Association for Environmental Archaeology
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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.
(e-mail addresses: wendy.carruthers@virgin.net; V.Straker@Bristol.ac.uk; FAX: 0117 928 7878)
V. Straker, School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol, University Rd., BRISTOL, BS8 1SS.
Wendy Carruthers, Sawmills House, Castellau, Llantrisant, Mid Glamorgan CF72 8LQ (Tel: 01443 223462).

AEA Membership Secretary: Becky Nicholson, Department of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford, BD7 1DP, U.K. e-mail: r.a.nicholson@bradford.ac.uk

EDITORIAL

Enclosed with this Newsletter, at last, is the 1999 Membership Interests List. Our apologies for the delay in sending this out – pressures of work are to blame, as usual!

This issue includes information about the AEA Conference in Guildford (April 14th-16th 2000). A booking form is provided at the back of the Newsletter – please book early (before 15th March).

Please note that Becky Nicholson, the AEA membership secretary encloses subscription reminder letters for 2000 with this Newsletter.

AEA PAYMENTS CO-ORDINATOR FOR BELGIUM
Jan Bastiaens has volunteered to be the AEA payments co-ordinator for Belgium. People can contact him for further details at:

Jan Bastiaens  
Universiteit Gent  
Vakgroep Geografie  
Krijgslaan 281/S8  
B-9000 Gent  
tel 09/2644704  
fax 09/2644985  
e-mail: Jan.Bastiaens@rug.ac.be

Jan says that he will try to find co-ordinators for other countries, and will announce the names in the AEA website, at http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/eau/aea

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CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

AEA CONFERENCE

The Environmental Archaeology of Industry  
14th-16th April 2000, University of Surrey, Guildford.

Organisers: Patricia Wiltshire (UCL) and Peter Murphy (UEA)

The environmental impacts of industry are obviously profound and far-reaching, yet in general they have been curiously neglected by environmental archaeologists. This conference aims to bridge the gap between environmental and industrial archaeology. The effects of mining on sedimentation and vegetation in river catchments have plainly been extensive; and from sedimentological, geochemical and palynological studies inferences about early mining are possible. The fuel-supplying infrastructure of industry, and its effects on vegetation and woodland management, will also be discussed. Other raw materials for industrial production considered will include timber, horn, skins and shell. Papers on a suite of techniques based on chemistry, soil science and macrofossil studies will also be presented, all of which have a bearing on past industry. Results from a modern microbiological study will be used to assess problems that may have been encountered with carcass disposal in the past. The effects of industrialisation on human health and prospects for characterising the occupations of individuals from skeletal features will be also be examined. The scope of the conference will be international, including papers presenting studies from Britain, Austria, Belgium, Greece, Egypt and Uganda.

The programme of papers is now complete, but offers of posters are invited. The programme will include:

Friday 14th April

Introduction: Setting the scene  
Frank Chambers

Proxy indicators of the environmental impacts of metallurgy: palynological and geoarchaeological approaches  

The use of Environmental Impact Models in Non-Ferrous Metal Mining History - Geraint Coles, Mike Cressey and Gordon Cooke  
Reconstructing the environmental impact of past metallurgical activities - P.D. Marshall  
The archaeology of tin mining on Dartmoor: a sediment-based approach - V. Thorndycroft, D.Pirriet and A.G. Brown

Fuel supplies and industry
Wood charcoal and iron-working: a case study from Uganda - Ruth Young and Gill Thompson
Industrial fuels and their environmental impact in lowland Britain - Rowena Gale
The implication for the management of woodlands of the Romano-British iron production industry. Creeton Quarry, Lincolnshire: a case study. - Jane Cowgill
History, archaeology and palaeoecology of the peat industry: a case study from the Humberhead levels, Eastern England - Nicki Whitehouse

