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AEA website <http://www.envarch.net/>

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EDITORIAL

This edition of the Newsletter contains information about the autumn conference in Poznan, Poland, and preliminary details about next years spring meeting in Cardiff. We would like to thank to Tim Mighall for sending us a report on the Cork Conference and would be grateful for offers to report on the Poznan Conference. **Please note** the call for nominations to the AEA Managing Committee. Please submit nominations before the deadline of the next Newsletter, 20th July.

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

NOMINATIONS TO THE AEA MANAGING COMMITTEE

The AEA Managing Committee seeks nominations for **three ordinary committee members and the positions of Chair and Treasurer** (five vacancies altogether, each a four-year position).

Elections will be held at the AEA AGM, which is to be held during the conference at Poznan in **September 2007**.

The AEA Managing Committee usually meets four times a year (usually in April, July, October and January). The main items of business discussed are the organisation of conferences, and the publication of conference monographs and the Journal, as well as issues relating to the Newsletter, Website maintenance and membership. **Nominees must be current AEA members.**

The role of Chair

The Chair of the Managing Committee's role is largely to chair meetings of the committee and to chair the AGM of the Association. He/she checks and agrees the minutes of meetings prepared by the Secretary and is also involved in agreeing agendas for forthcoming meetings. Alongside the AEA Secretary, he/she acts as a channel for many communications to/from the Association.

The role of Treasurer

The position of AEA Treasurer entails a number of duties, some of which only take place annually whilst others involve action on a regular basis. On a day-to-day basis the job involves keeping detailed records of all payments received (membership subscriptions, book sales, etc.) and of all transactions going out (journal and newsletter costs, Webpage maintenance, etc). The Treasurer is responsible for making payments into the bank and for checking monthly statements. All payments by cheque have to originate from the Treasurer and the post involves close liaison with the Membership Secretary, in particular, and other committee members. The Treasurer will also at times have to prepare brief summaries of the financial position of the AEA for Committee meetings when important decisions involving significant expenditure are being discussed. Annually, the Treasurer is responsible for preparing the accounts of the Association and reporting the financial position to the AGM. The post would suit an organised, responsible person with a reasonable feel for finances and good attention to detail.

To make your nomination

Any AEA member can make a nomination, but this must be seconded. A brief personal statement from the nominee (which implicitly indicates the nominee's willingness to stand) should accompany nominations. This can be received by e-mail or regular mail. This statement will be published in the August Newsletter or, if received afterwards, posted at the AGM.

Nominations can be received up to the time of the AGM, although the committee would like to encourage members to submit nominations before the August Newsletter deadline (**20th July 2007**).

Nominations and personal statements can be e-mailed or posted to the AEA Secretary, Meriel McClatchie.

Please note the new contact details for Meriel McClatchie below.

E-mail: meriel.mcclatchie@gmail.com

Postal address: 40 Tournore Court, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, Republic of Ireland.

Current committee details can be found at:

<http://www.envarch.net/aea/committee.html>

The AEA constitution is also on the AEA website:

<http://www.envarch.net/aea/constitution.html>

JOURNAL

***Environmental Archaeology* 12.1**

Paid-up members should now have received the latest edition of the Journal. If you have not received your copy, please contact the Membership Secretary, Nicki Whitehouse (n.whitehouse@qub.ac.uk), in order to check your membership status.

Submission of articles to *Environmental Archaeology*

Please send your new submissions to:

Dr Ingrid Mainland, Co-ordinating Editor of *Environmental Archaeology*, Department of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford, Bradford, BD7 1DP, UK. Tel: +44 [0]1274 23 3541; Fax: +44 [0]1274235190;

E-mail: i.l.mainland@bradford.ac.uk

Guidelines for authors are available from:

www.maney.co.uk/journals/env

Submission is open to everyone but papers from members of the AEA are particularly welcome!

TAX RELIEF FOR UK-BASED MEMBERS

Good news for UK-based AEA members! The UK Inland Revenue has approved the AEA's application for tax relief in respect of Annual Membership subscriptions. The AEA's name will now appear on the Inland Revenue's list of approved bodies when it is updated later this year. Until then UK members wishing to claim their AEA subscription as a tax allowance will need to explain to local Inspectors of Taxes that the Association has only recently been approved and they should quote the Inland Revenue Head Office reference, which is available from the AEA Secretary, Meriel McClatchie (meriel.mcclatchie@gmail.com).

