



ISSN 1363-6553

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.

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

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EDITORIAL

The 100th edition of the Newsletter contains information about the AEA conference this September in Denmark. Thanks to Ruth Pelling for reporting on the very successful Spring Meeting in Cardiff. We would be grateful for further articles along the lines of Andy Howard's and Ben Gearey's 'A View from the Midlands' – the authors have put forward a few possible topics for further discussion at the end of their report.

Please note that the Committee is currently seeking nominations (see the first item below). We would also like to point out that some of the deadlines for the Bradford Studentships are very close; **14th May**.

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

NOMINATIONS TO THE AEA MANAGING COMMITTEE

The AEA Managing Committee seeks nominations for **three ordinary committee members** (each a four-year position). Elections will be held at the AEA AGM, which is to be held during the conference at Aarhus in **September 2008**.

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 conference monographs and the Journal, as well as issues relating to the Newsletter, Website maintenance and membership. **Nominees must be current AEA members.**

To make your nomination: Any AEA member can make a nomination, but this must be seconded. 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 2008**).

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.

Journal Editor:

Dr Ingrid Mainland,
Co-ordinating Editor of *Environmental Archaeology*,
Department of Archaeological Sciences,
University of Bradford, Bradford, BD7 1DP, UK.
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Online access for all subscribers

Online access to *Environmental Archaeology* (Volume 11 onwards) 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@shf.ac.uk), 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.

Also note that **Institutional subscription** to *Environmental Archaeology* is **only £98** (\$186 in North America) 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>

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

AEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE Aarhus, Denmark

12th-14th September, 2008

The Association for Environmental Archaeology (AEA) and Moesgaard Museum, Aarhus, Denmark are pleased to announce the Association's Annual Conference on 12th-14th September 2008.

The conference will be hosted by the Department of Environmental Archaeology and Conservation at Moesgård Museum, located approximately 10 km south of the City of Aarhus. The museum is situated in an 18th century manor surrounded by forest and near the eastern coast of Jutland.

The subject for this year's conference is "The Consequences of Fire" in the preservation and interpretation of the environmental archaeological record. Charred organic material, bone, grain, wood etc. is often among the most abundant find type recovered during excavation. It is therefore of vital importance to understand the role of fire whether intentionally used or in catastrophic accidents. Provisional session titles: Intentional Use of Fire, Accidental Fires, Transformation Processes.

Offers of oral presentations (20-25 minutes) and posters are invited and these should be accompanied by a comprehensive abstract. Abstracts should be 1-2 pages in length, including figures and bibliography if appropriate. The abstracts will be included in a conference book. Please send them to the contact address below.

Deadline for abstracts: 31st July 2008.

Preliminary programme:

Friday 12th September

14.00 - 20.00 Arrivals
18.00 Dinner
20.00 Welcome (Peter H. Mikkelsen, Head, Dept of Environmental Archaeology and Conservation)
20.00 - 22.00 The Consequences of Fire: Recent Danish Research
22.00 Socialising

Saturday 13th September

07.00 - 08.00 Breakfast
08.15 - 08.30 Welcome (Jan Skamby Madsen, Director of Moesgaard Museum)
08.30 - 10.00 *Session* – The Use of Fire
10.00 - 10.15 Coffee/Tea
10.15 - 11.45 *Session* – Accidental Fires
11.45 - 13.15 Lunch
13.15 - 15.00 *Session* – Transformation Processes
15.00 - 15.15 Coffee/Tea
15.15 - 16.45 *Short session* - TBA
16.45 - 18.00 Posters
17.45 - 18.15 AEA AGM
19.00 Dinner

Sunday 14th September

07.00 - 08.30 Breakfast
08.30 - 10.00 *Session* -TBA
10.00 - 12.00 Excursion to Moesgård (Grauballe Man and Illerup Ådal)
12.15 - 12.30 Closing of conference
12.30 - 13.30 Lunch
13.30 Departure

Venue: The conference will be held at “Handelsfagskolen” located 15 minutes walk from Moesgård Museum. The facilities are modern and include newly modernised rooms, restaurant, bar and computer access.

Address:

Handelsfagskolen
Skåde Skovvej 2
DK-8270 Højbjerg
Denmark

Registration:

Conference fee: 200 DKK (AEA members)/300 DKK (Non-members)

(Due to limited space registration will close at approximately 100 participants. Participants who register for full participation including accommodation and meals will be prioritised.)

