

Association for Environmental Archaeology Newsletter 71 (February 2001)

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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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Wendy Carruthers, Sawmills House, Castellau, Llantrisant, Mid Glamorgan CF72 8LQ (Tel: 01443 223462).

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EDITORIAL

This issue is the first to be e-mailed to those members who have not requested a paper copy. In the last issue we asked you to return the form if you wanted to have a paper copy, or if your email address is not in the 1999 Membership Interests List, or if it has changed. There are still 169 members who have not told us that they would like a paper copy and for whom we have no e-mail address. If you are one of them, we are enclosing a letter asking for this information. Please return the form or send us an e-mail, otherwise you will not receive a Newsletter in May.

We would like to remind you about the AEA / NABO conference, to be held in Glasgow from 29th – 31st March, and ask you to register.

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR AEA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2001?

Never fear, downloadable membership renewal forms are here

If you haven't had the chance yet to renew your membership, or perhaps have misplaced the November 2000 newsletter with renewal forms, you can now download membership renewal forms from the webpage (<http://www.envarch.net>). On the AEA webpage, simply select 'How to Join', and then select 'Download a membership form', and download the form appropriate to you (student member, overseas ordinary member, etc...).

AEA AGM & ELECTIONS

The Annual General Meeting for the AEA will be held on Friday, 30th March, at 5:30 p.m. at the end of the first day of the Glasgow AEA conference.

Draft agenda:

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

Accounts

A summary of the AEA financial accounts appears in this newsletter (p.5). Rupert Housley (AEA Treasurer) will present the accounts in full at the Glasgow AGM.

Elections

Elections for new members of the AEA managing committee will be held at the AGM (30th March 2001, at the Glasgow AEA Conference)

The current committee structure is as follows:

ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS (elected term in [] and * = retiring this AGM)

Jan Bastiaens (Gent) [2000-2003]
Megan Brickley (Birmingham) – AEA Publicity Officer [1998-2002]
Otto Brinkemper (ROB Amersfoort) [1999-2002]
Allan Hall (York) – Chair [2000-2003]
Sabine Karg (Copenhagen) [1998-2002]
Jacqui Mulville (Oxford) – Journal Publicity Officer [1997-2001*]
Terry O'Connor (York) [1997-2001*]
Carol Palmer (Leicester) – Conference Officer [2000-2003]
Helen Smith (Bournemouth) [2000-2003]
Wendy Smith (Southampton) – Secretary [1997-2001*]

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Wendy Carruthers (Llantrisant, Wales) – Co-editor of the Newsletter
Rupert Housley (Glasgow) – Treasurer
Glynis Jones (Sheffield) – Journal Editor
Ruth Pelling (Oxford) – Membership Secretary
Vanessa Straker (Bristol) – Co-editor of the Newsletter

Nominations are sought for 3 ordinary members and for the position of AEA Secretary. Some nominations have already been received and brief personal statements by the nominees appear in this newsletter. Further nominations, however, can be received up to the time of the AGM.

Since Wendy Smith (AEA secretary) will be away on fieldwork in the weeks proceeding the AGM, please send or e-mail any nominations to the AEA Chair:

Allan Hall, Environmental Archaeology Unit, Department of Biology, University of York, PO Box 373, York YO10 5YW, UK
e-mail: biol8@york.ac.uk

It would be helpful if nominees would provide a brief statement about themselves, which can be read at the AGM as an introduction to other AEA members who may not know them.

ABSENTEE VOTING

If you cannot attend the AGM you can still vote by proxy (someone who is willing to attend the meeting). All you have to do is give a signed statement appointing whoever you wish to be your proxy to any member of the committee at any time before the AGM (and tell your proxy how you want them to vote!). If you wish, a member of the committee will act as your proxy.

