

Association for Environmental Archaeology Newsletter 68 (May 2000)

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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)

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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

In addition to the usual wide range of information, this bumper issue of the Newsletter contains reviews of the Guildford Conference and a bibliographic review of two agricultural journals. Please note the item below about making the Newsletter available on the AEA website – we would like your views on this, please, to help the Committee to decide the best way forward.

AEA NEWSLETTER ON THE WEB - YOUR VIEWS PLEASE...

At the AGM in Guildford it was announced that the AEA website is going to be upgraded. A wide range of information about the AEA and some backcopies of the Newsletter are due to be added to the website. In addition, discussions are underway as to whether the current issue of the Newsletter should be included. At Guildford we asked for a show of hands to see how many members would be interested in receiving their quarterly Newsletter in this form, and found that a large majority were in favour. Obviously, we would still be sending out paper copies to members that wanted to continue to receive them by post, but the more members that could download it from the website the better, as this could save the AEA a considerable amount of money in printing and postage costs. This subject is still under discussion and we would be very interested to hear your views and suggestions. Please send them to one of the addresses above by the 23rd June so that we can discuss them at the next Committee Meeting.

Newsletter Editors, Wendy Carruthers & Vanessa Straker

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Alison Locker - In addition to the Monaco address given in the last Newsletter:
Tel: 00 377 9770 4337; Fax: 00 377 9770 4336

PROFESSOR GEOFFREY WILLIAM DIMBLEBY (1917-2000)

AEA members will be very sad to hear that, after a short illness, Geoff Dimbleby died on Saturday, 8th April. This was just before the Annual AEA conference at Guildford, and everyone who attended agreed that it would be appropriate to dedicate the conference proceedings to Geoff. This is most fitting since he was one of the founder members of the Association and, indeed, although trained primarily as a botanist and forester, he was one of the first to pioneer the discipline of environmental archaeology. He applied his extensive palynological, ecological, and pedological knowledge to the study of past human environments. Indeed, in the face of considerable opposition from more conventional workers, he championed soil palynology as a standard technique in archaeology.

The service of thanksgiving for Geoff's life was held at Trinity United Reformed Church, St. Albans on 17th April. The congregation was large, and many of Geoff's personal friends and colleagues attended. I was also there and could not help thinking of the happy times I spent with him in recent years, chatting about plants, soils, pollen, and religion over tea and cake, and lots of laughs. Bruce Proudfoot read an address and outlined Geoff's life and achievements and this will preface the AEA conference volume.

Those who are familiar with Geoff's work will feel sad at his passing, and those of us who knew him will feel it more keenly.

Patricia Wiltshire

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 14th April 2000

COMMITTEE UPDATE

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Association for Environmental Archaeology in Guildford,

three new committee members and a new chairman were elected. Since no candidates were put forward for secretary, members voted that Wendy Smith could fill the position of Secretary for the remaining year of her elected term to the AEA Managing Committee.

The current AEA Managing Committee includes:

ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Jan Bastiaens (Gent)
- Megan Brickley (Birmingham) – AEA Publicity Officer
- Otto Brinkkemper (ROB Amersfoort)
- Allan Hall (EH/York) - Chairman
- Sabine Karg (Copenhagen)
- Jacqui Mulville (EH/Oxford) – Journal Publicity Officer
- Terry O'Connor (York)
- Carol Palmer (Leicester) – Conference Officer
- Helen Smith (Bournemouth)
- Wendy Smith (EH/Southampton) – Secretary

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Wendy Carruthers (Llantrisant, Wales) – Co-editor of the Newsletter
- Rupert Housley (Glasgow) – Treasurer
- Glynis Jones (Sheffield) – Journal Editor
- Becky Nicholson (Bradford) – Membership Secretary
- Vanessa Straker (EH/Bristol) – Co-editor of the Newsletter

We hope that elected committee members will undertake the majority of committee jobs, but certain tasks are essential to the running of the AEA and often are undertaken for more than the usual 3 year elected term. As a result, co-options are used to ensure that essential tasks are completed or to allow formerly elected members to carry on their good work.

At the AGM the committee reported that we are now up to date on conference and journal publications. This year we hope to see the publication of the Bradford and Newcastle volumes, as well as volume 5 of our journal, Environmental Archaeology.

