

# Association for Environmental Archaeology Newsletter 70 (November 2000)

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[Submit information to the newsletter](#)

[Editorial](#)

[News from the Committee](#)

[Conferences & Meetings](#)

[Conference Report](#)

[Rolex Awards 2002](#)

[Book Review](#)

[Publications](#) [ [books](#) - [chapters](#) - [articles](#) ]

[Zooarchaeology T-shirt](#)

[Newsletter Form](#)

[Subscriptions Forms](#)

[IGCP Meeting Form](#)

[AEA NABO Conference Form](#)

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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](mailto:wendy.carruthers@virgin.net); [V.Straker@Bristol.ac.uk](mailto: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: Ruth Pelling, Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PW, UK  
Tel: +44 1865 272 983 - Fax: +44 1865 272 970 - e-mail: [ruth.pelling@oum.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ruth.pelling@oum.ox.ac.uk)

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## EDITORIAL

### E-MAIL VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER FROM FEBRUARY 2001 YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

At the 2000 AEA Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Guildford, we received a majority vote to go over to an electronic version of our Newsletter. We are intending to circulate the Newsletter primarily by e-mail from February 2001. We will continue to supply printed copies to those who request to receive this version of the Newsletter, as a service to those members who may not have easy or regular access to e-mail.

## **IN ORDER FOR THE NEW E-MAIL VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER TO WORK, WE NEED MEMBERS TO SUPPLY US WITH THEIR E-MAIL ADDRESS.**

If you wish to receive the Newsletter by e-mail and your e-mail address is not in the 1999 Membership Interests list (or it has changed), please fill in the form at the back of this Newsletter or e-mail Wendy Carruthers ([wendy.carruthers@virgin.net](mailto:wendy.carruthers@virgin.net)). If you would like to continue to receive a paper copy and have not yet sent in a form, please fill in the relevant section at the back of this Newsletter. In this way we can ensure that you receive either the printed or e-mail version of the 2001 editions of the Newsletter without any difficulties. So far, following the announcement in the last Newsletter, we have received 41 requests for a paper copy.

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## **NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

### **NEW, IMPROVED AEA WEBSITE (<http://www.envarch.net/>)**

At the last AGM, the committee announced that we would focus on updating and improving our web page. Since May, Mark Beech has been employed by the committee to manage and regularly update the AEA website. We hope that it will be a useful resource to members and non-members alike that will provide up to date information on job vacancies, forthcoming events, membership information, as well as providing links to a wide range of websites related to environmental archaeology.

We encourage members to visit our website and to offer material (preferably as a word for window document or .jpg images), such as information on forthcoming events, job opportunities or images. Please feel free to make suggestions for improvements to the AEA website to Wendy Smith, English Heritage, Centre for Archaeology, Fort Cumberland, Fort Cumberland Road, Eastney, Portsmouth, PO4 9LD, UNITED KINGDOM (e-mail: [wendy.smith@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:wendy.smith@english-heritage.org.uk)).

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## **NEW MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

After many years of hard service, on 2 October 2000 Becky Nicholson officially retired as the AEA Membership Secretary. Ruth Pelling, an archaeobotanist employed by Oxford University Museum of Natural History to work on both commercial and research projects, has agreed to be co-opted by the committee to replace Becky as Membership Secretary. We are certain that many members will join this committee in thanking Becky for all her hard work and patience over the years. We hope that all of you will join us in welcoming Ruth to the committee and her new role as AEA membership secretary. In addition, Ruth Pelling has been nominated to be an ordinary committee member on the managing committee at the 2001 AGM elections (see below).

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## **NOMINATIONS TO THE AEA MANAGING COMMITTEE**

The AEA Managing Committee seeks nominations for Ordinary Committee Members (3 vacancies, each a 3 year positions) and for the role of Secretary (a 3 year position). Any member can make a nomination, but this must be seconded. We particularly encourage candidates who are prepared to take on one of the jobs of the managing committee. Nominations (or enquiries) can be made to [wendy.smith@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:wendy.smith@english-heritage.org.uk). Elections will be held at the 2001 AGM in Glasgow.

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## **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Membership subscriptions for the AEA are due in January 2001. Please note that subscription rates for the year 2001 are increasing to £20 (ordinary) or £12 (student/unwaged). Overseas waged members

please add £4 for postage and package. To renew your subscription please send a cheque payable to the Association for Environmental Archaeology, with the completed payment slip to the membership secretary (address below). Please note that we can not accept foreign currency cheques. Overseas members only may pay by credit card (see enclosed form). UK members with an existing standing order please complete the standing order amendment form. UK members who presently pay by cheque but wish to change to paying by standing order please fill in the form for setting up a standing order. The forms are at the back of this Newsletter.

Ruth Pelling  
The AEA Membership Secretary  
Oxford University Museum of Natural History  
Parks Road  
Oxford OX1 3PW  
Tel: 01865 272983  
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## CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

### **IGCP Project 437: Coastal environmental change during sea-level highstands – A global synthesis with implications for management of future coastal change**

The new IGCP Project 437 has been up and running for some time, but the UK Working Group has yet to meet to consider its detailed involvement in the programme. Over the summer I accepted an invitation from the Royal Society to act as UK Correspondent to the project. This circular provides advance notice of the first meeting of the UK working group and invites offers of papers.

The meeting will be of wide interest to those working in contemporary, Late Devensian, and Quaternary coastal environments. A key objective of the programme, which this meeting will begin to address, is the exploration of links between records of coastal and sea-level change over these different timescales.