Since Wendy Smith (AEA Secretary) will be away on fieldwork during the AGM, please send or e-mail proxy votes to the AEA Chair:

Allan Hall, Environmental Archaeology Unit, Department of Biology, University of York, PO Box 373, York, YO10 5YW, UK e-mail: biol8@york.ac.uk

BIOGRAPHIES OF CANDIDATES FOR AEA COMMITTEE

CANDIDATE FOR AEA SECRETARY (2001-2004)

CAROL PALMER (School of Archaeological Studies, University Of Leicester)

I am standing for election again, this time for the position of Secretary. I was elected onto the committee last year (see my 'biography' in the February 2000 Newsletter, also available on-line at <http://www.envarch.net>), but have served as conference officer since September 1998 when I was co-opted onto the committee. It is an exciting time to be on the AEA Management Committee with the establishment of the new journal, Environmental Archaeology, the launch of the AEA website, and the publication of three conference proceedings in 2000, as well as some exciting conferences venues on the horizon. I would like to continue and extend my work on the committee, this time in the position of Secretary. I currently hold a Council for British Research in the Levant Post-doctoral Fellowship, based in the School of Archaeological Studies, University of Leicester. During the past 10 years, I have conducted extensive ethnographic fieldwork in Jordan integrating observations of human behaviour with the effects of different practices on plant communities. My current research focuses on the relationship between pastoralism and agriculture in the Near East and the effects of domestic animal grazing on vegetation. I also undertake archaeobotanical research and have analysed assemblages from North Africa and Poland, as well as from a variety of sites in Britain. In 1995 I worked as a research assistant to Dr. Marijke van der Veen analysing the results from her "wheat experiment" – a project partly funded by the AEA and in

which many AEA members participated. I have published papers in volumes 1 and 2 of the AEA's journal, *Environmental Archaeology*.

CANDIDATES FOR ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS: (3 vacancies for 2001-2004)

ANDY HOWARD (School of Geography, University of Leeds)

Following a first degree in geomorphology and geology and a PhD that elucidated the Quaternary geomorphological history of the Trent Valley, I worked for Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit in the Department of Archaeology at Nottingham University. Part of this five years with the unit was spent working on the 'Trent Valley Survey', a study jointly funded by English Heritage, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire County Councils, to assess the potential, predicted location, level of preservation and threats to the survival of archaeology within the valley. Although I am still involved in work in the Trent Valley, since January 1997 I have been employed as a Research Fellow by the School of Geography at the University of Leeds. The primary aim of my research is to elucidate Pleistocene and Holocene alluvial histories, particularly in northern and eastern Britain and their relationship to climatic and cultural signals. A major part of this work has been the development of generic geomorphological approaches to the prediction of archaeological site location and preservation potential in alluvial settings and has been funded by the Leverhulme Trust. Other ongoing projects include combined geoarchaeological and archaeological field survey of southern Romanian river valleys with Dr Doug Bailey from Cardiff University. I have published in a range of journals including *Antiquity*, *Journal of Quaternary Science* and I am currently co-editing a book on the 'Alluvial Archaeology of NW Europe and the Mediterranean' following a highly successful conference held in Leeds at the end of 2000. As well as the AEA, I am a member of the British Geomorphological Research Group, CBA, Geologist's Association, Quaternary Research Association and WARP. River valleys are important sediment traps and exposures within any valley floor normally produce materials of interest to environmental archaeologists. My geomorphological background, continual liaison with a number of members of the AEA community, and experience of both the commercial and academic communities would provide sympathetic diversification and strengthening of the AEA committee membership.

TIM MIGHALL (Centre for Quaternary Science, Coventry University)

I am Senior Lecturer in Geography and a member of the Centre for Quaternary Science at Coventry University. Whilst at Keele University, I gained a BSc honours degree in Geography and Geology and completed a PhD titled 'Palaeoecological aspects of early mining and metalworking in upland Wales.' My main research interests include reconstructing atmospheric metal pollution histories using ombrotrophic peat bogs and to determine the impact of mining and metalworking on vegetation using pollen analysis. In particular, this research continues to focus on some of the Bronze Age copper mines discovered in Wales and Ireland but also includes mines and metalworking sites in northern Britain, Italy and the USA that date from the Iron Age onwards. I joined the AEA in the late 1980s and I have presented papers at AEA conferences in Bradford, Birmingham and Guildford. Now I would also like the opportunity to use my academic experience to the best benefit of the AEA.

