## Editorial

The May edition of the Newsletter contains a review of the Spring Conference in Aberdeen; many thanks to Jane Wheeler and Michelle Farrell for their comprehensive report. The Annual Conference this year is being held in Kyoto in December. Further details are provided in this Newsletter, and offers of presentations are invited (see page 9). The AEA is also holding a one-day meeting in Birmingham in September. Registration forms are available on-line at the Birmingham University and AEA websites (see page 8).

## News from the Committee

### NOMINATIONS TO THE AEA MANAGING COMMITTEE

The AEA Managing Committee seeks nominations for the following positions:

- Secretary (four-year position)
- Three Ordinary committee members (each a four-year position);
- Student representative (two-year position)

Elections will be held at the AEA AGM, which is to be held during the one-day meeting at Birmingham on 11th September 2010.

**The role of Secretary**

The role of the Secretary is to facilitate communication between members of the AEA Managing Committee and, along with the AEA Chair, between the Committee and AEA members. The main practical duties involve the drawing up of agenda, keeping accurate minutes, and writing and encouraging notices for the Newsletter and Website. The Secretary works in close co-operation with the AEA Chair, and is also available to assist other Committee members of the Association.

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**AEA website** [http://www.envarch.net/](http://www.envarch.net/)
General Committee information
The AEA Managing Committee usually meets four times a year (usually in April, July, October and January). The main items of business discussed are the organisation of conferences and the publication of the Journal, as well as issues relating to the Newsletter, website maintenance and membership. All nominees must be AEA members in good standing.

The role of Student Representative
It was decided at the 2008 AGM to create an elected Student Representative post on the AEA Committee. The term of office for the Student Representative is two years, and the post is open to both undergraduates and postgraduates.
One new student is elected to the Committee each year. 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.

To make your nomination: Any AEA member can make a nomination, but this must be seconded by another AEA member. A brief personal statement from the nominee (which implicitly indicates the nominee’s willingness to stand) should accompany nominations. This can be received by e-mail or regular mail. This statement will be published in the August Newsletter or, if received afterwards, posted at the AGM. Nominations can be received up to the time of the AGM, although the committee would like to encourage members to submit nominations before the August Newsletter deadline (20th July 2010).

Nominations and personal statements can be e-mailed or posted to the AEA Secretary, Meriel McClatchie.
E-mail: meriel.mcclatchie@gmail.com
Postal address: See http://www.envarch.net/aea/committee.html

Current Committee details can be found at: http://www.envarch.net/aea/committee.html
The AEA constitution is also on the AEA website: http://www.envarch.net/aea/constitution.html

THE JOURNAL
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.

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Online access for all subscribers
Online access to all volumes of Environmental Archaeology 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@envarch.net), 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). Please note that access will only be made available to fully paid-up members.

Institutional subscription to Environmental Archaeology is £145 ($268 in USA) 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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AEA ONE-DAY MEETING, SPRING 2011

Offers are sought to host the 2011 AEA spring one-day meeting. These meetings are usually held on a Saturday and student research presentations are particularly welcomed. Since the 2010 autumn AEA conference will be held in Japan and the committee is currently considering an offer to host the autumn 2011 conference outside Britain, we would particularly welcome offers from UK institutions.
If you are interested in hosting this event, please contact the AEA conference officer: Rebecca Nicholson (rebecca.nicholson@oxfordarch.co.uk).

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**AEA CONFERENCE FUND**

We are delighted 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 the Kyoto conference. Priority will be given to those with limited alternative sources of funding (particularly postgraduate students and those in the private sector). Applications from postgraduates must be accompanied by a letter of support from their supervisor.

This year, there are two grants for sums up to £400 each to attend the annual conference in Kyoto in December 2010. 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.

The deadline for applications is **30th June 2010**. Any queries should be directed to the AEA Conference Officer: Rebecca Nicholson (rebecca.nicholson@oxfordarch.co.uk).

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**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 is announcing its annual dissertation 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 and the 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 2010. Submissions from individual students are not accepted. The dissertation must be written in English.

All submitted dissertations will be read by two AEA committee members, with a short list of four being read by a third member of the committee. The result will be announced at the AEA one-day meeting at Birmingham in September 2010.

Bound copies should be sent to Dr Naomi Sykes, who should also be contacted for further information: naomi.sykes@nottingham.ac.uk
Department of Archaeology
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**AEA CONFERENCE REPORT**

**AEA THREE-DAY SPRING MEETING, UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN**

*30th March – 1st April 2010-04-28*

Jane Wheeler, University of Aberdeen, UK & Michelle Farrell, University of Hull, UK

The AEA spring meeting opened the annual conference season for archaeologists, palaeoenvironmentalists, palaeoecologists, and archaeo-environmentalists. This year the spring conference was hosted by the University of Aberdeen, and true to form, the Granite City welcomed delegates with a rapid climatic shift to near-glacial weather conditions on the first day.

Delegates met on the eve of the conference in a hostelry in the centre of the city, with many old acquaintances being renewed, and new members and researchers being welcomed at the informal get together in ‘Under the Hammer’. The following day registration was followed by coffee, prior to the instigation of the conference and
the first session by the Chair, Tim Mighall. Kevin Edward’s keynote address not only set the scene in terms of the life-ways, world views, and the environments of northern cultures through time, but also provided a wonderful environmental excursion and a tour of his research into the realms of the North Atlantic region - being aptly entitled: On the windy edge of nothing. Whilst the conference got underway, the weather deteriorated, and as Kevin had just discussed and evidenced, it reminded us all of the marginality and variability of the environment of the North outside the sanctuary of St. Mary’s.

