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Edited by Wendy Carruthers and Vanessa Straker

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Contents

Editorial	1
News from the Committee	1
Conferences & Meetings	5
Employment	9
AEA Bibliography	10

EDITORIAL

This short, summer edition of the Newsletter contains information about the AGM being held at the York conference next month ('News from the Committee' below), and an updated conference program. Please note details about late bookings and payments on page 6.

We are grateful to James Greig for continuing to submit information about Environmental Archaeology publications, and would like to remind members to please send details of their publications to James (see AEA Bibliography, p. 10).

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

AEA AGM & ELECTIONS 2009

The Annual General Meeting for the AEA will be held at the York conference (3-5 September 2009).

Draft agenda:

1. Report on the committee's activities
2. Treasurer's report
3. Election of new committee members
4. Accreditation*
5. Any other business

***Accreditation**

Over recent months, the AEA Committee has received several enquiries suggesting that the AEA should recognise the professional status and technical abilities of its members (i.e. some sort of accreditation of specialist abilities). In order to enable proper consideration of this issue, a slot during the AGM will be devoted to discussion of accreditation. Peter Hinton from the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) (www.archaeologists.net) will attend the AGM to discuss how the AEA might link up with the IfA to explore this issue. If accreditation is

deemed to merit further investigation following discussion at the AGM, a working group will be established to examine this matter.

Accounts

A summary of the AEA financial accounts will be presented at the meeting.

Elections

Elections for new members of the committee will be held at the AGM.

The current committee structure is as follows:

ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS (elected term in []; * indicates committee members retiring or stepping down at the AGM)

* Gianna Ayala (Sheffield, England) – Conference Officer [2005-2009]
Amy Bogaard (Oxford, England) [2006-2010]
Ralph Fyfe (Plymouth, England) – Membership Secretary [2006-2010]
Maaïke Groot (Amsterdam, Netherlands) [2007-2011]
Ellen Hambleton (Bournemouth, England) [2008-2012]
Andy Hammon (English Heritage, York, England) [2006-2010]
Zoë Hazell (English Heritage, Portsmouth, England) [2008-2012]
* Jen Heathcote (English Heritage, Cambridge, England) – [2005-2009]
Andy Howard (Birmingham, England) – [2007-2011]
Jacqui Huntley (Durham, England) – Treasurer [2007-2011]
* Meriel McClatchie (Dungarvan, Ireland) – Secretary [2005-2009]
* Peter Hambro Mikkelsen (Moesgård Museum, Højbjerg, Denmark) – [2005-2009]
Naomi Sykes (Nottingham, England) – [2007-2011]
Fay Worley (English Heritage, Portsmouth, England) [2008-2012]

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Wendy Carruthers (Llantrisant, Wales) – Co-editor of the Newsletter
Paul Davies (Bath Spa, England) – JISC-mail Manager
Andy Howard (Birmingham, England) – Chair
Ingrid Mainland (Bradford, England) – Co-ordinating Editor of the Journal
Rebecca Nicholson (Oxford, England)
Vanessa Straker (English Heritage, Bristol, England) – Co-editor of the Newsletter

Vacancies for the position of Chair, Secretary, three ordinary Committee members and Student Representative were advertised in the last Newsletter and by email. The nominations received to date appear below, accompanied by brief personal statements by the nominees.

Further nominations can be received up to the time of the AGM. Please send or e-mail any further nominations (which must be seconded and accompanied by a personal statement by the nominee) to the AEA Secretary: Meriel McClatchie

E-mail: meriel.mcclatchie@gmail.com

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

ABSENTEE VOTING

If you cannot attend the AGM, but would like to vote in the elections, you can do so through a **proxy** (someone who is attending the meeting and is willing to vote on your behalf as well as their own). All you have to do is **give a signed statement** or **send an e-mail** appointing whoever you wish to be your proxy to any member of the Committee at any time before the AGM (and tell your proxy how you want them to vote!). If you wish, a member of the committee (see <http://www.envarch.net/aea/committee.html>) will act as your proxy. If you have any queries about absentee voting, please contact the AEA Secretary (meriel.mcclatchie@gmail.com). Your vote matters!