Deadline for registration: 31st July 2008

Registration forms are available at the AEA website: <http://www.envarch.net/events/index.html#aea2008>

Deadline for payment: 1st September 2008

Organizing Committee:

Peter H. Mikkelsen (Head of Environmental Archaeology and Conservation, Moesgaard)
Jacob Kveiborg (Environmental Archaeology and Conservation, Moesgaard)
Peter Mose Jensen (Environmental Archaeology and Conservation, Moesgaard)
Marianne Høyem Andreasen (Environmental Archaeology and Conservation, Moesgaard)
Renée Enevold (Environmental Archaeology and Conservation, Moesgaard)
David E. Robinson (English Heritage)

Accommodation, travel and **further information** is available at the AEA website:
<http://www.envarch.net/events/index.html#aea2008>

WORLD ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONGRESS (WAC)
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN
29th June-4th July 2008
Website: <http://www.ucd.ie/wac-6/>

The 6th World Archaeological Congress will take place in the Republic of Ireland this summer. The main venue for the academic programme is the campus of University College Dublin, and the social events and tours will take in some of Ireland's fantastic historic venues and outstanding archaeological monuments and landscapes. There is a wide-ranging programme of cutting-edge themes and sessions to which participants can contribute, and whose organisers alone represent over 50 different nations around the world. **Registration** is now open (register before **26th March** to take advantage of an 'early' fee).

Many of the confirmed sessions will incorporate aspects of environmental archaeology. AEA members subscribing to the AEA Discussion List will already have received emails from various theme and session organisers encouraging the proposal of papers (also see AEA website, www.envarch.net).

Members interested in presenting a paper/poster or attending the conference are encouraged to visit the conference website for a list of confirmed themes and sessions and further information.

Please note that the **closing date for the proposal of papers and posters** is **22nd February 2008**.

BABAO 10TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Reading, UK, 5th-7th September 2008

The 10th Annual Conference of the British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology (BABAO) will be jointly hosted by Oxford Archaeology and the University of Oxford between **Friday 5th and Sunday 7th September 2008** at St Anne's College, Oxford. The conference is open to both members and non-members.

The conference will include two themed sessions as well as a round table discussion on human remains and ethics in Britain. There will also be two 'open' sessions in which papers and posters on any topic can be presented. The titles of the themed sessions are:

The modified body: Bio-cultural approaches to the study of human skeletal modification

Ten years down the line: Osteoarchaeology at the molecular level

Registration details, session abstracts, details of conference venue and accommodation, and guidelines for abstract submission are available from the BABAO website www.babao.org.uk

Abstracts for spoken or poster presentations should be sent by email to l.loe@oxfordarch.co.uk

The deadline for abstract submission is **Monday 2nd June**

Please note: late conference registration fee applies after 8th August

For any further enquiries please contact:

Louise Loe (l.loe@oxfordarch.co.uk) or Ceri Boston (c.boston@oxfordarch.co.uk) at Oxford Archaeology, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 OES. Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496

PEOPLE & PLACE: LANDSCAPE AND IDENTITY THROUGH TIME
University of Chichester, 13th & 14th September 2008

Call for Posters

This collaborative conference brings together researchers from a variety of disciplines (in particular Archaeology, History, Geography, English and Performing Arts) to highlight new approaches to understanding past and present landscapes, and to consider the multifarious ways that cultural landscapes, both physical and

psychological, have been created and perceived through time. Further details of the conference programme can be found at:

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/archaeology/research/conf_people.php

The Organising Committee is inviting researchers, in particular postgraduate students, to submit proposals for posters based around one, or a combination of, the following themes:

