

Association for Environmental Archaeology

AEA Newsletter 124

May 2014

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Chair's piece

It has been a busy quarter for the AEA. After a successful spring meeting held jointly with the Conchological Society in April (of which more below), we sponsored our first continuing professional development workshop in partnership with the Institute for Archaeologists (a UK-based body promoting professional standards in archaeology) on the theme of "dealing with organic finds". A review of this event will appear in the next newsletter, but the considerable interest and positive feedback make me very hopeful this will be the first of many similar initiatives in the future. Our final seminar of the academic year concluded at the University of Oxford, with an incredibly well-attended lecture delivered by Professor John Lowe (Royal Holloway) entitled "Climate Confusion: Lessons and Pitfalls in the Study of Climates Past". In other positive news, we have secured discounted subscription rates for members wishing to receive the *Journal of Archaeological Science* (for more information see: <http://envarch.net/journal-of-archaeological-science-discount-for-members>). Our plans now turn forward to the autumn conference in Plymouth, at which we will be launching our new research fund, and two further meetings in 2015.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the AEA. Anniversaries provide suitable moments for reflection, introspection and future planning. Earlier this year, 69 scholars co-authored a fascinating article in the *Journal of Ecology* identifying, for the first time, 50 priority (but achievable) research goals for palaeoecology (Seddon *et al.* 2014). The questions centred on six themes, which included "human-environment interactions in the Anthropocene; biodiversity, conservation and novel ecosystems; biodiversity over long term time-scales; ecosystem processes and biogeochemical cycling; comparing, combining and synthesizing information from multiple methods; and new developments in palaeoecology" (p.257). Many of the issues raised resonate with the concerns of environmental archaeologists; however, there are inevitably differences reflecting alter-

nate disciplinary foci. Seddon *et al.* demonstrate the power of undertaking this kind of exercise, and I would like to kick-start this process amongst the membership to identify the 35 most important questions for Environmental Archaeology: one priority for each year the AEA has been in existence. Please share your top priorities on the AEA Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Association-for-Environmental-Archaeology/206667162689371>), via Twitter (@envarch #AEA35) or by email (envarch@envarch.net). If we garner sufficient interest, we will look to pull together a face-to-face workshop on this theme in 2015.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer.
Richard

Seddon *et al.* 2014. Looking forward through the past: identification of 50 priority research questions in palaeoecology. *Journal of Ecology* 102: 256-267

Richard Thomas, AEA Chair



AEA Chair Richard Thomas and Conchological Society president Mike Allen at the Spring Conference (see report on page 6)

Reconstructing former floodplain landscapes



Quaternary Scientific (Quest), School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science, Whiteknights, University of Reading, RG6 6AB
www.reading.ac.uk/quest

Since arriving in the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science (SAGES) at the University of Reading in 2008, members of the Quaternary Scientific (Quest) team have continued to develop expertise in Quaternary science and environmental archaeology as a result of research and commercial activities. Key areas of interest to us are floodplain environments such as the Lower Thames Valley (**Figure 1**), where our long-term goal is to compile a high resolution spatial-temporal model of the evolving floodplain and dryland landscape, considering the often complex interactions between topography, climate, vegetation, hydrological changes and human activity. From an archaeological perspective, these investigations enable us to: (1) attempt prediction of where we might find evidence of human activity on the floodplain; (2) place the archaeological evidence within its environmental context, and (3) consider the impact of environmental change on human groups and vice versa. This ongoing research and enterprise programme is being achieved by adopting a multi-proxy approach integrating sedimentary, geochronological, palaeobotanical, palaeozoological and geochemical techniques on sequences taken from the floodplain, combined with archaeological evidence from both the wetland and dryland.

Some of our more recent work has focussed on modelling the boundary surfaces and thickness of the main stratigraphic units across large areas of the Lower Thames Valley floodplain. A typical sedimentary sequence in this region consists of Pleistocene river terrace gravels overlain by intercalated

Holocene alluvium and peat, capped by made ground (e.g. Devoy, 1979; Wilkinson *et al.*, 2000; Branch *et al.*, 2012; Batchelor *et al.*, in press; Green *et al.*, in press; **Figure 2**). Each stratigraphic unit is significant as it represents different environmental conditions that would have existed in any given location. For example, soil and peat represent former terrestrial or semi-terrestrial land-surfaces, whilst fine to medium-grained sediments such as sands, silts and clays often represent periods of flooding. The stratigraphic boundaries between these units therefore represent highly significant successions between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. However, existing records also indicate important changes in environmental conditions, in particular vegetation structure and composition, occurred *during* the main period of peat formation that took place between *ca.* 3500 and 1500 cal BC.