BIOGRAPHIES OF CANDIDATES FOR AEA COMMITTEE

AS CHAIR

Dr Andy Howard (University of Birmingham, England)

I am a Senior Lecturer in Geoarchaeology and Palaeoenvironments at the University of Birmingham, as well as the Strategic Director of Birmingham Archaeology, an integral part of the Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity and one of the largest archaeological research and consultancy groups in the UK. I have served previously on the Executive Committees of both the AEA and QRA (Quaternary Research Association) and firmly believe that the AEA needs to cater for individuals working across a range of professions and disciplines.

Proposed by: Meriel McClatchie, Seconded by: Jacqui Huntley.

AS ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBER

Dr Rebecca Nicholson (Oxford Archaeology, England)

For the last four years I have been environmental manager for Oxford Archaeology, based in the Oxford (southern) office. My specialism is in archaeozoology, particularly in the study of fish remains, but my role is much more broad based and requires an active appreciation of a wide range of scientific techniques and investigations. I hold a BA (hons) in Archaeology & History (York), MA. in Environmental Archaeology & Palaeoeconomy (Sheffield) and a D.Phil in aspects of bone taphonomy (York). Prior to joining OA I spent a number of years as environmental co-ordinator for projects run by the University of Bradford and the Shetland Amenity Trust, before which I held a Leverhulme post-doctoral award. In my spare time I continue to be involved with projects in Orkney and Shetland do occasional freelance research and teaching.

I am a member of the IFA and of the Professional Zooarchaeology Group (PZG) and have been a member of the AEA since the early 1980s (membership secretary in the 1990s). I was co-opted onto the management committee at the end of last year, for an interim period following the mid-term resignation of a former committee member. I would now like an opportunity to be elected to join the AEA Committee as a representative of commercial archaeology, since I feel that this important constituency is under-represented at a national level and has significantly different concerns to those of archaeologists working in the University and public sector. If elected, I would be willing to be considered for the post of conference officer and would be actively involved in discussions with the IFA over accreditation for environmental archaeology practitioners.

Proposed by: Wendy Smith, Seconded by: Meriel McClatchie

Dr Ruth Pelling (MSc, MIFA, Senior Environmental Archaeologist [Archaeobotany], Wessex Archaeology, England)

I am an archaeobotanist with more than 15 years experience. I specialise in plant macrofossils (waterlogged, charred and desiccated) and also have experience with charcoal. Much of my experience is with British material, though I have also worked on North African and European plant remains. I first trained as an environmental archaeologist while attending the MSc in Environmental Archaeology at Sheffield University in 1992/3, after which I furthered my experience by working with Professors Marijke Van der Veen in Leicester and Mark Robinson at Oxford University. I have since gained a PhD from UCL for which I examined plant remains from North Africa, attempting to place them in a social context in association with food and artefacts. Much of my experience has been in the commercial sector both as an in-house specialist and while free-lancing, and I have an extensive publication record of specialist site reports. Through my experience I have a good understanding of the issues involved in developer-funded archaeology and the specialists who work in the sector, while I have also worked alongside academic specialists. I have been working at Wessex Archaeology as Senior Environmental Archaeologist since May 2008. I have previous experience on the AEA committee serving as Membership Secretary between 1999 and 2002. While I have a general interest in environmental archaeology and its practice, my particular concerns are with best practice within the commercial sector and the implementation of standards, as well as protection and support for the specialists who work within it.

Proposed by: Michael Grant, Seconded by: Mark Robinson

AS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Lee G. Broderick (University of Exeter, England)

I gained my undergraduate degree in Archaeology from the University of Exeter in 2007, before obtaining an MSc in Environmental Archaeology and Palaeoeconomy from the University of Sheffield in 2008. I have spent the last year working as a Visiting Researcher in the Archaeology Department at the University of Sheffield, as well as studying part-time for an MA in Cornish Studies at the University of Exeter, and hope to begin my PhD shortly.

