

Association for Environmental Archaeology Newsletter 65 (August 1999)

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Copy dates for Newsletter: 20th of the following months - January / April / July / October

Edited by Wendy Carruthers and Vanessa Straker

Items for the Newsletter may be submitted on 3.5" floppy disks in IBM-PC format as WordPerfect, Word or ASCII files, Fax or e-mail. Items in typescript or neat manuscript should be sent to Wendy Carruthers.

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EDITORIAL

IMPORTANT - Please note – the Annual Conference due to be held in Guildford on 27-29th August 1999 has been moved to 14 -16th April 2000 (see the item on p.2 for the details). Booking forms and further information will be given in the next two Newsletters. This means that the AGM has also been postponed until that date, which gives members plenty of time to send in further nominations for Chair, Secretary and the Committee.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Dr. Sue Stallibrass

Now employed as: Archaeological Science Advisor for the north-west region of English Heritage
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MEMBERSHIP INTERESTS LIST

The final editing of the AEA Membership Interests List is currently in progress. Copies of the list will be sent to all AEA members in the next few weeks. We would like to thank everyone who has sent in their details, and hope you find the information useful.

Wendy Carruthers & Vanessa Straker

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

GUILDFORD CONFERENCE

AEA Annual Conference
The Environmental Archaeology of Industry
at University of Surrey, Guildford

Notification of postponement

Unfortunately it has been necessary to postpone this year's annual conference (formerly scheduled for the end of August 1999) to 14th-16th April 2000. The speakers and all those who have already booked have been notified individually and deposits returned accordingly. The postponement was necessary because the conference fell not only within the holiday period, but also at the August Bank Holiday, and this made it difficult for many people to attend.

We have decided to reconvene the conference next April because there was such an excellent response to the request for papers, and a very wide range of topics was covered. Furthermore, the papers themselves were of such high quality that it would have been regrettable to cancel the meeting. The conference has been moved more-or-less in its entirety to the new date and it will still be held in Guildford, at the University of Surrey. Further notifications and details of the final programme will be given in future AEA newsletters, on the AEA website, and on Britarch.

We would like members to take note that we will be requiring prior booking for the conference since, if people are intending to just turn up on the day, it makes organisation exceedingly difficult. So, we would urge you to book early for April, especially if you will be needing accommodation.

Patricia Wiltshire & Peter Murphy

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting for the AEA will be held during the conference in Guildford, which

has now been moved to 14 -16th April 2000. The exact time and venue will be announced in the conference programme.

Elections for new members of the committee will be held at the AGM. The elected members of the committee currently are: Megan Brickley (98-01), Otto Brinkkemper (98-01), Sabine Karg (98-01), Jacqui Mulville (97-00), Terry O'Connor (97-00) and Wendy Smith (97-00). Glynis Jones and Julie Bond retire at the next AGM. Nominations are needed for three ordinary members of the committee and for Chair and Secretary. Nominations can be made by post, email or phone, to any member of the committee or to the Secretary, Lisa Moffett (address below).

Some nominations have already been received and brief personal statements by the nominees will appear in the next newsletter. Further nominations, however, can be received up until the time of the AGM. It would be helpful if nominees would provide a brief statement about themselves that can be read at the AGM as an introduction to other AEA members who may not know them.

If you cannot attend the AGM you can still vote by proxy (someone who is attending the meeting). All you have to do is give a signed statement 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 will act as your proxy.

AEA CONSTITUTION

The Committee proposes the following changes to the Constitution. These will be voted on at the April AGM.

Proposed deletions in strikethrough text and proposed new text in italics

1. The name of the Association shall be the Association for Environmental Archaeology

The object of the Association is the advancement of the study of human interaction with the environment in the past through archaeology and related disciplines. In furtherance of this object, but not otherwise, the Association shall have the powers to hold meetings, to publish volumes of collected papers and to do all such other things as will further the objects of the Association.

3. Membership of the Association shall be open to all those actively involved in the study of human interaction with the environment in the past through archaeology and related disciplines.