Ed Schofield chaired the second session of the day which focused on human impacts on northern environments. The opening paper was presented by Kim Vickers (University of Edinburgh), and focused on palaeoentomological work she had undertaken with Paul Buckland to investigate the environmental impact and response in the North Atlantic islands, specifically the Norse colonisation and associated environmental impacts on Iceland, the Faroe Islands, and Greenland, which included the cultural selection and management of resources. Kim concluded by calling for more high-resolution studies to be undertaken to identify more sites where there was evidence for resource management. Richard Streeter (University of Edinburgh) then discussed his research into the depopulation of Medieval Iceland which coincided with a series of volcanic eruptions and the plagues of AD 1402 and AD 1494. Richard used tephorochronology to date and identify landscape change in southern Iceland, particularly the abandonment of upland farmsteads. He presented a high-resolution record of landscape change which, as he concluded, based on geomorphological data, suggests depopulation may have been attributable to the impact of the Little Ice Age and climatic deterioration. However, he also proposed that the impact of plague could also be a viable alternative to the causes of population and contemporary environmental decline. Jane Bunting (University of Hull) then introduced the dynamic of pollen modelling to detect human impact in the pollen signal from northern latitudes in regions of Scotland and northern Scandinavia. Jane reminded us that the pollen signal of human activity in northern areas can be subtle and easily masked by natural processes. She used empirical surface sample data and simulation models of pollen dispersal and deposition to demonstrate how site selection, pollen count size, and type of environmental activity, interact to determine the visibility of human activity in the pollen signal. Returning to the theme highlighted by Kim Vickers, the next speaker, Nikola Trbojević (University of Iceland), presented the results of his research to assess the impact of settlement on woodland resources in Viking-age Iceland, but particularly the wood requirements of the early Icelandic farmsteads. Nikola highlighted the utilisation of birch by the 9th and 10th century settlers for building and utilitarian purposes, along with the rapid and contemporary process of deforestation and reduced biodiversity. However, as Nikola argued, his data indicates that clearance was not quite so defined in terms of ländnam. His environmental model suggested resources were being managed to sustain the basic requirements of the settlers, with cultural selection and woodland management being practised to maintain wood stocks.

Following lunch the first afternoon session was chaired by Doug Northwick, with the theme of human impacts on northern environments continuing. The first paper of the afternoon assessed the “home-field” as a narrative of cultural and environmental interactions, at Sandhavn (a large Norse farm), south Greenland, and presented data which indicates the co-existence of Norse and Inuit communities at an Atlantic trade site during the Norse period. Three chronological phases of activity at the site were proposed which were characterised by mid-11th to mid-13th century Norse ländnam and manuring, followed by the advent of the Inuit presence during the 13th century, and then, during the late-13th to late-14th century an intensification of soil improvement due to heightened manuring. Kirsty Golding (University of Stirling) concluded that whilst soil improvement could be correlated with the arrival of the Norse settlers, the presence and chronology of Inuit settlement shows an overlap between the two cultures at the site which is more to explain. Ed Schofield (University of Aberdeen) then presented the results of his on-going research with Kevin Edwards, which examined the complementary use of fungal spores alongside pollen and other palynomorphs to provide intriguing insights for the palaeoecological study of land use change. Ed discussed a series of sites in Greenland where coprophilous fungal spores reflect pollen-derived signatures of pastoral activity for the Norse period. Ed concluded that specific types of fungal spore, specifically Types 112 and 55A, which have been identified as ‘dung markers’ in modern samples, have the potential to reciprocate in palaeoenvironmental studies. The results of a collaborative research project were then presented by Konrad Śmiarowski (CUNY, New York), who examined Norse interaction with the environment in the Eastern Settlement, Greenland. Konrad assessed the movement of people from Norway and Scandinavian countries to Iceland and Greenland, and their distinct cultural selection of marine resources. Seal archaeofauna was shown to reflect past human economic organisation, and the communal management of migratory and local seal species over time. Interestingly, there was a major change in the availability of seal stocks c. AD 1250 due to a climatic shift resulting in warmer conditions and greater summer ice drift. Lucy Verrill (University of Stirling) then presented the interim results of pollen and geomorphological analyses of sediments from palaeochannels proximal to rock art panel in the Kilmartin Valley, Argyll, Scotland. Pollen modelling, using the HUMPOL software suite, was used to construct a series of hypothetical landscape scenarios, which she then compared to the fossil-pollen assemblage to recreate the Neolithic landscape and its visual relationship with the position of the rock art features in the wider landscape. The session was concluded by Sarah Diers (Kiel University) who presented the results of a multi-disciplinary joint research project to investigate the creation of distinctive landscapes Northern Germany during the Neolithic. Sarah demonstrated how micro-regional studies in the Altmark region revealed spatial structuring of
the landscape in respect of settlement and burial sites. Her research defined megalithic tombs were generally sited on valley slopes, whereas settlements were detected in lowland areas in the vicinity water sources. Interestingly, the palynological record implied the landscape surrounding the tomb sites was still closed during the 4th millennium BC and at the beginning of the 3rd millennium BC, which suggests that these monuments to the dead were invisible within the landscape and quite separate in terms of their relationship with the living.