My research interests include ethnozoarchaeological research in Ethiopia, as well as the zooarchaeology of prehistoric Britain. A particular focus at present has been the zooarchaeology of historic and prehistoric South-West Britain and nationalism within Cornish archaeology.

As a postgraduate student, I have become more and more concerned by the increasing lack of dialogue between practitioners within the various sub-disciplines that exist within archaeology today. If elected, I would aim to establish an inter-disciplinary conference in order to try and foster relationships and understanding, raising awareness of environmental archaeology.

I have been a member of the AEA for two years, attending the conferences in that time and have several papers in preparation for publication and for presentation at conferences shortly. I would welcome the opportunity of contributing to the AEA by serving on the committee and of promoting environmental archaeology to non-specialists.

Proposed by: Naomi Sykes, Seconded by Michael Wallace

Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University, Wales)

I gained a BA in Archaeology from the University of Southampton, where I also studied for my MA in Osteoarchaeology. In 2006 I moved to Cardiff University to undertake a one year Institute of Field Archaeologists internship in zooarchaeology during which I carried out a wide range of zooarchaeological work on research projects in both Britain and continental Europe.

I am currently carrying out research for my doctoral thesis, concerned with the treatment of animals in life and in death during the Bronze Age and Iron Age of Southern Britain, which I started at Cardiff University in 2008.

Although I am interested in all aspects of human/animal relations, I have particular enthusiasm for research on taphonomy and diagenesis and its impact on the interpretation of faunal assemblages and the reconstruction of depositional histories. Outside of my PhD, I have been undertaking commercial analysis of human and animal bones on several projects, and I am running a research project concerned with faunal dietary reconstruction on later prehistoric midden sites through the analysis of stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen. In addition my supervisor, Jacqui Mulville and I are engaged in a NERC funded study investigating the problems of diagenetic alteration in Sr isotope analysis of porcine dental enamel. I am also currently in the process of organising an international postgraduate/early career zooarchaeology forum to encourage greater integration and collaboration within the postgraduate zooarchaeological community.

I have been a member of the AEA since 2006, presented at the annual conference in Poznan in 2007 and attended the spring meeting in Birmingham in 2009. In addition I co-organised and presented at the 2008 spring meeting in Cardiff. I am also a member of the International Council for Archaeozoology, the Professional Zooarchaeology Group, the Prehistoric Society and the Institute of Field Archaeologists and have presented at a range of British and international conferences. I would welcome the opportunity to play a more active role in the association by joining the committee and gaining experience in a multi-disciplinary academic organisation. In an academic world of ever diversifying conferences and associations, often with limited overlap, I would be keen to continue to promote the holistic and integrated approach that the association takes to environmental archaeology.

Proposed by: Meriel McClatchie, Seconded by Naomi Sykes.

Rebecca Reynolds (University of Nottingham, England)

My interest in environmental archaeology developed whilst I was studying for my BA in Archaeology and Art History at the University of Nottingham. In pursuit of my interest I have worked on archaeobotanical and archaeozoological assemblages at both the University of Nottingham and the University of Basel, Switzerland. During the third year of my undergraduate degree I began to specialise in archaeozoology, concentrating particularly on the analysis of archaeological fish remains: for my dissertation I worked on a Middle to Late Anglo-Saxon fish assemblage from East Sussex. I am currently completing my MSc in Bioarchaeology, also at Nottingham, and am continuing with my research on the consumption of marine fish in the early medieval period, this time from a potential Middle Anglo-Saxon monastery in Kent. These two projects have highlighted the possibility that coastal elites initiated the taste for marine fish, something I will explore further in my doctoral research "Food for the Soul: The social dynamics of marine fish consumption along the southern North Sea coast from AD 700 to AD 1200".

During my student career I have gained valuable experience of committee work, having been a representative on the Department's Student-Staff Committee for the last three years. I have also been involved with Nottingham's Food and Drink in Archaeology conferences: I helped to organise and run the 2008 event and in 2007 I presented a poster that was awarded first prize in the poster competition. My poster is now being published in the conference proceedings and I have several 'grey literature' fish specialist reports. Passing on information and making research more widely known is something I enjoy and feel is important. If I am elected student representative for the AEA I would aim to increase awareness of its existence, publications and events, not just among fellow environmental archaeologists but also amongst other archaeology students both in Britain and abroad.