At Barking Reach (Figure 1; Green *et al.*, in press), models of the sub-surface stratigraphy have been created by extracting the relevant information from over 300 archived borehole and test-pit logs supplemented by a small number of dedicated geoarchaeological boreholes (**Figure 3a**). Here we present arguably the most significant modelled surface; that of the Pleistocene Gravels, which together with relative sea level change, had the greatest impact on the history and spatial pattern of Holocene sedimentation (**Figure 3b**). The results provide a robust representation of the more extensive landforms, the shape and scale of which are consistent with the large-scale elements of a braided river system. Two

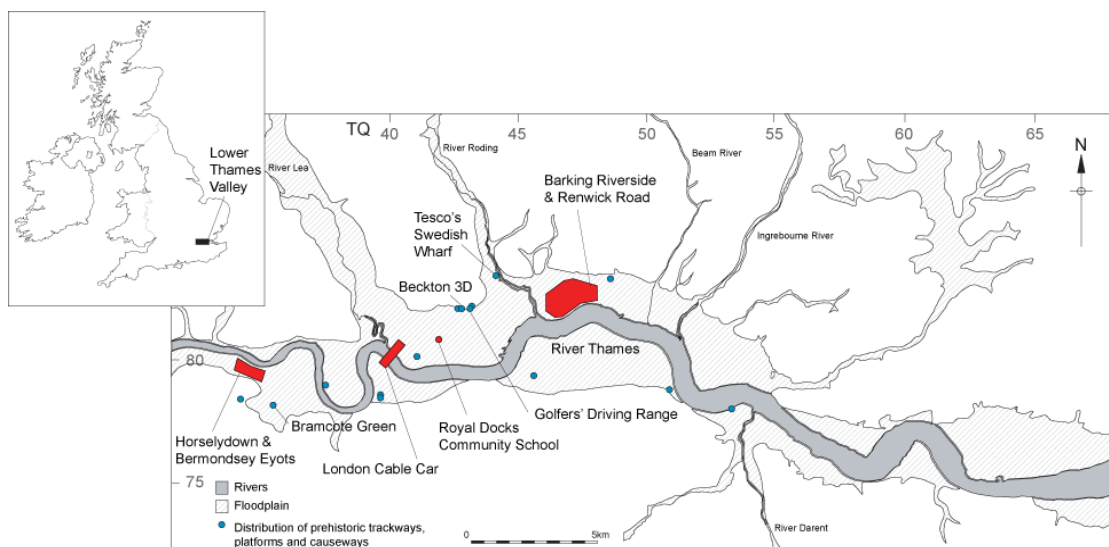


Figure 1: The Lower Thames Valley, highlighting key sites mentioned in the text

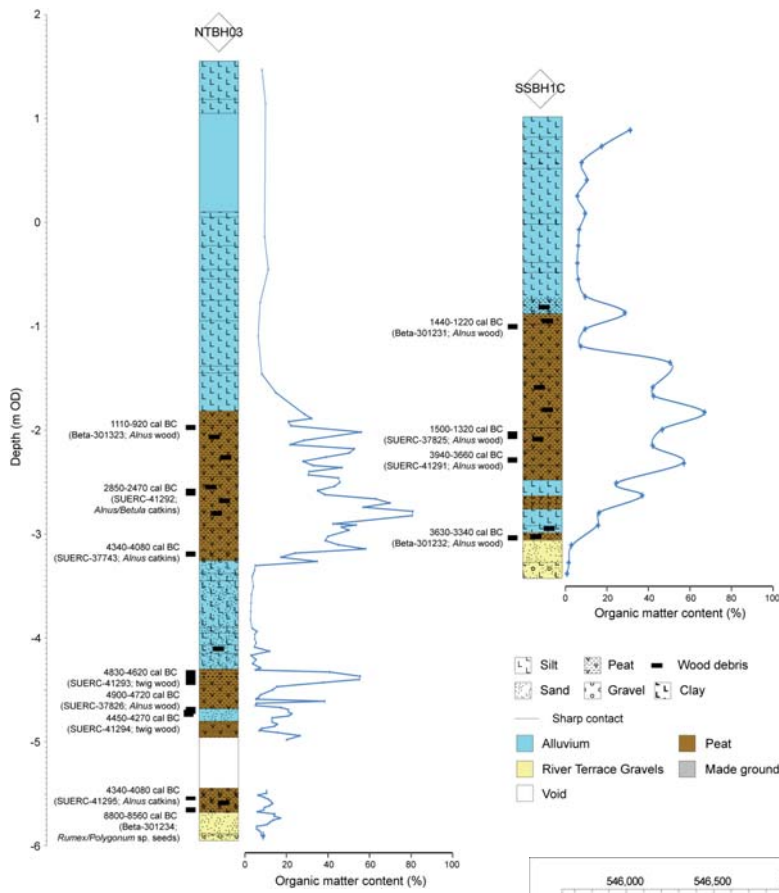
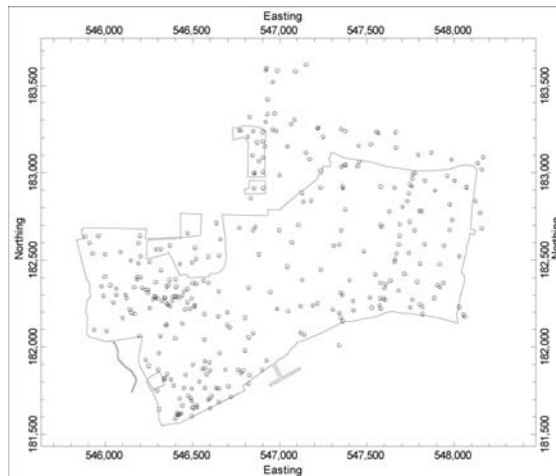


