



Association for Environmental Archaeology

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Edited by Wendy Carruthers and Vanessa Straker

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(e-mail addresses: wendy.carruthers@virgin.net; vanessa.straker@english-heritage.org.uk

Vanessa Straker, English Heritage SW, 29 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4ND

Wendy Carruthers, Sawmills House, Castellau, Llantrisant, Mid Glamorgan CF72 8LQ (Tel: 01443 223462).

AEA Membership Secretary: Jane Richardson, Archaeological Services WYAS, PO Box 30, Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 0UG, Tel: 0113 3837509; e-mail: membership@envarch.net

AEA website <http://www.envarch.net/>

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EDITORIAL

As this is the first Newsletter of 2005 we wish you all a Happy New Year! To make the Membership Secretary's life easier, it would be helpful if you could please check that you paid the correct subscription in January (see item below). We would also like to draw your attention to the information about the Spring Conference in Winchester (page 3) and urge people to send in their registration forms as soon as possible, as it is now only a few weeks away. In order to make the Newsletter a useful source of information about environmental archaeological events, we would be grateful if members could please forward information about conferences, meetings, jobs etc. to one of the Newsletter editors.

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Reminder letters and/or emails regarding subscriptions for 2005 should shortly be arriving with all AEA members who have yet to pay by cheque or visa. Subscriptions were due at the beginning of January and these have been held at the 2004 rates: £38 for UK waged members, £44 for waged, overseas members and £28 for unwaged and student members (both UK and overseas). If you have recently paid your subscription, please ignore the reminder!

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE POSTERS AVAILABLE ONLINE

We are pleased to announce that French, German, Dutch and Spanish translations of the Association's A3 publicity poster will shortly be available on our website as pdf files (<http://www.envarch.net/aea/poster.html>), alongside the English version. We would be extremely grateful

if members could help publicise the AEA by downloading and printing out the appropriate poster for distribution. Any offers for additional translations would be warmly welcomed.

NEW CO-ORDINATING EDITOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY: THE JOURNAL OF HUMAN PALAEOECOLOGY AND A CALL FOR PAPERS

2005 will see publication of the tenth volume of *Environmental Archaeology*, the AEA's journal, which superceded *Circaea* (1983-1996). *EA* attracts a wide diversity of papers from studies of specific types of data, through to regional landscapes and, since 2003, has been published bi-annually. Professor Glynis Jones, University of Sheffield, has been the Co-ordinating Editor of the journal since its launch, but will be retiring after completing the tenth volume this year.

The new Co-ordinating Editor is **Dr Ingrid Mainland**, University of Bradford. She is currently looking for articles for *Environmental Archaeology* 11, and all new submissions should be sent directly to her. As you are probably aware, the remit of the journal is to publish a wide range of papers in all fields of environmental archaeology, from methodology to synthesis and theory. These may take the form of substantial research articles (up to 6000 words in length) or shorter reports. Papers may include, for instance, new techniques, philosophical discussions, current controversies and suggestions for new research, as well as conventional research papers. Review papers are welcome as long as they are sufficiently critical and succinct. Comments and replies to papers published in the journal (up to 2000 words) will be included as will book reviews and review articles on important new books or collections of books on related topics. Contributions from members of the AEA are particularly welcome.

Dr Ingrid Mainland

Co-ordinating Editor, *Environmental Archaeology*

Department of Archaeological Sciences

University of Bradford

Bradford

West Yorkshire BD7 1DP

UK

Tel: +44 1274 23 3541

Fax: +44 1274 23 5190

e-mail: I.L.Mainland@Bradford.ac.uk

Please see the website for further information about the journal, including the 'guidelines for authors':

<http://www.envarch.net/publications/envarch/index.html>

UPDATE ON JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFERS DURING 2005

Membership of the AEA qualifies you for the following discounts:

- *Journal of Archaeological Science*. AEA members can purchase individual **stand-alone discount rate** subscriptions for £76/\$128/€113.
- *The Holocene*. Subscription rates: EU = £105.00 (normally £133.00); US = \$199.00 (normally \$248.00); Rest of the World = £124.00 (normally £155.00)
- *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* is available for £95/\$150 to AEA members (same rates as for 2004).