Biological raw materials and infrastructure
Timber availability and woodworking techniques in Lowland Britain - Richard Darrah
Horn working and tannery at late Mediaeval Bruges: the environmental evidence - Anton Ervynck and Bieke Hillewaert
Tawyers, tanners, horn trade and the mystery of the missing goat: zooarchaeological considerations - Umberto Albarella
Choice and use of shells for artefacts at Roman sites in the Eastern Desert of Egypt - Sheila Hamilton-Dyer

Saturday 15th April

Proxy indicators of industry: Chemical, pedological and macrofossil approaches
Organic Residues in Ancient Pottery and Archaeological Economies - Richard P. Evershed
Industrial activities - some suggested microstratigraphic signatures - Richard Macphail
"Fault" maps may be a better option! - Robert Shiel
Can we identify biological indicator groups for craft and industry? - Allan Hall and Harry Kenward
Saxon flax retting without pollution - Mark Robinson and Patricia Wiltshire
The taphonomy of arthropod remains - Jaap Schelvis
Charred mollusc shells as indicators of industrial activities - Peter Murphy

Impacts of industry on human populations

The rise and fall of rickets - Simon Mays
Tinker, tailor, soldier …How can we tell the occupation of the dead? - Tony Waldron

Experimental approaches

Microbial characteristics of soils from graves: an investigation at the interface of soil microbiology and archaeological science - David Hopkins, Patricia Wiltshire & Bryan Turner

Concluding remarks - Geraint Coles

Sunday 16th April

Field excursion on Sunday 16th April, visiting the Fishbourne Roman Palace and the Wealden and Downland Museum, Singleton, Sussex.

A Booking Form for the conference will be found at the back of this newsletter. Please return this by 15th March at the latest. Accommodation will be provided at the University of Surrey during the conference, and bed and breakfast will also be available at the University for the nights of 13th and 16th April. Information on hotels and guest houses in Guildford will be provided for those preferring to make their own arrangements, but the Guildford Tourist Office (01483 444333) tell us that early booking is advised. Please note that we need to be told about your dietary requirements and any...
other special needs.

Costs for the field excursion depend partly on the size of the party, but for Fishbourne entrance should be £3.30 and for Singleton £4.20 (Full-time students £2.20). Lunch and tea will be available. Costs of transport will again depend on numbers attending, so please remember to indicate on the booking form whether you expect to come.

POSTGRADUATE PALAEOECOLOGY CONFERENCE 2000
17-19th April 2000
University of Plymouth

The Geography Department at Plymouth University invites postgraduates, of all years, to present and discuss their research in an informal setting. This conference will be run by postgraduates, for postgraduates in the field of Quaternary and recent environmental change, incorporating palaeoecology, micropalaeontology, archaeology and sedimentology. The conference will comprise presentations, poster presentations, laboratory techniques and a local field excursion, providing an ideal opportunity to network with postgraduates carrying out research in similar fields.

For further details contact:
Amy Burgess, Elizabeth Hunt or Tony Massey, Department of Geographical Sciences, University of Plymouth, Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon. PL4 8AA.
Tel: 01752 233050 (AB & EH) or 01752 232974 (TM)
Fax: 01752 233054 (departmental)
E-mail: aburgess@plymouth.ac.uk, ehunt@plymouth.ac.uk or amassey@plymouth.ac.uk

Please also check the University of Plymouth web pages, where further information and a registration form will be posted shortly.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

[GUIDELINES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY - BEAVER IN BRITAIN'S PAST]

GUIDELINES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

English Heritage has recently set up nine regional advisor posts for archaeological science, one in each of the English Heritage regions (North West, North East, Yorkshire, East of England, London, East Midlands, West Midlands, South East, South West).

One of the responsibilities of the posts is to improve the range and quality of archaeological science in developer-funded archaeology. We provide comments to Curators on the archaeological science aspects of Briefs and Specifications, but these documents do not often contain much detail on appropriate methodology etc. The Regional Advisors are therefore in the process of writing guidelines for Environmental Archaeology, with a similar format to the other English Heritage guidelines on Dendrochronology, Geophysics etc.