RUTH PELLING (Oxford University Museum of Natural History)

I received my first degree at the University of Manchester (1988-1991) and went on to work as a site supervisor for Cambridgeshire County Council, Archaeology Section. I then went on to take a Master's degree in Environmental Archaeology and Palaeoeconomy from the University of Sheffield (1992-1993), where my dissertation was on archaeobotanical material from Dun Vulan, South Uist, Scotland. After the Master's degree, I worked as a freelance archaeobotanist based at the University of Edinburgh (1993-1994), and then as an archaeobotanical assistant/freelance archaeobotanist at the University of Leicester, with Dr. Marijke van der Veen (1994-1995). Since 1995, I have been working at the Oxford University

Museum of Natural History on British, Italian and North African (Egyptian & Libyan) archaeobotanical material. In October 2000 I was co-opted to the AEA managing committee as the AEA Membership Secretary and I have recently published a short contribution with Mark Robinson in *Environmental Archaeology*, volume 5. Although I am happy to carry on as a co-opted member of the AEA committee, my role is long-term and I would welcome the opportunity to be a fully elected member of the AEA committee.

CANDIDATE FOR 2 YEAR ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBER VACANCY

NOTE OF EXPLANATION TO MEMBERS: If Carol Palmer is elected AEA secretary (this is a separately elected position) her role as an elected ordinary committee member for 2001-2003 would fall vacant. Rupert Housley has agreed to stand for election to fill this vacancy, should Carol be elected AEA secretary.

RUPERT HOUSLEY (Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow)

I am currently Lecturer in Archaeological Science in the Department of Archaeology of the University of Glasgow, a post I have held since 1995. I received my first degree at the University of Leicester followed by a Master's degree in Environmental Archaeology – primarily archaeobotany – at the University of Southampton. After a brief spell undertaking freelance environmental work, I moved on to PhD research in the Sub-department for Quarternary Research and the Department of Archaeology in the University of Cambridge. My doctoral work centred on investigating the palaeoenvironmental history of the Glastonbury Lake Village and was completed in 1986. The work in Somerset was followed by a brief period with the Somerset Levels Project before moving to Oxford where, from 1987 to 1995, I was Senior Archaeologist with the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit. The post entailed liaising with the archaeological user community within the UK and abroad to ensure the best use was made of the radiocarbon facility. I have been a member of the AEA since 1983 and currently I am the co-opted AEA Treasurer, a post he has held since 1996. In 2001 I will be jointly organising the AEA's Annual Conference in Glasgow and if elected will continue to serve as the Association's Treasurer.

DISCOUNT ON SUBSCRIPTION TO THE JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE FOR AEA MEMBERS

The AEA has arranged for a discounted subscription rate to the *Journal of Archaeological Science* for members. For 2001, the discounted subscription rate will be £65 (\$99). To obtain the discounted rate, you must apply to Ruth Pelling (Membership Secretary), Association for Environmental Archaeology, c/o Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PW, UK (e-mail: ruth.pelling@oum.ox.ac.uk) for proof of AEA membership. Once you have received your letter (or e-mailed document) confirming AEA membership in 2001, you can post this to Harcourt, the publishers of JAS, with the following information:

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ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY: COMPILED ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2000

.	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Assets at start of year:	.	.	.	.	.
Bank account balances	8458.08	12,535.09	9156.84	6396.44	6124.08
Cash	12.02	10.46	6.40	19.40	20.37
.
Income:	.	.	.	.	.
Subscriptions	4550.50	5932.00	6096.00	5764.00	6713.50
Books, inc. Journal back nos.	2006.82	1242.39	1429.25	961.98	1542.80
Interest (minus bank/credit card charges)	358.11	186.11	306.08	46.31	156.96
Meetings, NL flyers	67.78	527.25	0	20.00	952.00
Misc. (donations, grants)	0	1000.00	0	40.00	0
income subtotal	6983.21	8887.75	7831.33	6832.29	9365.26
Initial assets and income, excluding books in stock:	15,453.31	21,433.30	16,994.57	13,248.13	15,509.71
.
Expenditure:	.	.	.	.	.
Office, stationery	156.49	174.86	66.00	64.53	100.87
IFA poster space and display boards	0	0	0	0	0
Committee, membership leaflet	67.50	5.00	0	332.40	376.20
CBA & Data Protection fee	48.00	125.00	50.00	50.00	60.00
Grants & Conference loans	300.00	0	0	808.00	226.00
Newsletter production & postage	1387.77	1189.07	1101.80	1234.75	1698.15
Web page	0	0	0	0	457.20
Journal production & postage	0	10,311.80 (Cir 11.2, 12.1)	8709.93 (Cir 12.1, EA1, EA2)	3692.00 (EA3)	3635 (EA4)
Books	948.00	470.87	651.00	922.00	1724.75
subtotal expenditure	2907.76	12,276.60	10,578.73	7103.68	8278.17
.
Assets at end of year:	.	.	.	.	.

