



**Edited by Wendy Carruthers and Vanessa Straker**

Copy dates for Items for the Newsletter may be submitted by e-mail or on disk. Newsletter: 20th of the following months - January / April / July / October. Short typed manuscripts can be sent to Wendy Carruthers.

**e-mail addresses:** wendy.carruthers@virgin.net; vanessa.straker@english-heritage.org.uk  
Vanessa Straker, English Heritage SW, 29 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4ND  
Wendy Carruthers, Sawmills House, Castellau, Llantrisant, Mid Glamorgan CF72 8LQ

**AEA Membership Secretary:** Dr Ruth Pelling, Senior Archaeobotanist, English Heritage, Fort Cumberland, Fort Cumberland Road, Eastney, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO4 9LD, UK E-mail: [membership@envarch.net](mailto:membership@envarch.net)

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

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**EDITORIAL**

This Newsletter contains the full programme for the Autumn Conference in Reading which has the theme 'Environmental Archaeologies of Neolithisation'. Please note that registration after **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October** will incur a late booking fee. The AEA offers financial assistance to AEA members attending conferences (see page 4) – a form for the Reading Conference is provided at the end of this Newsletter.

We would like to thank Wessex Archaeology for adding to our series of articles on environmental archaeology news from the commercial sector. We would be grateful for offers of articles from other organisations, and from sources such as University Departments, for future Newsletters.

On a topical note, we are pleased to be including in the next Newsletter (November) an item from Wessex Archaeology on work undertaken on the site of the Olympic Park in eastern London (see Wessex article on page 9).

**NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

**AEA AGM AND ELECTIONS 2012**

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012** during the autumn meeting in Reading.

**Draft agenda:**

1. Report on the committee's activities and John Evans Prize Result

2. Treasurer's report including summary of the association's accounts
3. Election of new committee members
4. Any other business

## Managing Committee Elections

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!**

Elections for four new committee members (three ordinary members and one student representative) will be held at the AGM, **November 10<sup>th</sup> 2012**, Reading. The AEA Managing Committee seeks nominations for the following positions:

- **Three Ordinary Members (each a four-year position);**
- **One Student Representative (two-year position)**

All nominees must be AEA members in good standing. The current committee structure is presented at the end of this section. Standing on the Managing Committee an opportunity for members to contribute to the association and help steer its future direction.

### **General Committee information**

The AEA Managing Committee usually meets four times a year (usually in April, July, October and January, although in recent years the summer meeting has been conducted by email). 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, awards, publicity and membership. Meetings are hosted by committee members, with some funds available for essential travel, where this cannot be met externally to the AEA.

### **The role of Student Representative**

Student Representatives have now sat on the AEA committee for several years, one new Student Representative being elected every year, and their term of office lasting two years. The post is open to both undergraduates and postgraduate students. During their first year of office, the newly elected Student Representative will 'shadow' the student completing their second year of office. During their second year of office, the student representative will take a more active role in the Committee, as well as guiding the newly elected student representative. The Student Representative will be expected to promote the AEA within the undergraduate and postgraduate communities, and also encourage the establishment of student-led meetings/seminars. This is an excellent opportunity for a student to raise their profile within the community.

**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. Where possible, this statement will be circulated in advance of the AGM and also available to attendees at the AGM.

Nominations for all advertised posts can be received up to the time of the AGM, although the committee would like to encourage members to submit nominations **before October 12<sup>th</sup>** to allow circulation of statements and absentee voting. Please send or e-mail any nominations (which must be seconded and accompanied by a personal statement by the nominee) to the AEA secretary Fay Worley.

E-mail: [fay.worley@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:fay.worley@english-heritage.org.uk)

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

Current Committee details can be found at: <http://www.envarch.net/membership/committee.html>

The AEA constitution is also on the AEA website: <http://www.envarch.net/membership/constitution.html>

## **CURRENT ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS (elected term in [ ]; \*\*indicates committee members whose current term ends at the AGM)**

### **Chair**

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

### **Treasurer**

Jacqui Huntley (Durham, England) [2011-2015]

### **Secretary**

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

### **Ordinary Committee Members**

Dr Robin Bendrey (Reading, England) [2010-2014]

Dr Emily Forster (Sheffield, England) [2010-2014]  
\*\*Dr Ellen Hambleton (Bournemouth, England) [2008-2012]  
\*\*Dr Zoe Hazell (Portsmouth, England) [2008-2012]  
Dr Richard Madgwick (Bournemouth, England) – [2011-2015]  
Dr Preston Miracle (Cambridge, England) [2010-2014]  
Dr James Morris (London, England) [2011-2015]  
Dr Rebecca Nicholson (Oxford, England) [2009-2013]  
Dr Ruth Pelling (Portsmouth, England) [2009-2013]  
Dr Hannah Russ (Sheffield, England) [2011-2015]  
Dr Jørn Zeiler (ArchaeoBone Netherlands) [2009-2013]