- 1) Images, Value and Knowledge: Our perception of the world around us is shaped by our own social, cultural and ethical values. As such, a single landscape may be viewed differently by different people, its meanings changing with time and space. This theme considers how different groups and cultures have described and understood landscape and environment.
- 2) Time, space and narrative: Landscape and environments are constantly changing, being influenced by long term processes or more dramatic events. These changes are not only written into the historical record but are also usually inscribed in the physical landscape. This theme explores how the landscape and environment have been used to preserve and fabricate ideas of personal or group memory, forming a narrative of the past.
- 3) Settlement and movement: The desire to move from A to B has left indelible traces on the world around us: from Prehistoric cursus monuments and trackways to Roman roads and medieval harbours. At the same time, travel (be it pilgrimage, tourism, commuting or rambling) shapes our views of landscape and environment. This theme examines how, and for what reasons, people throughout time have managed and moved through spaces. It considers how population movements/migrations have influenced forms of landscape, whether through the introduction of new ideas, animals or plants.
- 4) Authority and access: Throughout time, conflicting claims over landscape and environment have been made by different groups (social, cultural, political or religious). This theme seeks to demonstrate how physical or imagined space has been incorporated into expressions of ideology and identity.

Interested parties should contact either Martyn Allen acxmga@nottingham.ac.uk or Caroline Juby C.Juby@rhul.ac.uk for a Poster Presentation Form and the guidelines for poster production, although these can also be downloaded from the website. Abstracts must be submitted to the session organisers by **29th August 2008**. There is no limit to the number of authors involved in the research/fieldwork project and thus appearing on a poster. There are no restrictions as to the number of projects (and therefore posters) featuring the same author/s. Posters will be selected according to the relevance of the proposed contribution to the themes stated above. Poster sessions will take place only during the workshop on Saturday 13th September 2008. For those wishing to attend the conference please contact the organisers above. Please note, registration fees will apply to individuals presenting posters with the exception of students to whom discounted fees apply.

There is funding available to cover the printing costs of student posters at the University of Nottingham but only if a digital copy is received well in advance of the conference date (no later than 5th September).

People and Place: Landscape and Identity Through Time is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) as part of their trans-disciplinary Landscape and Environment Programme which aims to examine the changing ways that landscapes and environments have been imagined, experienced, designed, made and managed in the past, present and future. For further information visit: <http://www.landscape.ac.uk>.

9TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ANCIENT DNA AND ASSOCIATED BIOMOLECULES *Pompeii, Italy, 19-22 October 2008*

The "9th International Conference on Ancient DNA and Associated Biomolecules" will be held in Pompeii, one of the world's most intriguing archaeological sites, from 19 to 22 October 2008.

The conference is an excellent opportunity for ancient world enthusiasts to meet in a relaxing and stimulating environment. While we encourage you to strike out and explore Pompeii, Naples and its unique surroundings, we hope you will find it equally stimulating to navigate the meeting.

For further information please visit the meeting website <http://www.ancientdna9.it/index.aspx> or contact info@ancientdna9.it

Deadline for abstract submission: 15 May 2008

Don't miss this opportunity of participating in this unique event!

Main Topics

Preservation, isolation and analysis of ancient DNA and other ancient biomolecules
Methods of extraction and purification of ancient biomolecules from ancient materials
PCR and sequencing of ancient DNA
Prevention and causes of sample contamination
Authenticity of putative ancient DNA
Hereditary and infectious diseases in past populations
Population genetics, DNA profiling, sexing, methods and application
Identification of species
Forensic applications
Evolution
Human migrations
Domestication
New and emerging technologies

We sincerely hope you will enjoy your visit to Southern Italy and will remember both the scientific and social aspects of the 2008 Conference as a pleasant and fruitful experience.

Marilena Cipollaro
Second University of Naples

Organising Secretariat: Scientific Communication, Via Quagliariello 35/E, I-80131 Naples, Italy
E-mail: info@ancientdna9.it; Tel. +39 081 2296460; Fax +39 081 2296037
<http://www.ancientdna9.it/index.aspx>

37th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ARCHAOMETRY
Siena, Italy May 12th - 16th, 2008
<http://www.unisi.it/eventi/isa2008/index.htm>

EURODENDRO 2008
Hallstatt, Austria, 28th May – 1st June
www.boku.ac.at/eurodendro/Registration.html

LANDSCAPE EVOLUTION AND GEOARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE
Porto Heli, Greece, 18th-21st June, 2008
www.geoarch2008.gr

INTERNATIONAL PALYNOLOGY CONGRESS
Bonn, Germany, 30th August-6th September 2008
www.geo.arizona.edu/palynology/IPC12.pdf

15TH NEOLITHIC SEMINAR
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, 7th-8th November 2008
<http://arheologija.ff.uni-lj.si/seminars/index.html>