Figure 2: Stratigraphic sequences from the London Cable Car route (Batchelor et al, in press)

(a)



(b)

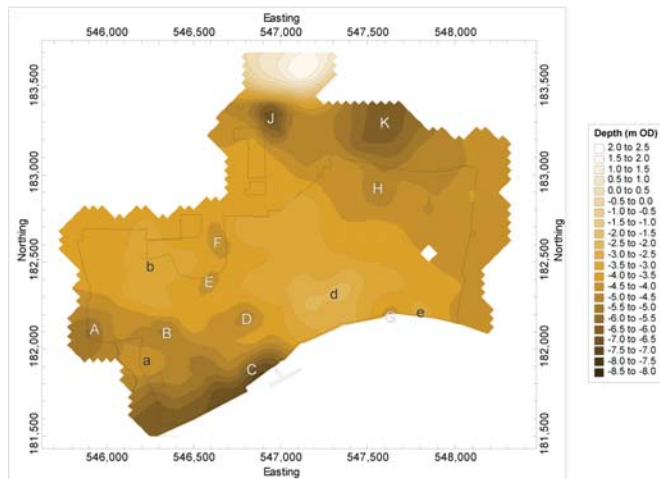


Figure 3: Modelling the River Terrace Gravels at Barking Riverside and Renwick Road (Green et al, in press); (a) borehole locations; (b) the reconstructed surface of the River Terrace Gravels (m OD)

broad areas of low-lying topography to the south (A-C) and north (J-H) of the modelled area represent the level of major active channels. The more elevated WNW-ESE orientated 'swell' of gravel that separates these channels, probably represents a surface that was only periodically flooded (b, d, e). At over a 1km in length and 500m wide, this is consistent with a first-order bar, and has been named the 'Barking Eyot'. As is often the case in braided systems, minor channels (D-G) cut across the bar dividing it into lower order elements. To the very north of the modelled area, the rise from the Thames floodplain onto the higher surface of the dryland is recorded.

One of the outcomes of the modelling exercise is the identification of areas with higher archaeological potential. For example, the Barking Eyot may have raised archaeological significance, since other elevated gravel areas (such as the Horselydown Eyot [e.g. Leary *et al.*, 2011], the Bermondsey Eyot [e.g. Cowie & Corcoran, 2008], and beneath the Royal Docks Community School [Holder, 1998]) contain evidence of utilisation/occupation by prehistoric people (**Figure 1**). In addition, peat forming on the margins of the Barking Eyot or dryland probably has a higher potential of containing prehistoric structures, as is demonstrated by a number of Neolithic and Bronze Age trackways, platforms and causeways at sites such as Golfers Driving Range, Beckton (Carew *et al.*, 2009; Figure 3), Beckton 3D (Meddens, 1996), Tesco's Swedish Wharf (Meddens, 1996) and Bramcote Green (Thomas & Rackham, 1996) (**Figure 1**). Finally, modelling identifies areas in which thick sequences of peat and alluvium are likely to be preserved, on which detailed palaeoenvironmental and environmental archaeological investigations can be carried out identifying evidence for climate change, vegetation history, past hydrological regimes and human activity.