Proposed by: Naomi Sykes, Seconded by James Barrett

CONFERENCE AWARDS 2009: RESULTS

The AEA is delighted to announce that the following student members have been awarded up to £150 each to attend the AEA 2009 conference in York:

- Heather Adams (University of Plymouth, England);
- Lee Broderick (University of Exeter, England);
- Anne-Marie Faucher (Durham University, England);
- Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University, England).

The four successful applicants will join together to provide a report on the York conference, which will be published in the November 2009 Newsletter. The AEA Committee congratulates the successful applicants and is pleased to support this funding initiative, which was established to assist members who wish to attend the AEA annual symposia.

CIRCAEA

Members will be aware that certain volumes of *Circaea*, the original journal of the AEA, are available for free download on the AEA website (<http://www.envarch.net/publications/circaea/index.html>). Volumes 1 to 6 are currently available. The AEA Committee is delighted to announce that it is now in the process of making the remaining volumes (7 to 12) available for free download.

The AEA Committee has decided that remaining paper copies of *Circaea* will be distributed to groups/organisations where wide access is guaranteed (i.e. not individuals). The paper copies will be made available at no cost. Members who are interested in obtaining paper copies should apply to Meriel McClatchie by email (meriel.mcclatchie@gmail.com), stating the volumes that they wish to acquire (see below for details) and explaining how access will be provided. We would particularly encourage applications from members with limited access to funding/libraries, including commercial archaeological consultancies/units. The paper copies will be available for collection at the York AEA conference in September.

Circaea volumes available:

1	Part 1 only		7	Parts 1-2
2	Part 1 only		8	Parts 1-2
3	Part 1 only		9	Parts 1-2
4	Parts 1-2		10	Parts 1-2
5	Parts 1-2		11	Parts 1-2
6	Parts 1-2		12	Parts 1-2

THE JOURNAL

The Journal's editor, Ingrid Mainland, would like to encourage AEA members to submit research papers, review articles or short contributions on any aspect of environmental archaeology. Full details regarding submission to the Journal can be found at the following website: <http://www.maney.co.uk/journals/env>, or contact Ingrid Mainland for further information.

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Online access for all subscribers

Online access to *Environmental Archaeology* (Volume 11 onwards) is now available to **all** AEA members. If you would like to **register** for access to the Journal online, please email Rob Craigie, the AEA Webmaster (r.craigie@shef.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 £116** (\$228 in USA) and **includes online access to the full text**. If your institution is not currently subscribing to the Journal, please encourage them to do so. Information on institutional subscriptions to the Journal is available at: <http://www.maney.co.uk/journals/env>

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Association for Environmental Archaeology
30th Anniversary Meeting
York, 3-5 September 2009
Environmental Archaeology in a Changing World

Bookings for the 30th Anniversary Conference at York *which do not require accommodation on campus* may be made up until **23rd August**, but we cannot guarantee to provide residential accommodation after for bookings received after *18th August*. All payments must be received by 23rd August or a late booking charge will be made.

Find the registration form at:

<http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/arch/AEA30/registration.html>

(which also has a link to the current version of the programme).

Allan Hall, Harry Kenward and Andy Hammon (Conference Organisers)

Provisional Programme

Thursday 3rd September

15.00-18.00 Registration

17.00-18.00 Visit to '[BioArCh](#)' labs.