After afternoon coffee, the final session of the day was chaired by Kevin Edwards. Stefanie Kloß (Kiel University) presented a paper about the final Mesolithic fishermen-hunter-gatherers of the Baltic Sea, and their use of wood recovered from Ertebølle and Early Neolithic sites. The artefacts recovered from working areas during wetland and underwater excavations, have revealed the cultural selection of wood-types and their management to produce fish traps, and dug-out canoes. The following paper was presented by John Summers (University of Bradford) who discussed the contribution of carbonised plant remains to the interpretation of the use and activity of specific areas within the Middle Iron Age round house at Old Scatness, Shetland. His research showed that the analyses of archaeobotanical remains from occupational deposits from hearths and tanks in different parts of the structure presented evidence of different functions within the wider structure. John showed how the 3-dimensional recording of archaeobotanical remains correlated with different activities being proposed as taking place at different times of the year, and the main building and many of the adjoining ancillary buildings. Meriel McClatchie (Queen’s University Belfast) then combined two papers which examined early agriculture and cultivation in Ireland, and the complementary role of the INSTAR database. The objective of the collaborative project is to create a database of published and unpublished data of Neolithic plant remains to investigate the nature and type of early farming across Ireland, particularly associations between farming strategies and varying site-types. The last paper of the day was presented by Althea Davies (University of Stirling), and examined the ‘reconnection’ of pollen and people. Four sites were discussed in Sutherland and the Peak District, where there is a common trend in vegetation composition and changing diversity. Althea stressed that current conservation and restoration projects don’t necessarily recreate the ‘real’ past palaeoenvironmentally, and compared erosional impacts in the Peak District with soil erosion in the ‘North’. The paper demonstrated how palaeoenvironmental analysis can influence and shape current and future environmental policy, emphasising that ancient woodland regeneration is far from ‘natural’, and how radical vegetation shift highlighted the fragility of peatlands in the 21st century.

Session 4 opened the second day of the conference, and was chaired by Karen Milek with the theme: Environmental evidence for cultural choice. The opening paper presented the results of a research project which used isotopic analysis to investigate ritual sacrifice at Hofstadir, North Iceland. Tom McGovern (CUNY, New York), discussed evidence for cattle killing at a working farm, this culling appeared to be related to the production of ‘special food’ for periodic feasting – with the killing phase continuing for approximately a century, ending c. AD 1000. N and C isotope analysis of cattle skulls from the site, along with bones from other archaeofauna in the same region provided insights into past animal diet, suggesting that most of the animals sacrificed at Hofstadir were not raised locally. The next paper was presented by Philippa Ascough (SUERC, Glasgow), who represented the wider team of her co-researchers from across Scotland, Iceland, and CUNY. Problems associated with 14C dating were detailed, specifically contamination from fresh water sources and the offset ‘reservoir effect’. Associated problems in constructing archaeological and palaeoenvironmental chronologies were also highlighted, particularly in regions where freshwater resources are affected by 14C reservoir effects. Ramona Harrison (CUNY, New York) presented the results of a collaborative archaeological project investigating long-term human eco-dynamics in Eyjafjörður, northeast Iceland. The paper focused a 13th-
The session continued after coffee, with Michelle Farrell (University of Hull) presenting the results of her research which investigated human responses to environmental change in Bronze Age Orkney. Michelle explored the concept of marginality in respect of a culture that is under-represented in the archaeological remains for Orkney. As a result of this dearth of information, she argued that the traditional concept of Orcadian decline needed to be reviewed in the light of her results. The population collapse and cultural downturn usually associated with climatic deterioration during the Bronze Age in Orkney was reassessed. Michelle revealed three pollen diagrams from Orkney which indicate that there was a continuance of grazing and human activity in the Bronze, which actually declined in the Iron Age. This paper highlighted that Bronze Age activity continued, despite the climatic downturn and the shift to wetter conditions. She concluded that the Bronze Age communities adapted to these wetter conditions, and as a result were able to expand due to a shift away from community to the individual. The next paper was presented by Jane Wheeler’s colleague Tim Mighall (both University of Aberdeen) as Jane had lost her voice! Tim presented the results of recently completed research assessing the palaeoenvironmental investigation of a series of burnt mound complexes in Northern Ireland. The paper presented evidence for human interface and near-continuous burnt mound activity from the Mesolithic through to the Pre-Christian period. Heightened burning activity was identified during the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. Whilst the actual utility of the enigmatic fulacht fiadh complexes remain a mystery, results showed that there were a number of raised palaeoenvironmental markers that indicated these features may have been used for tanning or dying. Scott Timpany (Headland Archaeology Ltd.) then presented a paper which examined a series of theories to explain evidence for peat bog cutting in the Early Bronze Age at Kilbraur, Scotland. With the use of a prop (a cast of a pine tree stump with stone axe marks) Scott hypothesised about why someone would have ‘gone mental with an axe’ in the Early- to Middle Bronze Age, and why they would have been attempting to cut dead and decaying trees in such a frenzied manner. He concluded that this may have been the result of peat-cutting, and a certain determination by the peat-cutter! The final paper of the morning was presented by Heather Green (University of Stirling) who explained about the relevance of using podzols in a cultural context to demonstrate how interactions between Norse-Sámi groups could be identified. Results showed that cultural information is retained in podzolic soils, and that the emergence of cultural hinterlands and areas of interaction associated with trade sites can be assessed as a result of the nature and extent of soil change. Preliminary results from sites near Lycksele and Umea in Northern Sweden where presented. The analysis of podzolic soils provided evidence for human-induced soil disturbance, and indicated a change in the modification of the semi-nomadic Sámi lifestyle during the development of trade sites c. AD 900 – AD 1400. The project had contributed to our understanding of trade site, particularly defining the focus of cultural contact and landscape change during this period, including changes to grazing regimes, fuel resource exploitation, iron ore extraction, arable activity, and marine resource acquisition.