We realise that many people find guidelines restrictive, inadequate or over detailed; however both Curators and Contractors consistently request them. We feel that producing the guidelines is a first step on the way to raising standards and although bound to be both painful (for the collators at least) and inadequate, it has to be taken.

Lisa Moffett and I are in the process of collating a first draft. At present the document is envisaged as having a number of sections aimed at different readers (see the EH dendrochronology guidelines for a similar approach).

Part 1 will cover topics such as:

- What is Environmental Archaeology and the historical background to the subject
The material of study

- what you find
- where you find it
- what it can tell you

and Part 2 will be a succinct guide to good practice for Environmental sampling in fieldwork (evaluations and/or excavations).

We also intend to address the issue of the general requirements for assessments and full reports. The document will stress the need to contact suitably experienced environmental archaeologists from the planning stage of projects onwards.

If any of you have written / got copies of guidelines in the general area of environmental archaeology, please could you send / email / fax them to us (address below). All contributions will be acknowledged.

On a related issue, The AEA has been in consultation with the IFA about their 'Standards and Guidance notes for Finds Work', which could also include a version of the Environmental Archaeology Guidelines outlined above. One of the points we have raised with the IFA is the title 'finds' work. We have been asked to canvass AEA members’ opinions on the use of this term to cover Environmental Archaeology as well as finds work. The IFA does have a formal definition of 'finds work' that definitely includes everything you ‘find’ on a site/landscape. HOWEVER, DO YOU feel that the addition of 'and environmental analysis' or some such phrase would be more inclusive? Please send your views on this, and copies of Guidelines by post, email, phone or fax to the below address, before the 9th December 1999.

With thanks for your help,

Jacqui Mulville
English Heritage East Midlands Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science
Oxford University Museum,
Parks Road,
Oxford OX1 3PW
Tel: 01865-272996; Mobile: 0786-7505122; Fax: 01865-272970; email: jacqui.mulville@oum.ox.ac.uk

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BEAVER IN BRITAIN'S PAST: A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT BONES

Professor Bryony Coles

I am just starting a new research project, funded by AHRB and the Leverhulme Trust, to examine the presence and distribution of beaver in Britain from the end of the last Ice Age onwards, and to assess their significance for human societies. This project has developed from on-going research funded by HRB and NERC on beaver structures (eg dams and lodges) and beaver landscape modifications; results have already demonstrated the potential significance of the European beaver, Castor fiber, in the lives and landscapes of the past.

As part of the new project, I hope to locate as many native beaver bones as possible, from museums and other collections in Britain. Some of these finds will be from archaeological excavations, some from chance finds in natural contexts, and some no doubt unprovenanced. The general distribution should provide some idea of when and where beaver were present, although the beaver is a burrowing animal and due account will need to be taken of this.

I hope also to obtain funding for a programme of radiocarbon dating of a number of the bones, to elucidate questions such as the timing of beaver extinction in different regions of Britain.
Please send any information which you may have about beaver bones to me at the address below, or contact me via e-mail. Indirect information, e.g. about beaver-chewed wood or pictorial evidence, will also be welcome. If you think you have any relevant material but do not have time to check the details, I would still like to hear from you.

Professor Bryony Coles
Department of Archaeology
Laver Building
North Park Road
EXETER EX4 4QE
e-mail: B.J.Coles@exeter.ac.uk

PhD THESIS ABSTRACT


This thesis presents and discusses results from studies of subfossil insect remains of natural and cultural origin. Samples were obtained by coring in sediments or by collection during archaeological excavations. The aim was to reconstruct local environment and climate in rural and early urban situations from Iron Age to medieval time. A taphonomic study, from a modern farm settlement, is also presented.

The palaeoentomological results from the Iron Age environment in south-central and south-eastern Sweden, indicate a mosaic and species diverse cultural landscape, including open land with pastures, cultivated fields, meadows and probably also grazed forests. In spite of the rather sparse insect assemblages from Gamla Uppsala the continuous records of dung beetles indicate that the dominant land use in the area from the beginning of the Vendel period to at least the 17th century was grazing.

