

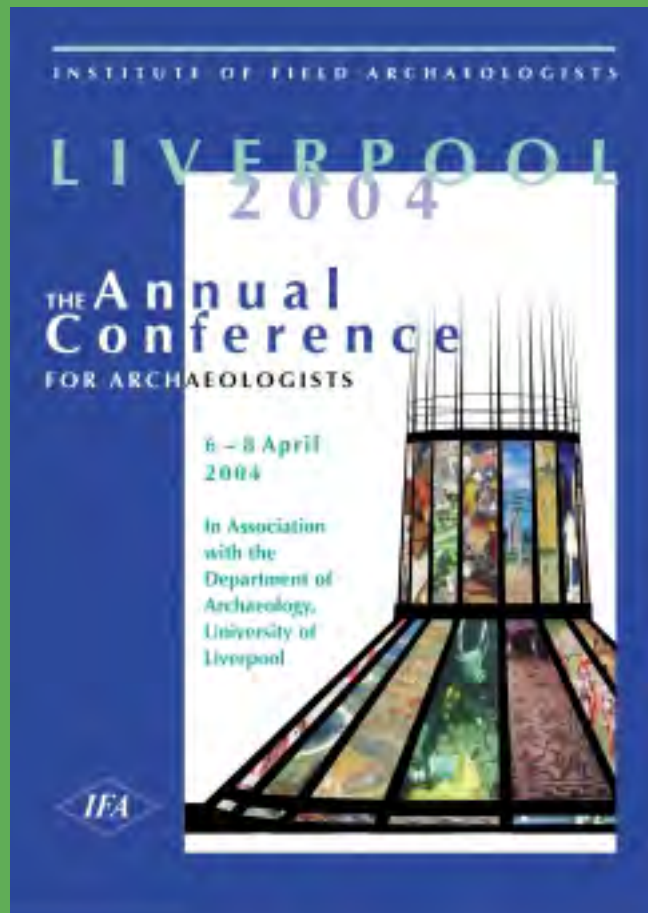


Winter 2004  
Number 51



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# The ARCHAEOLOGIST



This issue:

**ARCHAEOLOGY  
AND THE  
COMMUNITY**

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**Excavation and  
reburial: the  
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# INSTITUTE OF FIELD ARCHAEOLOGISTS LIVERPOOL 2004

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- The historic environment: future perfect?
- Interpreting archaeology to the public
- Maritime archaeology
- Professionals, institutes & the historic environment
- Palaeolithic & mesolithic archaeology
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Most archaeologists sooner or later are involved in excavating burials, and some of us spend a lot of our working lives studying them. We all appreciate the scientific evidence every skeleton contains, but we also know these are the mortal remains of real people, so cannot be treated just like pottery or any other artefact. Our codes of archaeological ethics, we feel, enable us to practise appropriate respect from both viewpoints. We have to accept however that others feel differently or (as with museum managers) have other problems to solve. A DCMS working party on policies for human remains was unable to resolve these problems, but a Human Remains Working Group convened by English Heritage and the Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division of the Church of England, using a more limited remit, has done a bit better, though only the current consultation period will show if this will satisfy enough of us. If you have viewpoint, do make it known to Simon Mays (p12).

One part of this *TA* is therefore given to the timely discussion of our treatment of human remains, but archaeologists are also concerned with the living. The main theme of this *TA* is archaeology and the community, highlighting some of the best projects our members have been involved in. We also have a view from outside in the form of the Black

Environment Network. This is now taking the historic environment and its value for social inclusion very seriously, and is looking to work with archaeological organisations to get suitable projects better resourced and more effective. If you are interested in working in this direction, get in touch with James Friel (p8–9).

*TA* is intended to be topical and to keep the profession informed about current issues but it also, over the last 21 years, has included articles of permanent interest, becoming a historical resource in its own right. Nothing is useful if you can't find it, so we have now indexed the last fifty issues and have printed this index in a pull-out format. Don't forget that most of the back numbers are still available from the IFA office.

The final thing to remember is that our annual conference is imminent. The programme and exciting venue in Liverpool should make this something very special. Do try to get there!



