consideration of the Constitution. Discussion to date suggests that a three-fold model may be appropriate (Table 1)

The advantages of such recognition may prove particularly valuable for existing members working in environmental consultancy since it would allow them to demonstrate proficiency and technical competence in an environmental specialism. It may also help to attract new members to the Association and address concerns of curators and organisations who commission work that the work will be undertaken by someone with the necessary level of competence.

Before this issue is discussed any further, the Committee would be grateful for the comments of its Members. Comments, which should be received before **30<sup>th</sup> September 2008**, should be sent to Dr Andy Howard, IAA, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT (A.J.Howard@bham.ac.uk).

**Table 1**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Criterion</b>
Member	No academic qualification necessary and would include undergraduates and interested amateurs
Specialist Member	Applicable to someone working in Environmental Archaeology. Would require minimum of post-graduate qualification (MA, MSc) or able to demonstrate considerable (accredited) training element (e.g. did Masters but didn't bother with dissertation so got a diploma; undertaken CPD modules; recognized training placement). Could also be working towards a post-graduate qualification. Minimum of 2 years experience working in Environmental Archaeology  <b>Requirement of recognition</b> Submission of portfolio of activity prior to accreditation. Supporting references from two existing Specialist Members or above.
Fellow	Applicable to someone working in Environmental Archaeology. Would require appropriate experience (as above) Minimum of 6 years experience working in Environmental Archaeology Recognised as an authority in their specialism and able to demonstrate lead author publication in peer-reviewed journals and/or monographs.  <b>Requirement of recognition</b> Submission of portfolio of activity prior to accreditation. Supporting references from two existing Fellows

## **CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

### **AEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE Aarhus, Denmark**

**12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> September, 2008**

The Association for Environmental Archaeology (AEA) and Moesgaard Museum, Aarhus, Denmark are holding the Association's Annual Conference on 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

The subject for this year's conference is "The Consequences of Fire" in the preservation and interpretation of the environmental archaeological record.

**Further information** is available at the AEA website: <http://www.envarch.net/events/index.html#aea2008>

## GEOARCHAEOLOGY 2009

*15th - 17th April 2009*

The Geoarchaeology 2009 meeting will be held at the Departments of Geography and Archaeology, University of Sheffield. Deadline for registration and electronic abstract submission: **30th January 2009**. This meeting will be look at cutting edge interactions between archaeology, geography and other Earth Sciences. We particularly invite papers on:

Developing geoarchaeological theory

- Landscape and place
- Linking across or between scales
- Integration of multiscale datasets

Interpretations of dynamic interactions between people and their landscapes

The interface between academic and applied approaches

Novel techniques

- GIS and remote sensing/survey
- Integration of different/complementary approaches

If you have any further queries or wish to receive further circulars please e-mail [geoarch@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:geoarch@sheffield.ac.uk)

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## THIRD ANNUAL FOOD AND DRINK CONFERENCE

*17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> April 2009*

The third annual Food and Drink in Archaeology conference will be held at the University of Nottingham on the **17 and 18 April 2009**. This year, and for all succeeding years, we are inviting established and early-career academics, as well as postgraduate students, to submit proposals for sessions, papers and posters on any topic or theme. We are particularly keen to attract speakers who have adopted multi/inter-disciplinary approaches.

If you are interested in proposing a session, paper or poster, please contact Naomi Sykes ([naomi.sykes@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:naomi.sykes@nottingham.ac.uk)) or Claire Newton ([claire.newton@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:claire.newton@nottingham.ac.uk)) for further details.

Alternatively, additional information, including proposal forms, can be found on the website

[http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/archaeology/research/conf\\_fooddrink.php](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/archaeology/research/conf_fooddrink.php)

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## NEW RESEARCH PROJECT

### **Cultivating societies: assessing the evidence for agriculture in Neolithic Ireland (INSTAR Project, Heritage Council)**

Nicki Whitehouse (PI) (QUB), Rick Schulting (CO-I) (University of Oxford), Meriel McClatchie (Co-RF) (QUB), Amy Bogaard (Co-I) (University of Oxford) and Philip Barratt (RF) (QUB).

Project Partners: Graeme Warren and John O'Neill (UCD); Finbar McCormick, Paula Reimer, Dave Brown (QUB); Dáire O'Rourke (NRA); Finola O'Carroll (CRDS); Alison Sheridan (National Museums Scotland); Sue Colledge (University College London); Rob Marchant (University of York).

A defining characteristic of the Neolithic is the appearance of domesticated plants and animals. Due to a lack of publication in Ireland, surprisingly little is known about agricultural husbandry and consumption, its environmental context and how this might have varied across space and time.

This project will examine the extent, nature and timing of Neolithic farming in Ireland through the collation, integration and analysis of unpublished and published data (archaeobotanical, zoo-archaeological, palaeoecological, C14, stable isotope, and archaeological data) from the commercial, state and academic sectors. Integration of these varied lines of evidence is enabled by bringing together international researchers from a range of backgrounds. It will investigate relationships between economy, landscape and settlement against a wider palaeoenvironmental backdrop, and explore implications for the roles and perceived importance of ritual and domestic spheres during the Neolithic.