4. The first annual subscription shall be paid by Members on joining the Association and thereafter on 1 January each year.

5. An Annual General Meeting will normally be held in September or October. The agenda for the meeting shall be distributed to Members at least thirty days in advance of the meeting in the last newsletter published before the Annual General Meeting.

6. A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Managing Committee or by any ten members of the Association on application to the Managing Committee. Not less than thirty days notice of the date and purpose of such a meeting shall be given to the Members and no business shall be considered at such a meeting other than that for which it was convened.

7. At Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings twenty members shall form a quorum.

8. Each member of the Association who is present at a General Meeting shall have one vote. A Member who cannot be present at a Meeting may appoint another Member to vote for them; a signed statement appointing a proxy must be given to a Committee member before the General meeting to which it applies, and must be renewed for any further meetings.

9. The amount of the annual subscription can only be changed by vote at the Annual General Meeting of the membership.

10. The affairs of the Association shall be handled by a Management Committee which shall include nine ordinary elected members and an elected Chair and Secretary.

11. Three ordinary members of the Managing Committee shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting. Candidates for election must be Members of the Association and can be nominated by any Member of the Association. Nominations must be submitted to a member of the Managing Committee not later than the beginning of the Annual General Meeting. Elected members of the Managing Committee will normally serve until the third Annual General Meeting after the one at which they were elected and may not immediately stand for re-election, with the exception as given in clause 12.

12. The Chair and Secretary shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting from the membership. Candidates for election must be members of the Association, and can be nominated by any member of the Association. Nominations must be given to a member of the Managing Committee no later than the beginning of the AGM. The Chair and Secretary will normally serve until the third Annual General Meeting after the one at which they were elected. An outgoing ordinary committee member may be elected as Secretary or Chair.

13. The Managing Committee may co-opt up to five six members to who may serve as treasurer, membership secretary, a representative of the journal editorship and a representative of the editorship of the Newsletter until such time as they resign or are replaced by the Managing Committee, and the organiser of the next Autumn Conference. The Committee will review coopted members annually, normally at the AGM or the first meeting after.

14. The Managing Committee shall have the power to co-opt to fill any vacancies that may arise in the Managing Committee until the next Annual General Meeting.

15. The organiser of a meeting called or sponsored by the Association may be co-opted to the Managing Committee for matters relating to that meeting.

16. At meetings of the Managing Committee four six members, of whom at least two must be elected members, shall form a quorum.

17. The Managing Committee shall receive and keep account of all monies of the Association. They shall produce accounts for each year ending 31 December, and submit these to the next Annual General Meeting. All monies received for the Association shall be paid into such banks as the Managing Committee shall appoint.

18. The Managing Committee shall have the power to nominate to Honorary Membership of the Association such persons as they consider to have made a major contribution towards the aims of the Association. Honorary Members shall enjoy all rights of Membership without payment of any membership subscription.

19. The Association shall not be dissolved except at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. The motion for the dissolution must be agreed by at least two thirds of the Members present and by at least half of the total Membership.

20. In the event of dissolution the funds and other properties of the Association, after payment of all other debts and liabilities, shall not be distributed among the Members of the Association but shall be given or transferred to any such charitable institution having similar objects to those of the Association as the Managing Committee, with the approval of the Special General Meeting, shall determine.

21. Any proposal for an amendment to this constitution must be submitted to a General Meeting. The text of the amendment shall be circulated with the notice convening the meeting. Any such

amendment must be agreed by at least two thirds of the members present.

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SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE

At the last committee meeting it was decided to postpone the increase in the AEA subscription rate until 2001. The journal "Environmental Archaeology" will appear as one issue in 2000.

ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY
ASK NOT WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY CAN DO FOR YOU, BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR EA!!!!