18.00-19.00 Wine Reception and Book Launch (*Land and People*)

19.00-20.00 Dinner

20.15 *Introduction* (Professor Terry O'Connor)

Friday 4th September

8.25-8.55 Registration

8.55-9.10 Welcome and notices

9.10-9.35 Peter Murphy (Portsmouth) *Conserving the coastal historic environment through the 21st century*

9.35-10.00 Jörg Schibler and Thomas Doppler (Basel) *Climatic deterioration and food supply - detailed insights into socio-economic strategies in the Neolithic lakeshore settlement of Arbon Bleiche 3, Switzerland*

10.00-10.25 João Pedro Tereso (Porto) *Social adaptive responses to environmental changes: what's the use of palaeoethnobotanical investigation?*

10.25-10.45 Coffee/Tea

10.45-11.10 Marijke van der Veen (Leicester) *Archaeobotany and the identification of foodways*

11.10-11.35 James Rackham (Sleaford) *Regional diets, a relatively straightforward archaeological approach for assessing differences between the diet of regions and rural versus urban populations*

11.35-12.00 Alan K. Outram (Exeter), Natalie A. Stear (Bristol), Robin Bendrey (Paris and Winchester), Sandra Olsen (Pittsburgh), Alexei Kasparov (St Petersburg), Victor Zaibert (Kokshetau), Nick Thorpe (Winchester) and Richard P. Evershed (Bristol) *New light on horse domestication: direct evidence for Eneolithic horse milking and harnessing*

12.00-12.25 Stephanie Vann (Leicester) *Recording animal palaeopathology: a new methodology*

12.25-13.30 Lunch

13.30-13.55 Dominique de Moulins (London), Andy Hammon (York), Jen Heathcote (Cambridge), Jacqui Huntley (Durham), Lisa Moffett (Birmingham), Sue Stallibrass (Liverpool) and Vanessa Straker (Bristol) *Developer-funded research and Environmental Archaeology: The English Heritage Regional Science Advisors' experience*

13.55-14.20 James Morris (London) *Profiling commercial zooarchaeology in the UK*

14.20-14.45 Roel Lauwerier (Amersfoort) *Quality and specialist work in the Netherlands*

14.45-15.10 Jørn Zeiler (ArchaeoBone) & Laura Kooistra (BIAX) (Netherlands) *Companies and specialists - a happy marriage?*

15.10-15.30 Coffee/Tea

15.30-15.55 Jane Bunting (Hull) *Open landscape, wooded landscape? Reconstructing tree cover proportions from pollen records*

15.55-16.20 Michael J. Allen (Bournemouth) *Re-evaluation of the early post-glacial woodland history of the chalk and its archaeological implications*

16.20-16.45 Matt Canti (Portsmouth) *Geoarchaeological studies of the old ground surface beneath Silbury Hill, Wiltshire*

16.45-17.25 Ashley Coutou (York) *The 19th century East African ivory trade: a bioarchaeological study* Matthias Heckmann and Daryl Stump (York) *Examining soil erosion and deforestation narratives in pre-colonial Pare, Tanzania* Paul Lane (York) *'But how false a view is this!' Historical ecology, climate change and archaeologies of East African pastoralism*

18.00-19.15 **Association for Environmental Archaeology Annual General Meeting**

19.30 **Conference Dinner**

Saturday 5th September

8.55-9.10 Welcome and notices

9.10-9.35 Rebecca Nicholson (Oxford) *It's the little things that matter: fishy tales from English commercial archaeology*

9.35-10.00 Scott Timpany (Edinburgh) *Environmental Archaeology - the commercial factor*

10.00-10.25 Jane Wheeler (Aberdeen) *Cross-site palaeoenvironmental investigations along the A4/A5 corridor between Dungannon and Ballygawley, County Down, Northern Ireland: a case study for positive developer-funded Environmental Archaeology*

10.25-10.45 Coffee/Tea

10.45-11.10 Andy Howard (Birmingham) *Maximizing the potential for environmental research using developer funding*

11.10-11.35 Kari Hjelle (Bergen) *Development of agriculture in western Norway – constraints and opportunities in the developer-funded research*

11.35-12.00 Patricia Wiltshire (Ashted) *In the light of evidence derived from large numbers of small-scale, modern taphonomic studies in Britain, should we reconsider some of our approaches and interpretations of palynology in archaeology?*

12.00-12.25 Mark Maltby (Bournemouth) *Environmental Archaeology in Novgorod: towards an integrated approach*

12.25-13.30 Lunch

Chair: OI Craig (York)