After lunch, Session 5 was chaired by Rick Knecht. This session explored the micro-environments of northern settlements. The first paper was presented by Karen Milek (University of Aberdeen) who presented the results of a collaborative geoarchaeological project that compared Slavic and Icelandic pit houses, with the objective of contributing to current debate on the ethnicity of Icelandic settler. The form and internal features of Slavic pit houses, especially distinctive lower hearths, were shown to closely parallel Icelandic structures. Composition and formation processes of floor sediments in Icelandic and Slavic pit houses were compared using soil micromorphology. Karen presented comparable results based on case studies from Hofstaðir in northeast Iceland, and Roztoky u Prahy in the Czech Republic. The analysis demonstrated there were differences in building utilisation, and how the floor had been maintained. The buildings of the Prague Culture were shown to be multi-functional dwellings, whereas the Icelandic buildings were more specialised and used for woollen textile production. In the absence of evidence to support the hypothesis that Icelandic pit houses were built by Slaves, Karen reiterated that it was feasible that Slavic houses of the 6th-7th centuries were forerunners of the later Icelandic pit houses. Ben Pears (University of Stirling) then presented the next paper, which presented the results of the micromorphological analysis of organic and inorganic manuring components in amended arable soils from Fair Isle, Scotland. Ben evidenced how these soils are similar to anthropogenic soils, providing examples of their distinctive geochemistry and micromorphology. Ben’s research focused on three farmsteads, two from the early 11th century and another created in the 19th- and abandoned in the 20th century. Results revealed a distinct difference between soils from the three farmsteads, and other anthropogenic soils on the island. The older farmsteads contained deeper amended arable soils with distinctive geochemistries, compared to natural soils. In conclusion, Ben attributed the reduction in the depth of amended soils by the 19th/20th century to an increase in population pressure, and a shift to the utilisation of imported coal and coke to amend soils in the kaleyard areas. Chris Crolly (Aberdeen City Council) then presented an interesting summary of the historical research conducted recently in the city, and which has focused on the environmental of Medieval Aberdeen – particularly the city’s privies and ‘other filthiness’. Due to the wetness of the weather (which conference delegates were experiencing first hand) and the river, Chris explained that the excellent preservation of environmental remains, and the most extensive preserved civic archives in Scotland, had enabled the project to
uncover the environmental history of the city and its determination to control midden and rubbish disposal from the mid-15th century. Results of this combined study also revealed attempts to control specific trades on the streets and water systems of Aberdeen. The past maintenance of Aberdeen’s common mosses was also revealed, and the utilisation of peat for fuel and roofing material. Interestingly the paper presented evidence which not only revealed the concerns of the medieval population for resource over-exploitation as the population of the city grew, but early environmental preservation strategies for its mitigation. The final paper of this session was presented by Karen Hardy (Barcelona) on behalf of her students, and the training project to investigate seed remains from a shell midden in Sand (Applecross, Skye). Karen explained the project had been funded by the Ministry of Research (Madrid) to train archaeobotanists as part of Scotland’s First Settlers Project. Excavation and analysis of seeds from the shell-midden at Sand have revealed important environmental information about Early- to Mid-Holocene Mesolithic occupation on the west coast of Scotland. The methodology, particularly the statistical sampling strategy, of the project was explained, with results suggesting short-term occupation of the site, but interestingly additional archaeocharcoal evidence provided data which implied short-term woodland management of Birch and Hazel resources.

The final session of the formal section of the conference was chaired by Jeff Oliver. Session 6, explored themes related to the adaptability of animals and humans to cope with Northern environments and environmental change. Morten Fischer Mortensen (The National Museum of Denmark) opened the session, presenting a paper about lateglacial and Early Holocene pollen and macrofossil data from the earliest human settlement site in Denmark. The results of his investigations suggested a more complex sequence of Danish vegetation development than has previously been assumed, with a wider range of habitats, and a rather fragmented landscape, being present throughout the lateglacial period. His results raised interesting questions regarding the resource base available to the Palaeolithic cultures in Denmark and the distribution of their settlement sites. Bethan Upex (University of Durham) then presented a paper where the research methodology applied enamel hypoplasia studies to an investigation of the impacts of climate and environmental changes during the Little Ice Age on animal management strategies at Svalbarð, northeast Iceland. Data from modern sheep populations from Orkney showed that the occurrence of hypoplasia was greater during times of fodder shortage, but also at times of physiological stress. However, investigation of sheep remains from Svalbarð showed no difference in the levels of hypoplasia between pre-AD 1300 and post-AD 477 populations. He concluded that that people were adapting their flock management strategies, buffering their animals from the effects of climate change by providing extra fodder over the winter periods. The next paper by Véronique Forbes (University of Aberdeen) provided insights into living conditions during Iceland’s more recent past. Archaeoentomologial analyses of samples from 19th-20th century farmsteads has enabled the function of some of the rooms to be identified. Results show that a range of economic activities were carried out at this site, as well as providing information about sanitary conditions. Archaeoentomology and hygiene also formed the basis of Frédéric Dussault’s paper (Université Laval in Québec), which shed new light on explorers’ accounts of poor hygiene amongst the Greenland Inuit. A combination of evidence from oral tradition, material culture, written literature, and archaéroentomologie, indicate that these accounts are exaggerated and that the Inuit had high standards of personal hygiene. The final paper of the day was presented by Simon Mays (English Heritage). The paper provided an account of recent efforts as part of a wider collaborative research project, to identify a ‘new’ skeleton from Sir John Franklin’s last expedition to the Arctic in 1845. These remains, recovered in 1869, were identified as being those of one of the ships’ officers. However, preliminary results from new scientific examinations indicate that this is most certainly a mis-identification. Simon concluded the paper by stating that continuing research will not only identify the body, but also shed light on the reasons for the failure of the expedition.