20% DISCOUNT ON NEW MANEY TITLES NOW AVAILABLE!

Maney Publishing has recently acquired two journals: *Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites* (www.maney.co.uk/journals/cma) and *Public Archaeology* (www.maney.co.uk/journals/pua). Individual members of the Association for Environmental Archaeology are now invited to take out a subscription to the 2007 volume of one or both of these journals at an introductory discount of 20%; *Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites*: ~~£60.00~~ £48.00 and *Public Archaeology*: ~~£50.00~~ £40.00. To take advantage of this special offer, please subscribe online at www.maney.co.uk; or contact Maney Customer Sales and Services by telephoning +44 (0)113 386 8168 or emailing subscriptions@maney.co.uk.

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

AEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE POZNAN, POLAND September 12th-15th, 2007

The Association for Environmental Archaeology (AEA) invites participation in the annual conference, to be held September 12-15, 2007 in Poznan, Poland on **Eurasian Perspectives on Environmental Archaeology**.

The 2007 AEA Annual Conference is organized and hosted by Polish Association for Environmental Archaeology (*Stowarzyszenie Archeologii Srodowiskowej SAS*) along with International Research Center for Japanese Studies (IRCS) in Kyoto, German Archaeological Institute – Eurasia Department in Berlin, Institute of Geological Sciences - Palaeontology Branch of Freier Universität in Berlin, as well as Archaeological Museum in Poznan and Archaeological Museum in Biskupin.

This AEA conference, held for the first time in Eastern Europe, is intended to provide a forum for discussion on recent research in Environmental Archaeology in the broad context of temperate areas of Eurasia. The focus will be on the following themes: the development of cultural landscapes of northern Eurasia through a long-time perspective, cultural and environmental diversity, dynamics of climate and vegetation as a background for cultural processes. We would call for new research results from the area within geo- and bioarchaeological studies carried out on archaeological sites and off-site studies as well as papers on recent progress in palaeoenvironmental reconstruction methods.

We are kindly inviting presentations (20-25 minutes) and posters from palaeoenvironmentalists and archaeologists working in Western and Eastern Europe, and northern Asia as areas of former Soviet Union, Mongolia, China or Japan.

Provisional session titles:

- *Human culture and environment in the Atlantic regions of western and northern Europe.*
- *Development of cultural landscape in the forest zone of central and Eastern Europe.*
- *Man and environment in monsoonal East Asia.*
- *Man and environment in arid and semi-arid areas of northern Eurasia.*
- *Progress in paleoenvironmental reconstruction methods and environmental archaeology*
- *Laminated lake sediments and environmental archaeology of northern Eurasia.*
- *Current research*

The conference venue will be Gorka Palace – the seat of Archaeological Museum in Poznan with conference papers to be held September 12th and 13th.

The official conference language is English.

The Conference will be followed by a two-day excursion (September 14th and 15th) to Wielkopolska (Great Poland). The main Slavic sites (Poznan, Sorrow Lednicki, Gniezno and Kaldus) that date to the Early Medieval period and associated with the origins of Polish State will be visited. We will also travel to the fortified settlement in Biskupin, dating from the transitional period of the Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age, one of the best-known environmental archaeological reserves in central Europe. At the archaeological sites issues of environmental studies will be discussed. A guidebook will accompany the conference field trip.

Deadline for Abstracts (Papers and Posters): 31 July 2007

Abstracts should be 1-4 pages in length, including figures and bibliography if appropriate. The abstracts will be included in a conference book. Please send them to the contact address below.

Further information concerning the costs of accommodation, conference fee, preliminary schedule of the conference and travel along with registration forms will shortly be available on the AEA website.

Contact address: Miroslaw Makohonienko, E-mail makoho@amu.edu.pl
(Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan, Institute of Palaeogeography and Geoecology UAM, Dziegielowa 27,
61-680 Poznan, Poland. Tel. +48-61-829 6215)

**AEA Meeting
Saturday March 1st 2008
Cardiff University**

Unconsidered Trifles? Environmental Archaeology at a Small Scale

The 2008 [Association of Environmental Archaeology](#) Day meeting is to be held on Saturday 1st March (*St. David's Day*) at Cardiff University. The theme for the conference is the *little things in life* that fill the majority of peoples' lives and how these intersect with larger events.