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Rob Batchelor and Chris Green



Figure 4: Golfers' Driving Range, Beckton Bronze Age trackway and platform (photograph kindly provided by Pre-Construct Archaeology)

John Evans Dissertation Prize

John Evans (1941-2005) was an inspirational environmental archaeologist, responsible for advancing the discipline and fostering many of today's top researchers in the field. His many books continue to make a contribution to practical and theoretical aspects of environmental archaeology. To honour the memory of John and his achievements within environmental archaeology, the AEA has an annual competition for the best undergraduate and Masters dissertations in any aspect of environmental archaeology.

2014 competition

Prizes of £75 will be awarded to the best undergraduate and Masters dissertation, which may be on any aspect of environmental archaeology worldwide. Abstracts from the winning dissertations will be published in the AEA newsletter (this is a condition of entry that all entrants will be agreeing to on submission of their dissertation). The John Evans Dissertation Prize winners will also be encouraged to submit an abridged version of their dissertation for publication in the Association's journal, *Environmental Archaeology*, subject to the usual review process.

We invite each Department of Archaeology (or other relevant department) to submit the dissertation of their best candidate by **31st July 2014**. Submissions from individual students are not accepted. English is the preferred technical language of submission although the committee will accept submissions in French, Spanish, German and Dutch, although these must be accompanied by an English summary (max. 2 pages) to conform to the submission rules. Departments wanting to submit in other languages should contact the prize administrator to determine whether the submission can be accommodated.

The result will be announced at the AEA autumn meeting in Plymouth, UK, 7-9 November 2014. Bound copies or pdf versions should be sent to Dr Robin Bendrey, who should also be contacted for further information:

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The British Archaeobotanical Work Group

Members with an interest in British archaeobotany are invited to visit the updated website for the Archaeobotanical Work Group (AWG), coordinated by English Heritage staff. The page includes a link to useful online resources as well as minutes of past meetings and details of future meetings. This is a very active group and our meetings/seminars are well attended and welcoming. Please see the webpage for details about how to join the group.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/research/heritage-science/environmental-archaeology/archaeobotany-groups/archaeobotanical-work-group/>



AEA Spring meeting with the Conchological Society

On Saturday 26th April the Association for Environmental Archaeology teamed up with the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland for the 2014 spring meeting. The venue was the Natural History Museum, London; the theme *Molluscs in Archaeology*.

The meeting was presided over by Mike Allen (President of the Conchological Society) and chaired by Jan Light (Vice President of the Conchological Society) and I. The format comprised ten thought-provoking lectures, each demonstrating the enormous potential of, often tiny but frequently abundant, molluscs to address key archaeological questions.

Landscape reconstruction was a central theme of the day. Tom Walker narrated a story of landscape change following the analysis of land snails extracted from coring transects across sand dunes at Gwithian, west Cornwall, UK. In this landscape, Bronze Age settlement was actively shaped by the (in)stability of sand. Sticking with the coastal theme, Matt Law and Nigel Thew outlined the importance of molluscs for understanding site formation processes and environmental change in the Western Isles of Scotland, where land snails provide the only abundant source of evidence. Lively discussions followed about the potential of particular taxa to indicate the use of seaweed as fodder and as biostratigraphic markers. Bri Estabrook highlighted the value of molluscan evidence to test commonly-held beliefs about the nature of past landscapes by conservationists seeking to undertake restoration work. Taking the example of Malta, assumed to have been more densely forested in the past, she demonstrated that a mosaic landscape was perhaps more typical, following her analysis of land snails from archaeological sites and contemporary environments. Mike Allen provided a comprehensive synthesis of molluscan evidence from archaeological sites from the chalklands of central southern Britain and re-evaluated vegetation history through time. Mike concluded that the post-glacial environment in Wessex should now be regarded as dense woodland with large open areas of natural grass, which has significant implications for the way in which Mesolithic and early Neolithic human activity in the landscape is interpreted.

From the damp woodland of central southern England to the arid environment of Qatar, Emma Tetlow and colleagues discussed the potential of marine shells for reconstructing past environments in a country where pollen, insect remains and plant remains do not survive archaeologically. Here marine shells were industrially-exploited

during the Bronze Age to produce purple dye and had an important dietary role in pre-Islamic levels. The scale of shell consumption at some sites is genuinely astonishing. Victoria Taylor and Martin Bell described the land mollusc midden at Talforat, Morocco, dating between 15,200-12,600 cal BP, in which millions of land snails are estimated, shedding light on changing dietary habits and environmental change.