The project aims are as follows:

- (1) establish a database of plant macro-remains from published and unpublished sources;
- (2) directly date (AMS C14) cereal remains from selected sites;
- (3) identify possible manuring and/or other management practices via stable isotope analyses of selected seed assemblages and analysis of weed assemblages;

- (4) re-evaluate the Irish palaeoecological record for information on the environmental and landscape context of farming, via the Irish pollen database and other palaeoecological sources, such as bog surface wetness curves and dendrochronological data held at QUB, creating diagrams in space/time;
- (5) collate existing published pastoral and human bone/dietary evidence;
- (6) collate the available archaeological evidence for settlement and landscapes in Neolithic Ireland in the context of the above data.

These aims will allow us to:

- (1) investigate the timing, nature and type (e.g. intensive/extensive) of Neolithic farming across different regions of Ireland;
- (2) investigate any associations between varying farming strategies and different site-types (e.g. houses, pit complexes, ceremonial sites).
- (3) examine effects on the landscape of these activities and relationships against wider environmental trends in Ireland and the North Atlantic region;
- (4) investigate wider social implications regarding the transition and development of the Irish Neolithic, relationships between 'domestic' and 'ritual' spheres, and how farming practices may have contributed to the creation and maintenance of identities;
- (5) compare the Irish evidence with that from Britain and the Continent.

These investigations will inform discussion of interactions between people and their landscapes, how landscapes changed over time, and how they may have been perceived.

Further information on the project may be found at: <http://www.chrono.qub.ac.uk/instar/>

## **BRIDGING THE GAP: CROSSING THE PALAEOECOLOGY-ECOLOGY DIVIDE**

Althea Davies<sup>1</sup>, Jane Bunting<sup>2</sup> & Nicki Whitehouse<sup>3</sup>

(1) School of Biological & Environmental Sciences, University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA, [a.i.davies@stir.ac.uk](mailto:a.i.davies@stir.ac.uk)

(2) Department of Geography, University of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull, HU6 7RX, [m.j.bunting@hull.ac.uk](mailto:m.j.bunting@hull.ac.uk)

(3) Palaeoecology Centre, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, BT7 1NN, [n.whitehouse@qub.ac.uk](mailto:n.whitehouse@qub.ac.uk)

For many environmental archaeologists, especially those used to dealing with sediment sequences, palaeoecology should share a relationship with ecology similar to that between environmental archaeology and archaeology. However, the difficulties encountered by Howard *et al.* in making archaeologists more aware of the value of environmental archaeology (AEA newsletter 100, May 2008) are also frequently met by palaeoecologists attempting to raise awareness of the implications of long-term histories for ecology and conservation. In brief, many environmental processes work on longer timescales than the career of the average ecologist or policy-maker: observations spanning a years to a few decades may not be representative and could lead to misconceptions about the way our environment and ecosystems work, potentially resulting in the formulation of damaging management strategies. This also has implications for archaeology, as demonstrated by work on the influence of site management on the *in situ* preservation of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains in wetlands.

This is by no means a new interest in the part of palaeoecologists, with general and case specific publications on this theme appearing in ecological and conservation journals over the last 30 years or so, and increasingly over the last 15 years. Like Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental, we have recently begun a more concerted effort to address this issue. Jane is leading a pilot project called 'Bridging the Gap', with funding from the Hull Environment Research Institute (<http://www.hull.ac.uk/HERI/>), to investigate these issues, and she and Nicki combined their interests to bring together a number of palaeoecologists, ecologists and conservationists (from agencies and free-lance) in a fruitful 2-day workshop in March 2008. This included a key note talk from Frans Vera, whose book *Grazing ecology and forest history* (2000, CAB International, Wallingford) stirred up a lot of debate amongst ecologists (e.g. Hodder *et al.* (2005) *Large herbivores in the wildwood and modern naturalistic grazing systems*. English Nature Research Reports No. 648, Peterborough), and presentations of the preliminary results of the NERC-funded project '*Fossil insect remains as indicators of the primeval forest: a modern analogue approach*' led by Nicki and David Smith (Birmingham), which aims to examine the 'Vera hypothesis' using modern analogues and palaeoecological data. Short talks and workshop discussions focussed on the themes of communication and the role of long-term perspectives in ecology and conservation, including a presentation on Althea's project investigating responses from ecologists, conservationists and managers to longer-term perspectives for upland sites and habitats of current conservation concern/interest, funded by the cross-research council RELU (Rural Economy and Land Use) programme. A quasi-regular newsletter is being produced to continue the 'Bridging the Gap' debate (contributions welcomed) and is available on request – issue 2 due shortly.