Bank accounts	12,535.09	9156.84	6396.44	6124.08	7231.54
Cash	10.46	6.40	19.40	20.37	1.24
Expenditure and final assets, excluding books in stock:	12,545.55	9163.24	6415.84	6144.45	7232.78

PEOPLE

Dr Robert Van de Noort, formerly the Director of the Centre for Wetland Archaeology at the University of Hull, has taken up a post as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Archaeology, School of Geography & Archaeology at the University of Exeter. Robert will continue his work as Director of the English Heritage funded Humber Wetlands Project and Excavations at the Iron Age site at Sutton Common, South Yorkshire. He is also developing new research on wetlands and contributing to the Department's teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, in particular to the MSc/MA in Wetland Archaeology and Environments.

CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

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

Academic Programme

Provisional List of Speakers and Posters

Thursday

1. Geraint Coles and Rupert Housley (edinburgh and Glasgow) Introduction
2. Tom McGovern (CUNY, NABO) NABO overview
3. Heiner Josenhans, Robert Ferguson and David Keenlyside (Canada) Drowned forests and early humans in the Gulf of St Lawrence and north shore of Prince Edward Island
4. M. A. P. Renouf and Trevor Bell (Newfoundland) Linking archaeology and palaeo-landscape at Port au Choix, NW Newfoundland

Coffee

1. Chris Caseldine, Mark Dinnin, Dawn Hendon and Peter Langdon (Exeter) The Holocene flora and entomofauna of Iceland
2. Ingrid Mainland (Bradford) Ovicaprine diet and management in Norse Greenland
3. Cynthia Zutter and Julie Ross (Edmonton and Toronto) What goes in must come out: comparing animal husbandry practices in Iceland and Greenland
4. Kevin P. Smith and Michele M. Hayeur-Smith (Buffalo and Glasgow) Ferrous and non-ferrous metalworking in early medieval Iceland: the social and environmental impacts of small-scale industry in a colonising context

Lunch

Session on Human Impacts and Landscape Change in Mývatn Region N Iceland:

1. Tom McGovern (CUNY, NABO) Historical Ecology in Iceland and the ÍMA Program
2. Adolf Fridriksson & Orri Vésteinsson (FSÍ), Landscapes of Settlement Project Overview

3. Anthony Newton et al. (Edinburgh) Tephra and Dating
4. Clayton Tinsley (NORSEC) Zooarchaeology of Mývatn
5. Karen Milek (Cambridge) Organisation and maintenance of domestic space in Viking Age Iceland

Tea

1. Ian A. Simpson, W. Paul Adderley and Clare Peters (Stirling and Edinburgh) Fuel resource utilisation in landscapes of settlement, northern Iceland
2. Amanda Thomson and Ian A. Simpson (Stirling) Grazing management and land degradation in pre-modern Iceland: an historical environmental model
3. Andy Dugmore et al. (Edinburgh) Landscape Change in the Mývatn area
4. Orri Vésteinsson (FSI) Settlement Patterns and Human Landscape Development

Friday

1. Richard Tipping, Eileen Tisdall and Althea Davies (Stirling) Holocene climatic variability and human settlement in the Scottish highlands: fragility and robustness
2. Andrew Hoan (Dumfries) To be announced
3. Catherine Flitcroft, Melanie Johnson and Geraint Coles (Edinburgh) The Calanais fields; form and function
4. W. Paul Adderley and Ian A. Simpson (Stirling) Cultural land-use interpretations from quantitative examination of soils formed by historical manuring practices

Coffee

1. Niall Sharples (Cardiff) Material culture in South Uist: exploitation over 3000 years
2. Helen Smith (Bournemouth) Resource management in the Western Isles
3. Jacqui Mulville (Oxford) Red deer in the Highlands and Islands
4. Clare Peters (Edinburgh) Investigation of fire ash residues using mineral magnetism; with applications to the northern Isles of Scotland
5. Claus Malmros (National Museum Denmark) Analysis of local and exotic wood in the Viking and early medieval ages on the Faroe and Shetland islands