Janet Rideout-Smith emphasised the cultural significance of molluscs in her exposition of shell jewellery across the Epipalaeolithic/Neolithic transition in northern Syria. Links between the appearance of purposefully modified (perforated, stained, ground) shells and altered subsistence strategies and trade networks appear more than coincidental.

Methods underpinning analysis were explored by many of the speakers, but formed the explicit focus of three papers. Greg Campbell provided a detailed investigation of shell size statistics and discussed the potential and caveats of reconstructing shell size from fragments. Ricardo Fernandes and Alexander Dreves highlighted the importance of considering the consumption of freshwater and marine molluscs in dietary stable isotope studies and radiocarbon dating. Finally, the proceedings were concluded by Liz Somerville, who described the potential value of analysing oyster shells, recording methods, and raised important directions for future research, such as establishing when oyster beds became managed.

In sum, it was an excellent meeting, international in scope, full of engaging discussion, and hosted at an excellent venue. Thanks are owed to the Conchological Society, particularly its president Mike Allen, the Natural History Museum, and all the volunteers for making the day run smoothly.

Abstracts for the oral presentations remain accessible at: <http://envarch.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Abstracts.pdf>

Richard Thomas

Botanical Ontologies, May 2014, Oxford, UK

It is often the archaeological aspects of environmental archaeology that receive most attention, but recently a handful of archaeobotanists challenged this notion, and themselves, by attending the inaugural 'Botanical Ontologies' conference held at the University of Oxford, 16th-17th May. This brought together researchers from across the humanities, social sciences and biological sciences and if there was a hint of bewilderment surrounding the conference's title it was brought straight to question by Roy Ellen (University of Kent) who opened Friday evening's plenary session by challenging both the use and usefulness of the term 'ontologies'. More familiar ground followed as Mark Nesbitt (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) took to the podium to discuss the economic botany collection at Kew and his days as a "commando ethnobotanist" in Turkey (figure 1). After the plenaries a combined drinks reception and poster session gave delegates the opportunity to meet each other on a more informal basis. Poster topics were varied, with archaeological concerns juxtaposed alongside present-day issues, including medicinal plant selection, nutrition, taxonomy, phylogenetics and knowledge transfer. There was no shortage of enthusiastic discussion, which spilled over (somewhat inevitably) into the local pub and continued late into the evening.



Figure 1: Mark Nesbitt presents at the Plenary session

The following day and an early start saw the conference get underway with an opening session focusing on 'the formation and transmission of plant knowledge'. Papers in this session explored the creation of local ethnobotanical knowledge in Central Ukraine (Iwa Kolodziejska-Degorska, University of Warsaw), how individual perceptions of environmental change influence Skolt Sami herbal medicine (Natalia Magnani, University of Cambridge), the cognitive principals in plant naming (Elena Bulakh, Lisbon University), and the anthropology of rattan knowledge (figure 2) and its acquisition amongst Ngaju Dayak in Indonesian Borneo (Viola Bizard, University of Kent). A coffee break followed

before the second session commenced, the theme of this being 'the application of plant knowledge'. (Rodrigo Camara-Leret *et al.*) started proceedings by presenting their paper on the localization of traditional knowledge of medicinal plant in South America. Other papers in the session investigated the scientific contribution to a botanical garden run by a local indigenous community in Mexican Mixtec (Nora Villamil Buenrostro, University of Oxford) and the materiality of ethnobotanical knowledge in indigenous communities as realized through "living lists" (Theresa Miller, University of Oxford).

A lunch break gave everyone the chance to enjoy some food and the welcome summer weather before the conference resumed. Session three opened the afternoon's proceedings by addressing ethno-bio-chemical perspectives and plant-initiated impacts on humans. This included papers focusing on edibility as a plant-initiated strategy central to shaping human-plant relationships (Luci Attala, Exeter University), considerations of plant movement from a historical-literary perspective (Felix Sprang, University of Hamburg), an exploration of gum uses in Australia and Oceania through chemical analysis of resins on artefacts (Fiona Bradshaw, University of Oxford) and a look at the uses and ab-uses of Tobacco in indigenous and non-indigenous contexts (Elizabeth Ann Rhaman, University of Oxford). The final session of the day looked toward a new understanding of 'botanical ontologies'. Delegates heard papers on the conservation of wild seed and the responsibilities of seed-banking (Kay E Lewis Jones, University of Kent and Kew), new ways of viewing botanical ecologies through the traditions of Indic, Tibetan and Sino medicinal plant ontologies (Tyler Phan, UCL) and finally concepts of local time categories as a method to preserve plant knowledge (Maria Zurita (Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle).