The current committee would like to thank Don Brothwell (our former chairman) and Lisa Moffett (our former secretary) for all their hard work over the last few years. Under the management of Don Brothwell and Lisa Moffett and, in particular, with the assistance of Glynis Jones (Journal Editor) and Carol Palmer (Conference Officer), the committee has addressed the backlog in conference publications and journal publications, as well as undertaken to re-launch our in-house journal by replacing Circaea with Environmental Archaeology: The Journal of Human Palaeoecology.

Over this next year, the committee will focus on updating our web site and will explore the possibility of publishing our newsletter electronically.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The full accounts for the AEA were published in Newsletter 67 (February 2000). Rupert Housley reported that having caught up with our publication backlog, we have depleted the surplus funds of the AEA.

JOURNAL UPDATE

The committee have taken the decision that we will not go over to two issues per year until we are confident of sufficient copy. At present we have more than enough copy to ensure one good-sized, high quality issue per year, but we would need to see an increase in submissions (or the success rate of submissions) to ensure we have enough papers for two issues per year.

NOTIFICATION OF SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE

Due to postage increases and the cost of production for the journal and newsletter, the committee asked AEA members to vote on an increase in membership fees at the AGM. For 2001, membership to the AEA will cost £20 for ordinary members and £12 for student members. Overseas ordinary members will be asked to pay an additional £4 to cover the added expense of postage and packaging overseas.

At the AGM the committee was asked investigate whether it is possible to waive the postage fee for overseas students. We will report back on our decision on this point later this year.

REVISIONS TO THE AEA CONSTITUTION

The committee has updated the constitution of the AEA to reflect the changes in the workings of the management committee and the change of timing for our main annual conference, from autumn to spring. The proposed revisions were presented in Newsletter 65 (August 1999) for comment from members and circulated at the Annual General Meeting. Those attending the AGM voted to approve the new constitution, which is as follows:

AEA CONSTITUTION

(as revised and agreed by the AGM at Guildford, 14 April 2000)

1. The name of the Association shall be the Association for Environmental Archaeology.
2. 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 March or April (or on such a date that is agreed by the Managing Committee and the Conference organisers). The agenda for the meeting shall be distributed to Members 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 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 six members 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. The Committee will review co-opted 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. At meetings of the Managing Committee six members, of whom at least two must be elected members, shall form a quorum.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

AEA BOOKS

A full and up-to-date list of titles appears on the web page at <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/eau/aea/aeabooks.htm>

A list of books was also given in the last Newsletter, to which we've recently added these two titles: Rowley-Conwy, P. (ed.) 2000. Animal bones, human societies. Oxford: Oxbow. £30.00

Huntley, J.P. and Stallibrass, S. 2000. Taphonomy and interpretation. Symposia of the AEA 14. Oxford: Oxbow. £20.00

We now have more copies of Bartosiewicz, L., Van Neer, W. and Lentacker, A. (eds.). 1997. Draught Cattle: their osteological identification and history. Koninklijk Museum voor Midden-Afrika, Tervuren, België, Annalen Zoölogische Wetenschappen/Annales Sciences Zoologiques, Musée Royale de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgique. about £12.00

For more details contact: Allan Hall, EAU, Dept. of Biology, University of York, PO Box 373, York, YO10 5YW. Tel: +44 (0)1904 433 851. Fax: +44 (0)1904 433 850. e-mail: biol8@york.ac.uk

TEACHING OF ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The forthcoming Teaching Quality Assessment for Archaeology will take place against the background of the formation of a professional body for all those practising as teachers in Higher Education. The "Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education" (ILTHE) is intended to police standards of teaching in Higher Education and to promote "best practise". Many of the details of the functioning of the Institute are still to be decided but the formation of professional body clearly has major implications for the way in which all teaching in higher education is undertaken and validated.

In the case of the Teaching Quality Assessment the AEA did make representations to the Review Panel on the terms of reference or "benchmarking" document which (along with the screams of outraged environmental archaeology teachers everywhere) seems to have had some impact on the form of words used.

The impact of the ILTHE is obviously unknown while the results of the Teaching Quality assessment lie many months in the future. In both cases matters are, for a time, out of our hands. During the interregnum the opportunity will be taken to review, in the light of changed circumstances, the role and function of the informal position of education officer, which was created as a co-opted committee post in 1996. While this is underway I will be standing down as a co-opted member of the AEA committee (a) to give me a rest (!) and (b) to allow the elected members the chance to focus on the core aims of the association. Members with views on the role of the education officer should contact me the address below.