For more information of what is on offer and how to obtain your discount, go to:

<http://www.envarch.net/offers/offers.html>

CIRCAEA ON THE WEB

Articles from *Circaea* volume 6 are now available for downloading as PDF files from the AEA website:

<http://www.envarch.net/publications/circaea/index.html>

Any queries or suggestions for the AEA website please contact the AEA webmaster: r.craigie@sheffield.ac.uk

2005 AEA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note that the next AGM will be held at the AEA autumn 2005 meeting in Hull.

CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

AEA SPRING CONFERENCE 2005 Environmental Archaeology in Landscape Archaeology

To be held at the **West Downs Campus, University College Winchester** (formerly King Alfred's College, Winchester) on **31st March 2005**

Abstract

The focus by archaeologists of whole landscapes ('Landscape archaeology') from an approach that was previously site-base, is one of the most significant changes to our discipline in the last 20 years. To quote one major archaeological textbook:

"... fieldwork used to be seen almost exclusively in terms of the discovery and excavation of sites. Today, however, while sites and their excavation remain of paramount importance, the focus has broadened to take in whole landscapes, and surface survey at sites in addition to – or instead of - excavation. Archaeologists have become aware that there is a great range of "off-site" or "non-site" evidence, from scatters of artefacts to features such as ploughmarks and field boundaries, that provide important information about human exploitation and the environment." (Renfrew, C. and Bahn, P. [1996] *Archaeology: theories, methods and practice*. Second Edition. Thames and Hudson, London, p. 67)

Landscape archaeology has been the subject of many conferences, but never one dedicated to environmental archaeology. Nevertheless as landscape archaeology has become more prominent environmental archaeology has itself had to change in approach and methodology. Such developments are therefore the subject of the Association of Environmental Archaeology Easter conference hosted by the Department of Archaeology, University College Winchester on Thursday 31st March 2005.

Programme

10:00-10:20	Arrival and registration
10:20-10:30	Introduction [Keith Wilkinson (University College Winchester)]
10:30-10:50	Getting under the skin: geoarchaeology, landscape archaeology and the planning process <i>Jen Heathcote (English Heritage) and Gianna Ayala (University of Sheffield)</i>
10:50-11:10	Archaeological prospection in deeply alluviated environments: a case study from the Trent Valley, UK <i>Andy J. Howard (University of Birmingham), David Knight and Keith Challis (Trent and Peak Archaeological Unit)</i>
11:10-11:30	Human activity and landscape processes on the Yorkshire Wolds; an assessment of dry valley deposits at Cowlam Well Dale 2004 <i>Catherine Neal (University of York)</i>
11:30-12:00	Coffee
12:00-12:20	A divided land: integrating social and environmental histories on Dartmoor, SW England <i>Joanna Brück (University College Dublin), Ralph Fyfe (University of Exeter), Robert Johnston (University of Sheffield), Helen Lewis (University of Oxford) and Helen Wickstead (University College London)</i>
12:20-12:40	Burnt-mounds and troughs in their landscapes <i>Tony Brown and Steve Davis (University of Exeter)</i>
12:40-12:50	Discussion
12:50-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:20	Approaches to the integration of palaeoecological data and landscape archaeology <i>Tony Brown and Chris Caseldine (University of Exeter)</i>
14:20-14:40	Reconstructing landscape-wide environmental changes at a local scale – a case study from the New Forest <i>Michael Grant (University of Southampton)</i>
14:40-15:00	A hidden landscape revealed: Integrated field-work at Bilsdale and Rievaulx, North Yorkshire <i>Jane Wheeler (University of Bradford)</i>
15:00-15:20	Success or failure? Environmental perspectives on long-term settlement and abandonment in southern Iceland <i>Kerry-Anne Mairs (University of Edinburgh)</i>
15:20-15:50	Tea

