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Edited by Wendy Carruthers and Vanessa Straker

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

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EDITORIAL

As this is the last Newsletter of 2010 we would be grateful if members could please check that their membership payment details are correct before January. Please note that the AEA has a new Membership secretary, Ruth Pelling (contact details given above).

We are grateful to Professor Stephen Rippon and colleagues for their article about the Fields of Britannia project, and encourage others to write short contributions of this nature concerning current research projects.

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The time is fast approaching to **renew your AEA membership**. A renewal form for 2011 is printed at the end of this Newsletter. You do not need to complete this if you have already arranged to pay your membership fee by standing order.

We are delighted to announce that there will be no change in the membership fee, which remains at **£38 for waged** and **£28 for students/unwaged**. In addition, there is no postage charge for overseas members. Members are asked to submit their payment on time (**by end of December 2010**), as reminders from the Membership Secretary are both costly and time-consuming.

UK members – Standing Order: If you do not already have one and would like to set up a standing order to renew your membership automatically each year, please contact the AEA Treasurer (Jacqui Huntley: Jacqui.Huntley@english-heritage.org.uk) for further information and a standing order form. The first payment

should be made for 1st January 2011. When you have received the form from the AEA Treasurer, please complete and return the form **no later than 31st December 2010**.

Eurozone members – IBAN payment: If you are living in the Eurozone, you may be interested in paying AEA membership fees using the IBAN (International Bank Account Number) electronic transfer system. With this system, an AEA member can go to their local bank and transfer money to an AEA account for a small fee. The AEA has set up a bank account in the Republic of Ireland to enable payment of membership fees using this method. Your bank's charge for payment will vary, depending on the bank and country, but the fee should be low (for example, some banks in the Republic of Ireland charge around €0.75 – check your local bank for their rates). AEA membership fees for IBAN transfers are: **€50 waged** and **€37 student/unwaged**. If you would like to use this method of payment, please contact Meriel McClatchie (meriel.mcclatchie@gmail.com) for further information.

Non-UK members – Payment by Visa can be made by non-UK members only. For reasons of security, the AEA do not hold members' Visa details. Members using this method of payment must therefore confirm payment each year, providing their payment details each time. Credit card details **should not be sent via email**. If you would like to use this method of payment, please complete the membership form at the end of the Newsletter.

New Membership Secretary:

Dr Ruth Pelling
English Heritage
Fort Cumberland
Fort Cumberland Road
Eastney,
Portsmouth
Hampshire PO4 9LD
United Kingdom

Email: membership@envarch.net

SUMMARY OF THE AEA AGM MEETING, 16th OCTOBER 2010, BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND

At the AEA AGM in Birmingham, a review of the Committee's activities was presented, along with the Treasurer's report and elections for new Committee members. A summary is presented below.

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS UPDATE

2010 meetings

The 2010 spring meeting took place at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland from 30th March to 1st April. The theme of the meeting was "The environmental archaeology of the North", and delegates were treated to a fascinating range of papers on research in the North Atlantic region, followed by a field-trip. The meeting was organised by Tim Mighall, Kevin Edwards, Karen Milek and Keith Dobney. The prize for best student poster (£50 book token) was awarded to Rosie Bishop, Durham University, for her poster entitled "Cereals, fruits and nuts in the Scottish Neolithic".

In order to facilitate the 2010 AGM, an autumn one-day meeting was held at the University of Birmingham, England on 16th October. The theme of the meeting was "The potential and management of environmental archives in the intertidal and offshore marine zone". The meeting was organised by Birmingham Archaeo-environmental and IBM VISTA, under the direction of the AEA Chair, Andy Howard.

The 2010 autumn conference will take place at Kyoto, Japan from 1st to 3rd December. The theme of this conference will be "The environment and civilization: past, present and future". The meeting will be organised by Yoshinori Yasuda, Junko Kitagawa, Toshiyuki Fujiki and Yoko Nojima at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies. A number of delegates have been awarded travel funding by the organisers, thereby enabling more members to attend.

2011 meetings

The 2011 spring one-day meeting will take place at the University of Cambridge, England. The meeting is being organised by Graeme Barker and Preston Miracle. The date and theme for this meeting will be announced in the near future.

The 2011 autumn conference will take place in Amsterdam, Netherlands, from 21st to 22nd October. The theme of the meeting will be "Subsistence and surplus production", and the conference is being organised by Maaike Groot and Jørn Zeiler.

A new addition to AEA meetings calendar is the establishment of a student conference, which is intended to be held annually. The first student conference will take place in 2011 and is being organised by Richard Madgwick (Cardiff), who currently serves as the Student Representative on the AEA Committee.

Matthew Law addressed the AGM in order to highlight a workshop that he is organising with colleagues in Cardiff. The workshop is aimed at post-graduate environmental archaeologists and will encourage them to further their engagement with non-academic audiences. It is anticipated that associated online resources will be hosted on the AEA website.

JOURNAL UPDATE

Ingrid Mainland continues to serve as Co-ordinating Editor of the AEA journal, *Environmental Archaeology*. Ingrid was thanked for her excellent work on the journal, which is ensuring that its international impact continues to grow.