The 'Bringing the Gap' workshop included a questionnaire to assess the main barriers to the transfer of evidence across the palaeo-/neo-ecology divide. The main factors identified were ranked as follows:

1. Reading different journals/other materials;
2. Equal weight was given to (a) writing in different places, (b) different jargon, and (c) time constraints;
3. Information constraints: not knowing how to find the right person to talk to in a different discipline;
4. Equal weight was given to (a) individuals are interested but institutions (e.g. the organisation they work for) prevent them actually using the methods, or make it very hard to use them, (b) not knowing what is possible/interesting to the other groups, and (c) money constraints;
5. Equal weight was given to (a) not attending the same conferences, and (b) different organisational cultures and practices;
6. Not mingling at conferences.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, these constraints were similar to those identified by Howard *et al.* and echo points made by other authors about writing styles (e.g. Webster, R. (2003) Let's re-write the scientific paper. *European Journal of Soil Science* **54**: 215-218). This suggests that, in part, we need to modify our approach and methods and, like Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental, find ways to make partnerships, secure research funds and effect change via knowledge transfer activities. A general increase in environmental awareness due to climate change and growing interest in nature conservation, habitat restoration and sustainable management, combined with strategic funding initiatives which could be used to support knowledge transfer from longer-term ecologies to current issues, suggest that innovative approaches are timely. We would therefore like to ask other members for their feedback: how can we effect change? What advice can you offer for establishing constructive partnerships or ways of making palaeoecological data more amenable to a wider audience?

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## THE FIRST DATED STONE ROW ON DARTMOOR, SOUTHWEST ENGLAND

Ralph Fyfe

School of Geography, University of Plymouth, Plymouth, PL4 8AA, UK  
ralph.fyfe@plymouth.ac.uk

The prehistoric archaeology of Dartmoor, a granite upland in southwest England, is probably best known for the extensive evidence for subdivision of the landscape around the mid-second millennium BC (Fleming, 2008). Relationships between the pattern of Bronze Age land division and earlier monuments, in particular stone settings and stone rows, has been established for at least some field systems on the moor (Johnston, 2005), suggesting that they perpetuate pre-existing patterns of land tenure during the earlier Bronze Age, and possibly the later Neolithic. The best expression of these earlier groups is the stone monuments, and there are around eighty rows on Dartmoor, assumed to date to around 2600-2200 cal BC. However, none are dated, and understanding the chronology for these monuments may reveal the age of the antecedents for defining territories in prehistory.

In 2004 a previously unrecorded stone row was discovered on Cut Hill, central northern Dartmoor, at over 600 m above sea level (Figure 1). The character of the stone row is unusual, as is its position, in the highest landscape zone in southern England. The known extent of the row comprises seven large granite slabs (around 2x1x0.2 m) which all currently lie in a recumbent position, spaced on average 25 m apart (Greeves, 2004). The stones lie in an area of blanket peat (around 2 m), but are visible owing to extensive erosion relating to cutting and subsequent peat degradation. Work since 2005 has focused on understanding the chronology of the monument and its relationship to its contemporary environment.

Probing along the line of the row into deeper peat located an additional submerged stone (Figure 2) which provides an exceptional opportunity to obtain the first secure dates for a stone row on the south west uplands by radiocarbon dating of peat from above and below the submerged slab. In addition, samples were taken from a peat section underneath one of the exposed stones, and basal dates from two sections in the peat. The basal peat dates show that peat initiation took place around 5510-5360 cal BC. The submerged stone ended in its final (recumbent) position shortly after 3347-3100 cal BC (4505±24, UBA-8853), and was sealed by peat by 2476-2245 cal BC (3903±35, UBA-8855), the end of the late Neolithic/start of the early Bronze Age. The sample from under the exposed stone was 3700-3540 cal BC (4858±25, combined humin and humic fraction: SUERC-10212 and SUERC-10211).

It is not clear at present whether the stones at Cut Hill were originally upright, or placed in a recumbent position. If they were originally upright, then the date for the construction of the monument may be pre-date the early 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC based on the date from under the exposed stone. If they were originally recumbent then they must post-date the later 4<sup>th</sup> millennium. In either case, the stones would have ceased to be visible to groups moving across the site by the middle of the third millennium.

More research is in progress at the site, including palaeoecological analysis (pollen and proxy-climate work), probing and geophysics to resolve the extent of the monument, and survey to establish its original character. In the first instance it is clear that the chronology of stone rows on Dartmoor extends significantly further back in time than current models allow, and although the form of the monument is unusual, the early date may reveal more about patterns of territory and use of space in the Neolithic which are later formalized in more visible land division in the Bronze Age. Environmental techniques, including characterizing the changing environment, landscape and landuse around the site and within the wider landscape through the Neolithic, are likely to be key to understanding a critical period in the formation of the character of British uplands, the most visible elements of which may be the final parts of the story.



Figure 1. Aerial view of the Cut Hill stone row. Five slabs can be seen running from left to right across the image. Image © Chris Chapman (www.chrischapmanphotography.com).



Figure 2. Section 3, Cut Hill, showing submerged granite slab lying on 0.5 m of peat, under c.1.0 m of material.

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