**Alison**  
alison.taylor@archaeologists.net



Author and designer – Alison Taylor and Tracy Wellman (unaccustomed as we are to floral tributes) – at the *Homes with History* launch. Photograph: Andy Chopping

### Notes to contributors

#### Themes and deadlines

Spring: Early medieval and Anglo-Saxon archaeology  
deadline: **15 April**

Summer: IFA Conference and Annual Report  
deadline: **1 July**

Autumn: Maritime archaeology  
deadline: **1 October**

**Contributions and letter/emails** are always welcome. Short articles are preferred. They should be sent as an email attachment, which must include captions and credits for illustrations. The editor will edit and shorten if necessary. Illustrations are very important. These are best supplied as originals or on CD, as TIFFs or EPS, not JPGs, scanned at a minimum of 300dpi at the size they are expected to appear. More detailed *Notes for contributors* for each issue are available from the editor.

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DESIGNED and TYPESET by Sue Cawood

PRINTED by Charlesworth

## View from the Chair

### Deborah Porter

As archaeologists we recognise the importance of the historic environment and the contribution that archaeology makes to a better understanding of our shared past, but our perceptions are not always those of others. Public interest has been whetted by programmes such as *Meet the Ancestors* and *Time Team*, and as a consequence public support for archaeology has never been higher. But these programmes, good as they are, present only one face of archaeology, which is in turn only one facet of the wider historic environment. In order to win wholesale support and understanding therefore, we must engage with the public and politicians on many fronts. Estelle Morris, in an address to Prospect, recently called on the heritage sector to raise its profile and argue its relevance. This *TA*'s theme is about involving the public in archaeology and the historic environment, and it is useful to highlight some of the initiatives which the IFA has undertaken.



Deborah at Westminster. Photograph: Andy Chopping

In December we published *Homes with History* which was launched with some splendour at the House of Lords (see p18). This provides guidance for housing associations on how to use the historic environment for community benefit. Although aimed at the social housing sector (putting heritage to work where it is needed most), it identifies a potential that is equally applicable to all types of housing and other types of development. This theme will be explored at our conference in Liverpool, and we hope to build on this work in future.

IFA has also been working in partnership with the National Trust and Atkins Heritage on developing ways of measuring the social benefits that the public derive from the historic environment. This project has aroused much interest across the heritage sector and beyond and is producing interesting results. A report on stage one of the work will shortly be available on the IFA website and a paper at the Liverpool conference will outline the results to date.

These are just a beginning however and we recognise that there is much to do to meet the

Minister's challenge. We welcome therefore the publication of *Heritage Counts* (formerly the State of the Historic Environment Report), a helpful compendium of data about the condition and value of the historic environment in England, allowing us to track changes over time.

The IFA is strongly committed to building on the successful initiatives mentioned above because we recognise that archaeology and the enjoyment of the historic environment are for the public, not just for ourselves.

Deborah Porter  
Chair, IFA

# FROM THE FINDS TRAY

## BAGARS in Gloucestershire

Badgers may be a protected species, but Gloucestershire's already large population is set to dramatically increase again this March with the publication of Cotswold Archaeology's second BAGAR, or Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Reports, an occasional series of numbered supplements distributed free to members of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. The reports have been designed as companions to, can be shelved alongside, and are distributed with the annual volumes of the Society's *Transactions*. The BAGAR series reports on important projects relating to the Gloucestershire and Bristol region which cannot be fitted into the *Transactions*. BAGAR 1, March 2003, dealt with excavations at Stoke Road, Bishop's Cleeve; BAGAR 2 will report on excavations at the Gloucester Business Park Link Road, Hucclecote. Future volumes are planned.

Unlike their nocturnal namesakes, BAGARs are designed, through their widespread and free distribution, to be seen by as wide an audience as possible and form an integral part of Cotswold Archaeology's outreach programme. Additional copies are available from Cotswold Archaeology (info@cotswoldarch.org.uk) at cost.



Reconstructions are always popular with illustrators, as well as with the public. This photo-reconstruction shows an interpretation of a workshop phase of one of the buildings at Roman Silchester, drawn by Margaret Matthews, AAI&S

## Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors (AAI&S)

AAI&S, which was established in 1978 to act as a forum for the exchange of ideas and promotion of good working practices amongst professional archaeological illustrators and surveyors, is an active association which holds annual conferences, and publishes regular newsletters and technical papers (see www.aais.org.uk for details). Full membership of the Association is granted following rigorous assessment by a panel including an external examiner, and is a recognised guarantee of professional ability. AAI&S is now ready for further development and has decided that closer, more formal links with IFA might be the answer. A Memorandum of Understanding has been drawn up, stating our common interests and our intentions to work cooperatively on projects, events and CPD, and the sharing of membership services and preferential rates.