All volumes of *Environmental Archaeology* are now available online to institutional subscribers and AEA members. The Committee is grateful to Maney, the current publisher of the journal, for their work in enabling online access to earlier volumes published by Oxbow.

Maney's marketing strategy includes mass emailing of institutions, regular presence at conferences, and advertising *Environmental Archaeology* in other journals that they publish. This has resulted in a significant increase in institutional subscriptions – more than 130 currently – thereby providing extra income for the AEA. The income from Maney is being used to pay for new award initiatives.

PUBLICITY UPDATE

The AEA seminar series continues to be organised by Naomi Sykes (Publicity Officer). Seminars are held at different universities around the UK and Ireland. Attendance is free, and the AEA provides refreshments at each meeting. Five seminars took place over the past year, and the Committee is grateful to Naomi for her continuing work in this and other publicity initiatives.

CONSULTATION UPDATE

The AEA Committee was asked to comment on draft guidelines entitled *Waterlogged organic materials*, which have been established by English Heritage. The guidelines are a revision of the 1995 guidelines for the care of waterlogged archaeological leather. The new guidelines now incorporate other waterlogged organic materials (excluding structural wood). Comments on the draft guidelines were submitted by Committee members Andy Howard and Rebecca Nicholson.

NEWSLETTER AND DISCUSSION LIST UPDATE

Newsletter

Wendy Carruthers and Vanessa Straker continue to edit the AEA Newsletter, for which the AEA Committee is very grateful. The editors encourage international submissions for the features section, which highlights current research and issues in environmental archaeology. Submissions on current post-graduate research will also be welcomed. Members are encouraged to continue sending notices of upcoming conferences and other meetings to the Newsletter editors.

James Greig continues to produce the AEA bibliography, which is much appreciated by the membership. Thanks were extended to James for this work.

Discussion list

Paul Davies continues to manage the email discussion list, for which he was thanked. This list complements the information-only service available via JISCmail. The JISCmail system provides essential information, for example on the AGM and Committee elections, whereas the discussion list is for discussion. Members are reminded that if they wish to be removed from this discussion list, please follow the instructions at the bottom of each email.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We currently have more than 335 fully paid-up members. The outgoing Membership Secretary, Ralph Fyfe, was thanked for his excellent work over the past few years, ensuring that membership numbers have been steady during challenging economic times. Ralph retired from the Committee at the AGM, and has been replaced by Ruth Pelling, to whom the Committee is grateful.

The AEA will continue to implement the new payment system, which is proving to be successful in encouraging members to pay their subscriptions on time. Payment is required by 1st March at the latest. If payment is received after this date, members do not receive Issue 1 of the journal until Issue 2 is published (around October), when both issues are sent together.

In order to facilitate members, a number of payment methods are currently available: Sterling cheque; Sterling standing order (UK members); Electronic transfer to Euro account; Visa payment (non-UK members only). The Treasurer, Jacqui Huntley, is also looking into establishing new payment options, such as PayPal and password-only access to bank details.

Following consultation with the membership, an online list of members' interests will be established. The list will contain contact details for members and an outline of their specialist interests. The list will only contain information from members who are interested in participating. It is hoped that this list will be established in the near future. It was noted at the AGM that specialist interests should not be circulated beyond the AEA membership in order to comply with data protection legislation.

BOOKS SERVICE

Allan Hall (York) addressed the AGM in order to seek suggestions for books that members may be interested in purchasing. Members are encouraged to contact Allan with ideas and suggestions.

ACCREDITATION

A joint meeting was held between the AEA and the IfA in order to further investigate the potential for accreditation of professional environmental archaeologists. The meeting was held in December 2009. The AEA was represented by Andy Howard, Andy Hammon, Richard Madgwick and Rebecca Nicholson. The IfA was represented by Peter Hinton (Chief Executive) and Phil Mills (Chair, Finds Group).

Both organisations expressed the desire for maintaining and enhancing professional standards across the profession. It was suggested that a useful first stage would be to set up an "Environmental Specialist Group" within IfA, which would sit independently of the Finds Group. Other potential initiatives discussed at the meeting included the establishment of training days, development of a network of regional environmental mentors, and the influencing of IfA policy with respect to professional development. It was noted at the AGM that membership of the IfA is not required to participate in their specialist interest groups.

The AEA Committee underlined the importance of AEA members leading this issue. The Committee will contact members by email in the near future with regard to future plans and potential initiatives.

AWARDS

John Evans dissertation prize

The John Evans dissertation prizes for 2010 (£75 each) were awarded to:

- Undergraduate award – Emily Blake (Durham): *Red herring or dietary reality? The utilisation of aquatic resources in the Upper Palaeolithic*;
- Postgraduate award – James Walker (Cambridge): *Complementing the seasonal round of Mesolithic Oronsay, Scotland, using intraspecific isotopes δ^{18} values from shellfish Littorina*.

The winners will be encouraged to submit an abridged version of their dissertations for publication in the Association's journal, *Environmental Archaeology*, subject to the usual review process.

Following a lively discussion on the AEA email list, the Committee are discussing proposed changes to regulations relating to the Evans dissertation prize. A proposal was made to change the current policy of accepting dissertations only in the English language. It was proposed that dissertations should also be accepted in other languages. The Committee are in favour of facilitating this proposal.