### **Student Representatives**

Lisa Lodwick (Oxford, England) [2011-2013]  
\*\*Marta Perez (Plymouth, England) – Student Representative [2010-2012]

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

Wendy Carruthers (Llantrisant, Wales) – Co-editor of the Newsletter  
Dr Paul Davis (Bath, England) – JISC-mail manager  
Dr Ingrid Mainland (Orkney, Scotland) – Co-ordinating Editor of the Journal  
Vanessa Straker (Bristol, England) – Co-editor of the Newsletter

### **JOURNAL NEWS**

We are happy to announce that from Issue 18 (2013), *Environmental Archaeology* will be publishing three issues a year. We are also delighted to welcome Dr David Smith (Birmingham), Professor Martyn Waller (Kingston) and Dr Tim Mighall (Aberdeen) to the journal's editorial board. Dr Tim Mighall will be taking on the role of Deputy Editor.

### **JOHN EVANS DISSERTATION PRIZE**

The closing date for entries has now passed and the results will be announced at this year's AGM, 10<sup>th</sup> November in Reading.

### **MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

We continue to welcome nominations for each of our new Membership Award schemes, first announced in the February Newsletter. The closing date for both awards has been extended to **31<sup>st</sup> October**, and any successful recipients announced at the AGM (10<sup>th</sup> November, Reading). Nominations for both awards should be sent, preferably by email, to the AEA Chair (Dr Andy Howard). All queries and correspondence should also be directed to Dr Howard (A.J.Howard@bham.ac.uk).

#### **Award 1 – Individual Award**

One Individual 'Full' AEA Membership to an environmental archaeologist who has demonstrated commitment to the discipline, but whose personal circumstances have not enabled them to either join the organisation or to remain as a member.

In return for membership, we would require the recipient to act as a local correspondent and submit two (maximum 1000 word) articles to the Newsletter each year focused around any aspect of environmental archaeology relevant to them (e.g. recent developments in environmental archaeology in a particular country or region, a recent excavation revealing environmental evidence, a research report on their studies/work).

No country or level of career development is excluded. **Membership will run currently for 3 years** and requires NO financial outlay by the individual. Individuals should be nominated by a person who has been a member of the AEA for at least 12 months standing.

Nominations should be in the form of a maximum 1 page letter stating: 1) name of nominee; 2) affiliation of the nominee, if applicable; 3) relationship of the nominator to the nominee and period known; 4) brief statement to support the nominee (i.e. why they should be the recipient).

#### **Award 2 – Organisational/Institutional Award**

One hard copy of the AEA Journal for a period **equivalent to three concurrent calendar years** to be placed in an institutional library/organization, which will benefit students studying environmental archaeology. No country is excluded. For administration purposes, a single individual within the organisation will be required to be nominated as a designated recipient of the award, but they need not be a current member of the AEA (e.g. Curator of Archaeology, at the nominated organisation). Organizations (and designated individual) should be nominated by a person who has been a member of the AEA for at least 12 months standing.

Nominations should be in the form of a maximum 1 page letter stating: 1) name of nominated library/organisation; 2) relationship of the nominator to the organisation and period known;

3) brief statement to support the named institution (i.e. why it should be the recipient).

As in the individual award (Award 1), in return for membership, the designated recipient would be required to act as a local correspondent and submit two (maximum 1000 word) articles to the Newsletter each year focused around any aspect of environmental archaeology relevant to their organization. In the case of this organisational/institutional award, the designated recipient need not necessarily be the sole author.

### **AEA CONFERENCE FUND**

We are delighted to announce the availability of the AEA Conference Fund to members of the AEA (of at least six months standing) to assist attendance at the Reading conference. Priority will be given to those with limited alternative sources of funding (particularly postgraduate students and those in the private sector) and those presenting papers or posters. Applications from postgraduates must be accompanied by a letter of support from their supervisor. A form is provided at the end of this Newsletter.

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 **31st August 2012**. Any queries should be directed to the AEA Conference Officer: Rebecca Nicholson ([rebecca.nicholson@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:rebecca.nicholson@oxfordarch.co.uk)).