AAI&S is now promoting a new IFA Illustration and Survey Special Interest Group. Membership is open to all members of both AAI&S and IFA. If anyone wishes to join, please let me know.

Joanna Bacon (Chair, AAI&S)  
Jobacon@archermel.fsnet.co.uk

AAI&S members gathered for the annual conference in London, September 2003



## Freelance subcontractors wanted at Museum of London Specialist Services

MoLSS has thirty archaeological specialists working on finds, environmental, processing and conservation projects, but still has occasional gluts of work. With these gluts in mind they are seeking to expand their list of freelance subcontractors. So, if you have considerable experience in assessment and analysis of archaeobotany, Roman and post-Roman pottery and registered finds, prehistoric pottery and other finds, or faunal remains, you are invited to send your details (name, specialism, contact details, indicative day rate, level of professional insurance, secure premises, ability to use and deliver in Microsoft office 2000 or higher, indication of non-availability in the next 12 months, confirmation of self-employment status, or if employer can invoice, statement of archaeological experience with names of two referees, and IFA membership) to Roy Stephenson, Museum of London Specialist Services, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London, N1 7ED



## London: London and Middlesex Archaeological Society Annual Conference Saturday 27 March

Come and hear about recent Neolithic and Roman finds from London, but most of all learn more about ways Londoners are tackling the 'recent past' (ie nineteenth and twentieth century evidence, including Victorian household clearance). The conference is at the Museum of London, price £5. Details and application forms from Jon Cotton, Early London Dept, Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN jcoton@museumoflondon.org.uk.

## Investigating your Local Heritage

By the time you read this you may have just missed the chance to join a virtual e-seminar on the theme of 'Investigating your Local Heritage', which was held 23-27 February, part of a series of occasional e-seminars for local groups, societies, thematic recording projects and others involved in recording the historic environment to share and learn from each others experiences. The proceedings of the discussion are available to view on the HELPS file archive at the JISmail website. At the time of going to press the programme included 'How to be your own Landscape Detective' (Al Oswald, Archaeological Survey, English Heritage), 'Getting involved with your local heritage: recent initiatives' (Mike Heyworth, Deputy Director, CBA, Working with local groups in Worcestershire Victoria Bryant, (Historic Environment Record Manager, Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment and Archaeology Service), Talk to the world! - sharing heritage record, (Edmund Lee, Data Standards, English Heritage).

For further details (and to see if discussions are continuing) email conference organiser Kate Fernie kate.fernie@english-heritage.org.uk.

## Informing the Future of the Past: Guidelines for SMRs

ed Kate Fernie and Paul Gilman

These guidelines, first produced in 2000, provide an overview of the standards, services and systems in place in SMRs, highlighting best working practices. They are now available at a reduced price from: English Heritage Postal Sales, c/o Central Books, 99 Wallis Road, London, E9 5LN, 0208 9864854 Price: £10 + £1.60 postage and packing (cheques payable to Central Books).



## FROM THE FINDS TRAY

### British Archaeological Awards

Entries and nominations are invited now for fifteen awards. Several relate to the daily work of IFA members, so start thinking of projects you can enter. The most relevant are:

1. The Sponsorship Award – for the best sponsorship of archaeology.
2. The Heritage in Britain Award, for the best long-term preservation of a site, monument or building.
3. The IFA Award, for the best professional or professional/voluntary archaeological project that demonstrates a commitment to professional standards and ethics in archaeology.
4. The Current Archaeology 'Developer-funded Archaeology' Award for the project which best demonstrates the value of developer-funded archaeology.
5. The Keith Muckelroy Memorial Award for published work on British maritime archaeology which best reflects the pioneering ideas and scholarly aspirations of the late Keith Muckelroy.
6. The 'Presentation Award' – for the best presentation of an archaeological project or theme to the public.

Entries and nominations must relate to activities, events and achievements over the 2-year period between 1 June 2002 and 31 May 2004. The entry form is downloadable from <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/awards>, and the closing date is 31 May 2004.

### Aberdeen: Archaeological Research in Progress 2004: North East Scotland Saturday 29 May

Reports on projects currently taking place in the north east of Scotland will include excavations of recumbent stone circles (Richard Bradley, University of Reading), 'privies and other filthiness... the Environment of Medieval Aberdeen (Christopher Croly, Aberdeen City Council) and some 'tales of the unexpected' (Shannon Fraser, National Trust for Scotland). The conference, organised by the Council for Scottish Archaeology jointly with the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, will include a mixture of sites and types of research as well as display stalls by local and national groups.