The meeting will be in London at the Royal Society on Friday December 15th 2000, followed by a fieldtrip on Saturday December 16th 2000. It will support a day of papers and a field trip in the Thames Estuary as well as providing an opportunity for the UK community to develop its involvement in IGCP#437 over the next three years.

If you are interested in giving an oral paper (or poster presentation) please complete the registration form (also attached). The deadline for receipt of offers for papers is November 1st 2000.

A provisional programme is provided below. Final details will follow in a second circular. As the meeting is based in London, colleagues are requested to make their own accommodation arrangements for the Friday night. There is a booking form at the back of this Newsletter.

IGCP Project 437 UK Working Group – First Meeting (London)  
Jointly organised by Antony Long (Department of Geography, University of Durham) and Jane Sidell (Institute of Archaeology, University College London)

Friday December 15th 2000

10.30am  
Welcome and introduction to IGCP Project 437

Paper sessions

The day will aim to explore links and contrasts between patterns and processes of coastal evolution during the Holocene and previous interglacials. Oral contributions are invited on topics relating to the

above, as well as human occupation of the coastal zone and recent processes, including applications to coastal management.

Saturday December 16th 2000

Field trip to sites in the mid and inner Thames Estuary

Recent years have seen a proliferation of research concerned with coastal and sea-level change in the Thames Estuary over Holocene and Quaternary timescales. This field trip will visit sites within the Thames Estuary where the results of recent and ongoing research addressing these topics will be reviewed. The geographical focus of the trip will be on the inner estuary, between Tilbury and the City. Beginning at Tilbury, the "type site" for the Thames, we will then head west visiting the interglacial sequences at Purfleet, the extensive mid Holocene foreshore "submerged forests" at Erith, to finish the day in Central London where much recent and current research has been directed towards late Holocene riverine and estuary changes.

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### **The Alluvial Archaeology of North-West Europe and the Mediterranean**

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.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mvm@aber.ac.uk)).

For further details about this conference visit their website:  
<http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/conferences/alluvial/alluvial.html>

Provisional Timetable

Sunday 17th December

Registration from 1700 hrs, Rowing Lake, Dorney, Buckinghamshire, England.

10.00-10.20 Charly French & Jen Heathcote, Dept of Archaeology, University of Cambridge & Ancient Monuments Laboratory, English Heritage, Portsmouth, UK - Holocene Landscape change in the lower Great Ouse valley. Devonshire Hall, University of Leeds.

18.00 Wine Reception.

18.45 Dinner (for those booked).

20.15-21.15 Keynote: Professor Mark Macklin, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, UK.

Monday 18th December 2000

08.30-9.20 Jane Sidell, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, UK - The London Thames: A decade of research into the river and its floodplain.

09.20-9.40 Fiona Haughey & Sophie Seel, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, UK - From prediction to prospection: finding the prehistory of London's floodplain.

09.40-10.00 A.G. Parker & M.A. Robinson, Oxford, UK - Palaeoenvironmental Investigations on the Middle Thames at the Eton Cambridgeshire. England.

10.20-10.40 Simon Jennings et al., School of Biological & Applied Sciences, University of North London, UK - The environmental archaeology of the Late Bronze Age occupation platform at Shinewater, East Sussex, England.

10.40-11.00 Malcolm Lillie et al., University of Hull, UK - High-resolution geo-archaeological survey of the river Hull and its environs, England: the Late-glacial and early Holocene record

11.00-11.20 Refreshments & Registration

11.20-11.40 Mike Bishop, Nottinghamshire County Council, UK – Approaches to and problems of management of alluvial archaeological resources – dilemmas for curators.

11.40-12.00 Lynden Cooper et al., ULAS, University of Leicester, UK - Hemington Quarry, Leicestershire, England: archaeology at the confluence zone a decade on.

12.00-12.20 Glen Maas et al., University of Wales, Aberystwyth, UK – Fluvial change and human activity in the Upper Severn Valley, Wales.

12.20-12.40 Dave Passmore et al, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK - Geoarchaeology of the Milfield basin, Northumberland: refining strategies for archaeological research and management.

12.40-13.0 Alex Hale, RCAHMS - Scottish Firths in the 1st millennium BC and AD; a study of marine crannogs,

#### Lunch

14.00-15.00 Keynote: Professor Tony Brown, University of Exeter, UK.

15.00-15.20 Paul Davies, Quaternary Research Unit, Bath Spa University College, UK - Mollusca from alluvial contexts: progress and future directions

15.20-15.40 Ralph Fyfe et al., School of Geography and Archaeology, University of Exeter, UK - Palaeoenvironmental and archaeological potential of lowland river valleys: a case study from the Exe basin, south west England.

15.40-16.00 Keith Challis, TPAU, University of Nottingham, UK - GIS-based modelling of surface and subsurface alluvial deposits as an aid to archaeological and palaeoecological site prediction.

Refreshments

16.20-16.40 Kazimierz Klimek, Faculty of Earth Sciences, University of Silesia, Poland - Alluvial sedimentation under neolithic and early medieval anthropogenic impact in Eastern Carpathians and Eastern Sudety Mts foreland, Poland.

16.40-17.00 Douglass Bailey et al., University of Cardiff, UK - The archaeological potential of Romanian river valleys.