New award: Small project fund

The AEA is establishing a new award to assist in the funding of small projects. It is intended that two prizes of £250 per year will be awarded. Application to the awards scheme will be open to all members of at least one year standing. The Committee will particularly encourage applications from members who have limited access to research funding, such as private-sector workers and students. Further details will follow once guidelines have been drafted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jacqui Huntley (Treasurer) sent her apologies, and her annual report on finances was presented to the AGM. Jacqui was thanked for her excellent work over the years, which is much appreciated.

Treasurer's Report

Overall our accounts remain healthy and therefore we will not be considering subscription increases for at least another year. Subscription income looks down this year but primarily because moderate numbers of members paid early for 2009 and thus their subs appeared on last year's accounts. Book income is considerable this year and counterbalances the large purchase of last year – these sales relate mainly to the *Digital Atlas of Food Plants*. As ever, we are grateful to Allan Hall for all of his hard work in relation to books

We have suffered from an increase in fraud attempts this year, most of which were picked up by NatWest before the monies went from our account. This is due to the nature of the signatory required. Unfortunately some did get through despite this, but in all cases the money has been recovered as well as any associated bank charges incurred.

We are again grateful to the journal Editor, not only for her work on the papers submitted but also for foregoing the editorial expenses paid by Maney. These have been used for assistance in attending our conferences and for poster/dissertation prizes as well. There has been reasonable take up for these prizes

The Euro account continues to prove of value to Eurozone members and also allowed us to pay for the *Digital Atlas* directly in Euros, thus there were no large transfer fees

Sterling account	2008	2009
Assets at start of year		
Bank – current account	£4,713.73	£6,473.58
Bank – savings account	£18,516.67	£18,765.08
Petty cash	£24.63	-
<i>Total assets at start of year</i>	<i>£23,255.03</i>	<i>£25,238.66</i>
Income		
Subscriptions	£12,111.25	£10,075.25
Books including journal back numbers	£3,750.95	£6,036.40
Interest earned	£248.41	£11.40
Fraud attempts	£1,600.00	£3,000.00
Maney Royalties and Editorial income	£1,734.84	£1,456.94
Bank charges adjustment – due to frauds	-	£1.40
<i>Income sub-total</i>	<i>£19,445.45</i>	<i>£20,581.39</i>
Initial total assets excluding books in stock	£42,700.48	£45,820.05
Expenditure		
Office stationery, stamps, poster	£310.49	£13.32
Credit card charges	£380.95	£142.25
Web page	-	£750.00
Journal production and postage (includes backnumbers)	£9,528.00	£9,022.00
Scanning Circaea	-	£315.00
Committee meeting travel related	£253.53	£244.50
Book purchase	£4,991.50	£250.00
AEA Seminars	£71.41	£30.61
Conference support	£250.00	£463.65
Standard bank charges (new in 2008)	£75.94	£193.74
Fraud attempt	£1,600	£3,000.00
<i>Expenditure subtotal</i>	<i>£17,461.82</i>	<i>£14,425.07</i>
Total assets minus expenditure	£25,238.66	£31,394.98
End of year assets		
Bank – current account	£6,473.58	£12,618.50
Bank – savings account	£18,765.08	£18,776.48
Petty cash	-	-
Total Year end assets	£25,238.66	£31,394.98

Euro account:	2008	2009
Assets at start of year – current account	€6,225.27	€8,490.88
Income		
Income subscriptions	€2,376.05	€1,417.72
Income books	€134.59	€1,192.00
<i>Income sub-total</i>	<i>€2,510.64</i>	<i>€2,609.72</i>

<i>Initial total assets</i>	€8,735.91	€11,100.60
Expenditure		
Standard bank charges	€-38.02	€-22.61
Committee expenses	€- 207.01	€-360.51
Books	-	€-6,560.87
<i>Expenditure sub-total</i>	€- 245.03	€-6,943.99
Initial assets minus expenditure	€8,490.88	€4,156.61
End of year assets – current account	€8,490.88	€4,156.61

ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Retiring Committee members

Three Committee members retired at the AGM, having served the full term of their positions: Amy Bogaard (Ordinary Member), Ralph Fyfe (Membership Secretary) and Andy Hammon (Ordinary Member). Meriel McClatchie also retired from the position of Secretary, having served her full term and acting as a co-opted Committee member over the past year. All Committee members were thanked for their important contributions over the years.

Election of new Committee members

Secretary:

- Dr Fay Worley (English Heritage Portsmouth, England)

Ordinary members:

- Dr Robin Bendrey (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France)
- Emily Forster (University of Sheffield, England)
- Dr Preston Miracle (University of Cambridge, England)

Student representative:

- Marta Perez (2nd Student Representative; Plymouth University, England)

The current committee structure is as follows: elected term in []

Dr Robin Bendrey (Paris, France) [2010-2014]

Emily Forster (Sheffield, England) [2010-2014]

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

Dr Ellen Hambleton (Bournemouth, England) [2008-2012]

Dr Zoë Hazell (Portsmouth, England) [2008-2012]

Dr Andy Howard (Birmingham, England) – Chair [2009-2013]

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

Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University, Wales) – Student representative [2009-2011]

Dr Preston Miracle (Cambridge, England) [2010-2014]

Dr Rebecca Nicholson (Oxford, England) – Conference Officer [2009-2013]

Dr Ruth Pelling (Portsmouth, England) – Membership Secretary [2009-2013]

Marta Perez (Plymouth, England) – Student representative [2010-2012]

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

Dr Fay Worley (Portsmouth, England) – Secretary [2010-2014]

Dr Jørn Zeiler (ArchaeoBone, Netherlands) [2009-2013]

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

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

Dr Ingrid Mainland (Bradford, England) – Co-ordinating Editor of the Journal

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

Many thanks to Naomi Sykes for the following information:

AEA SEMINAR SERIES

30th November

Speaker: Natasha Powers, Head of Osteology, Museum of London Archaeology.