We hope you will agree that EA has got off to a great start. Two successful volumes of conference papers (EA1 and EA3) and one volume of articles (EA2) are already out. EA4, forthcoming late 1999, is currently at the publishers and will feature articles on a variety of topics such as new data on Early Medieval flax cultivation, Coleoptera from Late Medieval smoke-blackened thatch, dental microwear in pigs, and a review of cereal and pulse domestication in south-west Asia. This volume also includes reviews of recent publications related to environmental archaeology.

We hope you are pleased with the first three volumes of EA and will enjoy our forthcoming volume. However, the journal's continued success depends on the receipt of high quality manuscripts. Where better to find potential for cutting edge research, which really ought to be published, than within our own membership???

We remind all members of the AEA that they can submit manuscripts for consideration in EA!!!! or encourage colleagues or students to submit manuscripts to EA!!!!

As you know, EA aims to provide a forum for the myriad of sub-disciplines in environmental archaeology and, moreover, to encourage communication and integration of results between various specialists. EA seeks to publish a wide range of contributions in all fields of environmental archaeology from all regions of the world.

Topics can range from methodology to synthesis to theory. Papers on new techniques, philosophical discussions, current controversies and suggestions on areas for new research, as well as conventional research papers are encouraged.

For more information on the type of contributions we seek and our in-house style sheet please visit our web-site at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/~ap/envarch/>

FUTURE AEA AUTUMN CONFERENCE VENUES

The AEA Committee would like to hold the autumn 2002 meeting on the European Continent. The conference is normally held in the month of September and organisers are invited to choose symposium and session themes. The conference is normally a two or three day residential meeting, sometimes with additional field visits. Organisers should expect to produce conference proceedings (i.e. collate and edit a volume for publication) within a short time after the completion of the conference.

Interested persons and institutions should contact Dr. Carol Palmer, Acting AEA Conference

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BACK ISSUES OF CIRCAEA

I'd like to remind members that back issues of the AEA's former journal, Circaea (published 1983-96) are available from me:

Allan Hall, Environmental Archaeology Unit, Department of Biology, University of York, PO Box 373, York YO10 5YW

A list of contents can be found at our web site at <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/eau/aea/circont.htm> (or in hard copy from me if you don't have web access).

We have plentiful supplies of all issues except the following:

- there are NO copies remaining of vol. 2(2-3) or of any part of vol. 3
- there are very few copies left of 5(2) and only modest numbers of 1(1-2), 2(1) and 4(1).

Prices are as follows:

- Existing members and subscribing institutions: vols. 1, 4-10, £9 per vol. 11-12, £12 per vol.
- New members (purchasing in first year of membership): vols. 1, 4-10, £8 per vol. 11-12, £11 per vol.
- Or for those wishing to purchase individual issues: £3 per part for 1(1)-2(1), £4.50 per part for 4(1)-10(2) and £6 per part for 11(1)-12(2).
- Non-members and non-subscribing institutions: vols. 1, 4-10, £12 per vol. 11-12, £18 per vol. (or £4 per part for 1(1)-2(1), £6 per part for 4(1)-10(2) and £9 per part for 11(1)-12(2)).

Ring-bound photocopies of the out-of-print issues are available, too, as follows:

2(2) - £3.50, 2(3) - £2.75, 3(1) - £3, 3(2) - £6, 3(3) - £3.25

All prices include postage and packing; please make cheques payable to 'AEA'.

CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

AEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1999

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Programme of meetings 1999 - 2000. Meetings held in the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. Tea from 4.30, lecture from 5pm. Please would non-members make themselves known to the Hon. Director on arrival and sign the visitors' book.

6 October 1999

'The Image and reality of Almsgiving in the Great Halls of Henry III'

Sally Dixon-Smith

3 November 1999

'Tintagel, Cornwall: fieldwork and research during the past decade'.

Prof. Christopher Morris

1 December 1999

'The St Nicholas Crozier in the Victoria and Albert Museum'

Dr Pamela Tudor-Craig

5 January 2000

'Viking art: 40 years on.'