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*We are currently catching up with the publication of abstracts from past John Evans Prize winners:*

#### **Abstract from the Winner of the 2011 John Evans Prize (Undergraduate)**

by Bennjamin J. Penny-Mason, University of Reading,

*'Evaluating the application of faecal pollen analysis to archaeological and forensic science: an experimental approach'*

24 modern faecal samples of human origin were analyzed for their pollen contents. The material was collected over a six week period; with three different diets (vegan, vegetarian & meat) being adopted to see if this affected pollen taphonomy. Different areas in the South of England were visited to see if the pollen assemblages changed with movement around the country. 'Exotic' plants were added into the primary habitation site and days were spent entirely inside to see if these changes affected pollen assemblages. Pollen analysis of four coprolite remains from La Caloterie were also undertaken to analyze whether this study was of any value on ancient samples preserved in unfavorable conditions and whether it added to our understanding of the medieval site. The data collected from both of these studies was applied to both forensic and archaeological investigations. It revealed that pollen is definitely ingested mostly from 'background pollen', with little 'economic pollen' interference. It was noted that the complexities of pollen taphonomy are still not fully understood, with digestion being the largest varying factor. It is concluded that this analysis can be used to reveal the season of ingestion. It also concluded that rare pollen can indicate specific locations. However, regional location from pollen assemblages was not possible. The samples from La Caloterie were highly successful and indicated an open, grassland environment.

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## **CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

### **Association for Environmental Archaeology Autumn Conference 2012:**

*Environmental Archaeologies of Neolithisation*

**University of Reading (UK), 9-12 November 2012**

#### **Conference abstract**

The origins and spread of Neolithic life-ways represent a pivotal change in human ecology and society. Communities transformed their relationships with the world around them, shifting away from reliance upon hunted and collected wild resources, to the management and domestication of plants and animals, alongside a pattern of increasing sedentism. These processes were played out at differing temporal and spatial scales; from the life-cycle of a single organism of a population on the path to domestication, to the dissemination of 'new' farming economies around the world.

The varied fields within environmental archaeology are providing increasingly detailed understanding of the agencies, processes and pathways in these transformations. These include work in the established fields of geoarchaeology, archaeobotany and zooarchaeology, alongside the major advances and exciting vistas opened in recent decades by techniques such as stable isotope analysis, geometric morphometrics and genetic studies, as well as interdisciplinary studies that integrate these approaches.

The conference aims to examine any aspect of Neolithisation at the varying scales of analysis that environmental archaeology can offer, from changes within a single site to those played out over continents.

The conference programme is now finalized, but may be subject to minor organisational changes. The *Association for Environmental Archaeology* will award two poster prizes at the conference.

Please register before **Monday 15th October 2012** – registration after this date will incur a late booking fee

### **Conference programme:**

#### **FRIDAY 9 NOVEMBER**

Registration opens (15:30)

**Keynote address** by **Dr Jean-Denis Vigne** (17:00 – 19:00)

Followed by welcome wine reception

#### **SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER**

**ORAL PAPERS** (09:20 – 17:10)

#### **Terminal Epipalaeolithic Site Locations in the Southern Levant – Foreshadowing the Neolithic?**

A. Belfer-Cohen, A.N. Goring-Morris and L. Grosman

#### **WF16: Environmental context of a Pre-Pottery Neolithic A settlement embedded within the process of Neolithisation**

Steven Mithen and Bill Finlayson

#### **Current Research on the Origins of Agriculture, Animal Herding and Sedentism in the Zagros Mountains of Iran and Iraq**

Roger Matthews, Wendy Matthews, Yaghoub Mohammadifar, Kamal Rasheed, Robin Bendrey, Sarah Elliott, Amy Richardson and Jade Whitlam

#### **A Question of Territory: a multi-scale approach to Pre-Pottery Neolithic Settlement Systems in the Lower Galilee, Israel**

M. Birkenfeld and A.N. Goring-Morris

#### **The Neolithic of the Iranian Central Plateau through the study of archaeobotanical remains: the case of Tape Sialk**

Hengameh Ilkhani and Alexandra Livarda

#### **Isotopic evidence for the earliest use of ceramics in cooking meats and processing milk from sheep and goats at Hotu and Belt Caves, northern Iran**

Michael W. Gregg and Greg F. Slater

#### **The spread of farming; the environmental and social context of adoption, adaptation, rejection in early Holocene central Anatolia**

Douglas Baird

#### **Destructive delicacies: wild boar in the Neolithic of Anatolia**

Louise A Martin & Yvonne H Edwards

#### **Pig domestication and human migration from Anatolia to Europe (and back again)**

Claudio Ottonia, Linus Girdland Flink, Allowen Evin, Christina Geörgi, Bea De Cupere, Wim Van Neer, László Bartosiewicz, Anna Linderholm, Ross Barnett, Joris Peters, Ronny Decorte, Marc Waelkens, Nancy Vanderheyden, François-Xavier Ricaut, A. Rus Hoelzel, Marjan Mashkour, Azadeh Fatemeh Mohaseb Karimluh, Shiva Sheikhi Seno, Julie Daujat, Fiona Brock, Ron Pinhasi, Hitomi Hongo, Miguel Perez-Enciso, Morten Rasmussen, Laurent Frantz, Hendrik-Jan Megens, Richard Crooijmans, Martien Groenen, Benjamin Arbuckle, Nobert Benecke, Una Strand Vidarsdottir, Joachim Burger, Thomas Cucchi, Keith Dobney, and Greger Larson