Contact: Council for Scottish Archaeology, c/o National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF, tel 0131 247 4119 [csa@nms.ac.uk](mailto:csa@nms.ac.uk), [www.britarch.ac.uk/csa/](http://www.britarch.ac.uk/csa/)



John Lord, knapper

### King's Lynn; Lithics weekend: Knapping techniques, manufacture and replication reconsidered 17–18 April

The Lithics Study Society is holding a conference on lithic technology and replication studies, principally featuring demonstrations by well-known flint knapper John Lord and discussions on the lithic technologies of successive prehistoric periods led by specialists in those periods. There will also be visits to two prehistoric barrow groups where knapping occurred.

The meeting will be held in Knights Hill Hotel, King's Lynn, and costs £25. Details and booking form from Clive Bond, 2 Pine Road, South Wootton, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 3JP [CliveJBond@aol.com](mailto:CliveJBond@aol.com)

# TUITION FEES & ARCHAEOLOGY

Kenneth Aitchison & John S C Lewis



Photograph: Peter Hinton

Following the second reading of the *Higher Education Bill* on 27 January 2004, proposed changes to the way undergraduate study is funded in England may have a great impact on archaeology. This short note seeks to start a debate within the profession as to the possible consequences of the bill. If it passes into law, universities will have the power to charge students tuition fees of up to £3000 per academic year from 2006, repayable following graduation and after the graduate is earning over £15,000 per annum. A student completing a three-year undergraduate degree, living away from home but outside London, who has been charged the full fee and taken the full student loan, will owe £21,885.

The problems caused by tuition fees have been discussed before in *TA*, and the potential impact on the archaeological profession of the new bill could be far reaching. Of course, failure to tackle the funding shortfall affecting universities will also cause problems within the archaeology, but here we are merely exploring the effects of this particular solution.

1. It may be that this change leads to an increase in archaeology students, broadening the academic research base and providing more potential entrants to the profession.
2. Alternatively, given the limited earning power of archaeologists, the increased debt may discourage many. The average archaeological salary in 2002–03 was £19,161, considerably below the national average of £24,498, far below the professional average of £32,577 and even below the mean figure for all graduates in their first year of employment (£20,300). It may be that many will view such a financial burden as an unacceptable risk.
3. The resulting fall in numbers of archaeology students could force many university archaeology departments to contract or close.
4. Typical starting salaries in the profession are presently below the repayment threshold of £15,000. The repayment threshold could thus form a barrier to career progression. From an employers' viewpoint, the £15,000 threshold could have a distorting effect on pay scales and company structure.

There could therefore be potential labour shortages from 2010 onwards, initially at entry level and then middle-management level. There may be scope for compensation by market forces – fewer archaeologists may force the market to dictate that labour charges increase.

It is clear that the proposed *Higher Education Bill* could have implications for the future of the profession and it is important that a debate about these potential repercussions takes place.



# Ethnic minority participation in archaeology: making it happen

The students question Sir Richard Fitzherbert, owner of Tissington Hall  
Photograph: Toif Islam, Black Environment Network

James Friel



The Black Environment Network (BEN) has been working successfully for over sixteen years on issues of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) environmental participation, cooperating with communities and mainstream organisations to develop projects that meet the needs of local communities while accessing the physical and intellectual resources within the environmental sector. It is now developing its Historic Environment Programme (HEP) to address the issues of access and contribution of BME communities to the heritage.

The historical and cultural environment of a community has always played a key role in engagement – how different communities participated in the environment through festivals, folklore and religious and cultural celebrations. Working in this way has enabled communities to participate in environmental projects that meet their social and cultural needs and build a working relationship with mainstream environmental organisations that is long lasting and effective.

## Supporting the mainstream

This brings us to the other side of the equation. There is a common acceptance that BME communities need support to enter into new areas of activity. However it is insufficiently recognised that the mainstream organisations trying to reach out to BME communities for the first time need similar encouragement and support. Although goodwill is present, lack of knowledge and experience is a real barrier to engagement.