The following day the conference ended with a field trip to several archaeological sites around the Dee Valley and Howe of Cromar. There was a breech in the weather – bright sunshine with the snow still lying on the ground. The ‘Carry On’ theme of the fieldtrip was further fuelled by the hired minibus having been supplied with only a quarter of a tank of diesel and a faulty fuel cap! This added an extra element of excitement to the trip ... would the intrepid delegates be able to visit all the sites on the itinerary? First stop was at West Cults to visit a Bronze Age burial cairn - a large and very impressive monument in an unusual location in the middle of a modern housing estate. Next up was a visit to the stone circle at Cullerlie, dating from the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age - being unusual both in its lowland setting, and in having eight cremation burial cairns in the centre of the circle. Following this, the charrabang was taken to the Peel Ring of Lumphanan, where the surviving delegates saw the remains of a 12th century motte and bailey castle associated with Anglo-Norman incursions into Scotland. An additional interesting feature at the site was a 19th century curling pond, although nobody could be persuaded to try it out!

Following a lunch stop in Aboyne, where most of the party consumed an excellent all-day breakfast, we headed onwards to New Kinord. A short walk took us around the remains of an Iron Age settlement and field system comprising hut circles, a souterrain, enclosures and field walls. This was followed by a peek at the crannog in Loch Kinord and a class III (Christian) Pictish symbol stone, before re-boarding the bus for the trip to Tomnaverie. Here we saw a recumbent stone circle, which is a type much more typical for north-east Scotland than the circle at Cullerlie. Recumbent stone circles are so called because one large stone in the circle is laid on
its side. The recumbent stone tends to be flanked by the two tallest stones in the circle, and at this site these stones frame a spectacular view of the mountain of Lochnagar. The final site was a Culsh souterrain, an underground structure that was a new type of site to several members of the party, prompting much discussion about its function. We then headed back to the university, and thanks to some economical driving by Ed Schofield we arrived on fumes! The party then dispersed to consider its own endurance and survival in a marginal environment, subjected to rapid climatic variables.

ABERDEEN CONFERENCE POSTER PRIZE
Congratulations to Rosie Bishop, Durham University, who was awarded the best student poster prize (£50 book token) for her poster entitled “Cereals, fruits and nuts in the Scottish Neolithic”.

CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

Please note, the AEA AGM will follow this meeting at 15.30 – 1700 hrs:

AEA ONE DAY CONFERENCE
The potential and management of environmental archives in the intertidal and offshore marine zone

Saturday 11th September 2010
Institute of Archaeology & Antiquity, University of Birmingham
Organized by Birmingham Archaeo-environmental and IBM VISTA

For over a century, the archaeological potential of drowned intertidal and marine landscapes surrounding the British Isles have been tantalizing alluded to by occasional finds of artefacts and ecofacts recovered by trawlers and dredgers, as well as nearshore features such as submerged forests. However, only within the last decade has it been possible to explore the archaeological landscapes of the deeper sea floors through the interpretation of bathymetric and seismic profiling data. Large scale spatial mapping of this information has allowed the identification of a range of landscapes and discreet geomorphological landforms, from major and minor river systems, through to lakes, wetlands and areas of upland; for the first time, this has allowed archaeologists to assess how early hunter gatherers would have utilised and moved through these landscapes. These studies are not now restricted solely to the waters surrounding the British Isles, but are being undertaken in other regions of the World where appropriate bathymetric and seismic data are available.

From an environmental perspective, the potential of this new approach to identify and accurately map the location of sedimentary traps, such as palaeochannels, offers the possibility to undertake high-resolution sampling and analysis of palaeobiological archives. Such studies will help to achieve a step change in our understanding of human impact, as well as the character of vegetation, palaeoclimate and final marine transgression and inundation of these landscapes.

However, with an increasing appreciation of the potential of these submerged landscapes and their associated environmental archives, comes a realization of the possible threats to the long-term preservation of this resource. This one day meeting aims to take a holistic approach to assessing the potential of the environmental archive in the offshore and intertidal zone and consider themes of sampling, analysis and long-term management.

The organizing committee would like to invite oral presentations and poster papers around the following four broad themes relating to the nearshore and offshore zone:

- Characterisation of the resource and the chronology of environmental archives
- Dovetailing nearshore and offshore environmental records within a cultural framework
- Modelling and visualisation of submerged landscapes
- Developing research agendas for the long-term management of environmental records

Oral presentations will have a maximum time limit of 20 minutes. Poster papers can be up to AO in size. Abstracts, no more than 250 words in length, should be sent in text format (preferably Word format) by 15th July 2010 to: A.J.Howard@bham.ac.uk. Please include a title, author or author’s complete name(s) and affiliations, full postal and email addresses. The language of the meeting will be English. In the first instance, informal enquiries should be addressed to Dr Andy Howard (A.J.Howard@bham.ac.uk).

Location
The conference will take place in the European Research Institute Building (Building G3 in the Green Zone) on the University Main Campus at Edgbaston. Directions to the ERI Building and the University can be found at
Conference fee
The conference fee will be £33.00 and includes coffee / tea on arrival, mid-morning and afternoon. A ‘finger buffet’ lunch is also included in the price.

Booking
An on-line registration form for this conference can be downloaded at [http://www.iaa.bham.ac.uk/aea2010/](http://www.iaa.bham.ac.uk/aea2010/) as well as from the AEA website.

Registration for this meeting should be made by Wednesday the 18th August 2010 and forms should be returned by email to A.J.Howard@bham.ac.uk. (IAA, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT).

2nd circular
Association for Environmental Archaeology (AEA) Annual Conference
International Research Centre for Japanese Studies
Kyoto, Japan,
1st -3rd December, 2010

Theme: The Environment and Civilization: Past, Present and Future

The annual conference of the AEA in 2010 is to be held in Kyoto, Japan. It is the first place to have the AEA conference in Asia. The year 2010 is the 30th anniversary from the first introduction of environmental archaeology to Japan in the book “Introduction to the Environmental Archaeology” by Y. Yasuda (1980). Now, this field has become increasingly important for the evaluation of the past and for the prediction and planning of the future. It is honourable to have the AEA conference in Kyoto in this memorial year. The 2010 AEA Annual Conference is organized and hosted by the International Research Centre for Japanese Studies.