#### **Stable isotope evidence for changes in human diet from the Epi-Palaeolithic to the Neolithic in Anatolia**

Jessica Pearson

**Two different roads to domestication? Caprine and cattle management (13,000–5,000 BC cal) in the Konya Plain of Central Anatolia: an approach using carbon and nitrogen isotopes.**

Caroline Middleton

**Neolithisation Process in North China: Geoarchaeological Investigation at two Early Neolithic Sites**

Yijie Zhuang

**Application of GIS Techniques in Exploring Settlement Patterns of the Neolithic Communities in South India**

Opangtula Imsong

**No Flies on Us: The Diffusion of the Neolithic in Africa**

Lee G Broderick, Mary Prendergast, Oula Seitsonen, Katherine Grillo, Agnes Gidna and Audax Mabulla

**Reconstructing the environmental changes at Vinča – Belo brdo**

Kristina Penezić

**Diet and subsistence variation in the early Neolithic of central Europe**

Julie Hamilton, Robert Hedges, Penny Bickle, R. Alexander Bentley, Linda Fibiger, Daniela Hofmann and Alasdair Whittle

**AEA annual AGM** (17:20 – 18:20)

**Conference dinner** (19:30)

**SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER**

**ORAL PAPERS** (09:20 – 17:10)

**Neolithisation and woodland management: can woodland management be recognised by branch age and diameter analysis?**

Welmoed Out, Kirsti Hänninen and Caroline Vermeeren

**Socioecological dynamics at the time of Neolithic transition in Iberia.**

Joan Bernabeu Aubán, Oreto García Puchol, C. Michael Barton, Sarah B. McClure and Salvador Pardo Gordo

**Crop water availability and origins of agriculture in the western Mediterranean: insights from carbon-13 analysis of cereals and wild flora associated to early Neolithic farming**

Mònica Aguilera, Guillem Pérez, Juan Pedro Ferrio, Ramon Buxó, José Luis Araus, Leonor Peña-Chocarro and Jordi Voltas

**Zooarchaeology in the Neolithic and Chalcolithic of Portugal**

Maria João Valente and António Faustino Carvalho

**An integrated perspective on farming in the Early Neolithic lakeshore site of La Draga (Banyoles, Spain)**

F Antolín, R Buxó, S Jacomet, V Navarrete and M Saña

**Wild and domestic animals in the earliest Neolithic sites in southern Britain**

Dale Serjeantson

**The causes of the Neolithic elm decline: New evidence from the Lower Thames Valley for human activity and disease**

C R Batchelor

**Variations on a theme: detailing cattle and pig exploitation in Early Neolithic Britain.**

Sarah Viner

**The Ecodynamics of Neolithic Clearance in the British Isles**

Mark Robinson

**Late Neolithic Wiltshire Ham: Recent discoveries from Marden Henge, Wiltshire, UK**

Fay Worley

**Picturing Stonehenge: providing the evidence base to inform the interpretation content of the new visitor centre**

Gill Campbell, Matt Canti, Susan Greaney, Zoë Hazell, Jonathan Last, Ruth Pelling, Simon Mays and Fay Worley

**Neolithisation and the landscape of Ireland**

M J Bunting, N J Whitehouse, P Barratt, R Schulting, R Marchant, A Bogaard and M McClatchie

**Milking the megafauna: the implications of dairying in the Irish Neolithic**

Jessica Smyth and Richard P Evershed

**The Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in Shetland: Osteological evidence from a shell midden**

Rebecca Nicholson, Fay Worley and Nigel Melton

**Reconstructing the landscapes of Neolithisation in Orkney, Scotland**

Michelle Farrell and M. Jane Bunting

**Storakaig: Environmental archaeology at the Mesolithic/Neolithic interface of Western Scotland**

Steven Mithen and Karen Wicks

**POSTER SESSION**

**Akanthou-Arkosykos, a 9th Millenium Coastal Settlement in Cyprus**

Müge Şevketoğlu

**First results of charcoal and phytolith analysis from Neolithic layers of Buran-Kaya IV (Crimea, Ukraine)**

Aurélie Salavert, Erwan Messenger, Vincent Lebreton, Natalia Gerasimenko, Simon Puaud, Laurent Crépin, Stéphane Péan, Masayoshi Yamada and Alexander Yanevich

**Early oleiculture or native wild *Olea* in Eastern Maghreb: new pollen data from the sebkha-lagoon Halk-el-Menjel (Hergla, Central Tunisia)**