Lunch

Session on Old Scatness, Shetland:

1. Stephen J. Dockrill and C. M. Batt (Bradford) Power over time: an overview of the Old Scatness Broch excavations
2. Julie M. Bond, Ian A. Simpson and Erika Guttman (Bradford and Stirling) Bringing in the sheaves – farming intensification in the post-broch Iron Age
3. Val Turner, Ian A. Simpson and Erika Guttman (Shetland and Stirling) Form and function in Shetland prehistoric field systems
4. Lisa D. Brown and Carl P. Heron (Bradford) Exploring links: marine resources and ceramics from Old Scatness
5. Lawrence B. Malcolmson, Helen Bowstead Stallybrass and Stephen J. Dockrill (Bradford) Set in stone: experimental construction of a wheelhouse

Tea

Session on Bostdh

1. Andrian Tams (Edinburgh) To be announced
2. Ruby Ceron-Curasco (Edinburgh) To be announced
3. Michael Church (Edinburgh) To be announced
4. Jennifer Toms (Edinburgh) To be announced

Saturday

1. Anne Tresset (Paris) Linking Britain/Ireland to the Continent through zooarchaeology: the introduction of domestic animals and Neolithic husbandry in NW Europe
2. Nicky Whitehouse (Belfast) Origins and development of the Irish Invertebrate biota over the Holocene

3. Peter Woodman (Cork) Island colonization, the Irish Case : not with a bang but a whimper
4. Susan Haynes, Jeremy Searle and Keith Dobney (York and Durham) New evidence for the colonisation history of the Orkney vole (*Microtus arvalis orcadensis*): a proxy for reconstructing the origins of early human settlers in Orkney

Coffee

1. James Barrett (York) Viking Age marine resource exploitation in NW Europe: secular trade, stochastic noise and historical contingency
2. Nigel Melton (Bradford) Cod and ships: Scottish merchant activity in southern Shetland in the 17th century
3. Anton Ervynck, Wim Van Neer and Marnix Pieters (Zellik and Teruren) How the north was won: the development and evolution of the Flemish North Atlantic fishery
4. Rebecca Nicholson (Bradford) Prehistoric fishing in the northern isles: the evolution of a stored product

Lunch

1. Paul Davies and Simon K. Haslett (Bath) Comings and goings on the Atlantic seaboard of SW Britain: the effects of sea-level change on resource availability within inter-tidal areas
2. Vanessa Straker and Jeanette Ratcliffe (Bristol and Truro) One giant leap: speculation on Scilly's changing seascape and landscape
3. Jan Light (RHBNC, London) Holed cockleshells as occasional finds in shell middens: an example from a Romano-British site in north Cornwall
4. Benedict Lowe (Durham) Economy, environment and the exploitation of marine resources on the Atlantic coast of NW Spain
5. Dennis Smirnov (Murmansk) The evidence for prehistoric maritime cultures in European Arctic: an outline of the relations between their development and environmental change

Tea

1. Amanda Foster and Julie M. Bond (Bradford) North Atlantic networks: preliminary research into the trade of soapstone in the Viking period
2. Carol A. Christiansen (Manchester) Cloth manufacture and the composition of loomweight kits from Shetland
3. Carl Challinor (Bradford) Butter as an economic resource in the northern Isles

Posters

1. Katie Boyle (Cambridge) Seal hunting at the neolithic coastal site of Er Yoh, Brittany, France
2. Rupert Housley, Ewan Campbell, Jennifer Miller and Susan Ramsey (Glasgow) Human impact and land-use associated with the early medieval royal centre of Dunadd, Kilmartin, Argyll
3. Ingrid Mainland (Bradford) Mucking about with middens: a multivariate analysis of the mammalian assemblage from the Earl's Bu, a Viking /Late Norse settlement in Orkney
4. R. Nicholson and P. Barber (Bradford) Archaeological finds of the house mouse *Mus musculus* and the field mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus* on Shetland: a review of the date of introduction
5. Newton & Dugmore (Edinburgh) From the Mesolithic to the Norse: ocean-rafted pumice and connections in the North
6. Newton & Dugmore (Edinburgh) Tephra applications in archaeology
7. Newton & McGovern (Edinburgh and CUNY) NABO Web-based Data Products
8. Sophia Perdikaris (?) NABO Education Program
9. Colin P. Amundsen (?) Reconstructing *Gadus morhua* from eastern Canada
10. NABO - the NABONE Projects (samples and computer demonstration)
11. NABO - Digital Osteology Products (samples and computer demonstration)
12. Briana J. Myers (CUNY) Zooarchaeology of Tjarnargata 3c, Reykjavik, Iceland
13. Jette Arneborg and Dorte Veien Christiansen (Copenhagen) Norse Greenland Trade

See also the conference website at <http://super3.arcl.ed.ac.uk/atlantic/> for the latest

information

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.