In the meantime I will, however, continue to deal with education matters for the AEA. My most pressing task is to develop the teaching website to the point where it can be given a public release. Contributions to the teaching website either in the form of text, diagrams, illustrations or links to your own web pages are urgently sought and very welcome. These contributions can be very short (e.g. 500 words on your favourite method plus key references). It is a matter of regret that many areas of environmental archaeology are only represented by the infamous "page under construction" logo! For more information please go to << <http://www.arcl.ed.ac.uk/aea/index.html> >> and "ask not what it can do for you but what you can do for it..."

Contributions to the website or comments on the role of an AEA education officer should be sent to me at <<gcoles@hsy1.ssc.ed.ac.uk>> or via snail mail: Geraint Coles, Department of Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, The Old High School, Infirmary Street, Edinburgh. EH1 1LT.

Geraint Coles.

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

SBA MEETING

The Science-Based Archaeology Community meeting will be held on Friday, June 2nd, at the Geological Society in London. The meeting marks the official launch of the 'Strategy for Science-Based Archaeology'. Discussion will include the position of SBA within NERC, and existing and potential thematic programmes of SBA interest. Details are available on the SBA newsletter website at <http://www.nerc.ac.uk/es/sbanews/htm>. To attend email Deidre Caden at deca@nerc.ac.uk with your contact details by Friday 19th May.

ARCHAEOBOTANY WORKGROUP MEETING - York, 12th July 2000

The date for this informal meeting is now set for Wednesday 12th July. Interest has been shown in a session on moss identification, and I hope we can also spend some time looking at participants' 'unknowns', but it seems a pity not to have a field visit too, and for this I suggest we go to Askham Bog, a piece of relict wetland only a few kilometres from the city centre, and within easy reach of the University Campus (provided we have enough transport, i.e. participant's cars!).

I am (perhaps rashly) assuming we can fit all this into one day, and am also assuming that the laboratory facilities I have in mind to use are available (major rebuilding works in the Biology Department are likely to be in progress by mid July!). If the laboratory session proves too difficult to arrange, we could perhaps spend most of the day in the field. There is no cost for attending the meeting, and light refreshments should be available at the EAU, but participants will have to make their own provision for lunch (possibly in the field)

Would those who are interested in attending the workgroup meeting please let me know by 7th June, at which point I should have formalised arrangements. Please note that I shall be out of the country from 9th-26th June and will not be able to deal with any enquiries in that period.

Allan Hall, Environmental Archaeology Unit, Department of Biology, University of York, PO Box 373, York YO10 5YW, 01904 433851 (fax 433850, answerphone 433846), email: biol8@york.ac.uk

FUNGAL REMAINS (AND OTHER MICROFOSSILS) IN QUATERNARY PALAEOECOLOGY Meeting at Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, September 13-15, 2000.

Fungal remains are often present in Quaternary deposits, but have received less attention than most potential environmental indicators. The aim of this meeting is to bring together researchers from a variety of fields in order to advance the use of fungal and other microfossils in Quaternary palaeoecology. A series of invited speakers will address the background to fungal spore production and liberation, recent uses of fungal spores in palaeoecology, and methodological aspects. Open paper sessions will then be available for the dissemination of original research or reviews, including preliminary or speculative work. Areas of discussion will include:

- Fungal ecology
- Spore production, dispersal and preservation
- The indicator value of different spores
- Fungal spores in archaeological contexts and as anthropogenic indicators
- Other microfossils – identification and interpretation
- Fungal spores as indicators of palaeohydrological conditions
- Methods of retrieving non-pollen microfossils
- Identification and taxonomic resolution
- Counting, data treatment and display

- Assembling a fungal database?

Organisers

J.J. Blackford and J.B. Innes, Department of Geography, Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, E1 4NS. email: J.J.Blackford@qmw.ac.uk or J.B.Innes@qmw.ac.uk and

If you would like to give a paper or attend the conference, or would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact J.J.Blackford or J.B.Innes as above. A limited fund is available to help those without other means of support attend the meeting.

JOINT AEA/CENTRE FOR PALAEOECOLOGY MEETING

The proposed one-day joint meeting in York of the AEA and the Centre for Palaeoecology, University of York, is fixed for Wednesday October 25th 2000. Offers of short (10-15 min) contributions on any subject will be welcome, but a further announcement about the meeting, a final call for contributions, and a booking form will be included in the August newsletter.