Title: *Current commercial research projects at MOLA'*

Location: Division of Archaeological, Geographical and Environmental Science, University of Bradford. SA0.08 Phoenix Southwest Building

Time: 17.15

For further information contact Dr. Janet Montgomery J.Montgomery@bradford.ac.uk

10th February

Speaker: Dr Kim Vickers,

Title: 'West across the ocean: insects and the archaeology of the North Atlantic Islands',

Location: University of Sheffield

Time: 1pm.

For further information contact Sarah Viner S.Viner@sheffield.ac.uk

10th March

Speaker: Dr Louise Martin, Institute of Archaeology, UCL.

Title: TBC

Location: Cardiff University

Time: TBC

Dr Naomi Sykes
Lecturer in Archaeology
University of Nottingham
NG7 2RD

0115 951 4813

CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

OPEN WORKSHOP 14TH-18TH OF MARCH, 2011

"Human Development in Landscapes" at Kiel University, Germany:

Socio-environmental dynamics over the last 12,000 years: the creation of landscapes II

We invite senior and junior researchers to discuss issues in the fields of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Archaeology, particularly of Environmental Archaeology, Environmental History and Archaeometry, in 10 different sessions. You will find the details at:

<http://www.uni-kiel.de/landscapes/allgemein/workshop.shtml>

"Wood in archaeology: Latest developments for past societies"

**in 76th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA), in Sacramento, California, USA
March 30-April 3, 2011**

SAA annual meeting information: <http://saa.org/AbouttheSociety/AnnualMeeting/tabid/138/Default.aspx>

Contact:

Michelle Elliott

School of Human Evolution and Social Change

Arizona State University

michelle.elliott@asu.edu

Claire Alix

Chaire CNRS/Université de Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne

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**TAG 2010, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL, 17th-19th December
Palaeoeconomy and Palaeoecology of South West Britain**

Confirmed for TAG 2010, at the University of Bristol (17th-19th December), this session hopes to provide an opportunity for an overview of recent research in environmental archaeology carried out in South West Britain, as well as indicating the major changes in method and theory that have occurred in the area since the last such meeting, and discussing future directions. It is the session organisers' intent to publish the proceedings as an edited volume and a publisher has already expressed an interest in this.

<http://www.nomadit.co.uk/tag/tag2010/panels.php5?PanelID=831>

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/archanth/tag/index.html>

**"Humans and Biosphere"- session
XVIII congress of the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA)
July, 20-27, 2011 in Bern, Switzerland:**

Session 95: Climate, Environment, and Economy in the North and Central European Neolithic

The session aims to collect recent knowledge about variation of human populations and related pressure on the environment during the Neolithic. We want to explore how far climate variability may have influenced ancient populations and how often and fast occupation and woodland regeneration occurred. The focus lies on North- and Central Europe, i.e. the area of Funnel-Beaker-Communities with common patterns of cultural behaviour and of contemporary neighbouring archaeological cultures. The aim is to identify differences in economy and interaction with nature as well as potential adaptation to different environments. Colleagues from palaeoecology, paleoclimatology, palaeolimnology and archaeology are invited to contribute to the session.

Keynotes: Prof. Dr. Corrie Bakels, University of Leiden, The Netherlands
Prof. Dr. Michael O'Connell, University of Galway, Ireland

Convenors: Walter Dörfler, Ingo Feeser, Wiebke Kirleis, Mara Weinelt (all Kiel University, Germany),
Felix Bittmann (NIhK, Wilhelmshaven, Germany)

Deadline for online-submission of abstracts is November, 30th, 2010

List of all sessions:

<http://www.inqua2011.ch/INQUA/?a=programme&subnavi=sessions>

Guideline for Abstract submission:

<http://www.inqua2011.ch/INQUA/?a=abstracts>

**INQUA 2011 session
"Survival of the fittest? North Atlantic biota in the light of the Quaternary record"
Bern, Switzerland 20th July - 27th July, 2011.**

Please get in touch (eva.p@ed.ac.uk) if you would like to give a paper or a poster:

Eva Panagiotakopulu, School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh

The concept of survival of north Atlantic island biota in refugia, ice-free areas, through at least part of the Quaternary appears in conflict with the palaeoecological record. The aim of this session is to examine the origins and changes of North Atlantic fauna and flora as a result of climate change and human impact. The contrast between a fauna dispersed in the aerial plankton, predominantly Nearctic or Holarctic in origin, and a ground living and freshwater aquatic biota largely of Palaeartic affinities partly reflects introductions as a result of European settlement in the late Holocene, but the fossil record indicates the presence of this dichotomy earlier in the Quaternary.