17.00-17.20 Annette Kadereit et al., University of Heidelberg, Germany- IR-OSL-dated colluvial sediments as a key to Holocene landscape reconstruction. Case studies from SW-Germany.

17.20-17.40 Burnouf J. et al. Université Paris I Sorbonne – Archéologie et Sciences de l'Antiquité - Archéologie et Environnement – Maison René Ginouves, 21 Allée de l'Université 92023 Nanterre. - Fluvial metamorphosis of the Loire river during the Holocene: variability of the natural factors and the answers of the societies

17.40-18.00 René F.B. Isarin & Herman van der Beek, Betuweroute Archaeology Project Group, Utrecht, The Netherlands. - The add-on value of fluvial geomorphology in the Betuweroute Archaeology Project: high-resolution landscape reconstructions from the Rhine-Meuse Delta.

#### Tuesday 19th December 2000

09.00-10.0 Keynote: Professor Mike Waters, Texas A&M University, USA - Alluvial Stratigraphy and Geoarchaeology in the Southwestern United States.

10.00-10.20 Cees W. Koot, Betuweroute Archaeology Project Group, Utrecht, The Netherlands – Losing the Unknown in the Dutch riverine area.

10.20-10.40 Herman van der Beek, Betuweroute Archaeology Project Group Utrecht, The Netherlands -

Evaluation of prospective research and site selection by watching brief.

10.40-11.0 Marten Verbruggen, RAAP Archaeology Consultants, Amsterdam - Geo-archaeological prospection of the Rommertsdonk: a case study from the river area in the Netherlands.

Refreshments

11.20-11.40 Richard Kroes, Ontwerper Fysieke Bescherming, Projectgroep Archeologie, Utrecht, The Netherlands - The contribution of geomorphological research to the reconstruction of a Roman bridge.

11.40-12.00 Joanne Mol, Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University - Wetland exploitation during the Late Mesolithic in the Rhine-Meuse river delta, The Netherlands.

12.00-12.20 Ben Marsh, Bucknell University, USA - Alluvial and erosional events associated with the burial of Iron-Age Gordion, central Anatolia.

12.20-12.40 Pete Boyer, University of Plymouth - Early to Mid Holocene Environmental Change in South-Central Turkey: Evidence from Alluvial Geoarchaeology

12.40-13.00 Morgan De Dapper et al., Department of Geography, University Gent, Belgium - The Holocene accumulations of the Paximadhi peninsula (South-Euboia, Greece)

Lunch

14.00-15.00 Keynote

15.00-15.20 Keith Wilkinson and Richard Pope, King Alfred's College, Winchester - Late Quaternary alluvial processes of the Evrotas Valley, southern Greece and their impact on the archaeological record.

15.20-15.40 M. Fuchs et al., Forschungsstelle Archäometrie der Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften am Max-Planck-Institut für Kernphysik, PF 103980, D-69029 Heidelberg, Germany - Geoarchaeology of the Phlious basin, NE-Peloponnese, Greece: Reconstructing landscape change using OSL-Dating techniques

15.40-16.00 Ian Candy et al., PRIS, University of Reading, UK - U-Th disequilibria dating of calcretes in alluvial environments: examples from fan deposits, North-west Mallorca.

Refreshments

16.20-16.40 Gianna Ayala & Charly French, Dept of Archaeology, University of Cambridge, UK - Holocene landscape dynamics in a Sicilian mountain river valley.

16.40-17.00 Dr. Simon Turner, Department of Geography & Archaeology, University of Exeter, UK - Human activity and climate change recorded in coastal wetland sediments: estuarine-alluvial deposition during the last 100 years in south east Sicily

17.00-17.20 Tim van der Schriek et al., University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK - The geoarchaeology of prehistoric settlement and subsistence in the Muge valley, Lower Tagus basin, Portugal.

17.20-18.00 Summing Up.

Poster Titles

Keith Challis et al., Departments of Archaeology & Geography, University of Nottingham, UK - An assessment of the potential of declassified Corona satellite photography for archaeological site detection and floodplain mapping in the Hinterland of the early Islamic city of Raqqa, Syria.

D.N. Smith & A.J. Howard, Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Birmingham and School of Geography, University of Leeds, UK - A record of flood events recorded from palaeontomological records: Implications for flood history and environmental interpretation.

Dave Passmore et al., University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK - Prehistoric settlement and valley floor environments in the Upper Tisza Valley, NE Hungary.

Peter Holkon, University of Hull UK. – Landscape development of the Foulness Valley, East Yorkshire, UK.

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## **The Archaeology of Reformation (c1480-1580)**

A joint conference to be held by the Societies for Medieval & Post Medieval Archaeology entitled 'The

Archaeology of Reformation (c1480-1580)  
Date: 15-17 February 2001  
Place: Clore Education Centre, British Museum

Details from Archaeology of Reformation Conference c/o Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities,  
BM, London WC1B 3DG.

For more information visit:

[www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk);

[www.medarchsoc.uklinux.net](http://www.medarchsoc.uklinux.net);

[www.spma.org.uk](http://www.spma.org.uk)

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## **MANAGING ARCHAEOLOGICAL EARTHWORKS SEMINAR**

Monday 19th March and Tuesday 20th March 2001  
At Salisbury Guildhall

19TH MARCH : Seminar at Salisbury Guildhall From 9.15 To 5.30pm. (Inclusive of buffet lunch)  
Sessions include condition assessment, the Working Landscape (recreation and farming) and the Living Landscape (natural hazards and ecology). These will be followed by 4 workshops on Condition Assessment, Recreational Management Farming, and Ecology in the management of archaeological earthworks.