## Multicultural interpretation

To improve this situation HEP is planning to work with the mainstream Historic Environment sector and BME communities to develop 'flagship projects' which recognise the contribution made by all communities to Britain's history. Everyone's sense of identity and belonging is rooted in the historic environment, and HEP will play a crucial role in social inclusion by promoting multicultural interpretation of the historic environment. Access to everything indigenous to Britain islands is equally relevant to settled BME communities. Their members are British citizens, and it is important to recognise that they belong here although they have a special relationship to their ancestral country.

Archaeologists, more than other parts of the historic environment sector, are aware on a day to day basis that Britain's history has always been multicultural, and the knowledge and skills which have led to the development of Britain's historical landscape have often been influenced from abroad.

## African soldiers and food

The archaeology sector has key strengths that it can work to in addressing these issues. Its depiction of history brings 'people' into its fold, and appears (from an outsider's point of view, anyway!) far more 'classless' than many parts of the sector. Its ability to depict the lives of farmers, servants and soldiers as well as the Lord and Lady of the Manor, bring history to a level where everyone can engage and see themselves in a wider perspective. Findings on Hadrian's Wall show the presence of people from North Africa. This is not news to most archaeologists – but it is not apparent in how British history is often presented, where its impact on a classroom of children whose family history and culture have links with Africa cannot be underestimated. Again, our knowledge and interest in the eating and history of food from around the world opens up new avenues to work with groups. They can be encouraged, through food, to highlight their cultural contribution and presence, and enable the wider community to understand this in its understanding of a shared history.

Maritime archaeology is another fruitful field. Through this we see the recording of trade and trading links which brought goods from all over the world into Britain, and ports which were the first homes of many of the BME communities – as well as being the point of introduction of many plants to Britain.

## Establishing methodologies

The level of engagement at which HEP will be working will allow participating partners to enter a new field of work in a supported environment and without substantial disruption to existing work programmes. HEP's position as a pathfinder project will provide organisations with a springboard from which they can develop the capacity to generate their own projects. HEP also aims to create the space for heritage organisations and community groups to explore and establish methodologies, so



Bangladeshi Multipurpose Centre students studying archives at Tissington Hall. Photograph: Toif Islam, Black Environment Network

they can ascertain future staffing and resource needs to inform applications for funding to take on defined programmes of new work.

As an organisation, BEN looks forward with great anticipation to working with archaeologists in the HEP programme who can help open up a wholly untapped area of knowledge and skills to BME communities. Together we can together put forward a history which reflects the contribution of everyone and provides equal opportunities to access that history.

This is an invitation for all IFA members to work with us. For more details about the HEP project please get in touch with me at the address below.

James Friel  
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james@ben-network.org.uk



Archaeology is essentially about people; diverse by its very nature, and with an almost boundless scope for investigation and research, there is almost no pie in which we do not have a finger. That said, how close can we get to our subject of study? ... how about the subjects themselves? Given the importance of human remains in archaeological studies it is timely for IFA and the *British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology (BABAO)* to come together to publish professional guidelines.

# STANDARDS FOR RECORDING HUMAN REMAINS

Jacqueline I McKinley

*Current Practice and Future Potential* (organised by Margaret Cox and Simon Mays). The aims of the association include the dissemination of information within the overall discipline and, thereby, promotion of best practice.

The issue of standards for skeletal remains in Britain has been of concern to the BABAO membership since its inception; the difficulties currently encountered in making comparisons being highlighted by Roberts and Cox (2003) in their attempt to study health and disease in Britain from prehistory to the present day. Standardised recording will enable greater comparability between bone assemblages, so these can then be set in context. This is important if we are to identify geographic and temporal homogeneity or change, with reference to demography, health and status, or mortuary practice. Adequate recording is even more essential for small assemblages, for they may only make sense in the wider context.

The need for a guidance document was outlined at the 2001 annual BABAO conference, and in a weekend session organised by Megan Brickley (then BABAO chair and also principal editor of the Guidelines) the nine team members co-opted to work on the document gave presentations on their specific section(s), followed by discussion. Surprisingly there was, despite a few entertaining spats, consensus between team members.