From Scandinavia to Greenland and Canada indigenous groups and incoming settlers have changed the landscape to different degrees and the anthropogenic impact can be seen in the palaeoecological record. Introductions of new biota, woodland clearance, opportunistic and/or intensive exploitation of natural resources

have left their stamp on the landscape, whether occupation was permanent or transient. Studies of the palaeoenvironmental record in terms of habitat evolution and relating palaeoecological data to new lines of research in a multidisciplinary framework provides a basis for understanding long term change in the landscape. Some of the aspects the session will consider are:

- ? The pre-human settlement fossil record of the development of island biota;
- ? Multiple glaciation and survival ? were there viable refugia and if so, where?
- ? The Quaternary fossil record: hot and cold in the Arctic;
- ? Palaeoecological proxies as ciphers of human impact in North Atlantic environments;
- ? Indigenous populations and incoming groups: Interactions and Scales of change;
- ? Europeanisation of the North Atlantic in terms of introductions of biota;
- ? Understanding drivers of success and failure of North Atlantic societies in their surrounding environments.

Dr Eva Panagiotakopulu, FRES, FSA, FSA(Scot) Lecturer in Palaeoecology Institute of Geography School of GeoSciences University of Edinburgh Drummond Street Edinburgh EH8 9XP
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<http://www.geos.ed.ac.uk/contacts/homes/epanagio/>

<http://www.geos.ed.ac.uk/research/globalchange/group5b/QuatEnt/>



The Archaeological Leather Group Call for Papers

**Thursday 8th September 2011
Institute of Archaeology, UCL, London.
Why leather?**

The common occurrence of animal skin products, whether leather, furs or rawhide throughout history, prehistory and into the present day attest to their enduring utility and desirability. But why did and do people choose to use these materials? This apparently simple question raises a number of issues.

First is the question of materials. For archaeologists, furs are often perceived as one of the earliest body insulators, enabling settlement and expansion into cold climates. But they are more versatile than this. Animal skins have a range of chemical and physical properties. These vary according to the species, age and health of the animal but also on the way they are processed. Processing methods such as rawhide and *cuir bouille* may emphasise the stiff and solid properties of skins, while tanning or oil dressing may bring out their soft and supple nature. There is also the distinctive visual appearance of leather and furs. Especially with the coat left on, skins serve as an indicator of their animal origins.

The desirability or otherwise of leather may be attached as much to the qualities of the finished product as to the status of skin acquisition and origins. Skins may be a welcome by-products of animals slaughtered for their meat, or may be the sole reason for breeding and killing animals. Fake fur and imitation leather are known in the past and present and we may question why.

As resources, leather and furs are readily interchangeable with other materials. When processed as flat, supple sheets they are akin to textiles, paper or sheet metal; as mouldable, tough surfaces they may be more comparable to wood, pottery or basketry. This leads to a cross over in materials; shoes are known in leather, textiles and basketry versions, body armour may be made with leather, sheet metal or stuffed textiles. Where such variation in materials is found, it brings into question the relationship between crafts people and supplies, technique and design, practicality, ethics and value.

So why leather? The aim of this session is to consider the role of animal skin products by questioning the nature of the material itself and the values attached to it in specific contexts of time and place. We welcome papers addressing these issues through examples from archaeology, history, anthropology and the present day.

Details of event

One-day event on Thursday 8th September 2011, at the Institute of Archaeology, UCL, London.

Organised by the Archaeological Leather Group(ALG): <http://www.archleathgrp.org.uk/>

Please send abstracts of approximately 250 words to Diana Friendship-Taylor (Meetings Co-Ordinator) at piddington.museum@tiscali.co.uk and Barbara Wills (Chair) at nickandbarbara@ntlworld.com.

The deadline for abstracts is 31st December 2010. The papers will be made available in electronic format on the ALG website.

International Conference HOMER 2011
<<http://homer2011.univ-rennes1.fr/index.php>>

Vannes Brittany, Sept 27th - Oct 1st 2011

This international "HOMER 2011" conference aims to bring together the many researchers interested in questions of coastal archaeology, maritime communities and the interactions between people and the marine environment. The geographical frame of reference will be the Channel, North Sea and Atlantic areas of Europe.

The conference will feature recent research and shared experiences in the various European countries concerned (France, Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Denmark). It will also look forward to consider the future development of European research programs dedicated to coastal archaeology.

Sessions will consider the cultural identities of coasts and islands, the interrelationships between maritime communities, the character and evolution of maritime landscapes, and the production and transformation of marine resources. Attention will also be devoted to methodological questions and to the new challenges of European 'coastal archaeology' in its broadest sense.

The conference will be held from 27th September to 1st October 2011 in Vannes, a port and university centre on the south coast of Brittany famous for its historical and archaeological heritage. An attractive excursions programme will enable participants to experience the richness of the regional coastal and island heritage from early prehistory to historical times, and to explore the diverse and fascinating landscapes.

The conference is organised by the CReAAH research team (Centre de Recherche en Archéologie, Archéosciences, Histoire), supported by the CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), the French Ministry of Culture, the Universities of Rennes 1, Rennes 2 and Nantes, and INRAP (Institut National de Recherche en Archéologie Préventive).