20th MARCH : Site Visits (9.15 To 5.00 aprox)  
Avebury WHS and Salisbury Plain Training Area (inclusive of buffet lunch)

Total Cost : £120 Per Delegate

Places are limited, please book early via:

Neil Rimmington, Earthworks Officer or  
Karen Parker, Administration  
English Heritage  
Hadrian's Wall Unit  
Market Street  
Hexham  
Northumberland NE46 3LX  
Tel: 01434 605088  
Email: [neil.rimmington@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:neil.rimmington@english-heritage.org.uk)  
Email: [karen.parker@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:karen.parker@english-heritage.org.uk)

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## **AEA & NABO CONFERENCE**

**ATLANTIC CONNECTIONS AND ADAPTATIONS: Economies, Environments and Subsistence in the North Atlantic Realm**

Thursday 29 March – Saturday 31 March 2001, University of Glasgow

Meeting Details

Academic Programme

The academic programme is still to be finalised since the closing date for abstracts and papers is not until the 1st December. A list of speakers and titles of sessions will be posted on the conference website (<http://super3.arcl.ed.ac.uk/atlantic/> early in December. For a list of likely topics see previous

newsletters or the conference website.

## Information for Participants

### Accommodation

Accommodation may be booked in the University's Dalrymple hall of residence that is situated about 15 minutes walk from the University and conference venue. Dalrymple Hall is a terrace of modernised Victorian houses facing Great Western Road. It provides standard bed and breakfast accommodation in single rooms at a cost of £22.50 per night. Delegates wishing more upmarket accommodation, including en-suite facilities should see our website for alternative hotel venues. There is a booking form at the back of this Newsletter.

### Food

Breakfast is provided in Dalrymple Hall. Participants should make their own arrangements for lunch. The conference venue, the Western Infirmary Lecture Theatre, is situated only 150 metres from Byres Road where there are numerous restaurants, bars, pubs and fast food outlets. Dinner can be obtained at Dalrymple Hall at a cost of £9.50 per night and must be booked in advance. Alternatively, conference participants can make their own arrangements at one of the many excellent restaurants in the vicinity of the University and in the West End of Glasgow.

Those delegates participating in the excursion on Sunday 1st April, and who are staying at Dalrymple Hall, may book a packed lunch for that day.

### Social Programme

There will be short receptions on the Thursday and Friday evenings hosted by the University of Glasgow and the City of Glasgow. On the Saturday evening there will be a ceilidh.

### Field Excursion

On Sunday 1st April there will be a coach excursion to Kilmartin Glen in Mid-Argyll to see archaeological and palaeo-environmental sites. Included in the excursion will be a visit to the major royal site of Dunadd, an important hilltop centre for the kingdom of Dalriada from the sixth to the ninth century AD.

### Organisers

Dr Rupert Housley, Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow, Gregory Building, Lilybank Gardens, Glasgow G12 8QQ.

email: [r.housley@archaeology.gla.ac.uk](mailto: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](mailto:gcoles@hsy1.ssc.ed.ac.uk)

### Conference Secretary

John Duncan, Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow, Gregory Building, Lilybank Gardens, Glasgow G12 8QQ.

email: [j.duncan@archaeology.gla.ac.uk](mailto:j.duncan@archaeology.gla.ac.uk)

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## **VIKING-PERIOD SETTLEMENT IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND - SOCIETY FOR MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE**

Hosted by the School of History and Archaeology, Cardiff University and The National Museums and Galleries of Wales, Cardiff, July 4th - 7th 2001

A conference on all aspects of human settlement in Britain and Ireland from the late eighth to



mid-eleventh centuries, and comparative studies of other relevant areas, will be held in Cardiff from Wednesday July 4th to Saturday July 7th 2001. Multidisciplinary approaches and theoretical perspectives on settlement and landscape history will be welcome.

Further details of the conference can be obtained from the conference website, at:  
<http://www.cf.ac.uk/hisar/csmsc/events>

or by writing to:

Professor John Hines  
School of History and Archaeology  
Cardiff University  
P O Box 909  
Cardiff  
CF1 3XU  
email: [hines@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:hines@cardiff.ac.uk)

A programme and booking form for the conference will be available from the beginning of November.

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## **EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE** **Environmental History: problems and potential**

5-8 September 2001  
University of St Andrews, Scotland

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

European Society for Environmental History ESEH aims to promote environmental history in Europe by encouraging and supporting research, teaching and publications in the field. It especially wishes to foster communication among environmental historians across Europe, and with colleagues elsewhere. The biennial ESEH conferences, focusing on both the international and national perspective, are one of the communication platforms the society has to offer to colleagues around Europe, and beyond.

### **Submitting a proposal**

Scholars are invited to submit proposals in English (marked 'ESEH') on no more than 1 side of A4 addressing the above general theme by 30 September 2000 to the Centre for Environmental History & Policy, University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA, UK.

### **Scientific Committee**

An international scientific committee representing the European environmental history community will be responsible for selecting the papers. These are: Dr Peter Brimblecombe, University of East Anglia, UK; Dr Petra van Dam, Free University at Amsterdam, Netherlands; Professor Christian Pfister, University of Bern, Switzerland; Professor Sverker Sörlin, University of Umeå, Sweden.

### **Posters**

Proposals of up to 200 words for poster presentations are also invited.