The resulting document comprises fourteen sections covering all aspects of basic recording relevant to different types of skeletal assemblage – articulated inhumed bone, cremated bone, and disarticulated and co-mingled unburnt bone. Most of the areas of investigation are interdependent in terms of producing a comprehensive report. A standard record must include an inventory (Sections 2–5),

essential for calculating prevalence of pathological lesions and conditions, and in the case of disarticulated co-mingled remains and cremated bone, for understanding the nature of the deposits and interpretation of mortuary rituals. The additional – mostly taphonomic – information required for the interpretation of cremated and disarticulated unburnt bone assemblages is included in Sections 4–5. Sections 6–8 cover data used to determine age and sex. Such data not only answer an obvious demographic purpose but are linked to analysis of metric, non-metric and pathological data. Metric data and records of non-metric traits (Sections 9 and 10) are multi-functional, assisting in sexing and necessary for the calculation of various indices to further our understanding of biodistance within and between populations. An accurate record of pathological lesions (Sections 11–12) is necessary to ensure consistency and comparability between assemblages, linked back through the skeletal inventories, age and sex data, to enable assessment of the health, status and interaction between population groups.

Thanks to rapidly changing fields of research this document will have a limited lifespan. Sampling procedures for bone chemistry (Section 13) is a particularly rapidly developing field, and one within which contradictory claims and advice serve to confuse the lesser mortal ... if in doubt, ask ...

preferably in advance. Commercial availability of many of these techniques is also, as yet, limited.

Why publish a specialist document jointly with IFA? The document is primarily aimed at those working within the commercial sector, where the client is YOU, the archaeologists, undertaking the overall project. It is important that you, the client, fully understands the aims of recording and analysis, how those aims may be achieved and what should be expected as minimum standards. Understanding specialist needs should also improve standards of recovery, which effects specialist analysis. The aim of the document is to provide basic pointers to what different types of information might reveal, and so assist in a research design.

By having this document endorsed by IFA we aim to promote better standards across the board.

Jacqueline I McKinley  
(BABAO Treasurer)  
12 Victoria Road  
Warminster  
BA12 8HE



Iron Age scapula with sharp-weapon trauma (5 blows) Photograph: Elaine Wakefield, Wessex Archaeology

The world of the archaeologist has changed dramatically in the last two decades, and so has the world of the human bone specialist. Twenty-five years ago, most UK practitioners styled themselves 'palaeopathologists' and originated from the medical professions; physical anthropologists were rare; there was only one – and that biannual – relevant MSc course and few undergraduates had a single session on human remains. Now – in the ever-expanding pie-shop of archaeology – there are palaeopathologists, physical anthropologists, osteoarchaeologists and biological anthropologists; at least half a dozen universities offer MSc courses in biological or forensic anthropology; specialist research abounds; and cremated bone is no longer dumped or shelved without analysis (is it?) as being of no use.

This increase in practitioners finally made feasible a national association for those working within this broad field. BABAO was founded in 1998, following a consensus reached at the Bournemouth University conference *Human Osteology: A British Perspective* –



Romano-British urned cremation burial with no soil infiltration (ceramic lid) Photograph: Jacqueline I McKinley, Wessex Archaeology

Roberts, C and Cox, M 2003 *Health and Disease in Britain from Prehistory to the Present Day* Sutton Publishing: Gloucester

*Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* 2004 Megan Brickley and Jacqueline I McKinley, BABAO and IFA, is published jointly on BABAO and IFA websites. It will also be available on request either as hard copy or on CD to members of either organisation.

Bronze Age cremated bone from a single grave laid-out by component spits for identification (parts of twelve individuals) Photograph: Jacqueline I McKinley, Wessex Archaeology





# Excavation and reburial: the human remains debate

Alison Taylor

*Archaeologists have to deal with human remains on a regular basis, but the laws affecting this treatment are not drafted with archaeology in mind. A recent DCMS working party has been looking at issues surrounding storage of human remains in museums, mostly driven by the repatriation debate. This group came down in favour of repatriating remains where there was a request from those with ancestral or cultural claims, but was divided on other issues. We should be thankful for this for, with anthropological remains driving the discussion, some of the measures proposed would have been unworkable by nearly all archaeological organisations.*



Excavating human remains, usually before they are destroyed by development, is a common part of many archaeologists' lives. Correctly used, such remains are also an important and popular educational tool. Photograph: Alison Taylor

Alongside the DCMS Working Party, the Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division of the Church of England and English Heritage set up their own Human Remains Working Group, with panels covering Ethics, Legal and Scientific issues, to agree guidelines that would cover excavation and treatment of burials, and also the question of when there should be reburial. The results were compiled into one document which will be out for consultation in spring/early summer this year. The remit was for burials in Christian burial grounds since the seventh century but more than 100 years old, though it was hoped that, if rational principles were agreed, these might guide DCMS thinking and inform wider reforms to the law. IFA was part of this Group, so the interests of archaeologists in the front line when burials are dealt with could be properly represented.