The main theme of the conference will be “the Environment and Civilization: Past, Present and Future”. Environmental archaeology, which evaluates the present and predicts the future based on the past, plays an important role in dealing with various environmental problems. In what kind of environment did agriculture develop? How did human activities alter the environment? How did the past empires alter the environment? What kind of environmental changes were related to the collapse of the old civilization? To what extent were historical events responsible for environmental change? It is time for us to answer these questions to evaluate both environmental and civilization histories and predicting the future path of humankind.

This AEA conference aims at extending our insight into the role of environmental and civilization histories of Asia both in the past and the future of humankind, and provides an ideal opportunity for researchers to meet up and report on environmental archaeology to the world.

Call for papers (the deadline is extended)
The organising committee would like to invite oral and poster presentations based on these broad themes, involving any aspect of environmental archaeology.

The conference organisers will schedule presentations after reviewing submitted proposals. Oral presentations will have a maximum length of 25 minutes. The finalized length of presentation will be informed individually after August. Poster presentations are also welcome. The poster format will be notified after the acceptance of proposals. The official language of the conference will be English.

Provisional session titles:
Session 1: Environmental civilization history of Eurasia
Session 2: Environmental civilization history of the Pacific Rim
Session 3: Opening the way to the future for the environment and civilization from environmental archaeology
Session 4: Recent progress in analytical techniques and methods in environmental archaeology
Session 5: Current research

Deadline for title submission: 31st July, 2010
Deadline for abstract (papers and posters): 31st August, 2010

Abstracts should be sent as text documents (preferably in Word format) to: junkokit@nichibun.ac.jp
Please include a title, author or authors’ complete name(s) and affiliations, a full postal and e-mail addresses. Abstracts should be in English, 1-2 pages in length (NOT exceeding 2 pages), and contain a clear description of the topic of presentation.
Kyoto is located about 50km northeast from the center of Osaka and easy to access from Kansai International Airport (Osaka) by JR or limousines, and from Tokyo by Shinkansen bullet trains. The city, surrounded by mountains, used to be a capital city of Japan and there are many temples and shrines always attracting many tourists. International Research Center for Japanese Studies is located on the foot of western mountains, and about 40 minutes away from the center of Kyoto city by car. The mountains in the west called Nishiyama also hold some tourist spots, but unlike the centre of the city, it is a quiet place. You will see a beautiful late autumn view of the mountains. The International Research Center for Japanese Studies was founded for purposes of studying Japanese culture in an integrated, interdisciplinary manner with an international perspective, and of providing research information and other supports for foreign researchers.

Tentative schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Optional events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 30th (Tue)</td>
<td>Arrival Registration</td>
<td>Excursion 1: Kiyomizu temple and dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1st (Wed)</td>
<td>Registration Keynote lectures Theme sessions Poster session</td>
<td>Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2nd (Thu)</td>
<td>Registration Theme sessions Poster session</td>
<td>Banquet</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3rd (Fri)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Excursion 2: Kyoto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4 (Sat) - December 6 (Mon)</td>
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<td>Excursion 3: Mikata- Kanazawa-Shirakawa village</td>
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Social Events:

1 Reception
Date: Dec. 1st (18:00-20:00)
Location: Akaoni restaurant at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies

2 Banquet
Date: Dec. 2nd (evening)
Cost: JPY 6000 (JPY 4000 for students)
Location: Gankozushi downtown Kyoto

Registration and fee (see form on page 17)
Pre-registration deadline: 31st August, 2010

*Please check if you need Japanese visa. People who need the formal invitation or some documents which Japanese side has to write to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan to apply Japanese entry visa should contact Junko Kitagawa (e-mail: junkokit@nichibun.ac.jp or yangtze@nichibun.ac.jp) as soon as possible. Guide to Japanese Visas: http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/index.html

Accommodation
There is no hotel within walking distance from the International Research Center for Japanese Studies. For convenience, we will suggest you to stay close to Kyoto station. We will arrange a bus from hotels to the International Research Center for Japanese Studies. Following hotels are situated very close to Kyoto station. Please fill out the hotel form and send it together with the registration form if you want us to make a reservation. Please pay for your accommodation at the hotel, DO NOT deposit accommodation fee to the bank account.
together with registration fee. You can also make a reservation by yourself, but make sure to do it adequately in advance since it is a high tourist season in Kyoto.

Kyoto Dai-Ni Tower Hotel: [http://www.kyoto-tower.co.jp/daini_tower_hotel/english.html](http://www.kyoto-tower.co.jp/daini_tower_hotel/english.html)
Hotel Centnovum Kyoto: [http://www.centnovum.or.jp/another/stay_english.html](http://www.centnovum.or.jp/another/stay_english.html)

Room rate: See the table for hotels or web sites.

**Excursion information**

**<Excursion 1: Night tour to Kiyomizu temple (Kyoto) and dinner>**

*Date: Nov. 30th (5:30pm-9:00pm)*

*Cost: Approximately JPY 5000 (We will collect actual expenses on sites. DO NOT include this when you transfer money.)*

Kiyomizu temple is an independent Buddhist temple in eastern Kyoto. The temple is part of the Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto, Uji and Otsu Cities), UNESCO World Heritage site. The most beautiful season is spring when cherry flowers bloom and autumn when tree leaves turn red. During these periods, the temple is illuminated at night. After dinner, we will visit to see the beautiful night view.