15:50-16:10	Alluvial fan deposition and site distribution relationships within the Sparta Basin, southern Greece <i>Richard Pope (University of Derby) and Keith Wilkinson (University College Winchester)</i>
16:10-16:30	Geoarchaeological approaches to landscape archaeology: a Mediterranean example <i>Gianna Ayala (University of Sheffield)</i>
16:30-16:50	Geoarchaeological frameworks for the interpretation of archaeological field survey: a case study from northern Spain <i>Keith Wilkinson (University College Winchester), Ian Bailiff, Chris Gerrard (University of Durham) and Richard Pope (University of Derby)</i>
16:50-17:15	Discussion and close

The conference has a registration fee of £28 for AEA members/students and £35 for non-members (who are not students). This fee includes conference attendance, a book of abstracts, morning and afternoon refreshments and a two course buffet lunch. Limited accommodation is available on campus for the nights of 30th and 31st March at a cost of £30 per person.

Those who wish to attend **Environmental archaeology in Landscape archaeology** (including speakers) should fill in the form at the back of the Newsletter and send it to Robin Bendrey, Department of Archaeology, University College Winchester, Winchester, SO21 1QH. Email: Robin.Bendrey@winchester.ac.uk

AEA AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2005

Visualising Past Environments: new directions in palaeo-landscape studies

Wetland Archaeology and Environments Research Centre, Department of Geography, University of Hull
8th-10th September 2005

The artist's reconstruction of an archaeological site, its inhabitants, and its landscape, has long been an important 'product' of studies of the past, summarising the work of a wide range of different specialist researchers, and acts as a powerful communication tool for non-specialists. The recent surge in availability of powerful computers, fancy graphics packages, GPS surveying equipment, and Geographical Information Systems have all led to the production of increasingly sophisticated reconstructions of past landscapes, whether as 'artists impressions', interactive visualisations or maps, which are now widely found on TV, the internet, in popular literature and posters for schools, and in museums.

Do these tools allow for a more 'objective' and reliable reconstruction of the past, or are they no more than artists impressions using novel tools? Reconstructing the pattern of past landscapes, the natural and cultural mosaic of vegetation, habitat, land-use and resources, and the ways in which people interacted with and moved through them, has always been an implicit part of our work as Environmental Archaeologists. In this meeting, we hope to explore the many ways in which we get from field data or sample to reconstructed landscape, and whether the new technology is helping, distracting from, or largely irrelevant to the interpretation and communication of our findings. We welcome papers relating to any stage in the process, from the collection, analysis and interpretation of single-proxy samples to production of final summarising reconstructions, as well as case studies or examples of the environmental archaeology of palaeo-landscapes.

The meeting will be preceded by a one-day workshop on the POLLSCAPE approach to reconstructing past vegetation patterns from the pollen record. (see e.g. Sugita *et al.* 1999, Bunting *et al.* 2004), drawing on the work of the PolLandCal Network (<http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/ecrc/pollandcal/index.htm>). The workshop will consist of a mixture of lectures to introduce the theories underlying the approach and practical sessions with the user-friendly software suite developed in Hull. Workshop costs will be on the order of £50 (to be confirmed), to include lunch, notes and software. Places are limited, and will be allocated on a first come first served basis, so please email m.j.bunting@hull.ac.uk to register your interest.