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

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

Conference Secretary

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

email: j.duncan@archaeology.gla.ac.uk

12TH SYMPOSIUM OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORK GROUP FOR PALAEOETHNOBOTANY

Sheffield, UK, 17-23 June 2001

Local organisers

Dr Glynis Jones & Dr Mike Charles – email: iwgp@sheffield.ac.uk

Final registration form should be returned by 28th February 2001

See the IWGP website – <http://www.shef.ac.uk/uni/academic/A-C/ap/conf/iwgp/iwgp.html> for conference details & registration form

CONFERENCE REPORTS

AEA meeting with the Yorkshire Museum and the Centre for Human Palaeoecology, University of York, York, 25th October 2000

The AEA one-day meeting was held in association with the Yorkshire Museum, where Phil Manning, the Keeper of Geology, started off the day with an energetic welcome. As described in the directions for getting to the meeting, the Museum is currently 'over-run with dinosaurs', and dinosaurs, unusually for an AEA meeting, also made an appearance during the day (more of which below).

After some welcoming comments from Allan Hall, the chair of the morning's session, the meeting began with a paper on recent archaeobotanical work at Çatalhöyük in the Konya Basin. Andy Fairburn gave some background to the site and the current excavations directed by Ian Hodder, but mostly concentrated on the rich plant remains themselves. These remains derive from a variety of activities: cultivation, both from dryland and, potentially, 'irrigated' situations (or rather, 'transitional drained settings' along the wetland edge); burning dung as fuel; gathered resources such as *Scirpus maritimus* tubers; basketry and matting; plants used in construction; and those used as votive deposits in some of the graves that underlie the site's famous plaster floors. Some of the richest remains come from midden contexts considered to derive from stabled animals, though untangling the many means by which the material arrived in the midden and what happened to it once it got there, is an interesting issue. Appropriately for a paper presented in a museum, Andy also discussed how the results are being visually represented by the site's artist in order to communicate the results to the interested public. Picking-up on the midden theme, though moving somewhat further north in geographical terms, Terry O'Connor described new research being undertaken with James Barrett, also of the University of York, at Evertaft, on the island of Westray in the Orkneys. Heavy skies of the same hue as the two midden deposits crumbling from the wind-battered beach section were a strong feature of the presentation. A single C14 sample has given an unexpected pre-Norse date for the lower midden deposits, but discussion focused on the remarkable build-up of rather more recent sediment at the top of the profile, and whether or not this was connected to the infield of a nearby croft. Future work at the site has to be considered in light of its remote location, the friability of the shell sand, and the presence of nesting fulmars!

In the final paper of the short morning session, Ceinwen Paynton described her work as the Finds Liaison Officer for Yorkshire, based at the Yorkshire Museum. Since the launch of the pilot scheme called 'Finding our Past' in September 1997, she has recorded approximately 12,000 'portable antiquities' (small objects over 300 years old that can be held in the hand). The scheme was initiated in response to an estimated 400,000 unrecorded objects a year discovered by non-professionals in England and Wales. She is working principally with people reporting copper alloy metal-detected objects, though she had some more spectacular metal finds to show too. The immediate implications of her work for environmental archaeology were perhaps less obvious than the implications for archaeology and its public perception in general. This work is surely to be applauded, however, for the way in which it brings together public and professional interests.