13.30-13.55 Sabine Karg (Copenhagen) *Stable isotopes in ancient plant finds from Denmark – a new method stimulating the discussion and interpretation of archaeological treasures*

13.55-14.20 Joseph Warham (Bradford), Janet Montgomery (Bradford), Jane Evans (Keyworth), Louise Ander (Keyworth), David Cotton (Bradford) *Mapping Sr-Isotope ratios for archaeological applications*

14.20-14.45 Wright, D. (Bradford), Lee-Thorp, J.A. (Bradford), Stevens, R.E. (Cambridge) and Donahue, R.E. (Bradford) *Building an independent terrestrial palaeoclimate sequence for Oxygen Isotope Stage 3 in Britain and northern Europe*

14.45-15.10 Julie Hamilton (Oxford) *Carbon and nitrogen stable isotopes in animal ecology*

15.10-15.30 Tea/Coffee

15.30-15.55 Rachel Ballantyne (Cambridge) *Human lives and small artefactual debris: a new approach to the interpretation of lifestyles and economy from charred plant remains*

15.55-16.20 Michael Wallace and Mike Charles (Sheffield) *Dung, a potent ingredient of the archaeobotanical record: an experimental contribution*

16.20-16.45 David Smith (Birmingham) and Harry Kenward (York) *Are analogues a useful tool for the environmental archaeologist or the conservation biologist?*

16.45-17.10 Gill Campbell (Portsmouth) *What next? The English Heritage regional reviews of Environmental Archaeology as a means of establishing research priorities*

Posters (these should be available to view during all the breaks)

Heather Adams (Plymouth) *Sustainable management of the historic environment resource in Exmoor's upland mires*

Megan Brickley (Birmingham) *Peri-mortem fractures: information obtained on a scapula fracture*

M Jane Bunting and R. Middleton (Hull) Poster/Demonstration: *CoPol: software for teaching microscope skills*

Mike Cressey (Edinburgh) *The Carpow Logboat: environmental analysis of waterlogged remains*

Stephen Davis (Dublin) *Environmental remains from the Drogheda Boat*

Danielle de Carle & Hugues Pessin (Sheffield) *Seeing the fields for the trees: preliminary analysis of charcoal samples from the South Cadbury Environs Project*

Anne-Marie Faucher (Durham) *Evolution of agriculture and wood procurement: a Middle Iron Age to Late Norse case study, Everley Broch, Caithness*

Emily Forster, David Earle Robinson and Zoë Hazell (Portsmouth) *Origins of the Cornish Heath: landscape studies in south-west Cornwall*

Louisa Gidney (Durham) *Salving, smitting and smorning*

Matilda Holmes and Kate Parks (Leicester) *Perspectives on the research potential of archaeozoological and archaeobotanical data generated by developer-funded archaeology*

Naomi Holmes, Steve Davis and Graeme Warren (Dublin) *Climate change and the adoption of agriculture in Ireland*

Matthew Law *Mapping bioarchaeology results from grey literature*

Richard Madgwick and Jacqui Mulville (Cardiff) *When animals get under your feet: histological analysis of animal burials from beneath Hebridean roundhouses*

Anette Overland (Galway) *Late Holocene woodland dynamics, landscape evolution and farming in Barrees, Beara peninsula, SW Ireland*

Hayley Saul (York) *The potential of starches and phytoliths to the study of cuisine at the transition to agriculture: evidence from charred ceramic deposits*

Bettina Stefanini (Dublin) *Irish pollen site database*

Ingelise Stuijts (Dublin) [charcoal database]

Raimonda Usai (York) *"Interrred with their bones" - linking micromorphology and chemistry to unlock the hidden archive of archaeological human burial. [Acronym: InterArChive]*

Kim Vickers (Edinburgh) *The mystery of the missing beetle – a palaeoecological whodunit?: the role of climate change and human impact in the disappearance of Coleopteran species from the North Atlantic islands*

Isabella von Holstein, Allan Hall, Oliver Craig and Matthew Collins (York) *Assaying white gold: Isotopic analysis of medieval wool*

Michael Wallace, Glynis Jones and Mike Charles (Sheffield) *Assessing the potential of stable carbon isotopes to ascertain the water status and irrigation of ancient crops*

Details of the **site visit** to the Hungate Excavations on Sunday 6th September will be posted in due course; we are likely to meet at the York Archaeological Trust's 'Dig' Centre (about 30 minutes' walk from the University campus) at 10.30 and walk to the excavation (2 minutes).