Prof. James Campbell-Graham

2 February 2000

'Auxerre, Dijon and Clamecy: gothic architecture in Burgundy'

Dr Alexandra Kennedy

1 March 2000

'Salisbury Cathedral West Front: recent recording and research.'

Jerry Sampson, Tim Ayres and Eddie Sinclair

5 April 2000

'Early Christian Archaeology in Europe: some recent research direction'

Michael J.Jones

3 May 2000

'English Historical Brickwork since Nathaniel Lloyd'

Terence Paul Smith

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCES 99

20th - 22nd September, 1999

The next meeting will be held on 20th - 22nd September 1999, organised by Bristol Archaeological Science Research Group, at the University of Bristol. The programme is given below.

Please would those who wish to attend return the form at the back of the Newsletter with payment, as soon as possible.

Programme

Monday 20th September

12:00 - 17:00 Registration in the Department of Archaeology, 43 Woodland Road

17:00 Public Lecture "Beyond the bare bones: the fossilization phenomenon" by Prof Derek Briggs FRS in the East Block, School of Chemistry

18:00 Reception in the Archaeology Lecture Theatre, Department of Archaeology

Tuesday 21st September

All sessions will be held in the East Block, School of Chemistry

9:00 Introduction and welcome, from Vanessa Straker

Session 1: Landscape and Site Reconstruction

Chair: Dr Mary Benton

9:10 McDonnell, G, Thompson, G, Darwin, & R, Parker, I The environmental consequences of iron working at Bilsdale, North Yorkshire

9:30 Andric, M Transition to farming and human impact on the Slovenian landscape

9:50 Davies, P Patterns and progress: Reconstructing the nature of floodplain grasslands using sub-fossil Mollusca

10:10 Robson Brown, K, Chalmers, A & d'Errico, F Very-realistic visualisation of an Upper

Palaeolithic rockshelter site

10:30 Chapman, H High resolution differential GPS and cell-based GIS modelling: The recognition, interpretation and management of archaeological sites and landscapes

10:50 Coffee break

Session 2: Palaeodiet

Chair: Dr Richard Evershed

11:20 O'Connell, TCO & Hedges, REM Chicken and egg: Testing of the effects of carnivory and herbivory on collagen, carbonate and related tissue isotopic values

11:40 Roberts, S, Collins, M, Millard, A & Payne, S Detecting cooked bone in the archaeological record

12:00 Dudd, SN, Berstan, R, Evershed, RP, Payne, S, & Straker, V Lipids in pottery provide the earliest direct evidence of dairying in British Prehistory

12:20 Poster Session, foyer of the East Block, School of Chemistry

13:00 Lunch break

Session 3: Post depositional Processes

Chair: tba

14:00 Davis, JL Spatial scales and diagenetic variation in archaeological bone

14:20 Trueman, C The role of bioerosion in bone preservation

14:40 Smith, CI, Collins, MJ, Riley, MS, Gernaey, AM, Chamberlain, AT, Hedges, REM, & Stringer, CB A kinetic model for bone collagen degradation

15:00 Collins, MJ & Riley, MS Amino acid racemization: Lazarus or Elvis?

15:20 Nielson-Marsh, C The degradation of bone as an indicator in the deterioration of the European

archaeological property: A project report

15:40 Tea break

Chair: tba

16:00 Owen, AG & Jenkins, DA Phosphate distribution in graves: Theory and practice

16:20 McCobb, LME, Briggs, DEG, & Evershed, RP Dishing the dirt on our ancestors: Fossilisation in ancient cess pits

16:40 Hoaen, A Effects of post depositional biological activity on soil preservation and buried soil profiles

17:00 Lancaster, SJ Faunalurbation of archaeological sites: Assessing and modelling effects

18:30 Reception in the City of Bristol Museum, Queens Road

20:00 Conference Dinner, Hullaballoos, Park Street

Wednesday 22nd September

All sessions will be held in the East Block, School of Chemistry

Session 4: Markers of Health and Status in Past Populations

Chair: Dr Juliet Rogers

9:00 Sallares, R Evidence from ancient DNA for malaria in antiquity

9:20 Richards, M Stable isotope studies of humans and fauna from the Neolithic site of Catalhuyuk, Turkey; Some intriguing and puzzling results