The official languages of the congress are French and English, and the communications and the debates will be simultaneously translated.

The sessions welcome oral communications and posters.

Please consider submitting papers for my session

Exploitation of coastal and marine resources: acquisition, distribution, consumption and Transformation
<<http://homer2011.univ-rennes1.fr/page.php?13>>

or any of the other sessions. Guidelines for submissions are found on the website.

Information circulated on ENV-ARCH list by

Jacqui Mulville (PhD),

School of History, Archaeology and Religion,

Cardiff University, Humanities Building, Colum Drive, CARDIFF, CF10 3EU

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/hisar/people/archaeology/jm1/>

COURSES

Identification of Wood, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew 21-25 February 2011

The course is designed for people working with wood: botanists, archaeologists, conservators, furniture and picture restorers, and workers in forensic science and allied professions.

The course will include the following:

- Detailed study of wood structure for both hardwoods and softwoods using light microscopy.
- Methods used for the identification of wood including keys, tables, atlases, computer systems and comparison with authenticated material.
- Two days devoted to lectures and practical identification sessions concentrating on archaeological charcoal and waterlogged wood, root woods and decorative veneers and timbers.
- Tours of the reference collection of microscope slides (Jodrell Laboratory) and wood collection (Museum of Economic Botany).

Course Tutors: Peter Gasson (Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) and Lucy Allott (Archaeology SE, University College London)

Maximum number of participants: 10

Course fee: £450 per person. This includes registration pack and course materials, but not travel or accommodation, which must be booked by students themselves. Advice on accommodation can be supplied on request.

For further details please contact:

Dr Peter Gasson,
Jodrell Laboratory,
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew,
Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB. UK.
tel: +44-(0)20-8332-5330
email: P.Gasson@kew.org

Course on Plant Families of the Tropics with emphasis on Non Timber Forest Products

January 31 – February 18, 2011

In the past, this course was focused on Asian families and genera. This time we also include African and South American taxa. Students who want to do fieldwork in the tropics (ecology, taxonomy, ethnobotany): this course is highly recommended!

The number of participants is limited, so applications should be sent as soon as possible to the NHN secretary Mrs Hanneke de Wolf (wolf@nhn.leidenuniv.nl).

Best regards,

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The Fields of Britannia

Stephen Rippon, Chris Smart, Ben Pears, and Fiona Fleming

The 5th century is one of the most important, yet ill-understood, periods in British history. One group of scholars – Romanists – have tended to study the fate of late Roman Britain, while another – early medievalists – have focused upon Anglo-Saxon sites and artefacts that characterise the archaeological record of eastern England in the 5th to 7th centuries. There has also been a considerable body of scholarship into the origins and development of the later medieval landscape, and in particular when and why villages and open fields were created. It is now widely recognized that although there was some Anglo-Saxon immigration into eastern England in the 5th century, Saxon expansion in the west consisted of political conquest not mass folk migration and that the landscape continued to be settled by the native British population. Even in the east of England, Anglo-Saxon immigrants and their descendants were probably in the minority. This native British population is, however, barely visible in an archaeological record that is dominated by burials and settlement sites whose character is distinctively Germanic (furnished pagan burials and settlements with *Grubenhäuser* etc).

The Fields of Britannia Project, funded by a major grant from the Leverhulme Trust, aims to redress several of the imbalances in the archaeology of this period by focusing on the whole landscape, as opposed to individual settlement and burial sites, and as a result will look at areas settled by both native British communities and Anglo-Saxon immigrants. There are three main areas of research:

1. Field systems: studying the extent of possible continuity or discontinuity in the physical fabric of the countryside by examining the relationship between late Romano-British landscapes and their medieval successor.
2. Land-use: an analysis of palaeoenvironmental evidence in order to determine patterns of continuity or discontinuity in land management practices.
3. Settlement patterns: to what extent there was continuity or discontinuity in settlement patterns in different regions of Britain.

The project study area is the whole of late Roman Britain (ie south of Hadrian's Wall).

The development of field systems

There will be two strands of research into the development of field systems in this period: an examination of the relationship between dated late Roman features and the historic landscape, and a review of the dating evidence of co-axial field systems in areas such as East Anglia. Work on the first of these is now underway with published and unpublished excavation reports having been collected for a pilot area covering Gloucestershire and Somerset. This early work has revealed some significant evidence for the continuity of field systems. In the clay vales of Gloucestershire, for example, 65% of excavated Romano-British field ditches are aligned with, or share the same orientation as, boundaries within the historic landscape, while the figure for the Cotswolds is 71%: a key question to address as the research progresses is whether this strong degree of correlation is found elsewhere across Roman Britain.