This is the first call for abstracts; the deadline for abstracts is **May 15th 2005**. These should be a maximum of 300 words long, include a clear informative title, and indicate whether the contribution is offered as a poster or oral presentation. . Please send electronic abstracts to: m.j.bunting@hull.ac.uk

or paper versions to:

AEA Conference 2005
Wetland Archaeology and Environments Research Centre
Department of Geography
University of Hull
Cottingham Road
Hull
HU6 7RX

INTERNATIONAL WETLAND CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 21-23 2005, EDINBURGH

The 2005 WARP (Wetland Archaeology Research Project) conference, organised by SWAP (the Scottish Wetland Archaeology Programme) and supported by Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, will be hosted by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland on 21-23 September 2005. It is worldwide in scope, and will focus in particular on peatland, lacustrine and alluvial/estuarine archaeology. Papers/posters on these themes are welcomed. The conference will consist of 2 days of lectures followed by a day-long field trip. There will be evening receptions at the Royal Commission and the National Museum of Scotland, and a conference dinner & ceilidh on the last night. For more information, contact Alison Sheridan a.sheridan@nms.ac.uk and see our website <http://www.scottish-wetlands.org/>

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ETHNOBOTANY TO BE HELD IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY, AUGUST 2005

Call for papers for session 6:

Continuity and change in food and medicine: archaeobotany and the written record

Abstract: Archaeobotanists, who work with historical and archaeological data, do not have the luxury of asking people what they think about plants, nor can they observe the daily activities that integrate plants into the lives of the people whose remains they study. Ethnobotanists who work with living people rarely have the opportunity to study change beyond the memories of those with whom they work. The written record may complement, contradict or reinforce interpretations based on archaeological evidence. The goal of this symposium is to demonstrate how the long-term perspectives of archaeobotany and historical ethnobotany, focused on patterns of change and stability in the use of plants as food and medicine, can inform the wider ethnobotanical debate.

For full information see: <http://www.iceb2005.com/topics.html#6>

Dr Andrew S. Fairbairn
Research Fellow
Department of Archaeology and Natural History
Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies
Coombs Building
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200
Australia

Call for Papers

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF FOOD: CULTURE AND IDENTITY

Colloquium session

Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) annual meeting

Montréal, Québec (Canada)

January 5-8 2006

Food is an important part of culture and identity. Archaeologists, zooarchaeologists, archaeobotanists and other specialists are fully aware of the scope of their researches and the various sub-disciplines of archaeology have now moved beyond the lists of taxa or daunting type-series. This colloquium session invites specialists of various fields to discuss what bioarchaeological remains and/or material culture can reveal on the role of food in cultural and social identity and on the relation between human and their environment in the past.

Any queries can be addressed to the session organiser at the address below. The AIA attracts principally specialists of the Classical periods and Antiquity but participants working on other periods are also most welcomed to submit a paper. Title, abstract (max. 250 words), contact information, professional affiliation and the amount of time requested (10, 15 or 20 minutes) must be submitted by 11 March 2005 to the session organiser. Please note that this year, the AIA will accept paper given in English or French. Information on the AIA, the annual meeting and travel funds is available online at: <http://www.archaeological.org>

Manon Savard
Université du Québec à Rimouski
300, allée des Ursulines
Rimouski (Québec) Canada
G5L 3A1
Phone : (+1) 418 723-1986 ext. 1225
E-mail : manon_savard@uqar.qc.ca

UK ACCREDITATION OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SPECIALISTS

In recent months the Management Committees of the Association for Environmental Archaeology (AEA) and the British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology (BABAO) have been looking closely at the subject of Accreditation of Professional Archaeologists and Archaeological Specialists in the UK. This has been in response to two main stimuli:

- Queries from members working in commercial archaeology who are interested in accreditation in a professional capacity, as a mechanism that would help maintain standards in contract work;
- Actions, consultation and policy statements by UK Heritage agencies (English Heritage, CADW, Historic Scotland, and Environment & Heritage Agency for Northern Ireland), in response to the voluntary code of conduct agreed in the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised)*, Valetta, 1992.