THE ALLUVIAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF NORTH-WEST EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN Convened by A.J. Howard, M.G. Macklin & D.G. Passmore 18th-19th December 2000, University of Leeds, UK.

The conference 'Archaeology under Alluvium' held at the British Museum in 1991 had a major influence in highlighting the wealth of archaeological resources in alluvial settings. It brought together multidisciplinary teams of archaeologists, geomorphologists and palaeobiologists from both the pure and applied research communities, and significantly contributed to the development of a research agenda for the last decade of the Twentieth Century.

Ten years on, and with the dawning of a new millennium, it is timely to re-evaluate the state of development of alluvial archaeology and to provide a review on which to base a research agenda for the 21st Century. Papers are sought for this two-day conference primarily focused on NW Europe and the Mediterranean, although the convenors would also welcome a number of contributions with global perspectives. Papers will be incorporated within a special publication.

Abstracts for papers are invited based around the following research themes and should be submitted to the convenors by 31st August 2000.

- Multidisciplinary high-resolution landscape case studies.
- The impact of natural and anthropogenic environmental change on alluvial environments and human activity.
- Developments in palaeobiological research.
- Modelling of catchment and valley floor evolution.
- Developments in geochronology and dating control.
- Developments in geoprospection, provenancing of alluvial sediments, and management of alluvial archaeological resources.
- Experimental archaeology in alluvial settings

In addition, posters are welcomed on any aspect of alluvial archaeology.

Further details (including registration) can be obtained from:

Dr Andy J. Howard, School of Geography, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT (email: a.howard@geog.leeds.ac.uk);

Dr Dave G. Passmore, Department of Geography, Daysh Building, the University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU (email: D.G.Passmore@newcastle.ac.uk)

Professor Mark G. Macklin, Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3DB (email: mvm@aber.ac.uk).

Visit the conference website at: <http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/conferences/alluvial/>

AEA & NABO - Association for Environmental Archaeology & North Atlantic Biocultural Organisation
"Atlantic Connections and Adaptations -- Economies, Environments and Subsistence in the North Atlantic Realm"
29th to 31st March 2001, University of Glasgow

Announcement and First Call for Papers

The North Atlantic is both a barrier and routeway that separates and connects human populations in lands bordering the ocean. Maritime communications have played a vital role in shaping both human cultures and the biography of the region. The aim of this meeting is to explore the diversity of connections and adaptations in the North Atlantic Realm. Key issues to be addressed include:

- the origins of the Atlantic flora and biota
- the introduction of non-indigenous flora and biota
- the spread of particular cultural packages and their local adaptations
- the establishment and development of exchange and trade networks
- the influence of climatic variability and episodic extreme events

While the focus of the conference lies in the North Atlantic Realm the organisers would welcome relevant papers that provided either a comparative or contrasting analysis of these issues.

Intending contributors should submit a title and brief abstract by the 1st December 2000, preferably by email to either of the organisers.

Dr Rupert Housley, Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow, Gregory Building, Lilybank Gardens, Glasgow. G12 8QQ - email: r.housley@archaeology.gla.ac.uk

Dr Geraint Coles, Department of Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, The Old High School, Infirmary Street, Edinburgh. EH1 1LT - email: gcoles@hsy1.ssc.ed.ac.uk

ICAZ BIRD WORKING GROUP MEETING - CALL FOR PAPERS

The 4th Bird Working Group Meeting will be held in Krakow, Poland, September 12-15, 2001. The conference will be concerned with all aspects of bird remains in archaeology: the exploitation of wild and domestic birds, changes in bird distributions in the prehistoric period, problems of identification, bone survival and depictions of birds in ancient arts. Papers and posters are invited. Interested participants are asked to contact the organisers to be put on the mailing list:

Zbigniew M. Bochenski,
Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals,
Polish Academy of Sciences,
Slawkowska 17,
31-016 Krakow,
Poland.
Fax: +48-12- 422 42 94;

Email: bochenski@isez.pan.krakow.pl

Details and online registration form can be found at: <http://www.isez.pan.krakow.pl>

CONFERENCE REVIEWS

By a happy accident we have ended up with two reviews of the Guildford Conference. We are pleased to include both contributions, as this gives up the opportunity to see the Conference from two different viewpoints.