Vincent Lebreton, Amor Mokhtar Gammar, Sahbi Jaouadi, Simone Mulazzani, Lotfi Belhouchet, Abdelkarim Boujelben, Jean-François Saliege, Mohamed Raouf Karray and Eric Fouache

**Shell Middens in the Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene in North Africa: Ongoing Work at Taforalt (Grotte des Pigeons), Morocco**

Victoria Taylor

**Vegetation history, climate change and the Neolithisation of the northern Apennines, Italy**

Stuart Black, Nicholas Branch, Roberto Maggi, Sophie Neville and Mike Simmonds

**Stable isotopic evidence and animal management practices in Neolithic Dalmatia**

Sarah McClure, Emil Podrug, Douglas Kennett and Emily Zavodny

**Plant macro-remains from the early Neolithic site of Smólsk in the Kujawy region, central Poland**

Aldona Mueller, Katarzyna Cywa and Błażej Muzolf

**Abri des Castelli – 2140m asl: a Neolithic occupation in the Corsican mountain**

S Mazet, JM Bontempi and N Marini

**Wild and domestic pigs (*Sus scrofa domesticus* and *Sus scrofa ferus*) in Prehistoric Times of Romania: paleoeconomical importance**

Simina Stanc, Luminița Bejenaru and Mariana Popovici

**Morphometric data for suines (*Sus scrofa domesticus* and *Sus scrofa ferus*) for Precucuteni-Cucuteni and Boian-Gumelnita cultures, in Romania**

Mariana Popovici, Adrian Balasescu, Simina Stanc and Luminita Bejenaru

**The ratio of domestic and wild animals on the Neolithic sites in Vojvodina (Serbia)**

Darko Radmanović, Desanka Kostić, Jelena Lujčić and Svetlana Blažić

**Changes in prehistoric landscapes: archaeozoological data on Poduri tell (Bacau County, Romania)**

Luminita Bejenaru and Simina Stanc

**The introduction of agriculture into Ireland: evidence from plant macro-remains**

Meriel McClatchie, Nicki Whitehouse, Amy Bogaard, Sue Colledge, Rick Schulting, Phil Barratt and Rowan McLaughlin

**Environmental change and human impact across the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition of NW Europe: new data from March Hill, N. England**

S E Kneen, J J Blackford, P A Ryan and J B Innes

**MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER**

**Optional excursion – Avebury World Heritage Site (09:00 – 17:00)**

Led by Professor Richard Bradley (University of Reading), including Avebury henge and stone circles, Silbury Hill and West Kennet long barrow.

**Conference organisers:**

Robin Bendrey, Sarah Elliott, Wendy Matthews, Amy Richardson, and Jade Whitlam  
Department of Archaeology, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 226, Reading, RG6 6AB, UK

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***Feast and Famine: Exploring Relationships with Food in the Pacific***

**Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 7th-8th September 2012**

***Inaugural Pacific Islands Research Network Conference (UCL)***

Conference organisers: Sarah Byrne (Institute of Archaeology, UCL) and Kaori O'Connor (Anthropology, UCL)

Registration now open at:

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/3868001296> (Please Register before **20th August, 2012**)

Feasting is the most resonant and powerful of all social practices in the Pacific Island region. Now as in the past, feasts are at the centre of Pacific society, serving as the arenas for the display of hierarchy, status and power; the negotiation of loyalty and alliances; the enacting of competition; the creation and consolidation of identity and the performance of public rituals that link the social and the political, the sacred and the secular. Both feasts and famines represent a research theme where ecology and economy meet, and where patterns of provisioning and consumptions, and resultant health and environmental aspects, manifest themselves.

This two day conference is organised by the newly established UCL Pacific Islands Research Network responds to the widening interest in the political, economic, cultural and health dimensions of feasting, food production and famine in the Pacific. This conference aims to provide a platform for more engaged dialogue between archaeology, anthropology, history, ecology, economics, epidemiology, health and medical studies, and food studies and the social and historical sciences more broadly.

The conference will present vanguard work in anthropological, archaeological, historical, literary, environmental and medical research, and discuss how it can contribute to a better understanding of society, health and food security in the Pacific islands – past, present and future.

This conference is kindly sponsored by the Institute of Archaeology, Department of Anthropology (UCL) and Mellon Foundation.