9:40 Lillie, M The Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in the Dnieper Rapids region of Ukraine: Observations on dental pathology and diet

10:00 Gowland, RL, & Chamberlain, AT A Bayesian approach to ageing perinatal skeletal remains: Implications

for the evidence of infanticide in Roman Britain

10:20 Gernaey, AM, Minnikin, DE, & Santos, AL The Coimbra connection - Exploitation of cell wall lipids for the diagnosis of ancient mycobacterial disease

10:40 Hiller, J Minnikin, DE, Chamberlain, AT & Gernaey, AM The immunological basis of bone change in mycobacterial disease: a viewpoint for osteologists

11:00 Coffee break

Session 5: Early Technologies and Materials

Chair: Dr Kate Robson Brown

11:20 Jenkins, DA & Owen, AG Phosphate redistribution within the fabric of cinerary pottery

11:40 d'Errico, F & Vanhaeren, M Criteria for identifying red deer age and sex from upper canines and their application to the study of Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic ornaments
12:00 Abdelkareem, O & Szostak-Kotowa, J Electron microscopical (SEM) studies on biodeteriorated archaeological Egyptian textiles
12:20 Dudd, SN, Charters, S, Evershed, RP, Blinkhorn, P, & Reeves, V Organic residues and ceramic analysis: An holistic study of the late Saxon/Early Medieval pottery of West Cotton, Northamptonshire
12:40 Discussion on future organisation
13:00 Lunch break

Wednesday 22nd September

Session 5: Early Technologies and Materials cont.

Chair: Dr Larry Barham

14:00 Stern, B, Heron, C, Serpico, M, & Bourriau, J The preservation of organic residues in Canaanite amphorae from different site locations

14:20 Spoto, G, Ciliberto, E, Allen, GC, Younes, CM, Piccardo, P, Pinasco, MR, Stagno, E, Ienco, MG, & Maggi, R Chemical and structural properties of ancient metallic artefacts: A multitechnique approach to the study of early bronzes

Session 6: Agriculture and Economy: Regional Trends

Chair: tba

14:40 Taylor, M Cereals and archaeology: Evidence from chemical analysis

15:00 de Oliveira Freitas, F, & Sodero Martins, P Studies of alimentary plant material from archaeological sites of Januária, Brazil

15:20 Copley, MS, Evershed, RP, Rose, P & Horton, M The detection of palm fruit lipids in pottery vessels from the arid site of Qasr Ibrim, Egypt

15:40 Tea break

Chair: tba

16:00 Pelling, R A consideration of records of emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*) from southern England in the Roman and Saxon periods

16:20 Campbell, G & Straker, V Prehistoric crop husbandry and plant use in southern England: Development and regionality

16:40 Serjeantson, D Prehistoric animal husbandry in southern England.

End of Conference

Poster Presentations:

Aillaud, S & Evershed, R Laboratory decay of olive oil absorbed in potsherds

Buckley, S & Evershed, R A comparison of "embalming resins" from ancient Egyptian human and animal mummies: a systematic approach

de Vingo, P Woodworking in the Early middle Ages in central and Northern Europe : production and processing techniques of handmade articles

Duncan, J Micromorphology and turf

Green, C & Chalmers, A The visualisation of ancient lighting

Jim, S, Stott, A, Ambrose, S, Rogers, J, & Evershed, R Bone cholesterol as a palaeodietary indicator

Lockheart, M, Bull, I, & Evershed, R Complementary use of biomarkers and soil micromorphology to reconstruct manuring practices in archaeological landscapes

Loe, L Skeletal Evidence for Socio-Economic Status in an Early Medieval Welsh Sample: Some Preliminary Results

Millard, A & Davis, JL Here today, gone tomorrow? Unusual bone preservation in the Vale of Pickering

Pope, J Reconstructing archaeological sites

Porter, S Civil engineering constraints to prehistoric site reconstructions

Rogers, J. Erosive arthropathies in an archaeological population 850 - 1850 AD

I N Q U A - COMMISSION OF THE HOLOCENE

Meeting 27. 3. - 31. 3. 2000

Seville (Spain)

Second Circular / Call for Papers

TOPIC: Environmental changes during the Holocene: correlations between temperate and semiarid regions.