Archaeology has many grand narratives covering huge sweeps of time, mass accumulations of individuals and materials. Whilst an increasing interest in identifying smaller acts of 'ritual' significance has resulted in a greater understanding of more distinctive patterns in archaeological accumulations – the smaller scale practises of daily life remain largely unconsidered. As a science based discipline the need for valid sample sizes coupled to the cost of fine-grained analyses often result in an agglomeration of data that produces unrealistic archaeological results (e.g. considering hundreds or thousands of years as one cultural event). By examining what can be achieved through a detailed consideration of small scale acts different tales can be told about the human experience in the past. This conference seeks papers that explore the minor and intimate stories in environmental archaeology: the domestic and the mundane experiences that are played out on a daily, monthly, yearly or lifetime cycle and the effects that individual events have on people and places in the past.

Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

- Understanding time in archaeological contexts: Discrete acts and practises
- Preservation and storage, cooking, consumption and cleaning
- Animal, human and plant biographies
- Daily and seasonal hunting, arable and pastoral activities
- Individuals, families and groups

Proposals for papers are invited by email to: aea2008@cardiff.ac.uk Proposal outlines should include a 300 word abstract for a 20 minute paper and must be submitted by **30th November 2007**. Individual poster proposals are also very much welcomed by **30th November 2007**.

Registration information is forthcoming and a small fee will be necessary to cover costs. Please send any questions or queries to aea2008@cardiff.ac.uk. For further, up-to-date information on registration, accommodation, amenities and travel, please consult the Association for Environmental Archaeology Meeting web pages at the [Cardiff University Archaeology and Conservation Website](#).

SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT:

Living Landscapes: Exploring Neolithic Ireland and its Wider Context

Venue: Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast

Date: Thursday 31st May - Friday 1st June 2007

Registration fee: £10 (students, unwaged/retired), £20 (waged)

For the Neolithic of Ireland and Britain, the main focus for many years has been on the highly visible ritual monuments that in large part define the period. Far less is known concerning the domestic landscape, and people's daily lives. This is in contrast to the Neolithic of continental Europe, where

settlements have tended to receive more emphasis. However, over the last decade in Ireland in particular, the discovery of an ever-increasing number of apparently domestic structures has provided the opportunity to better situate the domestic landscape, and to learn something of its nature. While the houses themselves have been the subject of a number of studies, there is still little understanding of how the landscapes immediately surrounding them were utilised. Recently, stable isotope studies of human bone have been used to argue for an abrupt and more or less complete shift towards new domesticated plants and animals from the outset of the Neolithic, carrying with it the implication of a significant, though perhaps localised, impact on the environment. To what extent can this impact be traced, and can more detail be provided on the balance between cereals and domestic animals? How intensively were cereal plots maintained, and over what duration? What impact did the new domestic animals have on the environment – an especially germane question in the context of Ireland, with its apparent absence of large grazing mammals. How did these practices change over the duration of the Neolithic? What was the appearance of this landscape and how might it have been perceived? This seminar will address these themes, including papers that have an Irish emphasis, as well as those that seek to draw attention to the similarities or dissimilarities between Ireland, Britain and continental Europe.

Further information is available at <http://www.qub.ac.uk/gap> (please follow links)

FINAL DATE FOR REGISTRATION: 14th May 2007

Seminar organisers:

Nicki J. Whitehouse¹, Rick Schulting² and Meriel McClatchie³

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BABAO CONFERENCE

The **9th Annual Conference of the British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology** (BABAO) will be held at the Department of Archaeology, University of Reading between Friday 14th and Sunday 16th September 2007.