### **Conference venue**

The University of St Andrews is the oldest in Scotland, set in a beautiful historic town famous for its golf and its beaches. The Centre for Environmental History and Policy is a new research centre housed jointly in the universities of St Andrews and Stirling. It seeks to understand current environmental problems through interdisciplinary analyses of the past. CEHP is delighted to be the host of the first ESEH international conference.

## Costs

The conference fee will be £80 (£60 for postgraduates/unwaged), which includes the conference dinner. Accommodation will be in university facilities. Accommodation is priced at £42 per night, inclusive of all meals. It is hoped that a number of bursaries will be available for postgraduate students and colleagues from Eastern Europe. Details will be posted on our web-sites: [www.stir.ac.uk/cehp/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/cehp/) or [www.eseh.org/](http://www.eseh.org/) as they become available. The conference registration form will be available from September 2000 and will also be placed online.

The conference organisers are extremely grateful to the School of History at the University of St Andrews for its financial support.

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## **AEA One Day Autumn Meeting**

**To be held in honour of Professor Susan Limbrey on the occasion of her retirement.**

18th September 2001, The University of Birmingham.

First call for papers – Suggestions for papers on any topic are invited, but papers dealing with the many subject areas in which Susan has been active during her career would be welcomed. The intention is to publish the proceedings from the conference.

The Department of Ancient History and Archaeology will be holding a dinner in Susan's honour in the evening and members of the AEA are welcome to attend.

For more details or to offer a paper contact David Smith (email: [d.n.smith@bham.ac.uk](mailto:d.n.smith@bham.ac.uk)) or Megan Brickley (email: [m.b.brickley@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.b.brickley@bham.ac.uk)) The Department of Ancient History & Archaeology, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT. Tel. 0121 414 5497.

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## **AEA Conference Spring 2002 - The archaeology of instability**

Environmental archaeology comes home! The 2002 Spring conference of the AEA will be organised in Flanders, Belgium, around a theme that is proper for the country and its politics: instability. Moreover, in a country where the coastal plain drowned due to predatory exploitation of the peat, where Roman large-scale agriculture collapsed because of self-induced soil erosion, where all major wildlife became extinct due to overhunting and destruction of natural habitats, the theme of instability is also relevant for the archaeological study of the environment.

Indeed, most interactions between humans and their environment have a disturbing nature. Due to human actions, the balance of ecosystems becomes disrupted, often to an extent that the initial conditions cannot be restored again. Examples of such actions are the deliberate or accidental introduction of species, depletion of animal and plant resources, even to the extent of extinction, etc. On the level of a single species, instability due to human interference can be caused by selective killing, disruption of breeding patterns, or changes induced in the natural environment. Even domestication can be seen as the creation of (genetically) highly unstable populations. Instability can also be produced by interacting with the physical environment. Soil erosion, global warming, water management works and pollution are examples of processes that can cause irreparable damage to the environment.

But, of course, nature reacts back, for example by adaptation or colonisation. These reactions can by themselves create new unstable situations, exemplified by epidemics or the success of parasites in human populations. However, in that way, new balances can also be found, be it sometimes after a period of catastrophic events. Such restorations can take considerable time, or can be achieved rather quickly.

The question now is: can environmental archaeology illustrate such processes? Do we have good

examples from our sites, that can unequivocally be interpreted?

The 2002 Spring conference of the AEA will deal with the theme described above in the most diverse and creative way possible. What else is there to say? The location will be somewhere along the Flemish coast, Belgium. Lodging will be suited for the larger or smaller budgets. Belgium is easy to reach for most countries within Europe, including Britain, and is cheap, due to the benefits of the common currency. An excursion will explore some pretty unstable landscapes in Flanders. The whole organisation will be supported by the Institute for the Archaeological Heritage of the Flemish Community. In northern Belgium people speak Flemish, which is more or less the same as Dutch; in the southern part of the country people use French as a way of communicating. The language border between both groups is not at all stable. But for the convenience of all English will be the only conference language.

All information: [lentacker.ervynck2@yucom.be](mailto:lentacker.ervynck2@yucom.be)

More, and definite details will be announced at the beginning of next year.

Jan Bastiaens, Anton Ervynck & An Lentacker

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## CONFERENCE REPORTS

The Second Meeting of the ICAZ Animal Palaeopathology Working Group (formerly the Veterinary Palaeopathology Working Group).

Department of Archaeology and Prehistory, University of Sheffield; 28th June 2000.  
Jessica J. Davies , Richard Thomas .

The Palaeopathology Working Group was formed in June 1999, and a second meeting of the group took place at the University of Sheffield in June this year. The meeting was organised, by Jessica Davies and Andy Hammon, in the format of two sessions. The morning session, entitled "Interpretation and Synthesis", took the form of a series of three lectures, characterizing the three main specialisms of zooarchaeology, human osteology and veterinary science which are represented within the membership of the group. Dr. Keith Dobney, Dr. Charlotte Roberts and Prof. John Cooper gave presentations on the possibilities of interpretation and synthesis of palaeopathology from their own specialist perspectives. The general consensus of the three presentations was that there are still many problems that required ironing out, but that the study of animal palaeopathology has real potential provided the data are not overinterpreted. Interaction between the three specialisms will not only help solve any dilemmas in areas such as quantification, description and diagnosis, but will promote interest in and the importance of research in this area. Dr. Roberts indeed suggested that the distinction between animal and human palaeopathology may be considered a false one. Many mistakes that have already been made during the development of human osteological studies can be prevented from being made again in animal palaeopathological studies, if the two areas are not considered as entirely separate.