Environmental conditions during the last 10,000 years have been increasingly governed by the human factor and in some regions the climate controlled geodynamics have been altered. Geomorphic responses to climatic fluctuations and episodes vary spatially and temporally. We would like to shelter a forum for discussing the significance of climatic and antropic impulses: High spatial variability of the paleoenvironmental processes in small areas is a major topic. This meeting of the Commission is intended to bring together new research conceptions from worldwide researchers. We invite applications for papers and posters on geo-pedology, sedimentology and geo-archeology, case studies and new methodological developments in paleogeographical studies. Presentations will be up to 15 minutes allowing 5 minutes for discussion. Official languages are English, French and Spanish.

For further information please see <http://www.ku-eichstaett.de/MGF/geo/inqua1.htm>

ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE:

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CONFERENCE REPORT

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE VETERINARY PALAEOPATHOLOGY WORKING GROUP 23rd June 1999.

Jessica J. Davies (1)

The first meeting of the veterinary palaeopathology working group, organised by Richard Thomas and Andy Hammon, was held at the University of Birmingham this summer. The main objective in forming this working group is to address issues fundamental to the study of palaeopathology in faunal remains. Those attending the conference were from a variety of disciplines, particularly field archaeology, zooarchaeology human osteology and veterinary pathology, indicating the interest in the subject area, plus the diversity of contributions that can be made.

The aim of this first meeting was to discuss three principal issues essential to anyone researching or recording non-human palaeopathology. These were

- Why study palaeopathology?
- What should we record? and
- How should we record it?

There was also a “hands on” session which provided an opportunity for particular specimens to be studied and discussed with others.

Why study palaeopathology?

Many possible motives were outlined, including the intrinsic interest of the subject, plus the fact that there is so much that is not yet known nor understood. From my own personal research perspective, the form and prevalence of disease and injury in the remains of domestic livestock may reflect the use that these animals were put to. These may also reflect the environmental parameters, natural or induced by man, causing stress on animals.

The point of whether case studies or question-led research is more important was raised. Ultimately, neither can feasibly exist without the other; the observations from the archaeological assemblage are necessary to, and often initiate question based research. The archaeological context of the faunal remains is important to the interpretation that relies on the study of palaeopathological lesions in these. However, the aim is to progress further towards a comprehensive synthesis, and this cannot be done based solely on individual case studies. For this to succeed, a discourse between those studying archaeological faunal remains, human osteologists and veterinary researchers will also be essential. This forum has provided a stimulus for this to take place.

What should we record?

The following points were outlined.

- Pathological vs. Normal. Defining “pathological” or for that matter “normal” is an area that relies upon personal observation, and could not be resolved in one session. In highlighting this issue it became clear that the distinction may not be quite so easy. Perhaps we should be considering the issue as a sliding scale of “variation”, particularly if non-metric traits or congenital abnormalities are to be included as “pathologies”. Two views prevailed; firstly, that everything pathological, or “abnormal”, should be recorded. Secondly, that defining “pathological” immediately introduces subjectivity, and therefore a more selective approach of question-based study would be more appropriate. Perhaps with further study and observations a consensus over definition could be achieved.
- Presence / absence / quantification and severity. The question remains of whether we should record palaeopathologies in terms of presence or absence, or quantification. The general consensus seemed to be that quantification would provide a much more valuable record particularly to those interested in prevalence of specific lesions. However, this makes definition of normal / pathological more critical.