The conference is open to both members and non-members: students, professionals and the public alike. Papers are invited for inclusion in three themed sessions as well as an 'open' session in which papers and posters on any topic can be presented. The titles of the themed sessions are:

- [Ethical, Scientific and Cultural Issues in the Repatriation of Human Remains](#)
- [The Patter of Tiny Feet: the bioarchaeology of infants and children](#)
- [Mortuary Matters: the cultural aspects of death and disposal](#)

Registration details, conference arrangements, session abstracts and guidelines for abstract submission are available from the BABAO website www.babao.org.uk. Abstracts for spoken or poster presentations should be sent by email to m.e.lewis@reading.ac.uk

The deadline for abstract submission is: **Wednesday 1st August**. Please note: late conference booking fee applies after **15th August**

For any further enquiries please contact: Dr Mary Lewis (m.e.lewis@reading.ac.uk) at the Department of Archaeology, SHES, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 227, Reading RG1 2SA. Tel: 0118 8927, Fax: 0118 378 6718

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CONFERENCE REPORT

AEA SPRING ONE-DAY MEETING: SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY, 2007,
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRELAND: NEW PERSPECTIVES AND RECENT RESEARCH

After a brief welcome from the new Head of the Department of Archaeology at UCC, Professor William O'Brien, the outgoing Head of Department, Professor Peter Woodman, chaired the first session. The first of three papers was presented by Lorna O'Donnell and Eoin Grogan (Margaret Gowen and Co Ltd) on 'the Bronze Age landscapes of the Gas pipeline to the West.' The results from a selection of the excavations that had taken place as a result of the installation of a gas pipeline were described, including selected results from the hundred or so excavated *fulachta fiadh*. Unfortunately, their results could not provide a definite answer about their function but this project has clearly improved our understanding of the spatial and chronological patterning of Bronze Age settlement and funerary sites in the region. Lucy Verrill (University of Edinburgh) then presented pollen and peat humification data from Belderg Bog, Co. Mayo. Lucy examined her data against the archaeological record and discussed possible reasons, including declining soil quality, why the field systems were abandoned during the Middle Neolithic, a period characterised by climatic dryness. The final paper of the first session was presented by Fiona Grant (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust). Fiona presented pollen, charcoal and mineral magnetism data from peat bogs sited close to early ironworking sites in the Ballyhaunis region of the west of Ireland. The palaeoenvironmental record is characterised by small scale decreases in selected tree taxa, peaks in microscopic charcoal and, at certain sites, increased magnetic susceptibility occurred during Early Medieval ironworking operations.

Nóra Bermingham and Ben Geary (Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham,) presented the first paper of the second session. Ben examined recent work on raised mire systems in Ireland and England (Lemnaghan bog complex; Hatfield and Thorne Moors). Ben stressed the importance of understanding how such systems have developed both spatially and temporally and how such data can inform us about the archaeology of these wetlands. Eileen Reilly (Trinity College, Dublin) presented the results of a palaeoentomological study of the Lemnaghan bog complex in Co. Offaly. Eileen has successfully reconstructed changes in insect assemblages as a result of mire development, the construction and use of trackways and platforms, and proximity to dryland. Eileen's results justified her plea for better integration of palaeoentomological studies with other environmental proxies. David Earle Robinson completed session 2 with a fascinating update of the re-examination of Grauballe bog body. First discovered back in 1952, a team of archaeologists have recently undertaken a more thorough examination of the body. David presented results of the examination of the gut contents. This concoction included six cereal species: emmer wheat, spelt wheat, naked and hulled barley, rye and oat, along with 13 grass species. David suggested that there was nothing in the data to suggest his last meal(s) had any ritual significance and the role of ergot, a hallucinogen, was also not as significant as originally thought.

The third session comprised three papers. Ellen O'Carroll (archaeological consultant, Dublin) discussed the use of wood as fuel in kilns, furnaces and pits from a variety of sites. Ellen was able to identify patterns across this data set including specific selection of trees for different functions. Oak and hazel appear to have been most exploited. Penny Johnston and Mary Dillion (Eachtra Archaeological Projects) presented a paper titled 'Charred environmental remains from three ringforts in Galway.' The identification of plant macrofossils and charcoal from a variety of contexts, for example souterrains, postholes, pits, revealed that oak was a commonly exploited tree for wood, along with hazel and to a lesser extent, alder. Penny suggested that oak was possibly deliberately selected from mature trees for ironworking and making charcoal, while charred cereal remains consisted by mainly oats with similar amounts of barley and wheat. The last paper was presented by Jacqui Mulville and Adrienne Powell (Cardiff University). Adrienne presented the results of three animal bone assemblages from an LBA/EIA midden at Llanmaes, Dinas Powys hillfort and a tenth century crannog at Llangorse. The Llanmaes assemblage was dominated by pig while the results of radiocarbon dating of the bones of two large dogs found at Dinas Powys were modern and therefore could not substantiate claims of unusually large dogs with possible Iron Age deposits. The bone assemblage at the crannog compares well with what might be expected from literary evidence for food rents.