A REVIEW OF "THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF INDUSTRY" AEA CONFERENCE (1999) 2000 - 14TH TO THE 16TH OF APRIL 2000

David Smith

**Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston,
Birmingham, B15 2TT**

This was a conference worth waiting for. Much of the success of this conference resulted from the fact that it considered an issue of interest not only to environmental archaeologists but also to a wider audience. Industry in all of its aspects is perhaps one of the most immediate and accessible aspects of our results for the "outsider" to grasp. Perhaps the immediacy of this subject is best illustrated by the fact that there were no less than six palaeoentomologists at this conference. One of the main talking points at the conference was speculation as to the collective noun for such a group. The favourite seemed to be "an infestation". (If we include the paper given by Mark Robinson in absentia I personally favour "the magnificent seven").

The papers given can roughly be divided into three groups: primary extraction and provision of raw materials, processing and production of finished goods and the effects of industry on the surrounding environment and the human population. A theme that linked all papers was the detection of industry itself.

Primary extraction was covered in a number of papers, such as those given by Geraint Coles, Pete Marshall, Tony Brown and Tim Mighall, concerning the detection and archaeology of ancient mining through palynology and geoarchaeological approaches. Interestingly non-ferrous metals featured highly. I am sure that it is a frequently stressed point, but all of these papers made it clear that that it is often easier to detect and date prehistoric mining through the use of environmental indicators than the archaeology of the mine sites themselves. A particularly elegant paper by Tim Mighall also raised the issue of the decision process that might determine which ore is extracted. In his case copper ore seems to have been concentrated upon in the Bronze Age mines at Copa Hill, Mid Wales despite the presence of more easily obtainable and abundant lead and silver deposits.

Rowena Gale, Jane Cowgill and Richard Darrah all discussed the provision of wood for fuel and, in the latter's case for timber. Again the issues of selection, human choice and the effects of production on the surrounding environment were discussed. Wendy Smith reminded us of the fact that "wood is not the only fuel".

One "processing" industry that featured prominently throughout the two days of the conference was tanning. This was the subject of papers by both Umberto Alberella and Anton Eryvynck. The latter paper was perhaps the highlight of the conference as it not only provided slides of the outstanding archaeology at the tanning site, but also the well-preserved tanned scraps left from over 30 cattle. The discussion of castration scars caused a quick crossing of legs by many males in the audience. Allan Hall and Harry Kenward's paper raised the possibility of their being a "biological indicator group" of both plant remains and insects for tanning activity. At this point the metaphorical antenna of the "infestation" started to wave in unison.

Though the impact of industry on the surrounding environment (particularly the possibility of chemical, noise and olfactory pollution) was addressed in many papers, but its affects on the health of human populations was implicitly discussed only by two speakers. These were papers by Mary Lewis and Tony Waldron (in the latter case it must be said it is amazing what the plastic surgeon can achieve these days). Both papers clearly indicated that detecting the affects of the presence of industry through raised levels of infant mortality and "indicators of occupational disease" may not be as straightforward as perhaps was initially assumed. However, attending a conference at Guildford can leave the visitor with one clear example of an "occupational disease". Almost everyone present had stubbed their big toe on the doorstep sensibly positioned beside the sink in the rooms.

The third day of the conference consisted of the field trip to the Wealden and Downland Museum and Fishbourne Roman Villa. This is of course traditionally the point at which I become cryptic and make various in-jokes. And so as to not disappoint, the highlights were the piglet confusion, discovering old friends in the potting shed, and the lesson in coach redecoration.

Perhaps one of the most difficult issues raised by this conference was specifically discussed by Geraint Coles in his conference summary, "just how do we separate between 'domestic' and 'industrial' production in the archaeological record. A clear illustration of this problem was seen in the paper Sheila Hamilton-Dryer gave on the choice and use of shells at the Roman period sites in the Eastern Deserts of Egypt. The dominant industry practised at these sites was quarrying, but how should we describe the other production activities on site? Is the shell processing best described as a complementary, a secondary or even a domestic industry? This may be a difficult question to answer since it may depend upon how it is perceived by those in the past, as well as by the gathering at Guildford.

The papers of this conference addressed many useful issues for those of us currently working on archaeological projects that relate to ancient industrial activities. Peter Murphy and Patricia Wiltshire will edit the conference volume and have also announced that they will dedicate the volume to Geoffrey Dimbleby.

AEA CONFERENCE REPORT GUILDFORD 2000: THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF INDUSTRY

The late running 1999 AEA Conference finally arrived in Guildford at 2000 -- appropriate really since the theme of the conference was the environmental archaeology of industry -- probably something to do with leaves on the line or the wrong kind of snow...