QUARTERNARY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
University of Oxford, UK, 5th-7th January 2009
www.qra.org.uk/meet.html

**CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THEMED VOLUME ON:
'THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF WATER'
Editors: Julia Shaw and Marco Madella
Submission by end of May 2008 for publication in March 2009**

The study of water-management and its relationship to the state has undergone significant changes over the last few decades. Semi-arid environments have received particular attention in response to traditional models that have singled out state controlled irrigation (and the concomitant agricultural surplus) as one of the key factors in the development of complex societies in these areas. These have drawn heavily on Wittfogel's idea that Asia's predominantly semi-arid environment, watered by several large river systems, created a situation whereby agricultural surplus was dependent on large scale, centrally-administered irrigation systems.

Recent research, however, has put greater emphasis on the role of devolved systems of water management, often with significant input from religious institutions or village-based organisations. Others have highlighted the level of diversity in the design and function of water-resource structures within a single region, as well as in the administration systems behind their construction, management and upkeep.

Archaeologically-orientated papers which introduce new light on these debates are invited here. Although the semi-arid regions covered by Wittfogelian models of 'Asiatic hydraulic civilisations' are of major interest, other relevant case-studies from non-Asian regions are welcomed. This volume will focus as much on the cultural, economic, ritual and symbolic aspects of water-harvesting, water-control, and irrigation systems, as on more practical considerations such as hydrology and engineering.

Marco Madella, PhD (Cantab)
ICREA Research Professor in Environmental Archaeology
Director, Laboratory for Palaeoecology and Plant Palaeoeconomy

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<http://www.imf.csic.es>

CONFERENCE REPORT

AEA SPRING 2008 ONE-DAY MEETING, 1ST MARCH 2008 School of History and Archaeology, Cardiff

Unconsidered Trifles? Environmental Archaeology at a Small Scale

This one-day seminar organised by Jacqui Mulville and Richard Madgwick focused, as the title suggests, on the small details and the 'mundane' of environmental archaeology with a range of fascinating papers from Britain, Ireland and the Netherlands. This was a well-run, relaxed seminar with a high standard of papers, and a lively and entertaining discussion which raised some important points to consider, both for the specialist and the field archaeologist.

There were ten papers presenting both research and commercially generated data. Two principal recurring themes of the day were the importance of integrating results, (sometimes poorly done, particularly in the commercial sector) and the importance of not over-looking the mundane or ordinary. These themes were particularly well-illustrated by David Smith (Birmingham) in his entertaining discussion of insect indicator groups from medieval cess pits in London. Similarly, Cynthia Poole (Oxford Archaeology) demonstrated the importance of the 'mundane' in a discussion on the recognition of cooking in the archaeological record and the various associated artefacts or structures (ovens, hearths and stoves). The benefits of a well-integrated approach were illustrated by Tim Mighall (Aberdeen, with Peter Crew, Snowdonia National Park) in his discussion on the environmental impact of medieval iron working in Snowdonia. Evidence from pollen, microscopic charcoal,

mineral magnetics, peat geochemistry, and Pb210 and C14 dating were used in collaboration with documentary evidence to detect short-term, repeated cycles of clearance and metal working.

Two papers explored aspects of DNA analysis (Abigail Bouwman, Manchester and Ceiridwen Edwards, Trinity College Dublin), both stressing the importance of a self-critical approach to avoid spurious results. The first presented the possibility of burial groups being based on kinship rather than marriage in Mycenaean grave circles, with implications for inheritance and property ownership. The second explored post-glacial mammalian colonisation of Ireland, stressing the need for archaeological material of non-domestic species often overlooked, such as badger and fox. Three papers explored unusual animal bone assemblages: Fiona Beglane (freelance, Ireland) discussed a medieval assemblage of pig forelegs from Trim Castle, Co. Meath; Andy Bates (Oxford Archaeology), explored evidence for cattle sacrifices accompanying an Iron Age chariot burial in Yorkshire; Richard Madgwick, (Cardiff, who kindly stepped in at the last minute) discussed the faunal assemblage from a Bronze Age midden at Llanmaes, Vale of Glamorgan, dominated by front right limbs of pig. A fourth bone paper looked at Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic evidence for discrete hunting acts in river valley deposits at Friesland, the Netherlands (Wietske Prummel, Groningen). Erica Guttmann (Cardiff) presented some fascinating results of anthropogenic soil analyses associated with Iron Age settlement sites on Shetland, demonstrating that the degree of fertilization at all three sites was such that the buried soils retained higher fertility than the modern land surface.