Our activities so far have involved several meetings with representatives of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and of English Heritage's Department of Policy and Communication. Members of the latter are currently involved in producing a paper of recommendations on the subject to be presented and discussed later in the year. These recommendations if accepted will be applied to archaeological work funded and or managed via the national agencies. It is expected that there will be a knock-on effect reaching the commercial sector. The likely mechanisms for accreditation are either to set up a new accreditation body or to adapt and use existing procedures operated by the IFA.

There are plans for an initial accreditation process involving peer review and according to a number of appropriate professional categories. Accreditation will then be reviewed at regular intervals (probably 5 years), when applicants will be required to demonstrate that they have maintained and developed their professional expertise.

Discussions were held with the IFA as they are presently the main body involved in accreditation in the UK and, as already mentioned, seem likely to play a central role in one form or another in future accreditation processes. The AEA & BABAO do not see themselves as able to be responsible for accreditation and all the associated legal implications.

Following on from discussions with the IFA the management committees of the AEA and BABAO and the IFA Council have agreed to carry out a pilot exercise to look at accreditation more closely. In particular we will be examining accreditation categories and the special requirements associated with these. An attempt will also be made to look at costing the exercise – how much money would be needed to set up the accreditation process and what it is likely to cost to become accredited and maintain accreditation? Which accreditation categories are appropriate and practical – generalists (e.g. project managers, environmental officers etc.) and specialists (e.g. human osteologists, archaeozoologists, etc.)? On which criteria should accreditation be based? How should it be carried out – how can it be made quick, easy and unbureaucratic while maintaining its effectiveness? Both organisations have already declared their willingness to provide a pool of specialists willing to be involved in the peer review process.

The next step in the pilot exercise is to consult BABAO and AEA members. **What are your views on the subject of accreditation?** We are interested in responses both from UK and non-UK members. Experiences from similar exercises in other countries can be invaluable in identifying the problems and

pitfalls and also in pinpointing how the process can be made as effective as possible for the least investment of time, money and bureaucracy.

We look forward to your responses.

Dr James Steele
(Chair BABAO)
Archaeology
University of Southampton
Avenue Campus
Highfield
SOUTHAMPTON
SO17 1BF

Dr David Earle Robinson
(Chair AEA)
Archaeological Sciences
English Heritage
Fort Cumberland
Eastney
PORTSMOUTH
PO4 9LD

tjms@soton.ac.uk

DavidEarle.Robinson@english-heritage.org.uk

AEA & BABAO

The opportunity for collaborative links between the AEA and BABAO (British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology) was very much welcomed by the BABAO Committee and membership. We are now represented on each other's committees, and collaborating on issues of common interest – currently, a lot of our attention is focused on mechanisms of accreditation for professionals in the commercial sector (as described elsewhere in this issue). We have agreed to encourage intellectual exchange by organizing thematic sessions on topics of overlapping interest at our annual conferences (this year, at the BABAO meeting in London; next year, at the AEA meeting in Exeter), and by offering membership rates for these meetings to members of the partner organization. We hope that these opportunities will be welcomed, and that we will see further initiatives explored in the future.

It may be helpful at this point if I introduce the BABAO to the AEA membership. Interest in human osteology in the UK has grown enormously in the last decade, reflecting not just the intellectual consolidation of the field within British academic archaeology, but also an increasing demand for trained forensic anthropologists. In the media, there is also much more frequent use of osteological expertise by makers of historical documentaries. The British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology (BABAO) was established in 1999 with the intent of drawing together expertise and interest in all areas of analysis of human remains. It seeks to promote the study of human remains in the interests of bioarchaeology, comparative anatomy, palaeontology and biological, forensic and medical anthropology. BABAO provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on all aspects of the analysis and interpretation of human remains.

In accordance with one of its aims, as described in its constitution, to “improve standards in all aspects of the study of the biological remains of past and present peoples”, BABAO has prepared and published (jointly with English Heritage) *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports* (English Heritage, 2002), and *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* (published jointly with the Institute of Field Archaeologists; IFA, 2003). BABAO is currently sponsoring a bid from its membership to procure funding for the development of a database collating information about available skeletal material within British curatorial institutions. This will include such data as the number of individuals within each sample, provenance information including date, where the sample is held, when it was excavated, etc.