The new timetable did, however, seem to suit the passengers, as a healthy audience was to be found on the platform as Frank Chambers opened proceedings with a witty commentary on why environmental archaeologists seem to ignore the biggest environmental impact since the Devensian Glacial Maximum. Only then to demonstrate that, while we may not recognise the impacts, they are certainly present and that environmental archaeologists should be seeking better tools to understand and interpret what we already have (as Holmes would say "you see Watson, but you do not observe").

The Morning session was then composed of papers dealing with the impact of metal mining on the environment. The lectures by Coles, Marshal, Brown and Mighall had many similarities, and for a while it seemed that we would be spending the entire conference admiring slides of the woodcuts from Agricola's 1556 'De Re Metalica' (illustrations which took over ten years to produce and were only finished after his death - a warning to all conference volume editors). What did, however, become clear was that workers in this field had developed similar "environment impact" methodologies for exploring the early history and prehistory of metal mining. Some surprises were evident in the dating of episodes of mining, and it is clear that much remains to be discovered about the earliest mining activities in different regions of the British Isles.

After a lunch the conference moved forward to examining the supply of fuel to industries and the impact that this had upon the landscape. Gale and Cowgill examined how the acquisition of charcoal would have impacted on woodlands -- the first from the point of the woodlands the second from the point of

determining the level of demand which might be expected from the Romano-British Iron Industry. Whitehouse considered the history of peat extraction and Smith, the problems of supplying an industrial site in a desert with fuel. Informative debate on the scale of impact and the range of fuels used in industrial processes followed.

Re-fuelling with tea led us to consider the uses of Biological raw materials. Particular attention was paid to the interrelated tanning and horn trades with evidence being presented by Erynck and Albarella; the latter clearly upset by the mystery of the missing goats -- unfortunately no one was able to provide a pithy solution to this problem and it is clearly an issue which will tax our deductive powers for some time to come. Hamilton-Dyer looked at shell selection and, first thing on Saturday, Darrah at the ways in which timber availability and technology may have interacted to dictate the selection of particular sections of timber for particular purposes.

The AGM (reported elsewhere) was followed by a wine reception and the conference dinner. Vigorous discussion then continued in the bar although by the end of the evening we were reduced to deciding that the correct collective noun for a group of insect specialists is "an infestation".

Saturday dawned on a grey sky of "soot and clay" and after a warming breakfast attention turned to proxy indicators of industry in particular the use of various forms of chemical, soil, plant macrofossil and insect evidence which might be used to determine the presence of particular industrial activities.

Macphail suggested some micromorphological features that may be indicative of industry, while at the macroscale, Shiel gave us an insight into the development of better tools for the mapping of palaeoenvironmental and archaeological evidence at the landscape which had obvious implications for sampling strategy. Hall and Kenward then postulated the existence of indicator groups for particular activities using an overlapping multiple proxy method. Pat Wiltshire, presenting her own work and that of Mark Robinson, made some interesting observations on the impact of flax and nettle retting on the riverine environment. Schelvis noted the importance of understanding taphonomic processes in the interpretation of arthropod remains from urban craft centres. During his presentation it was noted that several close up slides of lice had the audience gently scratching themselves....Peter Murphy then brought the session to an end with an analysis of burnt shell and its role in industrial activities. One of the key lessons learnt in this variegated session was that the use of single "indicator species" is limited and that attention was being turned to the creation of multiple proxy indicators using more than one source of evidence. It was apparent that there is a need for the development of agreed standards in the creation of baseline data on common lithological / pedological / biological properties. While the creation of a means for the exchange of such large data sets would be a major step toward being able to properly define over-lapping Venn sets or "bio-facies" for many different environments and human activities therein.

Following another industrial strength lunch, two papers by Lewis and Waldron dealt with the impact of industry on human populations. This was considered from a skeletal viewpoint and again the use of multiple indicators was the key theme.

The final lecture by David Hopkins et al., dealt with experimental approaches to the elucidation of post-depositional processes and gave us all a clear challenge to become more rigorous in our acquisition and analysis of data.