For more details on conference programme and how to register please visit:

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/3868001296>

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***The 34th Annual Conference of the Theoretical Archaeology Group***

**University of Liverpool, 17 December to 19 December 2012.**

**Theme: 'live archaeology'**

Session proposed by Anne Sassin (University of Nottingham) and Kristopher Poole (Independent Researcher):

***'Landscapes of Pleasure, Landscapes of Conscience: perceptions of environmental ethics in pre-modern societies.'***

Throughout time, humankind has been adept at manipulating the environment, whether for their own personal homes, subsistence benefits, or spiritual gain. More often than not, such reasons were self-motivated in their instigation: some economical and some tied to social status. Occasionally, the created landscapes were purely aesthetic in inspiration, providing backdrops of pleasure to participants and quiet places of contemplation. Research into such interactions has tended to focus on the anthropocentric reasons behind such actions, yet the absence of separate concepts of 'nature' and 'society' in many past cultures (e.g. Descola and Pálsson 1996) means that we should also consider the potential existence of more ecocentric motivations. In particular, was management of the environment always self-motivated, or could it have at times been undertaken for the benefit of nature, and with environmental values in mind? Is one necessarily separate from the other? Are such distinctions detectable in the archaeological record, and more importantly, is it even possible to differentiate true motivations from masked aspirations?

This session aims to address these issues by drawing in a multifarious range of papers and evidence, from zooarchaeological and palaeoethnobotanical, to historical sources and landscape studies, incorporating all regions and periods from prehistory to post-medieval. Its objective is to explore methodologies for evaluating



such an enigmatic topic, identifying instances in the archaeological record where signs of ecocentrism might be present, or as the case may be, entirely lacking.

For more information about the TAG conference see <http://www.liv.ac.uk/sace/livetag/index.htm>

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## WORLD ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONGRESS 7

Theme "*Archaeology as Sustenance*", The Dead Sea, Jordan, January 12<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Sessions and individual contributions may be proposed through the WAC-7 website: <http://wac7.worldarchaeologicalcongress.org/>. Submissions for sessions are due by **August 30<sup>th</sup>**, and submissions for individual contributions are due by **September 30<sup>th</sup>**.

### *Conference Abstract:*

Ancient gastronomic practices are recoverable through a variety of means, from inedible proxies such as texts and paintings, to bodily inscriptions of diet and nutrition, to actual residues and remains of foodstuffs. Worldwide, ancient foodways have persisted and transformed over time, coalescing into the contemporary practices and ingredients available in our globalised economy. Archaeological approaches to foodways have demonstrated that practices may persist though ingredients transform, and ingredients may persist though practices transform. Change is evident in such areas as transitions to famine foods, innovation in cooking methods, and introduction of new ingredients and recipes. Modern "borrowings" from archaeological scholarship have been incorporated into the Slow Food movement, agricultural practices, and the revival of heritage foods, in the same way that such modern approaches to food have influenced our interpretations of past foodways. Critical issues include the copyrighting of foodstuff genomes, preservation and legal protection of gastronomic heritage, modern maladies that represent shifts from traditional foodways, recovery and sale of historic alcohol, dramatic environmental transformations linked to food practices, and nationalist movements that seek to sediment essentialised regional foodways. The importance and spatiotemporal range of gastronomic heritage invite a critical look at our reconstructions of ancient cuisine, and the impact of these reconstructions on modern foodways.

If you are interested in submitting a session or paper within this theme, please see the link above. Within this theme, I would further like to propose a session titled "Gastronomic Heritage," with a focus on the modern-day implications of archaeological interpretations of sustenance. If you are interested in participating in this session specifically, please contact me at [smorellhart@wm.edu](mailto:smorellhart@wm.edu).

Shanti Morell-Hart  
Visiting Assistant Professor  
Anthropology Department  
College of William and Mary  
[smorellhart@wm.edu](mailto:smorellhart@wm.edu)

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## COMPARATIVE HISTORICAL ECOLOGY IN ANCIENT NORTHEAST ASIA: POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

A SSHRC funded partnership development initiative, Comparative Historical Ecology in Ancient Northeast Asia, under the direction of Prof. Gary Crawford invites applications for a Post- Doctoral Fellowship. Applicants should have a PhD in anthropology and research expertise in the environmental archaeology of North China, Japan and/or the Korean Peninsula. The Fellowship is open to citizens of all countries.

Over the next three academic years, the partnership will hold a series of invitation-only conferences and workshops in Canada, the U.S., China and possibly Japan and South Korea where working papers will be developed and shared among participants. An agenda for scholarship in historical ecology in Northeast Asia will be developed and the partners will help identify graduate students and junior colleagues interested in this agenda. Partnership agreements with a variety of institutions in the region will be formalized in order to move forward with a full Partnership Grant proposal.

The Fellow will have duties relating to coordinating activities of the current partners, the organization of conferences and workshops, assisting with the development and maintenance of a web site for the project, editing working papers, and assisting the direction of the Center for Historical Ecology in Northeast Asia at the University of Toronto Mississauga. The Fellow will also be expected to participate in the workshops. The Fellow

will thus gain valuable experience in the practice and administration of collaborative research. S/he will also be expected to have an active program of research in environmental archaeology in Northeast Asia. There will also be opportunities for the Fellow to teach courses for an additional stipend.