Scott Timpany (Headland Archaeology) presented the first paper of session four. Scott demonstrated how archaeological assessment, excavation and post excavation work from the construction of the N25 Waterford bypass has led to the discovery of some excellent new sites. Preliminary results are beginning to generate some useful data including material from the Mesolithic and wooden trackways and other structures dating to the Early Bronze Age. Scott presented pollen, plant macrofossil and wood data from part of the excavation of a wetland site located in Newrath, Co. Waterford. The second paper of this session was presented by Anthony

Beese (Carraigex Ltd, Cork) on the environment of Medieval Cork. Anthony interpreted the sediment stratigraphy of sections exposed by new developments in Cork city Centre which enabled him to provide a fascinating chronological account of the development of parts of the city from the early medieval period. The final paper in this session was presented by Helen Lewis (UCD). Helen first introduced the audience to the world of soil micromorphology and then presented a series of case studies, including caves in Borneo and barrows in Denmark illustrating how the application of this technique could add our interpretation of archaeological sites and landscapes.

The conference included a poster session. The seventeen posters on display included Mesolithic activity at Derragh Island, Co Longford, charred wild plant remains from North Cork settlements sites, pollen data from Mount Gabriel, archaeological cattle remains, horse manure remains from Belfast and an environmental and forensic examination of a red van used for field archaeology projects! Ben Pears (University of Stirling) was awarded the postgraduate poster prize for his poster titled 'Anthropogenic soils on Fair Isles: a geoarchaeological perspective.'

This was a very successful and well attended meeting (c. 90 delegates) and the quality of the presentations clearly showed how buoyant environmental archaeology is in Ireland and beyond. The meeting was sponsored by the University College Cork, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and The Heritage Council. Most thanks, however, are owed to Meriel McClatchie and Mick Monk along with their team of helpers who ensured that the whole day ran like clockwork!

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NORTH SEA PREHISTORY NEWSLETTER

This new Newsletter is being compiled by Peter Murphy, as outlined in his introduction to the first issue in February copied below. Topics covered include 'Research Projects: new initiatives and updates', 'New Finds', 'Publications', 'New Methodology', 'Meetings and Conferences', 'Policy and Strategy Issues'. Please contact Peter if you would like to receive the Newsletter or contribute to it.

'Issue 1. February 2007.

Compiler's introduction

This first issue is experimental. If people find it useful, and want to see it continue, then we can move to a web-based format. Meanwhile, a simple e-mail list is good enough. After a couple of issues, I will send out a questionnaire to get opinion about its usefulness, and to determine people's preferences for the future format, if it is thought worth continuing.

Please note that I am a compiler, *not* an editor. Everyone is responsible for their own contributions to this informal newsletter – though I am very happy to help continental colleagues with English if asked to do so. A word about the title. Some colleagues feel that it excludes those who are working on adjacent areas beyond the North Sea. It is not meant to do so: if anyone can come up with a snappy but inclusive title to cover the prehistory of the North-West European continental shelf for the second issue, please let me know.

I will compile and circulate a second issue at some point later this year, when enough copy has come in.

I hope that you will find it interesting. Personally, I've already learnt some useful things. '

Peter Murphy is the Coastal Strategy Officer in English Heritage's Maritime Archaeology Team, based at Portsmouth. Before that his work was in the fields of environmental archaeology, coastal survey and site management in the East of England. peter.murphy@english-heritage.org.uk

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We are very grateful to James Greig for collecting the following information. James sends thanks to I. Baxter, S.M. Colledge and Roel Lauwerier for references. Please send information to jimi.gee@virgin.net

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