Palaeoenvironmental research

The study of palaeoenvironmental sequences has traditionally been focused on prehistory, with the historic period being neglected due to a perceived lack of suitable deposits and problems with accurately dating sediments that were prone to mixing, erosion, and degradation. In recent years, however, the refinement of radiocarbon dating and the development of multidisciplinary approaches towards specific archaeological sites and broader landscapes have provided a wealth of data that can be usefully deployed to examine local, regional and national variations in land-use and the natural environment. Early palaeoenvironmental analysis focused upon upland environments due to the better preservation of organic components including pollen, plant macrofossils and charcoal. This imbalance in palaeoenvironmental research has also started to be redressed through the identification and sampling of discrete lowland mires that allow the complementary study of broad 'off site' sequences with 'on site' assemblages of animal bones and charred/waterlogged plant remains. The aim of the palaeoenvironmental research component of the Fields of Britannia Project is therefore to reconstruct patterns of land-use within the various regions of late Roman Britain, and then to see whether or not these changed in the early medieval period.

Settlement patterns

The research into settlement patterns will be carried out as part of a studentship included in the Leverhulme Trust grant. In the past there has been much discussion of the possible evidence for continuity of occupation on individual Romano-British settlements, but the focus here will be very different in taking a more landscape-based approach and examining settlement patterns as a whole. A number of case study areas spread across Roman Britain will be examined using a comprehensive assessment of excavation and field-walking reports alongside other data in Historic Environment Records.

Two case studies

On and offsite palaeoenvironmental data from two sites in Gloucestershire and Devon can be used to demonstrate distinct variation in the landscape and land-use during the Roman to medieval transition period. Based on a pollen sequence from Aller Farm in Stockland, on the Blackdown Hills in Devon, the late Roman landscape appears to have been characterized by managed woodland on the steeper slopes and agricultural land on the valley sides. In the 5th and 6th centuries we might expect to see an expansion of woodland in the upland fringe landscape, but in fact there appears to have been some clearance reflected in an increase in grass, dock, and ribwort plantain. The landscape was therefore predominantly open with a trend towards pastoral husbandry and areas of arable cultivation alongside patches of woodland. The post 7th century sequence at Aller Farm is not securely dated but the valley bottoms became dominated by damp scrub species including willow and sedges, while on the valley sides there was very little woodland, which consisted of a little alder scrub and hazel, while evidence of both pastoral and arable agriculture increased (Hatton and Caseldine, 1992). The Romano-British settlement at Membury Court, which the project team has recently mapped using a fluxgate gradiometer (Figure 1), lies nearby in the same valley. It may have been during this late 1st millennium change in land-use that the medieval/present field systems around Membury Court were laid out, which is reflected in the way that the historic landscape of today is on a different orientation to the Romano-British enclosure system.

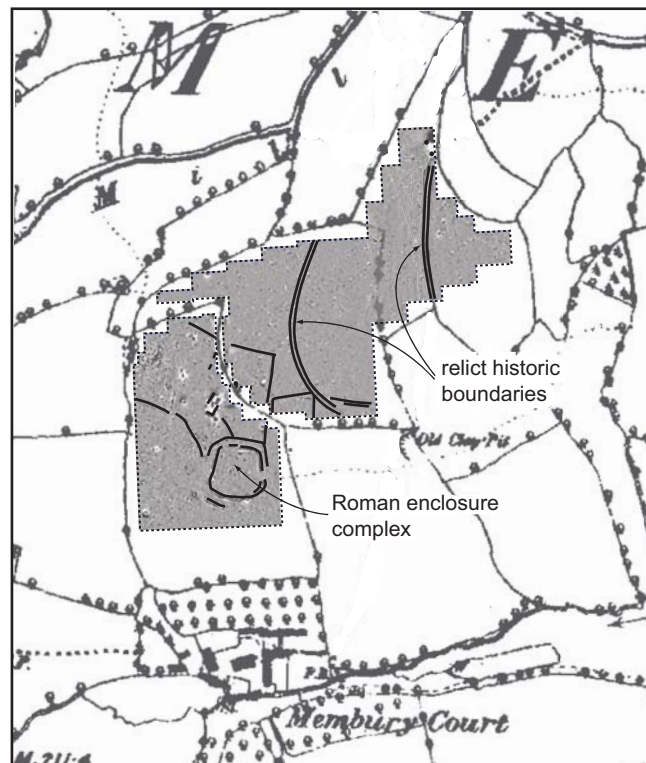


Figure 1:

At Brockworth, in the Vale of Gloucester, the dominance of grassland herbaceous plant species suggests that the 2nd to 4th century landscape was predominantly open and supported a mixed agricultural economy with a preference towards cattle rearing. One of the late Roman ditches (feature 124) was re-cut in the early medieval period (this re-cut containing 'Saxon' pottery), and was re-cut again in the 12th to 14th centuries. Ridge and furrow was oriented with this boundary ditch, and the persistence of this feature suggests there may not have been a significant period of abandonment of the landscape (Figure 2; Hickling 2007).