Candidates with expertise in palaeoethnobotany are preferred but other areas of environmental archaeology will be considered.

The Fellowship will be tenable at most for the period beginning October 1, 2012 or as soon as possible and ending June 30, 2015. The fellowship stipend is C\$32,000 per year.

Candidates who will receive their PhD degree by December 2012 are eligible to apply; however, they must submit a letter confirming their completion.

Applicants must submit the following materials in electronic form by Sept. 1, 2012:

- a. A letter of application, including a statement of current research interests (outlining the research to be undertaken during the term of fellowship).
- b. A curriculum vitae.
- c. The names of three referees.
- d. A writing sample, which may be published work, an extract from the dissertation, or a draft of work in progress (not to exceed 25 pages).

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## NEWS FROM WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

From its small beginnings in 1979, dealing predominantly with the south and south-west, Wessex Archaeology has expanded to having four regional offices, covering South-West England (Salisbury), London and South-East England (Rochester), Northern England (Sheffield), and Scotland (Edinburgh). For the past 25 years Wessex has maintained an in-house environmental department which has been gradually increased both in size and the range of environmental specialisms covered. We currently employ nine specialist staff members; David Norcott, Nicola Mulhall, Catherine Barnett, Andrew Bickett, Michael Grant, John Russell, Lorrain Higbee, Sarah Wyles and Chris Stevens. Between us we cover most aspects of environmental archaeology; geoarchaeology, pollen, foraminifera, ostracod, archaeozoology, archaeobotany (charred and waterlogged plant remains, charcoal), terrestrial and fresh/brackish water molluscs and marine shell.

Despite the ongoing recession, we've had a busy year juggling a large number of projects in various stages of production, with most containing a moderate to substantial environmental component. These projects cover a wide variety of site types and landscapes, from the offshore work with coastal and marine, through estuarine, wetlands, river valleys and of course the terrestrial sites that frequently form the bulk of our work, as well as covering many periods.

A large amount of work in recent years has been spent working in eastern London at the sites of the Olympic Park and works associated with the High Speed 1 line. The former will be reported in a forthcoming AEA newsletter in more detail with the main publication available at the end of the month (Powell 2012). The High Speed 1 work, carried out in conjunction with Oxford Archaeology, has already yielded a series of monographs associated with the Late Iron Age to more recent archaeology at Ebbsfleet, Kent (Andrews *et al.* 2011a,b; Barnett *et al.* 2011), with subsequent monographs dealing with the Thames environmental sequences and prehistoric Ebbsfleet forthcoming. Subsequent investigations at a couple of the High Speed 1 sequences by Waller and Grant (2012) has also led to a re-evaluation of the interpretation of the pollen sequences from wetland settings including the differentiation between cereal pollen (often used to infer local arable activity) and native will grasses within the wetlands that produce similar pollen.

Pleistocene sequences from both terrestrial and marine settings continue to form an important component of our work. Examples include the recent publication of the important Palaeolithic site at Dunbridge, Hampshire, where deposit modelling was employed to differentiate the gravel terrace formations and spatially relate these to the handaxe distribution, including a number of proto-Levallois artefacts (Harding *et al.* 2012). In the offshore setting, a synthesis of the archaeology and palaeo-landscape reconstructions from large regions of the southern North Sea, English Channel and elements of the west coast encompasses much of the last 1 million years has

also been recently carried out (Bickett 2011) with further projects from aggregate extraction locations in the North Sea also nearing publication. In southern Hampshire a site situated upon the edge of the chalk provided an organic rich waterlogged deposit with outstanding preservation (including lots of identifiable seeds and molluscs) dating to the Windermere Interstadial (c. 11,400 cal. BC) and will undoubtedly provide an extremely important source of information for the environment of this period.

Current work includes two major road schemes; the A3 Hindhead Improvement Scheme in Surrey nearing publication and the A46 Newark to Widmerpool Road Improvement Scheme, Nottinghamshire (in partnership with Cotswold Archaeology). The former has produced charred remains from a later Bronze Age settlement, as well as a peat sequence providing information on the Early Saxon to post medieval landscape, demonstrating an expansion of local heathland in the Late Anglo Saxon to Early Medieval period. The A46 Scheme provided a number of Iron Age settlements as well as the outskirts of the Roman Town of *Margidunum*. Many of these sites have produced good charred assemblages, and although animal bone preservation has been patchy across the sites, a substantial assemblage has been recovered from Roman *Margidunum* providing information on changes within livestock farming as the settlement shifted from a military to a civilian base. Of equal interest was an Early to Late Mesolithic sequence at the edge of the Bingham Basin within which a unique assemblage of mollusc and ostracods was recovered.