Five research posters were also presented. Preliminary results were provided of a collaborative project examining isotopic analysis of Iron Age faunal material from Uist by researchers from Cardiff and Cambridge. The other four posters presented post-graduate research projects, including floodplain insect indicators (Lynda Howard, Loughborough), burials in Roman Britain (Jane Masters, Cardiff), osteochondrosis in cattle remains (Richard Ward, Cardiff) and Iron Age fowling in The Hebrides (Julia Best, Cardiff University).

The day was rounded off with a wine reception at the School of History and Archaeology, followed by dinner and a celebration of St David's Day at a local pub. Jacqui Mulville and Richard Madgwick are to be congratulated for organising an interesting, useful and very enjoyable meeting at Cardiff. We look forward to returning again!

Ruth Pelling (AEA Member)

COURSES

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF STABLE LIGHT ISOTOPES

Next course: 30 June - 4 July 2008

This five day, intensive course on the basic principles of stable light isotope biogeochemistry, and their use as natural abundance tracers, is aimed at archaeologists, ecologists, and (palaeo-)environmental, and forensic scientists who wish to apply isotope tools in their work. It covers the principles for the isotopes of H, C, N, O, S in all fields, and includes case studies and practical guidance. The format is a series of lectures by experts, reading material, exercises, and sessions in our mass spectrometry laboratories.

Topics covered

- Theory of fractionation, isotope effects (physical, equilibria and kinetic effects).
- Mass spectrometers, calibration and notation.
- Carbon: photosynthesis, responses to climate variables, vegetation distributions.
- Nitrogen: nutrient cycling in ecosystems – both marine and terrestrial - and in organisms, responses to climate/environmental change.
- Oxygen and hydrogen isotopes in hydrology.
- Oxygen isotopes in carbonates and other minerals, palaeothermometry and oxygen isotope stratigraphy.
- Applications of sulphur isotope distributions.
- Application of multiple combined isotope tools in palaeoceanography, global climate change, (palaeo-)ecology, life histories, migration or sourcing, forensics, and quality control.

Contributors

The course is convened by Professor Julia Lee-Thorp with the help of Dr Ben Stern, Dr Andrew Wilson, Mr Andrew Gledhill, (all Division of Archaeological, Geographical and Environmental Sciences, University of Bradford), Professor Mark Maslin and Dr Phil Hopley (both Environmental Institute, University College London), Dr Arnoud Boom (Department of Geography & Neotropical Research, University of Leicester), Dr Matt Sponheimer (Anthropology Department, University of Colorado at Boulder), Dr Wolfram Meier-Augenstein

(Environmental Forensics & Human Health Research Group EERC, Queen's University Belfast) and **tb**c: Dr Tamsin O'Connell (McDonald Inst, Cambridge University).

Please note: due to practical requirements we can only accommodate a limited number of participants.

Web:

<http://www.brad.ac.uk/archenvi/research/isotopes/PPSLcourse2008>

Contacts:

For enquiries about the course and content: Professor Julia Lee-Thorp (j.a.lee-thorp@bradford.ac.uk)

For information about applications, accommodation and travel:

John McIlwaine: (J.J.McIlwaine@Bradford.ac.uk)

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STUDENTSHIPS

University of Bradford
School of Life Sciences

Division of Archaeological, Geographical and Environmental Sciences

4 AHRC Collaborative PhD Studentships 2008
1 AHRC/EPSRC Science & Heritage Studentship 2008
1 NERC PhD Studentship 2008

Subject areas:

AHRC PhD Collaborative Studentships for each of the following topics:

Understanding objects: Broxmouth and materiality in the southern Scottish Iron Age

Supervisors: I. Armit, N. Fojut (external, Historic Scotland); Deadline: **14 May 2008**

Inhabiting Broxmouth: domestic buildings and everyday life in the Scottish Iron Age

Supervisors: I. Armit, N. Fojut (external, Historic Scotland); Deadline: **14 May 2008**