The afternoon session, chaired by Terry O'Connor, began with a paper by Peter Cundill, St. Andrews University, who every month for the past 20 years has collected pollen samples from planted, mostly pine, woodland at Morton Lochs, Fife. The original intention of the work was to test the design of a new pollen trap (which clearly worked!), but was then continued. The paper was also of interest for the insight it gave on modern forestry management, recent changes in agriculture and the impact of Dutch Elm Disease. Many of these changes could be traced in the pollen diagram, including the loss of elms and the introduction of oil-seed rape. Interestingly, an episode of willow clearance had a less pronounced impact on the pollen record than might be expected and pine pollen levels were relatively low throughout. Continuing the woodland theme, Jeff Blackford presented new research on the use of fungal spores to help identify phases of burning and grazing, specifically in the Mesolithic period, that are normally identified from pollen and charcoal evidence. This research builds on the earlier palynological work of J. B. Innes who, in the 1980s, examined the palynological evidence for Mesolithic woodland burning from sites in the North York Moors. Blackford is re-examining Innes' slides for their fungal spore content. This research breaks such new ground that the modern ecology and distribution of the spore types remain to be established. Indeed, many of the spores themselves are simply known as numbered types.

Sarah Clark, from Sheffield University, presented important new research on the Holocene fossil Coleopteran record in North East Scotland, an area that has been the subject of palynological investigation, but is unknown in terms of her field of study. Here, the familiar ecological tragedy of extensive peat extraction and drainage is contributing to the necessity and urgency of the work, and one of her aims is to develop a management strategy for the area. Archaeologically, the study already promises some interesting new evidence and insights, most notably she has identified the elm bark beetle, *Scolytus scolytus*, the carrier of the fungus linked to Dutch elm disease. Andy Hammon, also from Sheffield University, next described the preliminary zooarchaeological results from Dichin, a late Roman and early Byzantine settlement in Bulgaria. This site and the nearby site of Nicopolis-ad-Istrum contained a higher proportion of pig remains, relative to cattle, compared with other late Roman sites to the north, but the most striking feature of the assemblage was the variety and quantity of wild species recorded. There is a suggestion that the relatively higher pork production at Dichin and Nicopolis-ad-Istrum, and the higher exploitation of game and wildfowl, may relate to the high status (and less military nature) of their late Roman inhabitants (Mark Beech pers. comm.).

After tea, Phil Manning gave a truly 21st century computerised presentation on dinosaur pathologies. We were treated to video clips from the BBC's *Walking with Dinosaurs* series. Based on their pathological conditions, predatory dinosaurs, such as the Jurassic theropod *Allosaurus fragilis* and, from the Cretaceous, *Tyrannosaurus rex*, certainly seem to have led vigorous lives when compared with their herbivorous relatives. His presentation was based on a programme for the next television series, once again emphasised the increasingly close relationship between research and media funding. It is interesting to note that skeletal pathological conditions identified in more recent humans seem to have similar manifestations in extinct Dinosaurs.

Such a technological and visual feat is a difficult act to follow, but one of the most stimulating papers of the day was the final paper, presented by Richard Thomas from Birmingham University. Using the metrical data from a large collection of animal bones from Dudley Castle in the West Midlands he looked for evidence of the 'Agricultural Revolution'. He swiftly guided us through his statistical data and demonstrated that the only significant change in the size of domestic animals (cattle, sheep, pig and chicken) occurred in the fourteenth century. Rather than arguing for a very early 'Agricultural Revolution', taking the boundary back even further than has been argued recently for some fifteenth-century assemblages, Richard suggested that the change reflects specific local changes in supply and management. At this time the Castle, it seems, passed to another side of the family due to the lack of a male heir. The new owners seem to have favoured different husbandry practices or different sources for their

animals, so the notion of a sudden 'Revolution' was brought severely into doubt.

The day was well attended with approximately 60 participants and the variety of the papers surely provided 'something for everyone'. It was impressive how the speakers balanced detail, including the notoriously difficult to digest (never-mind see on the screen) pollen diagrams and species lists, with their broader aims and insights. The involvement of the Museum also introduced the interesting dimension of presenting the results of research to a wider audience and the possible contributions that that audience can make. Allan Hall, Terry O'Connor, The Centre for Human Palaeoecology at the University of York, and the Yorkshire Museum are to be thanked for organising such a stimulating and enjoyable day.