Each session was constructed in order to provide ample time for discussion and this continued past the close of the fourth session as delegates reflected back on the conference as a whole. Debates centred around the concept of 'agency' when applied to plants and the realities of ethnobotanical fieldwork. One of the key issues to emerge (and one which will resonate with any environmental archaeologist!) was an appreciation of the diverse and variable manner in which terminologies are applied between different fields and between specialisms. The aim of the conference was to address the question "How do we know what we know about plants?" but perhaps we should also consider "How do we know what we know about plants *and* how can we share this information with each other?"

The inaugural botanical ontologies conference provided plenty to think about for those archaeobotanists who attended, emphasizing what we can learn from our contemporaries in other, related fields and what we can teach them in turn. The success of the conference owes much to

the organisers (Katherine French, Luiseach Nic Eoin, Theresa Miller and Lewis Daly) whose tireless work resulted in a smooth running and dynamic event and to all the speakers, who enthusiastically presented, defended and discussed their research. We can only hope that the mantle is picked up and that this becomes the first of many botanical ontologies meetings. For more information and podcasts from the conference go to

[http://
botanicalontologies.wordpress.com](http://botanicalontologies.wordpress.com)



Figure 2: An example of rattan use courtesy of Viola Bizard

Jade Whitlam (Images courtesy of Luiseach Nic Eoin)

PHYTCORE: PHYTOLITH ONLINE DATABASE

We are pleased to invite you to visit the new updated PhytCore (Phytolith Online Database): www.archeoscience.com. This new update is the result of the continuing work since 2011, when PhytCore was presented during the 8th International Meeting on Phytolith (Estes Park, Colorado).

To access the catalog you first will need to register to the www.archeoscience.com platform. Once registered you can access the catalog through Phytolith DB.

PhytCore includes phytolith images collected from three different sources:

- Modern reference plant material from specific study areas.
- Modern soils collected from the same areas as modern plants or from areas that were previously described in terms of vegetation.
- Archaeological material.

The catalog not only provides digital images of phytoliths but also related information such as provenience of the sample, date of collection, in the case of modern soil assemblages, description of the vegetation from where the samples were collected, etc.

In this new version you will see the following updates:

- GEPEG new phytoliths images and related information from:
 - Modern plant reference samples from Israel:

Avena sterilis

Hordeum glaucum

Cynodon dactylon

- Paleosoils samples:
 - Pondoland (South Africa)
- Archaeological samples:
 - Pinnacle Point 13B (South Africa)
 - Tel Dor AI32E, AJ32N, Area D2 and Area G (Israel)
- Creation of a new interactive window that is associated with each phytolith image, where anyone can address a comment or suggestion to improve the catalog.
- Addition of a new Database from the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture. University of Washington, created by Dr. Caroline Stromberg and Regan Dunn. To access this new database, please select in the research window: the UWBM catalogue. Note that it is also possible to perform multi-search functions of phytoliths through both catalogues.

- Although you can still access PhytCore through http://www.gepeg.org/enter_PCORE.html, please note that the whole webpage will be moved to the www.archeoscience.com platform.

We would like to remind you that PhytCore welcomes all researchers, Institutions or Research Groups to add their phytolith databases. If you need further information please contact: Agata Rodríguez (agata.roci@gmail.com), Xavi Esteve (xesteveg@gmail.com) or Rosa-Maria Albert (rmalbert@ub.edu).

AEA Autumn Conference, 7-9 November, 2014

The big picture: archaeology, society and environment

Plymouth University (Devon, UK)

Conference abstract

Environmental archaeology has a long tradition of producing detailed, rich reconstructions of the past environment, and how people interacted with, shaped and exploited their environment. Over recent decades the volume of data and knowledge that stems from it, through developer-funded and blue-skies research, has made it possible to begin to synthesis and draw out meaning from disparate sites, in the era of 'big data'. Alongside this there is an increased interest in the role that environmental archaeology can play in assessing societal resilience and sustainability, through detailed consideration of what people do, alongside the environment in which they are doing it. The relationship between social groups and their environment is nuanced, and environmental archaeology has a major role to play in exploring how different groups behave following environmental or social perturbations, or indeed the extent to societal development is at all related to environmental changes.