- Minimum requirements. The point of whether we should have a set of minimum requirements for recording pathological lesions was raised. It was considered that subscribing a basic level of recording may well fossilise the study by limiting what was actually looked for and recorded. How much we should record is likely to be particularly limited by developer funded archaeology.

How should we record palaeopathology?

- Description vs. Diagnosis. Description is always more important and useful than diagnosis of palaeopathological lesions, not least because diagnosis without description is an unsound practice. Photographs and drawn representations, as well as written accounts should be employed in recording and describing lesions. Likewise, if no palaeopathological lesions are observed, it was suggested this should be noted. Preservation by record allows scope for synthetic study of the evidence of palaeopathology.
- List of recommended standards for recording. Standards and protocols already exist in the field of human osteology, and whilst these cannot be transposed wholesale to non-human remains, they can be used as guidelines for the development of protocols for recording animal palaeopathology. As this is particularly relevant to my current research I will be producing an aide memoire of recommendations to locating and recording palaeopathology in faunal remains. This will detail areas of bone that should be looked at and also the kinds of bone signatures that may be encountered.

The discussions of the day were quite productive, mainly creating more questions than could be answered, and several points were resolved: the need for definition before recording can take place, the need for dissemination of findings from studies in this area to allow further synthetic work. It was considered that recommended standards for observing and recording non-human palaeopathology would be welcome and useful. In summing up, Professor Don Brothwell concluded the meeting with a call for research that would improve epidemiological data, utilising living animal populations, the analysis of specific pathological conditions, the use of X-ray and microradiographic techniques for recording and analysing palaeopathological lesions to name but a few. Whilst it is recognised that further work is needed in this area, it is apparent that obtaining funding for such research could pose a serious problem.

It will be important to define the aims of the working group so that it can develop in the future. After the success of the first meeting, it is hoped that the working group will meet again, provisionally proposed for next Easter. The University of Chieti, Italy, plans to hold a conference on human palaeopathology in September 2000, where a session will be devoted specifically to animal palaeopathology. It is hoped that it will be possible to present the results of the list of recommendations for recording non-human palaeopathology at this meeting. (Please contact Prof. Don Brothwell for further details of the conference).

Richard Thomas⁽²⁾ and Andy Hammon⁽³⁾ would like to acknowledge the Bioarchaeology Panel of the Wellcome trust for providing them with a grant to set up the meeting. They would also like to thank ICAZ for their support and all those who participated, in the meeting, and gave helpful suggestions. They are also currently creating a contact list for anyone interested in non-human palaeopathology. If you were unable to attend the meeting, but would like to be on this list, please e-mail your details to Richard Thomas <r.m.thomas@bham.ac.uk>. The organisers hope that this will generate further interest and permit the working group to function as a coherent and competent body.

(1) Department of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford.

(2) Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Birmingham.

(3) Research School of Archaeology and Archaeological Science, Sheffield University (from September '99).

PhD THESIS ABSTRACT

The evolution of the Holocene wetland landscape of the Humberhead Levels from a fossil insect perspective.

Nicola Jane Whitehouse

Abstract

Palaeoentomological investigations have been carried out on a series of profiles and contexts in the Humberhead Levels (eastern England), principally from the raised mires of Thorne and Hatfield Moors, and from floodplains of the rivers Torne and Idle at Rossington, near Doncaster, and Misterton Carr, Nottinghamshire.

Research has attempted to elucidate the effect of peatland development on the composition of the insect fauna, with particular emphasis on Hatfield Moors, as well as investigate the transition from Quercus-Pinus forest to mire and the faunal characteristics of those forests. The study of the fossil insects, together with other palaeoecological evidence, has enabled the genesis and development of these mires to be reconstructed in some detail. However, the palaeoenvironmental record from Thorne and Hatfield Moors indicate significant differences in initiation, development and rate of growth between the two sites. The research highlights the valuable palaeoecological record of the peat deposits on Hatfield Moors, which have long been ignored in favour of Thorne Moors. In particular, research highlights the importance of Pinus woodland and wet heath, components reflected in the invertebrates today. The study of the floodplain deposits have enabled the research from the Moors to be placed within a regional context. Faunal successions highlight the transition from Urwald (undisturbed woodland), c. 4000 cal BC, to a largely cleared landscape by the late Roman period (c. 400 cal AD).