Sunday rose bright and cheerful and those that stayed for the fieldtrip were rewarded with a fascinating expedition to the Down and Weald Open Air Museum. Of particular note was the reconstructed mediaeval house set into a recreated garden and farmyard -- the presence of the midden from the jettied thunderbox immediately adjacent to the well did, however, give pause for thought... Several dozen reconstructed buildings, a hurdle construction demonstration, coppiced woodland, a charcoal burning site, a working water mill, a forge and a tea shop later, we were all a lot wiser about the embedded nature of industrial activities in the pre-Industrial revolution countryside. Suitably refreshed we then made for the Roman Palace at Fishbourne. The latter provided a moment of light relief when upon entering the "potting shed" in the recreated Roman garden a recorded monologue by a "Roman" gardener was triggered. The opening words "Oh NO, not another interruption..." delivered in an appalling

mockney Italian accent had every one looking for a certain faunal specialist from Birmingham.... As usual one returned from the AEA Annual Conference refreshed from spending time with friends and colleagues and fired up from having been able to discuss subjects of real value with people who were interested in the work, not the paperwork. Our very great thanks to both Pat and Peter for a great event. (PS my paper is in the post... now, where are the drawings...)

“Agricola”

ADVERTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Faunal Remains

Salary ACRF1A (£18,185 - £24,479)

A Research Fellow, funded by English Heritage, is required to work on faunal remains. An important duty will be visiting sites to advise excavators. The person appointed will be responsible for curating and developing comparative collections and for analysing material from excavations. The Fellow will be expected to contribute to research objectives. Facilities will be available within the Department and within English Heritage at Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth: it is expected that the successful applicant will work at both locations.

Applicants should have a relevant degree and experience in faunal analysis. Proven ability to complete written reports is essential. Some teaching will be required.

A letter of application, a c.v. (2 copies) giving details of qualifications and experience and the names of two referees should be sent to:

Professor D P S Peacock
Department of Archaeology
University of Southampton
Southampton
SO17 1BJ
UK

(from whom further particulars may be obtained)
Applications to arrive no later than 31 May 2000.

PLANTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY: Identification manual of vegetative plant materials used in Europe and the southern Mediterranean to c. 1500

Rowena Gale and David Cutler,
Approx. 550 pages

ISBN 1 84103 002 3 Page size 295mm x 215mm, Price £75 sterling. Published by Westbury Academic and Scientific Publishing in association with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Publication date – May 2000.

This is a practical guide to the identification of vegetative plant materials used from the early prehistoric to c. 1500 AD in Europe and the southern Mediterranean. Geographic distribution and archaic names are included. Specialised methods are given for the preparation of a range of material including wood, stems, roots, leaves and fibres, with particular emphasis on samples from archaeological artefacts, which have been adversely affected by their conditions of burial. Detailed anatomical descriptions of over 160 species of broadleaved herbaceous plants and trees, conifers, grasses, palms and other monocotyledons, and ferns and horsetails are fully illustrated with over 600 photomicrographs. Keys of

diagnostic features also help with identification. The history of uses and working properties of the various materials are complemented by tables listing recorded uses of specific plant materials, drawn from every aspect of daily life (construction; cult and devotional images, amulets, sculpture and ceremonial items; domestic items; dye plants; fibres, textiles, basketry and cordage; fuel; occupational and musical instruments; tanning; transport; and weapons and hunting artefacts), some of which are illustrated. The book provides an essential working manual for botanists, archaeologists, conservators and students with ethnic, forensic, agricultural, social and economic interests. The range and scope of information are also relevant in areas well beyond Europe, extending to North America and further afield.

MAIREAD RUTHERFORD: CONSULTANT PALYNOLOGIST

Provision of high quality vegetational data to aid archaeological interpretation. Previous experience ranging from blanket bogs of western Ireland to Scottish saltmarsh sites; Neolithic settlements of Yorkshire and the Isle of Man. Ring (01969) 663030 or email heronrae@tinyonline.co.uk

NEW E-MAIL LIST ANNOUNCEMENT... ZOOARCH

ZOOARCH is devoted to Zooarchaeology, that is the analysis of animal remains from archaeological sites to reconstruct the cultural lifeways of people and the inter-relationships between people, animals, and the environment. This list aims to promote the flow of ideas, skills and information, and offers support to fellow zooarchaeologists. We seek messages to stimulate discussion on methodologies, analyses, interpretation, to help with sources of information and most of all to allow us all to share and improve our knowledge. Zooarchaeologists of all status from students to amateurs to professionals are welcome to contribute.