Two investigated early towns, Uppsala and Novgorod, show transport to the towns of supplies and building material from the areas surrounding the town. The medieval town Uppsala was of a more rural than urban character, which is in agreement with results from similar sites in other parts of southern Sweden. Similarly, Novgorod was probably of a more rural character.

The studies on subrecent insect assemblages from farm and house environments have shown that even if suitable habitats and food substrates are available, it is not evident that beetles confined to these habitats turn up in well deposits. These substrates were probably deliberately dumped into covered wells, or the species entered during local flight if the wells are open to the air. Moreover, climatic reconstructions tested on the same material suggest that microclimates generated by buildings and decaying substrates may well attract species that normally prefer warmer conditions than are available in the surrounding natural environment.

Climatic reconstructions are tested on subfossil insects obtained from settlement deposits in some of the prehistoric material through the Mutual Climatic Range Method (MCR). Based on the experience of applying the MCR method, it is concluded that climate reconstructions carried out in an archaeological context may not be useful or should even be avoided. Ancient settlements provided many favourable habitats where some species may linger on in an area generally unsuitable for their continuance. Insect analysis carried out in prehistoric or historic deposits may often provide finds of species that today are rare or even regionally extinct, contributing to a better understanding of changes in forest environments and the cultural landscape.
JOB ADVERTISEMENT

POSTDOCTORAL PALYNOLOGIST REQUIRED (April 2000-April 2001)

A postdoctoral palynologist is required for one year starting April 1st 2000. The project is supported by the Leverhulme trust and is based at the University of Exeter, although some travelling will be required. The project is titled Roman Vineyards in Britain: A Combined Stratigraphic and Palynological Approach and involves work on both ancient and modern pollen. The postdoctoral researcher will be required to help establish pollen monitoring sites and work on sediments from excavations. Qualifications must include palynological expertise to PhD level and both excavation experience and knowledge of Roman archaeology would be an advantage. Final applications will be requested by January 2000. The person appointed will be working within the Palaeoenvironments Research Group within the School of Geography and Archaeology.

Salary will be £17,500.

For further details please Email Prof. A.G. Brown (a.g.brown@exeter.ac.uk) or write to:
Professor A.G. Brown
School of Geography and Archaeology
University of Exeter
Amory Building
Rennes Drive
Exeter EX4 4RJ

PUBLICATIONS [ Books - Theses - Chapters - Articles ]

Many thanks to James Greig for the following information:

James says: "Thanks to those who sent in references, especially U. Albarella, B. Cooremans, S. Jacomet and J. Wiethold. Most of the books are available from Oxbow Books: http://www.oxbowbooks.com. Please send in references to greigjra@bham.ac.uk"

BOOKS

R. Buxó (1997) Arqueologia de las plantas: la explotación económica de las semillas y los frutos en el marco mediterráneo de la Península Ibérica [Archaeology of plants; the exploitation of seeds and fruits in the Mediterranean part of the Iberian Peninsula]. Mondadori, Barcelona.


H. Dietrich (1998) Die hallstattzeitlichen Grabfunde aus den Seewiesen von Heidenheim-Schnaitheim [The Hallstatt period grave finds from Heidenheim-Schnaitheim]. (Forschungen und Berichte zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte in Baden-Württemberg, 66) Theiss,
Stuttgart, 319 pp. [includes analyses of human and animal finds. ISBN 380 621 299 6, £48.50 hb]


THESES


CHAPTERS


K. Neumann (1999b) Early plant food production in the west African Sahel: new evidence. In M.


**ARTICLES**


A. Alsleben (1998) Palaeobotanische Untersuchungen zur Entwicklung der Nahrungsmittelwirtschaft der frühen Stadt im Ostseebereich am Beispiel von Wolin [Palaeobotanical studies into the food provision of old cities on the Baltic Sea, as shown by the example of Wollin]. Berichte zum Oder-Projekt 5: 155-160