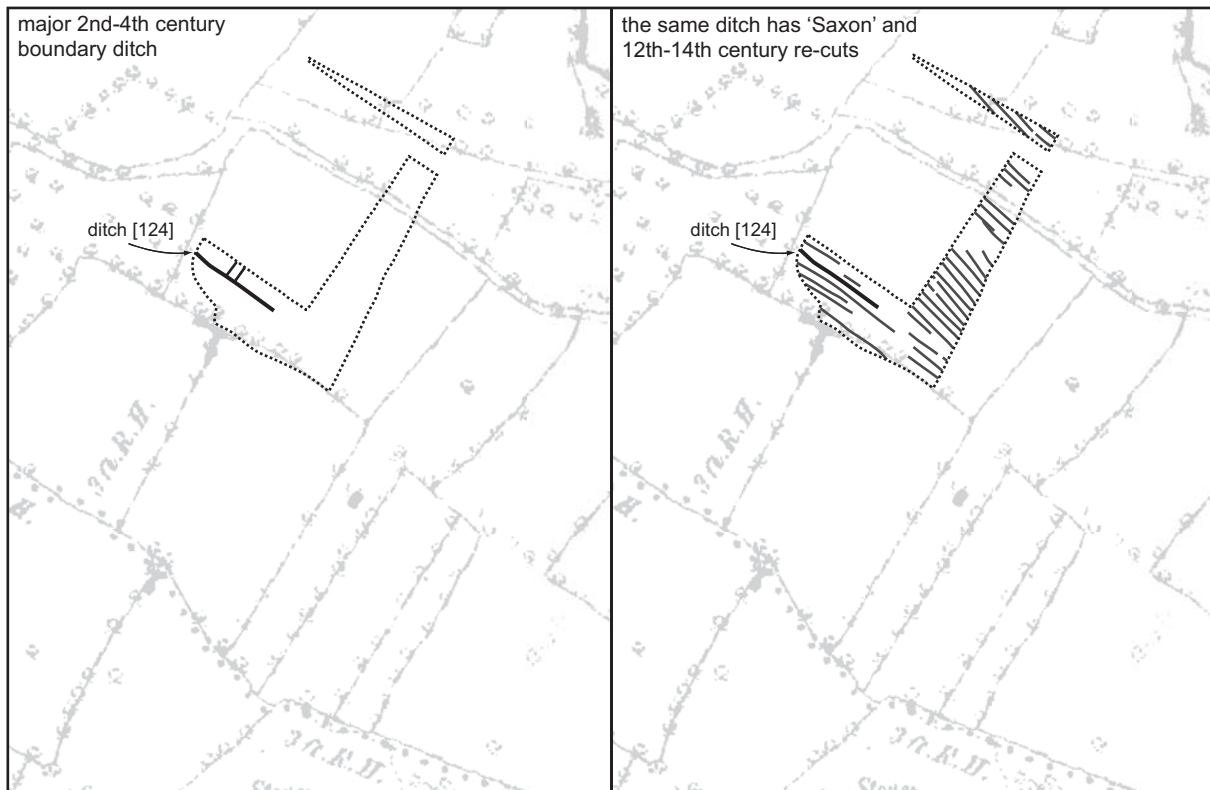


Figure 2

These two sites show examples of discontinuity and possible continuity between the Roman and historic landscapes. As the *Fields of Britannia* project progresses we will hopefully find out what the story was across the different regions of Roman Britain.

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We are very grateful to James Greig for gathering the following information: James writes; "Many thanks to Welmoud Out and congratulations on gaining his doctorate, and to Martin Waller for references." Please send information to James at jimi.gee@virgin.net

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BRIEF INFORMATION FROM THE WEB & NEWSGROUPS

A multilingual translation of the terminology used in "Guidelines for Analysis and Description of Soil and Regolith Thin Sections (Stoops, 2003) is now available on following website: http://www.plr.ugent.be/micromorphology_news.html

It comprises, at this moment, the translation of 220 terms in 14 European languages: Castellano (Spanish), Catalan, ?esky (Czech), Deutsch (German), Français (French), Galego, Italiano (Italian), Magyar (Hungarian), Nederlands (Dutch), Norks (Norwegian), Polski (Polish), Português (Portuguese), Român?: (Romanian), Slovenina (Slovak).

In August 2010 the book "Introduction to the Interpretation of micromorphological Features of Soils and Regoliths", edited by G. Stoops, V. Marcelino and F. Mees, has been published by Academy Press and Elsevier.

Posted by:

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Especially for those interested in the archaeobotany of west Asia (Anatolia in particular), the archaeobotanical site report for Gordion has just appeared:

Botanical Aspects of Environment and Economy at Gordion, Turkey. Gordion Special Studies 5

ISBN 978-1-934536-15-5

\$69.95 | £45.50 (+ shipping).

<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~nmiller0>

OR <http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/14696.html>

[NOTE: included in the cost of the book is a cd with the data and color images of vegetation]

Also:

[Origins of Agriculture in Western Central Asia: An Environmental-Archaeological Study](#) , by David Harris

ISBN 978-1-934536-16-2

\$65.00, £ 42.50 (+ shipping)

<http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/14700.html>

Posted by:

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Archaeobotany in New Guinea and Australia (ANGA),

I thought your members might be interested to know about Archaeobotany in New Guinea and Australia (ANGA), a working group formed to showcase the contribution archaeobotany can make to archaeology in the Australasian region. One of our objectives has been to make available an online database of modern plant reference collections held in Australia, including seeds and fruits, wood charcoal, starch, phytolith and resins from Southwest Asia, China, Papua New Guinea and the Australia-Pacific region. It not only provides a list of species and where to find them, but will eventually serve as a powerful identification tool. The database and further information can be accessed through the website Archaeobotany Net

(<http://archaeobotany.ning.com>).

Posted by:

Amanda Kennedy

anga_email@yahoo.com.au

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