The afternoon session dealt with the future of the group. It was mooted that the use of the term "Veterinary" in the title of the group was inappropriate, and it was agreed, unanimously, to rename the group the "Animal Palaeopathology Working Group". The aims of the group were also discussed. Interaction between the disciplines represented within the group was considered to be fruitful for the progression of animal palaeopathological studies, and should continue to be fostered. As such, two meetings of the group are planned for next year. Dr Sue Stallibrass suggested a meeting be held at the University of Liverpool in Spring 2001, which hopefully will provide an opportunity for veterinary department at the University to be involved. Prof. John Cooper, of the Wildlife Health Services, also suggested a meeting be held at the Hunterian Museum in London, in Autumn 2001. In 2002 the quadrennial ICAZ conference will be held at the University of Durham. Dr. Keith Dobney proposed that a session on animal palaeopathology be combined with this meeting.

Members of the group also expressed concern regarding the dissemination of information on animal palaeopathology, and investigations into the establishment of a bibliography of relevant literature will be

made. A similar list is currently being compiled in Canada - although with a palaeontological emphasis - and attachment of any references, collated by the group, to this will also be investigated. Themes for future meetings were also discussed. The following were highlighted as topics for thematic meetings:

- a). Theoretical / epidemiological.
- b). Practical identification, recording and analysis (including radiography vs. dry bone pathology, databases, use of MRI and endoscopy, etc.).
- c). Zoonoses.
- d). Specific disease groups (oral pathology, arthropathies, etc.).
- e). Generally neglected aspects (Harris lines, non-metric traits, DNA in relation to infectious diseases, cortical thickness variation related to nutrition, etc.).

One of the groups aims is to be involved in stimulating research in animal palaeopathology and defining research problems. It is hoped that thematic meetings will contribute to this in future years. Funding for future meetings will be essential for the group to be able to attract speakers from further afield, and for the APWG to develop and continue as an active assembly within palaeopathological research. Enquiries into sources of funding are being made by Dr. Keith Dobney.

It was decided that the groups e-mail list would be maintained separately to the Zooarch mailbase as many of the debates are very specific to the interests of APWG members. If you would be interested in joining the APWG mailing list, e-mail Richard Thomas at [r.m.thomas@bham.ac.uk](mailto:r.m.thomas@bham.ac.uk)

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### **A weekend with the 'Wetlanders': Review of the 10th Annual Conference of the Severn Estuary Levels Research Committee, Abergavenny, 23/24 September 2000**

The tenth Annual SELRC Conference was designed to review what has been achieved so far in the Estuary and to attempt to set out an agenda for future work in the Severn. This was not a self-congratulatory, naval gazing exercise; but was an informed and open discussion of what has and has not been successful in the Severn over the last decade. This conference also intentionally attempted to benefit from parallel examples of wetland research in other regions in Britain or abroad, by inviting several speakers pursuing similar types of research from outside the region to discuss their work. These included Antony Long (Romney March & Thames Estuary), David Gregory (Centre for Maritime Archaeology, Roskilde, Denmark), Ursula Maier and Richard Vogt (Hornstaad project, Germany), Robert van der Noort (Humber Wetlands), Damian Goodburn (London Wetlands) and John Coles (WARP).

Several papers reviewed investigation of relative sea level change through sedimentary, environmental archaeological and mathematical modelling methods. John Allen's (Reading) detailed studies of the sedimentary history and underlying geology of the Severn Estuary have helped to establish some understanding of the factors involved in reconstructing relative sea levels in the past. He reminded us that compaction of peat is an important issue in sea level reconstruction, especially in terms of the comparison of C14 dates and relative sea level height OD in the Estuary. The mobility and ever changing nature of the Severn Estuary landscape was stressed. In particular, understanding the connection of the foreshore with the marsh and dryland behind is an important area for future research, especially since it is likely that all three zones were used by the same people in the past. For example the route of watercourses (creeks, palaeochannels, man-made drainage systems, etc...), which are clearly detected on the foreshore, but often are undetected or not linked in with those behind the sea wall in marshes or reclaimed field landscapes beyond, is needed for both the recent, as well as the distant, past. The paper by Antony Long (Durham) also touched on relative sea level and raised the point that sand or gravel barriers (such as Dungeness) may affect the sedimentary sequence in the protected waters/estuary/marsh behind. During discussion of this paper, the point was raised by John Allen that different sediment grain size does control the expression of channel systems post-depositionally. Finally Benjamin Horton's (Durham) paper summarised initial results in the development of a mathematical formula, partially based on microfossil data (diatoms, foraminifera and

pollen) from a range of sedimentary deposits, which can be used to estimate the 'indicative meaning' (the relationship of the local environment in which sediments accumulate to a contemporaneous reference tide level). The initial results from using this mathematical formula have been used to create a computer model of relative sea level and tidal range for the Holocene in eastern England.