Ongoing work on a series of Late Upper Palaeolithic and Early Mesolithic deposits from a site in Uxbridge, Buckinghamshire, adjacent to the important archaeological site at Three Ways Wharf, are yielding long palaeoenvironmental sequences that cover the period of known local occupation and will provide important information on the environment of the peoples who foraged and hunted within the Colne Valley during this period.

More recent sequences of interest include pollen analysis from a series of three Bronze Age Barrows at Golden Cap, Dorset, that demonstrate a gradual transition in local vegetation structure during each barrow construction phase. Of later and more historic projects include the discovery of a deep sequence to the south of Welwyn Garden City covering some 1000 years of vegetation history. The demonstrating localised open hazel-oak woodland at the site, prior to the onset of peat formation that continued to the reign of the Tudors.

Recent excavations by WA at Orchard Hill, Carshalton, Surrey, produced a large assemblage of animal bones including several complex pit deposits of Middle and Late Iron Age, and Early Romano-British date. One MIA pit contained two dogs, posed as if in the act of mating, along with a raven. While a Romano-British pit included a young dog the base, with a pottery vessel containing the cremated remains of two sheep. Overlying this were the articulated remains of five cattle, four sheep, four dogs, and a fox.

Recently published work includes the discovery of spelt wheat associated with an Early Bronze Age settlement at Minster, Kent with radiocarbon dating providing both the earliest date for spelt wheat and the earliest secure dating for field systems within England (Barclay *et al.* 2001; Martin *et al.* 2001). Also recently published (Dinwiddy and Bradley 2011) were the excavations at Poundbury Dorchester, Dorset, which along with evidence for a Romano-British settlement yielded a deposit of Early Neolithic charred emmer spikelets and another of charred ears of barley dating to the Middle/ Late Bronze Age. An expansive review of radiocarbon dates on prehistoric cereal and wild plant food remains from the British Isles conducted by Chris Stevens, with Dorian Fuller (Stevens and Fuller 2012), indicates a possible abandonment of cereals at the start of the Middle Neolithic.

An Iron Age to Roman enclosure at High Post, near Salisbury, Wiltshire, included a large assemblage of animal bone representing a single event in which at least 25 cattle and five sheep appear to have been slaughtered, consumed and disposed, possibly as part of the construction of the enclosure in the Early Iron Age (Powell 2011).

Of upcoming publications to add to the evidence for Roman malting and brewing recovered from Springhead and Northfleet Villa in Kent (published in conjunction with Oxford Archaeology in 2011) and at Bicester (Martin 2011), are a Roman Malt House just off Akeman Street near Aylesbury (Wakeham and Bradley forthcoming) and similar evidence for malting from Holyborne, near Alton, Hampshire.

Accompanying all these projects are rigorous radiocarbon dating programs, and it is testament to the amount of work that has been conducted over the last year that some 250 dates from environmental material were sent off last year and on current activity a similar figure is anticipated by the end of this year.

## **WESSEX PUBLICATIONS**

Andrews, P., Biddulph, E. and Hardy, H., 2011a, *Settling the Ebbsfleet Valley: High Speed 1 Excavations at Springhead and Northfleet, Kent. The Late Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and Medieval Landscape, Volume 1, The Sites*, Oxford Wessex Archaeology Monograph

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Dinwiddy, K.E. and Bradley, P., 2011, *Prehistoric Activity and a Romano-British Settlement at Poundbury Farm, Dorchester, Dorset*, Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury

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Powell, A.B., 2012, *By River, Fields and Factories: The Making of the Lower Lea Valley – archaeological and cultural heritage investigations on the site of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games*, Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury

Stevens, C.J. and Fuller, D.Q, 2012, Did Neolithic farming fail? The case for a Bronze Age agricultural revolution in the British Isles, *Antiquity* 86 (333), 707-722

Thompson, S. and Manning, A. forthcoming, Late prehistoric settlement and post-medieval industrial activity on the route of the A3 Hindhead Improvement Scheme, *Surrey Archaeological Collections*.

Wakeham, G. and Bradley, P., forthcoming. A probable Romano-British malt house complex and other remains at Weedon Hill, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. Submitted to *Records of Buckinghamshire, Journal of Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society*

Waller, M.P. and Grant, M.J., 2012, Holocene pollen assemblages from coastal wetlands: differentiating natural and anthropogenic causes of change in the Thames estuary, UK, *Journal of Quaternary Science* 27, 461-474 DOI: [10.1002/jqs.1570](https://doi.org/10.1002/jqs.1570)

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Many thanks to James Greig for the following information. Please send information to [jimi.gee@virgin.net](mailto:jimi.gee@virgin.net)  
James sends his thanks to Angela Monckton and Manfred Rösch for references.

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