Carol Palmer

School of Archaeological Studies, University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH

COURSES & STUDENTSHIPS

POSTGRADUATE COURSE: Training Opportunities in Geoarchaeology

Applications are invited for MSc Geoarchaeology at Reading University. Four NERC studentships are available for this course. The course provides a thorough grounding in the underlying principles and methods of earth sciences and their application in archaeology and palaeoenvironmental studies. Field and laboratory techniques are given particular emphasis through practical projects within the taught part of the course, an eight day conducted fieldclass and a dissertation. There is also a particular emphasis on the archaeological assessment of ancient landscapes buried within sediment sequences. The course is designed to meet the growing needs of commercial and heritage organisations in relation to environmental assessments and field projects. It also provides research skills for those wishing to undertake further PhD research.

The course involves collaboration between the Departments of Archaeology, The Postgraduate Research Institute for Sedimentology and the Department of Soil Science. This collaboration means that there is a range of specialist teaching available including:- Prof J.R.L. Allen (coastal geoarchaeology); Prof B. Alloway (metal contaminants); Dr M. Bell (archaeological sediments and mollusca); Dr Stuart Black (Quaternary and dating); Prof M. Coleman (isotopic aspects); Dr J. Creighton (geophysics); Dr P. Dark (palynology); Prof B. Sellwood (building stone); Dr S. Manning (dating and volcanism); Dr W. Matthews (micromorphology).

Core courses are: Geoarchaeology: principles and practice; Field methods; Geoarchaeology: laboratory methods; Archaeological sediments and biological evidence; Research methods; Soils; Fieldcourse. In addition students take two options from a wide choice.

For further information visit the course website: <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/AcaDepts/la/Arch>

Copies of the course handbook etc available from: Dr Martin Bell, Department of Archaeology, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 218, Reading RG6 6AA. E-mail

RESEARCH STUDENTSHIP: SUBMERGED FORESTS

Project- The submerged forests of the Severn Estuary: a plant macrofossil study

This studentship is part of a NERC Research Project on Mesolithic to Neolithic coastal environmental change c6500-3500 Cal BC: integrating the role and chronology of human

agency and natural disturbance factors.

The successful candidate will be registered for a three year postgraduate degree in the Archaeology Department, Reading University.

Subject to appropriate progress being made this will be upgraded to a PhD. The research topic will include wood (tree-ring studies), charcoal, seed and other macrofossil identification to establish the nature of coastal woodland and the effects of disturbance factors upon it. Other members of the project team are covering pollen, sediments, radiocarbon dating and dendrochronology and there will be opportunities to compare the macrofossils with these other sources of evidence. Research supervisors will be Dr M. Bell and Dr P. Dark.

Candidates should have an appropriate first degree, normally 2i or above. Candidates should preferably have a knowledge of the botanical aspects of environmental archaeology or Quaternary science.

NERC funded postgraduate studentships currently pay 6800 pounds in stipend, plus university fee.

Further information and an application form can be obtained from Dr M. Bell, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences, Whiteknights, PO Box 218, Reading, RG6 6AA or E-mail: m.g.bell@reading.ac.uk. It is hoped that the successful candidate will be able to start on 1.4.01.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

"Is boxwood native to Britain?"

I am a graduate student from Exeter University currently researching "Roman Domestic Wood". A number of the artefacts I deal with e.g. combs and pyxides were made in boxwood, and some may have been manufactured here in Britain. I have been trying to establish whether boxwood is native to this country and could therefore have been ready for exploitation in Roman times. I have some evidence but it is not conclusive. I would be grateful for additional information covering finds of pollen and wood from prehistoric contexts."

Paola Pugsley
email: p.pugley@exeter.ac.uk
tel/fax 0044 1884 38268

Re: Neolithic plant remains

As an MA graduate in archaeology and landscape studies, I am currently considering the possibility of doing a PhD on food and agriculture in Neolithic Britain. This research would be conducted under the supervision of Dr. Marijke Van der Veen, School of Archaeological Studies, University of Leicester.

I was wondering whether your organization has any samples of Neolithic plant remains that I could analyse, with a view to using this data in my thesis.

With thanks,

Lucy Farr
School of Archaeological Studies, University of Leicester, LE1 7RH
email: LRF2@le.ac.uk

PUBLICATIONS

We are very grateful to James Greig for his publication list, and to Simcha Lev-Yadun for sending us a copy of his paper. James writes:

"Thanks to Anne Crone, Jim Dickson, Julian Wiethold and W. van Zeist for sending in references. Further references are always very welcome, email: greigjira@bham.ac.uk."

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