A number of papers reviewed wetland research at a site-specific or period-specific level, and stressed that landscape reconstruction often identified that there was a diversity of local environments around archaeological sites. This detail is crucial in terms of understanding the archaeology of the Severn and that neither local 'spot' studies (i.e. one small pit) or regional studies (i.e. pollen cores) addressed the issue at this intermediate level (i.e. the environment immediately around a site). Clearly, future research should move toward multiple samples from multiple lines of evidence in and around a site. Martin Bell (Reading) set several challenges: 1) a need to record data in a form that all specialists working in the Estuary can utilise, which will require agreed, common standards, 2) a need for a common database of archaeological/ environmental/ sedimentary information and 3) a need to understand the effects on coastal landscapes through truncated deposits (sea inundation), grazing, and/or human activity/settlement. Martin Locock's (Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust) paper touched on the issue of site prospection and recognition in the Severn Estuary. In particular, he set out the need to develop models of site distribution and/or palaeotopography in order to define more clearly areas of high or low archaeological potential. Stephen Rippon's (Exeter) paper reviewing his work on historic landscapes in the Severn Estuary was a fascinating example of the benefits of re-thinking one's data. The possibility that land-reclamation may have occurred piecemeal in the Estuary during the early Medieval period was proposed as a result of careful re-examination of field boundaries and field names and comparison with historic reclamation evidence from elsewhere, particularly the Netherlands. The fact that Rippon could openly present a total re-think of his earlier research not only demonstrated the constructive atmosphere that the SELRC can engender, but touched on a common theme of many papers: how do we 'picture' the landscapes we have studied.

The need to 'people' our landscapes, to determine who worked and/or lived in these landscapes was repeatedly raised by speakers and in discussion during the conference. Van der Noort's review of the Humber Levels Project results demonstrated that producing an illustration of the landscape for the public based on environmental and archaeological evidence is not a straightforward exercise. Basic answers to questions like how dense was the woodland, how large were clearings, how many animals or people lived in the landscape, and what did those people wear are not easily extracted from existing archaeological data. Martin Bell commented that reconstructing the people in the landscape could be done through careful excavation and collection of archaeological evidence – citing the preserved archaeological evidence of footprints of barefoot children at Redwick as one example of how archaeological fieldwork can provide answers to these questions. In terms of reconstructing what people were wearing, John Coles suggested that textiles from wetlands regions, which are scattered throughout the world's museums, are sorely in need of study. In addition, Stephen Rippon pointed out that historical records could be used as an analogy for behaviour in the past. For example, there are detailed historical records that both men and women worked in the fishing industry in the Severn Estuary. Finally, many speakers raised the issue that we are studying these landscapes just as they are falling out of use (i.e. for fishing, salt production, grazing, etc...) or disappearing and suggested that the oral tradition of the wetlands should not be neglected.

The information gained through wood analysis from wetland sites was also an issue addressed by three speakers. Nigel Nayling (Lampeter) reviewed ship and boat finds from the Severn Estuary over the last decade. Although he stressed that boat finds help us to better understand the nature and extent of fresh water/maritime transport and navigation, two ancillary points from Nayling's paper are particularly worth mentioning. First, waterfronts in the Severn must have been numerous, but few have been identified and those that have are poorly recorded and understood (a topic also addressed in by both John Allen's and Stephen Rippon's papers). Second, one of the major activities of the region, fishing, is not well represented in the archaeological record, although many fish traps have been recovered in the Severn, fish bone remains often are limited. Richard Brunning (Somerset County Council), discussed the wealth of waterlogged wood Somerset excavations have produced. In particular, he stressed that study of wood can contribute to local woodland reconstruction in addition to information on wood working techniques and tools. Damian Goodburn (Museum of London Specialist Services) presented a review of

the last decade of work on waterlogged wood in and around London. Two points from his paper are particularly worth summarising here. Goodburn, expanding on a point touched on by Brunning, argued that study of tool marks is highly informative, not only telling us how an object was made, but the sequence in which it was made. In addition, Goodburn also felt that our understanding of woodworking could be enormously improved through practical experiments and reconstruction of wooden artefacts. He illustrated this point by discussing how drilled holes in the bottom of a log boat (a feature repeatedly observed in the archaeological record) are the only way you can gauge how much wood is left to carve out. The holes can easily be plugged up after the boat is complete. He also added that sailing or rowing reconstructed boats is the only possible method of assessing how sea worthy these vessels were and, therefore, where and how they might have been used.

David Gregory (Centre for Maritime Archaeology, Roskilde, Denmark) reviewed the work of the Centre for Maritime Archaeology since the late 1950's. The wealth of beautifully preserved boats and other waterlogged finds, from both underwater and wetland excavations, was mind-boggling. In particular, Gregory's paper demonstrated that it is possible to successfully present such archaeological material to the public. Certainly, the reconstruction of ancient boats at Roskilde is hugely popular. Ursula Maier and Richard Vogt (Landedenkmalamt, Baden Wurttemberg) gave a fascinating paper on recent work at Hornstaad, on the coast of Lake Constance, Germany. The discovery of a charred, unthreshed cereal crop in a Neolithic period storeroom, which was destroyed by fire, has allowed the Hornstaad team to estimate how much cereal was cultivated in a given year at this Neolithic village and to calculate what area of land this might represent. Pedological work, in combination with other forms of evidence (particularly palynological evidence) in the hinterland around the lakeshore settlement has enabled the research team to speculate on where the crops might be grown. Two possible field layouts (isolated fields in a patchwork or one large area of fields) were discussed. Based on current evidence, it was concluded that these crops were most likely grown in one large area of arable fields as this was easier to keep clear, to protect from livestock/wild animals, and to work. In particular, this paper highlighted the benefits of an interdisciplinary approach to landscape reconstruction at wetland sites.