**<Excursion 2: Kyoto (one day excursion)>**

*Date: Dec. 3rd*

*Cost: JPY 7000 (including transportation, lunch and admission fees)*

Kyoto is an old city with 1200 years of history after Emperor Kanmu established it as the capital in AD794, transferring the Imperial Court from nearby Nagaoka-kyō. It remained the chief political center of Japan until 1185, when the samurai Minamoto clan took power, establishing the Kamakura shogunate. After that, three different shogunates ruled over Japan, but Kyoto remained the site of the Imperial Court and the seat of Imperial power and remained the official capital until 1868, when the seat of Imperial power was moved to Tokyo. We will visit a few historical sites including part of the UNESCO World Heritage site, Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto.

We will visit:
1 Nijojo castle
2 Kinkakuji temple
3 Arashiyama
At lunch time, we will visit Tenryuji temple to have “Shojinryori” which is a traditional Japanese vegetarian food.

**<Excursion 3: Mikata-Kanazawa-Shirakawa village (3 days excursion)>**

*Dates: Dec. 4-Dec. 6*

*Cost: JPY 50000 (including transportation, accommodation, admission fees, breakfast and dinner)*

1 Mikata (Mikata-kaminaka-gun, Wakasa town)

Wakasa town is situated almost in the immediate center of Japan, facing the Asian continent across the Sea of Japan. Wakasa is also home to the famed ’Mikata-goko’ (Five Lakes of Mikata: Mikatako, Suigetsuko, Sugako, Hirugako, and Kugushiko) which have been listed and recognized under the Ramsar Convention. Mikatagoko (Mikata five lakes) is one of the most popular scenic sites in Wakasa Bay Quasi-National Park. People have lived in the Wakasa area since ancient times (from the Jomon Period in Japanese prehistory). Many archaeological remains have been found around Mikatagoko, including the Torihama shell middens and dwelling structures, which show that the Mikatagoko area was an ideal environment for those early peoples. Annually laminated sediment was found from one of the lakes, Lake Suigetsu. Since 2006 an international project team led by Prof. Nakagawa at Newcastle University (UK) has been carrying out research on these remarkable lakes, and the local history is exhibited in the Wakasa-Mikata Jomon Museum.

We will visit the Mikata Rainbow Line and the Wakasa-Mikata Jomon Museum.

2 Kanazawa

Kanazawa is the capital of Ishikawa Prefecture and located in the central part of the mainland Japan. The climate of Kanazawa is almost as mild as that of Tokyo or Osaka although it often gets snow accumulation. Kanazawa is the center of the economy and culture of the Hokuriku area (including Toyama, Ishikawa, and Fukui Prefectures). It used to be a great castle town ruled by an influential leader, the Maeda family, from the 17th century to the second half of the 19th century. The family governed Kaga (presently Ishikawa prefecture) for 300 years as the second greatest daimyo next to Tokugawa. The family's financial power facilitated the development of sophisticated culture.

In this area, we will visit Kenrokuen, and Kanazawa Castle Park.

3 Shirakawa village
Hida is located in Gifu Prefecture, almost in the center of the Japanese archipelago and is an old province and many small villages have existed along narrow valleys stretching between steep mountains. Shirakawa Village, along one of the narrow valley called Sho-gawa river, is a part of Hida region. The Hakusan Mountains are located to the south-west. Shirakawa Village preserves a Japanese old rural landscape which includes 114 wooden houses with steep rafter roofs suitable for heavy snowfall in this region. An architect, Bruno Julius Florian Taut, appreciated the structure of the houses and introduced Shirakawa village in his book. We will visit to see some of these house structures and culture of this area.

Further details will be posted on the AEA website.
http://www.envarch.net/

Organising committee
Prof. Dr. Yoshinori YASUDA (International Research Center for Japanese Studies)
Dr. Junko KITAGAWA (International Research Center for Japanese Studies)
Dr. Toshiyuki FUJIKI (International Research Center for Japanese Studies)
Dr. Yoko NOJIMA (International Research Center for Japanese Studies)

Contact: Junko Kitagawa
E-mail: junkokit@nichibun.ac.jp

8th European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference
6th-10th of July 2010 in Budapest, Hungary.

SYMPOSIUM 20 - Human landscapes and climate change during the Holocene

Palaeobotanical research recently has begun to focus more on issues related to past human landscapes. Research is turning towards the explanation of past economies and social structures, diving into the interdisciplinary field of environmental archaeology. Such kinds of palaeobotanical studies are essential for understanding in which kind of natural settings agriculture and prehistoric complex societies evolved. Furthermore, they can improve our understanding of the way human activities have changed the environment and vice versa. The idea of the symposium is, to present studies dealing with the reconstruction of the spatial scale of human driven deforestation and of crop cultivation activities that are directly linked to specific archaeological settings and date from the Neolithic onwards.

Organisers : Wiebke Kirleis, Elena Marinova

http://registration.eppc2010.org/cgi-bin/eppc2010ab.exe

European Association of Archaeologists 16th Annual Meeting,
2010 - 1-5 Sept. 2010; The Hague, NL

SESSION TITLE: Soil Micromorphology in Prehistoric Archaeology
The deadline for submitting a paper proposal for the session has been postponed to May 23rd 2010. This means there is still some time left to fill up the few places still available.

In order to submit your paper proposal please follow this link:
http://www.congrex-events.nl/?pid=179

For information about the session, please click here or see the attached pdf file.