This conference will explore current work in environmental archaeology which seeks to integrate archaeological/environmental data at a variety of scales, from interdisciplinary site-based studies to regional syntheses. We invite, in particular, papers that explore: regional synthesis of datasets; the challenges of up-scaling and integrating multiple sets of site-based data; new approaches to integrating site-based data to reveal spatial and temporal patterns in landscape, environmental or social change; resilience theory and environmental archaeology.

The conference will include two keynote speakers: Dr Amy Bogaard (Oxford) and Professor Stephen Shennan (UCL). The programme will appear on the conference website (see below) as it develops, along with the complete (accepted) abstracts. A conference dinner will be held on the evening of Saturday 8th November at the National Marine Aquarium on the historic waterfront in Plymouth.

Abstract submission and conference registration

Abstract submission for oral and poster presentations are welcome, and should be submitted by 28th July 2014 through the conference website at:

<http://www1.plymouth.ac.uk/research/ceres/AEA2014>.

Abstracts should be clear and succinct, with a maximum of 300 words text. Please include a title, complete name(s)

of author(s) and their affiliation(s), and postal and e-mail addresses.

Registration and payment is being managed through an on-line system, which can be located within the conference website. **Please register by 7th October 2014.** Registration costs will be £110 for AEA members, £50 for AEA-registered students, £145 for non-AEA members and £75 for non-AEA students. The conference dinner is an additional cost on top of registration.

Plymouth is a vibrant and dynamic water-front city in south-west England with plenty of accommodation options within a 10-minute walk of the city-centre campus. A list of local hotels will appear on the conference website.

Conference organisers

Ralph Fyfe, Nicki Whitehouse and Neil Roberts

School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Plymouth University, Plymouth, PL4 8AA, UK

Informal enquiries are welcome to ralph.fyfe@plymouth.ac.uk



Source: <http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/pages/view.asp?page=23364>

9TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING FOR PHYTOLITH RESEARCH**“TOWARD INTEGRATIVE PHYTOLITH RESEARCH”**

Brussels, 10-12 September 2014

WORKSHOPS**“International Committee for Phytolith Morphometry”****“International Committee for Phytolith Nomenclature”**

Brussels, 8-9 September 2014

Under the auspices of the International Phytolith Society (<http://9impr.ulb.ac.be/>)**PZAF 2014****Postgraduate Zooarchaeology Forum***Institute of Archaeology, University College
London, 20th-21st June 2014.*Full information can be found on our webpage:
pzaf2014.wordpress.com**Royal Archaeological Institute Conference*****Science in Archaeology, 17 - 20 October***

Conference will be held in association with the University of Bradford at the Norcroft Centre, University of Bradford. It will review the contributions that science has made to archaeological studies over the past 40 years and some of the directions in which it is now progressing.

The fee for two days attendance is £98 (includes tea/coffee, lunch, wine reception and abstracts) with an optional guided visit to Ilkley Moor for £20 on Monday 20 October.

Full programme details are to be found at
<http://www.royalarchinst.org/conferences;>
www.royalarchinst.org.

Enquiries to admin@royalarchinst.org

European Association of Archaeologists**EAA 2014**

Istanbul

10th -14th September

*Session: ‘The Bioarchaeology of Ritual and Religion’**Session: ‘Environmental archaeology and archaeology: Divided we stand (still)?’**Session: ‘Subsistence strategies in change: the integration of environmental and archaeological evidence on prehistoric land use’*

For further information see

<https://www.eaa2014istanbul.org>**CALL FOR SESSIONS****XIX INQUA Congress****Nagoya, Japan****27th July—2nd August 2015**Deadline for submissions : *31st March
2014*

For further information see

<http://inqua2015.jp/>

ICAZ 2014*CALL FOR PAPERS***ZOOARCHAEOLOGY OF****PASTORALISM****Argentina, September 2014**Deadline for submissions *March 31st 2014*

For more information contact Lee G. Broderick (University of York, lee@zooarchaeology.co.uk) and Robin Bendrey (University of Reading, r.bendrey@reading.ac.uk).