How to Join the List

To join this list (you may want to pass this information on to other people), please send a message to:

mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

with this message:

join zooarch firstname lastname

Please, make sure that this is the only text that appears in the body of your message (including any signature)

Yours list owners,

Jacqui Mulville and Umberto Abarella

We are grateful to Quita Mould for the following...

IS THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL LEATHER GROUP DEAD?

At the AEA Conference in Guildford rumours were circulating about the Archaeological Leather Group. Contrary to popular belief, the ALG is alive and well and eager to have any contact!

We have two meetings a year, the next one being in Oxford on Thursday 6th July. Please contact Barbara Wills (Tel: 01233 213089) for further information.

SUMMER SCHOOL 2000 IDENTIFICATION OF PLANT FIBRES

Durham, 24 – 26 July 2000

Introductory work will consider the identification of plant materials by the evaluation of their microscopic characteristics and the structure of plants from which fibres are obtained. Techniques used to prepare fibre samples will be practised. Methods for the identification of raw fibre and fibres in artefacts will be developed. The course is suitable for conservators in art and archaeology, for those studying textiles or artists' canvases and for forensic scientists.

Tutor: Dorothy Catling

Fee: £285/ \$485

No. of participants: 10

Contacts:

Dorothy Catling, Dept of Biological Sciences, University of Durham DH1 3LE.
tel: 0191 3747335, fax: 0191 3742417

or

Jim Black, 6 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6DX.

International Academic Projects, tel: 207 3800800, fax: 207 3800500, e-mail: IAP@archetype.co.uk

IDENTIFICATION OF WOOD

Durham, 17 – 21 July 2000

Introductory talks cover the use of the microscope, the structure of plants and the identification of plant materials by the evaluation of their microscopical characteristics. Softwoods and hardwoods will be studied using the Princes Risborough keys for wood identification. Differences between trunk wood and root wood will be considered. Two days are devoted to the preparation and identification of collapsed/ waterlogged wood, charcoal and veneers. The course is suitable for conservators in art and archaeology, furniture restorers and forensic scientists. It is also a useful introduction to the identification of wood fibres in paper. The course will be held in the laboratory and will involve a great deal of practical work.

Tutors: Dorothy Catling & Rowena Gale

Fee: £395/ \$655

No. of participants: 10

Contacts:

Dorothy Catling, Dept of Biological Sciences, University of Durham DH1 3LE.
tel: 0191 3747335, fax: 0191 3742417

or

Jim Black, 6 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6DX.

International Academic Projects, tel: 207 3800800, fax: 207 3800500, e-mail: IAP@archetype.co.uk

Many thanks to Richard Thomas for the following contribution:

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REVIEW OF TWO JOURNALS

By Richard Thomas

Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT.

[Sources for the archaeobotanist](#) - [General](#) - [United Kingdom](#) - [Mediterranean](#) - [Spain](#) - [France](#) -

[Near East](#)

[Sources for the palynologist](#)

[Sources for the zooarchaeologist - General - Cattle - Sheep - Horses - Pigs Livestock - Deer - Rabbits - Birds - Fish](#)

[Sources for the soils specialist](#)

[Sources for the landscape archaeologist](#)

[Sources for the climatologist](#)

[General agricultural sources - United Kingdom - The Agricultural Revolution - Egypt - Near East - Roman - Mediterranean - France - Germany - Denmark - Italy - Europe - Origins of agriculture](#)

[Miscellaneous](#)

Whilst trawling through a number of journals for references pertinent to my Ph.D. research I came across two journals (Agricultural History and Agricultural History Review) that not only contained a number of papers that appeared useful to me, but also to other aspects of environmental archaeology. I therefore decided to make a note of all these references, seeing as I was systematically going through the journals anyway.

Because of the sheer numbers of papers in these journals a selective approach was adopted. Inevitably this was rather subjective, but I hope it will not detract from the usefulness of the review. Consequently the references cited below only include papers that either relate to subjects before 1800 AD or those that might be of historiographical use. I have also had to limit the geographic area covered by the papers to Europe and the Old World. For convenience I have attempted to divide the references into the various sub-disciplines of environmental archaeology for which there were references, and subdivided these further according to geographic region and topic. The review of the Agricultural History journal begins with Volume 1 (1927) and ends with Volume 72 (1998). The review of the Agricultural History Review begins with Volume 1 (1953) and ends with volume 45 (1997). Volumes 31 to 33 are missing for the Agricultural History.

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