Marking the land: Broxmouth and the hillfort landscapes of southern Scotland

Supervisors: I. Armit, N. Fojut (external, Historic Scotland); Deadline: **14 May 2008**

New Approaches for low impact assessment of sensitive archaeological landscapes

Supervisors: A. Schmidt, C. Gaffney, A. R. Walker (external, Geoscan Research); Deadline: **14 May 2008**

AHRC/EPSRC Science & Heritage PhD Studentship topic:

Sustainable radiography of heritage materials for the 21st century: optimising filmless capture techniques

Supervisors: A. Wilson, R Janaway, S. O'Connor, Jason Maher (University of Bradford) and David Crombie, Dr Siobhan Watts, Dr Jon Murden (National Museums, Liverpool); Deadline: **30 May 2008**

NERC PhD Studentship in one of the following topics:

Development of micro-mammalian isotopic palaeoenvironmental indicators for application to the Interpleniglacial in SW Europe

Supervisors: J. Lee-Thorp, E. Morin (external, Trent University)

Holistic sampling: integrating geophysical techniques for the assessment of Iron Age landscapes in Slovenia

Supervisors: A. Schmidt, C. Gaffney, I. Armit

Seasonal mobility of red deer in NW Europe from the Late-glacial to the middle Holocene

Supervisors: R. Donahue, J. Lee-Thorp, and J. Montgomery

Rapid climate change in the early Holocene: Multiproxy records from northern Britain and Ireland

Supervisors: G. Swindles, J. Lee-Thorp, R. Donahue

Deadline for all NERC topics: 14 May 2008

Project details are provided upon request and can be found at the following website:

http://www.brad.ac.uk/archenvi/courses/research_studentships.php

The Division has excellent research facilities including a state-of-the-art Stable Light Isotope Laboratory, X-ray, SEM, GCMS, and access to laser-ablation ICP-MS and a Bio-imaging Suite in the Analytical Centre, as well as a large human skeletal collection in the Biological Anthropology Research Centre. Further information on current research interests can be found at: <http://www.brad.ac.uk/AGES/Research/index.php/AGES/Staff>.

Please contact Dr Randolph E. Donahue (r.e.donahue@bradford.ac.uk), Director of Postgraduate Research, or the Principal Supervisor of each topic. Application forms are available from Margaret Hey, Division of AGES, University of Bradford, Phoenix Building SW, Bradford BD7 1DP; Tel: 01274 234213; Fax: 01274 235190; Email: m.hey@bradford.ac.uk

Qualifications required:

All applicants should have, or expect to gain, a Master's degree or equivalent in a relevant subject area. Candidates must also fulfil the eligibility requirements of the respective research councils.

Applicants should submit:

- A covering letter indicating your interest in the selected project and how you would approach the proposed research
- A University of Bradford MPhil/PhD application form
- A *curriculum vitae* (2 pages max.)
- A transcript of marks from previous degree(s)
- Letters from 2 referees (can be sent directly to the address shown below)

If your degree result is not yet known, please inform us as soon as it becomes available.

All studentships include a stipend of approximately £12,600, tuition fees, and research expenses for three years. Further maintenance support may be associated with particular projects.

Outcomes:

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by 29 June 2008. Where appropriate, interviews will be held.

UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO RADIOCARBON DATING NEWS - SPECIAL OFFERS.

The University of Waikato carbon dating laboratory has provided radiometric C14 determinations to the International scientific community for more than 30 years and AMS determinations since 2001.

Our radiometric laboratory uses 10 Quantulus spectrometers and can now provide increased standard counting times and precision for clients wishing to use this technique to date their samples.

We are currently offering a special discounted price on radiometric dates until 7 August of NZD 450 (UKP 180 @ 2.495). This is down from the normal price of NZD 525.

AMS dates are permanently reduced to NZD 775 per sample with additional discounts available for larger numbers (>10) of AMS determinations. However we are offering a discounted price to AEA members of NZD 765 (UKP 307 @ 2.495), with further discounts for multiple samples.

Please contact the Director, Dr Alan Hogg (alan.hogg@waikato.ac.nz) or visit our web site (www.radiocarbon dating.com) for more information.