Association of Environmental Archaeology Spring Conference,

30th March-1st April, 2010,

University of Aberdeen.

Theme: The Environmental Archaeology of the North

The theme of this conference reflects the interests of the Departments of Archaeology and Geography & Environment at the University of Aberdeen, in that it focuses explicitly on the lifeways, worldviews and environments of northern cultures, encompassing a region that takes in the northern Britain, North Atlantic, Northern Eurasia, high latitude North America and the North Pacific.

Popular perception holds that if the 'cradle of civilization' was in warm southern climes, the north was little more than a frozen, peripheral wasteland. Such a caricature is hard to support when we consider the diverse and rich evidence of human cultures in the northern world. While often living in environments which could be less than favourable and even hostile, northern peoples were anything but more primitive versions of those further south. Through complex histories of colonization, local innovation and cultural contact, the northern world developed an astonishing range of prehistoric and historic societies and cultures; from ancient Siberian populations to the Picts of Scotland and from the hunter-fisher-gatherers of the North Pacific to the Vikings of Scandinavia.

This conference will explore human interactions with northern environments and will foster discussion about how individuals and communities understood, adapted to, and transformed the landscapes in which they moved and acted. What the impacts did these communities have on their environments? How does environmental archaeology inform our understanding of northern societies? How do social and cultural constructs shape our understanding of these environments? The programme will devote two days to presentations and will offer an optional field excursion to visit some of the impressive archaeological sites of Aberdeenshire on the third day.

First call for papers: The organising committee would like to invite oral and poster presentations based on these broad themes, involving any aspect of environmental archaeology.

Oral presentations will have a maximum length of 20 minutes. The conference organisers will select from among the submitted proposals and will schedule the presentations in thematic groups. In addition poster presentations are also welcome; the poster format will be notified at the time of the acceptance of proposals. Abstracts should be sent as text documents (preferably in Word format) by **November 1st, 2009** to: t.mighall@abdn.ac.uk. Please include a title, author or authors' complete name(s) and affiliations, a full postal and email addresses. Abstracts should be maximum 200 words and contain a clear description of the topic of the presentation. The language of the conference will be English. Further details will be posted on the websites of the AEA and the Departments of Archaeology and Geography & Environment:

www.envarch.net/events

www.abdn.ac.uk/archaeology

www.abdn.ac.uk/geography

Conference organisers: Tim Mighall (Geography & Environment), Kevin Edwards (Archaeology & Geography & Environment), Karen Milek (Archaeology) and Keith Dobney (Archaeology).

Informal enquiries to Tim Mighall (t.mighall@abdn.ac.uk)

EMPLOYMENT

Archaeobotanist and Technician Posts Available

Palaeoecology Research Services are seeking two new members of staff to work in Kingston-upon-Hull. Details at

http://www.palaeoecology.co.uk/Technician_Post_2009_web.htm and

Email: enquiries@palaeoecology.co.uk
Web: www.palaeoecology.co.uk
Closing date for applications: 20th August 2009

AEA BIBLIOGRAPHY

We are very grateful to James Greig for sending us the following information. James sends his thanks to Umberto Albarella, Brigitte Cooremans and Pamela Chester for references. Please send information to jimie.greig@virgin.net

BOOKS

U. Albarella, K. Dobney, A. Ervynck, et al. (2007) *Pigs and humans. 10,000 years of interactions.* Oxford University Press, Oxford

L. Bejenaru (2009) *Archaeozoological approaches to medieval Moldavia.* BAR, S1954 Archaeopress, Oxford, 153 pp.

S. Bokonyi (2008) *Das Przewalski Pferd* [The Przewalski horse, in German]. Archaeolingua, Budapest, 163 pp; the story of the wild horse

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