Rick Turner (Cadw) and John Coles (WARP, Exeter) concluded the conference by reviewing the contribution wetland archaeology can make, especially to the archaeological record. Turner's paper proved the Welsh are natural born public speakers, and although slightly tongue in cheek, his comments on the heroism of excavators in the region in the face of fast-flowing tides, foul weather, lack of funding and expanding commercial development was a fairly realistic assessment of the situation. He stressed the continued need for the SELRC to bring together researchers on both the English and Welsh sides of the Estuary, since the modern political boundary that divides the Severn Estuary certainly was not always recognised in the past. Turner argued that the future lay in beginning to mesh together a true narrative of the last 10,000 to 12,000 years of occupation in the region. He also raised the point that we need to develop a much better understanding of why people were there, and at what time of year. In an atmosphere 'where gardening, archaeology and DIY television programmes have established that anything taking over three days is valueless', Turner concluded that attracting funding to a large-scale, integrated project to address these issues will be difficult, but suggested that there were some possibilities. John Coles' paper not only summarised wetland research on a world-wide level, but made the case that often it is the archaeology of the wetlands (because of the excellent preservation) that enables historians and archaeologists alike to 'picture' past people in the environment. Most dryland sites simply do not preserve the range of materials encountered on wetland sites, many of which directly lead to understanding of past activities (i.e. wood working, hunting, fishing, boating, etc...) or social systems. Using a slide of a sign in a Japanese museum labelled 'Energetic Activities of Commoners', Coles argued that this actually says it all: the results of archaeological excavations in the wetlands is helping us to understand what the 'common people' were doing in the past in a way few dryland sites can.

Coles concluded the conference by raising eight themes for future investigation:

1. Further analysis of specific site economy, timing and seasonality of wetland sites.
2. Recognition that much research in the Severn and other wetlands is through destruction (natural and man-made) of these deposits. Do we need to consider excavation before this resource is irretrievably damaged or disappears?

3. Further study of the topography, function, compaction of peats in wetlands.
4. Further research into the relationship of wetland and dryland landscapes in these regions.
5. Further research into the more minor waterways (creeks or pills) of wetlands (i.e. use and courses).
6. Further development of archaeological prospection techniques in the wetlands for future conservation and management of the resource.
7. Need to seriously consider presentation of wetland archaeology to the public in order to build interest and gain support.
8. Need to explore whether other techniques for dating/ chronology can be applied on wetland sites.

The conference concluded with a field day to various sites on the Gwent Levels (Europark, Redwick, Magor Pill), which unfortunately I was not able to attend. The SELRC clearly is entirely about forming a research environment for colleagues working in a particular region, as well as establishing contact with other research groups, in order to exchange information on how they have tackled similar problems in wetland environments. My impression of this conference was that it was about a group of people, often working in difficult environments (archaeologically, physically and financially), who are highly committed to doing the best work possible. The good humour of this group, epitomised by the conference dinner menu, is also worth mention – many of us thoroughly enjoyed studying the intercalated peats of our Severn Meander dessert and closely examined the surface of our Severn mud pie for traces of footprints.

The conference proceedings will be published as an Archaeology in the Severn Estuary volume, but for more information on the SELRC and their activities visit their website at <http://www.selrc.dial.pipex.com/>

Wendy Smith

English Heritage Research Fellow; Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton

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## **CALL FOR ENTRIES TO ROLEX AWARDS 2002**

Rolex is now accepting applications to the Rolex Awards for Enterprise 2002, the tenth series of the biennial awards programme.

Enterprising individuals from around the globe are asked to submit innovative working projects in one of the five areas of human endeavour: science and medicine; technology and innovation, exploration and discover; the environment; and cultural heritage.

An independent selection panel will judge these initiatives based on their originality, feasibility, potential impact and, above all, on whether the applicant demonstrates a spirit of enterprise. All projects must result in the betterment of humankind. The winners will be announced in October 2002.

Prospective entrants can obtain further information about the Rolex Awards or access an Official Application Form through the Rolex Awards for Enterprise website, <http://www.rolexawards.com/>, or by writing to the Rolex Awards Secretariat at P.O. Box 1311, 1211 Geneva 26.

Persons of any age, from any country or background can apply according to the following timetables:

Entry deadline for Europe, Middle East and Africa - 30 April, 2001

Entry deadline for North, Central and South America - 31 July, 2001

Entry deadline for Asia and the Pacific - 31 October, 2001

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## **BOOK REVIEWS**

Meat Cuts and Muscle Foods, 2000, by Professor Howard Swatland of the Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Guelph, Canada. Published by Nottingham University Press, price £40.

This is an international reference work on meat cuts, poultry, game and seafood and covers forty-five regions of the world, with cutting diagrams for countries from Argentina to Zimbabwe. A study of this nature is obviously dynamic, therefore Professor Swatland maintains a website which covers any amendments, further information and developments in meat technology. An important aspect of this book is that, apart from the commercial incentives affecting the methods of cutting and processing animal carcasses, Professor Swatland also deals with the cultural influences. Zooarchaeologists will find it of value to have the range and variety of data readily to hand in the form of this book.

Derrick Rixson

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## PUBLICATIONS

We are very grateful to James Greig for his publication list. James writes: "Many thanks to those who have sent in publications or references. A few have had to be held over, for lack of time to type them in. Please let me know details of new publications. email: [greigjra@bham.ac.uk](mailto:greigjra@bham.ac.uk)."

Many thanks to Wendy Smith for the Danebury references.

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