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY BIBLIOGRAPHY UPDATE RELEASED

http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/resources.html?eab_eh_2004

The ADS and English Heritage are pleased to announce the release of a major update to the Environmental Archaeology Bibliography (EAB). The EAB is maintained, with funding from English Heritage, by Dr Allan Hall, Department of Archaeology, University of York. This update adds more than 3,000 new reports and means the online database now contains information on over 11,000 sites and over 21,000 individual specialist reports. This resource is accessible as a fully searchable online database.

This release is a significant enhancement to a resource that has already established itself as being of critical value to environmental archaeologists, as well as to archaeological researchers more generally.

Dr Stuart Jeffrey, User Services Manager, Archaeology Data Service,
Department of Archaeology, University of York, The King's Manor, York, YO1 7EP, UK

Allan Hall adds this footnote [eds];

"The online version of the EAB does not, of course, permit the level of flexibility in querying the records that can be achieved with the 'master' version. If users have very specific queries they wish to pursue, Allan Hall is always happy to help. Similarly, all suggestions for improvements or notice of errors may be sent to Allan, along with any missing entries (especially 'grey' literature reports)."

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A VIEW FROM THE MIDLANDS

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Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental (BAE) was formed in 2005 as an offshoot of Birmingham Archaeology, the University of Birmingham's Institute of Archaeology & Antiquity field unit and contractual arm. Since its inception, it has used a combination of income generated from central and local government, research councils and commercial development to drive a range of research agendas in Environmental Archaeology. Despite Birmingham Archaeology undertaking excavations throughout the West Midlands region for over thirty years, and both the University and English Heritage having a long history of supporting active regional specialists, a recently published review of '*Priorities in Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age Environmental Archaeology in the West Midlands*' by James Greig suggests a general dearth of post-glacial environmental analysis (2007, in Garwood, P. (ed)., *The Undiscovered County. The Earlier Prehistory of the West Midlands*, Oxbow Books, pp39-50). Figure 4.1. (of Greig) illustrates that the majority of work has been focused on valley floor sites in the Avon, Severn and Lugg valleys as well as a few kettle holes in the Shropshire/Staffordshire Plain. Given the potential of the West Midlands landscape, such coverage is disappointing and in part reflects three common themes that continue to dog the profession: (1) the perception that environmental archaeology is always expensive and often yields little additional site information; (2) the problem of what precisely is sampled by excavators who often have little experience of, or training in environmental archaeology and hence often sample the wrong types of sediment; and (3) the absence of well developed regional environmental research agendas to allow prioritization of resources and funds.

Within BAE, we have begun addressing these issues through in-house training and information days for our own excavation team. Such initiatives appear to be working since more regional sites are being considered with focused environmental questions in mind. We've also been working hard to ensure that by the time any of our undergraduates become practicing archaeologists, they are exposed to all aspects of environmental archaeology. For the last two years, BAE has run a wetland training excavation at Beccles in Suffolk in conjunction with Will Fletcher from the County Council. This excavation of a prehistoric timber triple post alignment has put environmental archaeology and techniques of wetland excavation at the very core of the research activity rather than being viewed as a peripheral specialist activity.

As part of a larger, landscape archaeology grouping, which has a particular emphasis on remote sensing, GIS and spatial analysis, we have exploited these digital technologies to map and model environmental attributes such as landforms, vegetation, climate and land use at a range of scales from the peatlands of Hatfield Moors to the now submerged landscape of the North Sea Basin. The next challenge is to take our environmental records and use them to create sophisticated virtual worlds. The recent development of the university's Blue Bear computer cluster provides the necessary 'power' for such opportunities and for the sake of applicability and realism, such initiatives must include the development of 'agent based models' to interrogate environmental scenarios. Clearly, whilst environmental archaeology can often be weighed down with the baggage of costs and backlog, there is much exciting research that can be developed. In times of global climate change, environmental archaeologists have a real chance to contribute significantly to topical debates and what's more, by thinking laterally, acquire the research funds to do it.

[The authors would like to encourage feedback, for example;

Does this sound like the way forward?

Do people think EA is dogged by problems?

How do other Universities train in wetland techniques?

Can EA really get money from other sources by thinking laterally?

The Editors would also be grateful for other articles about current research in Universities and other organisations. Eds.]

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We are very grateful to James Greig for sending us the following information. James sends thanks to Alison Bain, Brigitte Cooremans and Marie-Pierre Ruas for references. Please send information to jimi.gee@virgin.net

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