SESSION TITLE: Ethnozooarchaeology: European Perspectives
Organiser: Lee G. Broderick

Session Proposal
Ethnographic analogues have been shown to be an important resource in the interpretation of archaeological data. Ethnozooarchaeological work has formed an important sub-branch of the discipline since its inception, with notable studies by Brain and Binford. Since that time many zooarchaeologists have carried out ethnographic work in order to develop analogues for their own and other’s research projects. More recent studies have carried on the traditions of research into the human-animal relations of third-world indigenous peoples, but have also focused studies into native European traditions.
The aim of this session is to provide a forum for those interested in this often overlooked area and to assess the state of research across Europe. Which areas of the continent have been studied most intensively? Which European cultures have been overlooked for their research potential so far? Which areas of zooarchaeological research could most benefit from further ethnographic analogues? What can ethnozooarchaeological research tell us about human-animal relationships in the past? What similarities are there in human-animal relations between different cultures? This is a topic which is widely referenced in the study of animal bone assemblages from past European societies, and one which would benefit from a comparison of techniques, theoretical frameworks and critiques. Papers are encouraged from researchers engaged in ongoing or recently completed ethnozooarchaeological projects who may wish to use this session as a platform for sharing their work with colleagues. Also encouraged are papers dealing with the past and future directions of ethnozooarchaeological research and its place within the wider discipline of archaeology, suggested topics are listed, but not limited to those, above. It is the aim of the session organiser to publish the papers as a book.

For information about the EAA 2010 registration costs and procedure (early registration fee available until June 30th 2010), please click: http://www.eaa2010.nl/?pid=193&page=Registration

For general information about the 2010 European Association of Archaeologists 16th Annual Meeting please click here: http://www.eaa2010.nl/

Organisers: Carolina Mallol
Cristiano Nicosia

11th Congress of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology and the 1er Encuentro Hispano Portugués de Etnobiología (ISE 2010 EHPE)
Albacete (Castilla-La Mancha, Spain)
September (20th-25th) 2010

This joint conference has been organized by Prof. Michael Heinrich (School of Pharmacy, Univ. London) and Prof. Diego Rivera (Fac. Biology, Univ. Murcia).

For more information visit: http://www.ise2010.org/

The main themes of the ISE (only in English) congress are:

* Ethnopharmacology and biocultural diversity
* Circum-Mediterranean ethnopharmacology / ethnomotany and its exchange with the Americas
* From traditional remedies to modern medicines – phytochemical, pharmacological and clinical studies
* Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and their role in ethnopharmacology
* The interface between history and ethnopharmacology
* The interface of medicine and food plants

Mesolithic 2010 Conference,
Santander, Spain 13th-17th September 2010

We would like to draw your attention to a session that we are holding at the conference: Gathering Evidence, Crafting Knowledge: plant procurement, processing, storage and use in the Mesolithic.

For information about the conference, registration, and publication submission please refer to the conference website (http://www.meso2010.com/callforpapers.html#3)

For information or queries regarding the session please contact either Penny Cunningham or Hayley McParland at the following emails:

Penny Cunningham (p.m.cunningham@exeter.ac.uk) and/or Hayley McParland (h.j.mcparland@exeter.ac.uk)

(http://www.meso2010.com/welcome.html)
MSC BURSARIES AVAILABLE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

We have **one bursary** of up to £1,500 for the MSc in Environmental Analysis of Terrestrial Systems, thanks to the generosity of a former alumnus. All those with a confirmed place on the course by 1st June 2010 will be considered for the bursary. Please make enquiries to the Geography PG admissions secretary in the first instance (geog-pg-applications@sheffield.ac.uk). Applications should be made through the normal online procedure (at http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/geography/masters/apply.html).

We are delighted to be able to follow up the success of the Geoarchaeology: Landscape to Laboratory and Back conference held in Sheffield in April 2009. We have up to **four bursaries** of £1,000 to £1,500 for the MSc in Geoarchaeology. All those with a confirmed place on the course by 1st June 2010 will be considered for the bursary. Please make enquiries to the Archaeology PG admissions secretary in the first instance (k.goldsack@sheffield.ac.uk)). Applications should be made through the normal online procedure (at http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/archaeology/prospectivepg/apply.html).

The MSc in Arid Land Studies has **four bursaries** available, each worth €12,000, funded by the EU-US Atlantis Programme. Please make enquiries to the Geography PG admissions secretary in the first instance (geog-pg-applications@sheffield.ac.uk). Applications should be made through the normal online procedure (at http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/geography/masters/apply.html).

AAE BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Editors are very grateful to James Greig for collecting the following information. James would like to thank Ian Baxter and Hannu Ahokas for sending him publication information. Please send information to jimi.gee@virgin.net.

BOOKS


CHAPTERS


ARTICLES


Address

Affiliation

E-mail address (if you have)

Are you a presenting author?  □ yes  □ no

Are you an author of a conference abstract?  □ yes  □ no

Are you a member of the AEA?  □ yes  □ no

REGISTRATION FEE (including conference packages, lunch, coffee and snacks)

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Social activities

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Excursions

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<tr>
<th>Excursion 1: Kiyomizu temple and dinner (Nov. 30)</th>
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<td>Excursion 2: Kyoto (Dec. 3)</td>
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<td>Excursion 3: Kanazawa-Shirakawa-Mikata (Dec.3-Dec.5)</td>
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Subtotal (JPY) 0

* Students should submit a copy of valid student ID.

Please specify if you have any food restrictions  

Payment:

Please transfer total amount of the registration fee and other activity fees by 15th September, 2010 to:

THE KYOTO CHUO SHINKIN BANK
KATSURAZAKA BRANCH
(SWIFT CODE: KCHU JP JY)
A/C NO: 102-0285205
A/C NAME: AEA

*DO NOT include your accommodation fee.
## Hotel Reservation Form

**Name(s):**

*Indicate the number of rooms you need.

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