The research has highlighted the nature and diversity of Holocene Urwald and illustrates the important habitat provided by abundant dead wood within these systems. The fossil record emphasises the contraction in range of many elements of the British Coleopterous fauna, both at a regional and national level. A total of eleven extirpated Coleoptera have been recovered, including two species of beetle previously unknown in the British Isles. The significance of these and other Urwaldrelikt species is discussed in relation to the human fragmentation of forest habitats and the decline of Pinus sylvestris L. The importance of fire as a natural agent within the landscape, within coniferous woodland and Pinus-mire and heath systems is highlighted. The dependence of some pinicolous taxa on fire habitats suggests that the decline of this habitat has had a detrimental impact on the biogeography of some species. The role of climate as a limiting factor in distribution of thermophilous species is also discussed.

The thesis was carried out at the Dept of Archaeology and Prehistory, University of Sheffield, under the supervision of Prof. Kevin Edwards and Paul Buckland. From June onwards I shall be at the School of Geography and Archaeology, Univeristy of Exeter, The Amory Building, Rennes Drive, Exeter, EX4 4RJ.

A MEMORIAL TABLET TO JOHN FRERE, F.R.S., F.S.A

It is intended to place an inscribed slate tablet in the nave of St Bartholomew's church at Finningham, Suffolk, where several members of the illustrious Frere family are buried.

The wording on the table will include:

'John Frere FRS FSA

Who from his discoveries at Hoxne was the first to realise the immense antiquity of mankind
1740-1807'

John Frere, among many notable achievements, was the first person in the world, from his observations on a clay pit at Hoxne, Suffolk in June 1797, to realise the enormous period of time that must have elapsed between the flint tools he recognised and the present. This event can be

regarded as the beginning of prehistoric archaeology. In spite of the little immediate effect this had on current archaeological thought, his brilliant deductions can be seen as the birth of prehistory as a science. It seems astonishing that such a man should have no memorial to record the respect he deserves. It is hoped that the proposed tablet will remedy this omission and have the support of archaeologists, historians, geologists and relevant societies and institutions.

The tablet is being produced by the prestigious Cardozo Kindersley workshop at Cambridge. The cost is £2775.00, including materials and fixing. A major contribution has been generously promised from the Frere family. An appeal fund has been established, and any contributions should be sent to: J.J.Wymer, F.S.A., The Vines, Great Cressingham, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 6NL (cheques made out to: J.J.Wymer - Frere memorial account).

JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT

This is a preliminary announcement concerning two posts in Environmental Archaeology to be advertised in the near future.

Two environmental archaeological scientists, one specialising in archaeobotany and the other in geoarchaeology, are required. They will be based in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Southampton but will have substantial contact with the new English Heritage Centre for Archaeology at Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth. The main duties will involve the assessment and analysis of material from a wide range of archaeological projects. They will also provide advice to archaeological units on specific projects. There will be opportunities for synthesis and research, and some teaching may be required. The successful candidates will have a first degree in archaeology or an environmental science, and are likely to possess a higher degree in an appropriate subject. Experience of British material and a proven track record of report writing to deadlines would be a distinct advantage. Knowledge of other areas of environmental archaeology is desirable.

The appointments will be based on a 3 year contract.

Further details are available from: Prof. D. Peacock, Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton, Southampton, SO17 1BJ

PUBLICATIONS

We are very grateful to James Greig for the following information:

James says: "Many thanks to those who have sent in references for inclusion below. Vegetation History & Archaeobotany 1-2 (1999) will appear shortly as a double volume with the papers from the 1998 Toulouse conference. Please send any new references to greigjra@bham.ac.uk"

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