Membership of the organisation is open to all those interested in these areas of study. It has an active membership of about 200, and includes representatives from the UK and elsewhere involved in the excavation and analysis of human remains, in tertiary and post-graduate education, and in the curation of human remains, whether based in universities, archaeological units, museums or other organisations.

The Association issues an annual Newsletter, maintains an unmoderated email discussion list, and holds an annual conference (the next one will be at the Museum of London on 3-4 September 2005). Conference proceedings may be published, and have so far led to two edited volumes (a third is now in preparation). Membership is renewable annually on 1st January, and currently costs £15 (waged) or £10 (unwaged/students). Further details are available on the Association's web site (www.babao.org.uk).

We look forward to working with the AEA, and hope to welcome members to our meetings in future!

James Steele (Chair, BABAO)
Archaeology (School of Humanities),
University of Southampton,
Highfield
Southampton SO17 1BF.

NEW RESEARCH ON BURNT- MOUNDS AND RELATED TROUGHS: CALL FOR MATERIAL

(A.G. Brown, M.H. Dinnin, P. Skidmore, M. Gowen and S.R. Davis)

At Exeter we are undertaking a 2-year Leverhulme funded multiproxy investigation (beginning April 2005) into the palaeoentomology and geochemistry of burnt mounds and associated troughs. The primary objective of the project is to investigate site function and context through analysis of beetle and fly remains and trace elements. Most burnt mounds in Britain and Ireland are of Bronze Age date and are found in streamside or riverside locations. They have been interpreted as cooking pits, saunas, sites for textile processing and even eel stores. Despite many excavations in England, Scotland and Wales few have been discovered with significant faunal or botanical evidence that could contribute to a greater understanding of their function. Recent commercial work in Ireland has provided several sites with high palaeoenvironmental potential and these will provide the primary data source of the project. However, we would be very interested to hear of any sites of this type which are currently being excavated, have been excavated in the past and environmental samples kept, or are to be excavated in the next year or so. If you know of such sites please contact:

Tony Brown a.g.brown@exeter.ac.uk or Steve Davis S.R.Davies@exeter.ac.uk

JOBS

Ethnobotany and Environmental Anthropology Department of Anthropology (A05/33)

**Fixed Term for 10 months
Lecturer Grade A, Point 8: £23,643 pa**

Candidates should be able to convene and teach a core MSc module in Ethnobiological Knowledge Systems and teach an undergraduate module in Human Ecology, of 12 weeks each. They will also be expected to contribute to the supervision of MSc Ethnobotany students, and to teach some additional classes in an area to be agreed to make up the equivalent of an average teaching load.

Preference will be given to those candidates most likely to contribute to the research standing of the department, and the successful candidate will be expected to further develop his or her own research, and to contribute to existing research groups.

Ideally, the person appointed will have a doctoral level qualification in a relevant area of anthropology or cognate subject, a good record of publications and a proven ability to attract research funding.

Informal enquiries may be made to Dr. Rajindra K. Puri, tel: 01227 764000 extension 3148, or by e-mail: rkp@kent.ac.uk.

[Further particulars and an Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form can be downloaded here.](#)

Alternatively you can telephone the Personnel Office for further particulars and application details on 01227 827837 (24 hours) or e-mail: personnel@kent.ac.uk quoting Ref.No. A05/33. Text phone users please telephone 01227 824145.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is: 12 noon Monday, 7 March 2005.

PUBLICATIONS

We are very grateful to James Greig (jimi.gee@virgin.net) for the following information. James sends thanks to Örne Akeret, Angela Monckton, Carol Palmer, and Ulrich Willerding for references.

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CHAPTERS

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