ICREA International Conference on

SMALL-SCALE SOCIETIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSFORMATIONS: CO-EVOLUTIONARY DYNAMICS*Barcelona**17th-18th December 2014*See <http://www.s3et.net>**Radiocarbon and diet: aquatic food resources and reservoir effects*****Kiel, Germany******24th - 26th September 2014***

The meeting will address some of the following general themes:

- Human exploitation of aquatic food resources
- Methods to detect an aquatic diet (e.g. isotope analysis)
- Radiocarbon reservoir effects in human and archaeological materials (e.g. ceramics)
- Alternative methodological approaches to dietary reservoir effects (e.g. radiocarbon dating of single compounds)
- Environmental variability of aquatic radiocarbon reservoir effects
- Special cases of non-dietary radiocarbon reservoir effects

Further details can be found at the meeting's website: <http://www.rre-conference.uni-kiel.de/>

AEA Elections!

As summer approaches, its time to think about whether you'd like to help contribute to the activities of the AEA through standing for election to the Managing Committee.

This year we are seeking nominations for **three Ordinary Member positions, one Student Representative** and the position of **AEA Secretary**. There is more information about these positions below.

The elections will be held at the Association's AGM, which will take place during the autumn meeting in Plymouth, UK (7th-9th November 2014, see <http://envarch.net/events/>). Nominations can be received at any time up to the AGM, but we would like to encourage members to **submit nominations by July 20th 2014**, in order for candidates' statements to appear in the August Newsletter.

For any queries, please contact the Secretary (Fay Worley) at the address below.

Further information on roles and serving on the Managing Committee

General Committee information

The AEA Managing Committee usually meets four times a year (around April, July, October and January). There is funding available to assist with travel to meetings and we utilise virtual conferencing facilities to allow members to participate where travel is prohibitively expensive or not possible. The main items of business discussed include the organisation of conferences and events, the publication of the Journal, responses to new policy documents and frameworks that impact upon environmental archaeology and its practitioners, as well as issues relating to the Newsletter, website, social media, membership, finances and new initiatives (such as our forthcoming research fund). Serving on the Committee allows AEA members to help determine the future direction and priorities of the Association, and promote environmental archaeology within and beyond archaeology.

The role of Secretary (one position available, four year term)

The Secretary facilitates communication between the Managing Committee and AEA members and between members of the Managing Committee. On a practical level, this includes assisting in the organisation and administration of committee meetings and AGMs, drawing up agendas and minutes, and Newsletter or website notices. The Secretary works in close cooperation with the Chair and is also available to assist other Managing Committee members.

The role of Ordinary Member (three positions available, four year term)

The committee includes 12 elected Ordinary Members, whose role is to contribute to committee activities and the management of the Association, through active participation in committee meetings and additional tasks as required. Ordinary committee members may take on additional specific responsibilities, such as Conference Officer, Publicity Officer, Web Officer, etc, for some, or all of their term of office.

The role of Student Representative (one position available, two year term)

The committee includes two Student Representatives, with one new Student Representative elected each year, and their term of office lasting two years. The post is open to both undergraduates and postgraduate students.

During their first year of office, the newly elected Student Representative will 'shadow' the student completing their second year of office. During their second year of office, the student representative will take a more active role in the Committee, as well as guiding the newly elected student representative. The Student Representative will be expected to promote the AEA within the undergraduate and postgraduate communities, and also encourage the establishment of student-led meetings/seminars.

Submitting a nomination

All nominees must be AEA members in good standing. Any AEA member can make a nomination, but this must be seconded by another AEA member. Nominations should be accompanied by a brief personal statement from the nominee (that implicitly indicates their willingness to stand), which will be published in the Newsletter and/or circulated at the AGM.

Nominations and personal statements can be e-mailed or posted to the AEA Secretary, Fay Worley, who should also be contacted with any queries.

E-mail: fay.worley@english-heritage.org.uk

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

Current membership of the Committee can be found at: <http://envarch.net/committee/>

The AEA constitution is also on the AEA website <http://envarch.net/the-aea/constitution/>



<http://www.envarch.net>

Key Dates

AEA Autumn Conference

7–9 November, 2014, Plymouth University (Devon, UK)

The big picture: archaeology, society and environment

(Registration deadline—7th October 2014)

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Nominations for AEA Managing Committee (see p12)

Please e-mail to AEA Secretary Fay Worley by July 20th 2014 : fay.worley@english-heritage.org.uk

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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'.

Notes from the Newsletter Editors

Please note that the AEA bibliography compiled by James Greig is now on the AEA website. You can also find a thesis submission form on the website which gives AEA members an opportunity to publish abstracts of their postgraduate thesis.

We are always keen to receive newsletter content, especially from our non UK members. To submit an article, please email word documents and images to;

newsletter@envarch.net

Wendy Carruthers, Vanessa Straker & Jade Whitlam