C. Bakels (1999a) Archaeobotanical investigations in the Aisne valley, northern France, from the Neolithic up to the early Middle Ages. Vegetation History and Archaeobotany 8(1-2): 71-77

C.C. Bakels (1999b) Dury "Le Moulin" (Somme). Etude des restes botaniques [Dury "Le Moulin" (Somme), study of the botanical remains]. Revue archéologique de Picardie 1-2: 237-245


A. Ervynck, B. Cooremans and W.V. Neer (1995/6) De voedselvoorziening in de Sint-Salvatorsabdij te Ename (Oudenaarde, prov. Oost-Vlaanderen) [The food supply of St Salvator abbey at Ename, Oudenaarde, East Flanders]. Archeologie in Vlaanderen 5: 303-315 [(summary in English p 313)]


F. Gyulai (1999b) A Rakospalota-Ujmajor. 1. Leloehelyroel szarmazo noevenyleletek archeobotanikai feldolgozasa [Archaeobotanical analysis of the plant remains collected from the 1996 excavations at the M10 motorway, site 1 Rakospalota-Ujmajor]. Monumenta Historica Budapetiensia 10: 73-87 ([summary in English])


Journal of Human Evolution 32: 423-447


C. Krauskopf and C. Pasda (1999) Aufwehung, Umbildung, Zerstörung. Zur Entwicklung der Dünen im Baruther Urstromtal zwischen Cottbus und Forst [Building up, moving around and being destroyed; the development of the dunes in the old channel at Baruth, between Cottbus and Forst]. Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt 29: 298-298


L. Kubiak-Martens (1999) The plant food component of the diet at the late Mesolithic (Ertebølle) settlement at Tybrind Vig, Denmark. Vegetation History and Archaeobotany 8(1-2): 117-127


A.F. Lotter (1999) Late-glacial and Holocene vegetation history and dynamics as shown by pollen and plant macrofossil analyses in annually laminated sediments from Soppensee, central Switzerland. Vegetation History and Archaeobotany 8(3): 165-184


M. Petrucci-Bavaud and M. Veszeli (1999) Ein Essen für die Toten; Fleisch, Früchte und andere Nahrungsmittel in römischen Brandbestattungen [A meal for the dead]. Archäologie der Schweiz 22(1): 31-34


A. Schlumbaum and R. Blatter (1999) Gene aus der Vergangenheit [Genes from the past]. Archäologie der Schweiz 22 (1): 4-7 ([summary in French and Italian])


W. Wouters, B. Cooremans and A. Ervynck (1996/6) Landelijke bewoning uit de volle middeleeuwen in Herk-de-Stad (prov. Limburg) [High medieval rural settlement at Herk-de-Stad, Limburg]. Archeologie in Vlaanderen 5: 159-177 ([summary in English, pp 175-176])


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**AEA CONFERENCE BOOKING FORM**

‘THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF INDUSTRY’

Conference fee: £30 (£15 - student/unwaged/retired) ............

Thursday 13th April
Bed and breakfast (£27.50) ............

Friday 14th April
Coffee, lunch and tea (£23.03) ............
Wine reception and Conference Dinner (£22.74) ............
Bed and breakfast (£27.50), or ............
24 hour package, including all above (£62.45) ............

Saturday 15th April
Coffee, lunch and tea (£23.03) ............
Dinner (£11.34) ............
Bed and breakfast (£27.50), or ............
24 hour package, including all above (£51.05) ............

Sunday 16th April
Bed and breakfast (£27.50) ............

Total ............

Any special dietary requirements? ..................................................

Name:  
Address:  

Please make cheques payable to AEA Conference Account (1999) and send to Peter Murphy, Centre of East Anglian Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, UK.

The cost of the field excursion (Sunday 16th April) will depend on the numbers attending. Please indicate whether you intend to come, so we can book suitable transport.
I will/will not be attending the Field Excursion on 16th April.

I would like to offer a poster
entitled..............................................................................................................................
..............................................................................................................................................

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