As it stands at present, the report includes a useful summary of Christian theology, which is that human remains should be treated with respect and reverence, but it is the soul not physical remains that matter and that the fate of the body has no

effect on resurrected life. It also sets out scientific ethics, in particular the reasons why indiscriminate reburial of museum collections is unethical. Standards for treatment of remains during various stages of fieldwork and post-excavation work, and circumstances when display in museums and other sites is acceptable, are set out. The report includes discussions of scientific, theological and public opinion, with recommendations concerning long term storage vs reburial, and also for artefacts buried with the dead. Proposals are made for conversion of disused crypts or redundant churches to provide acceptable long-term storage facilities. Also useful is the summary of burial and the law in England as it stands at present. For example, in many circumstances the Disused Burial Grounds Act 1884, rather than the more relaxed Burial Act

1857, applies. Under this, no building work may take place on a disused burial ground, except for the purpose of enlarging a church. This provision was relaxed subject to certain safeguards in relation to disused burial grounds (excepting consecrated land), in the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981. Disused in this context means a burial ground that has *at any time* been set apart for the purpose of interment and is no longer used for interments, though the Home Office does not generally apply the 1981 Act to material more than about 500 years old.

Points of particular relevance to IFA members are

- Archaeological projects should be carried out by suitably qualified organisations and should be conducted according to briefs drawn up by the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor or the County Archaeologist. The church or secular developer should be made aware at the outset of the likely need to plan for post-excavation work on the human remains and other recovered materials and to bear the cost this entails
- Some traditional mitigation strategies are not acceptable to the Home Office. For example, the Home Office would not normally consider any application which involves piling a burial site. Shallow raft foundations may obviate the need to disturb burials and the Home Office would consider carefully applications involving leaving burials in-situ beneath raft foundations
- In excavations where it is anticipated that human remains will be uncovered, a human osteologist should be identified from the outset as a member of the project team. If excavations produce significant quantities of human remains (more than about 30 burials), the project osteologist will wish to be regularly present on site in order to help ensure optimal field procedures
- Excavation of remains more than a hundred years old should be undertaken or monitored by archaeologists

The Draft Report will shortly be out for consultation, and it is important that IFA members take the opportunity to comment, especially where there are practical considerations that affect their work. Copies can be downloaded from the English Heritage website.

## PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION IN FORENSIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Corinne Duhig

Forensic archaeology is a highly developed area of archaeological activity. The forensic archaeologist works within an investigation team to contribute to the search for human remains and associated materials, their recovery and the interpretation of their taphonomic history. Together with sound field skills, it is necessary to have a broad knowledge of police structure and procedures and the judicial system, to integrate well with other scene of crime personnel, to be able to present evidence to the courts and to maintain the highest level of professional integrity.

### REGISTRATION OF FORENSIC PRACTITIONERS

The Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners (CRFP) was established in response to some high-profile miscarriages of justice and awareness that forensic specialists and expert witnesses have variable levels of professionalism and reliability. While the larger disciplines, such as scenes of crime investigation and the laboratory sciences, have structured training and monitoring systems, other specialisms can contain people without appropriate qualifications or experience.

Work on the site of recent atrocities involves similar techniques to those required for archaeological remains, but you need to be qualified to cope with added complications. Photograph: Corinne Duhig





CRFP's function, therefore, is to organise assessments and manage a register of competent forensic practitioners. The courts, senior police organisations and the forensic community have welcomed it as leading to an improvement in professional standards and reassurance. More than 1500 people are now on the register. It is not intended that registration will become obligatory, although the assurance of current competence will increasingly recommend use of registered personnel.

Forensic archaeology can now be assessed for CRFP registration and applications are invited, including from persons working frequently or continuously abroad, for example in investigations of mass graves or mass disasters.

#### HOW IS ASSESSMENT CARRIED OUT?

There are three Sector Assessment Panels, covering Science, Medicine & Healthcare and Incident Investigation, under which are panels for specific areas, for example scenes of crime officers, fingerprint examiners and forensic odontologists. Application forms with fee and supporting documentation are sent to CRFP and passed to the lead assessor in your speciality. He/she allocates applications to a trained assessor, who examines the application form, references and casework log and asks for a few cases to be written up in detail.

Successful applicants are added to the register. Each year they must submit a casework log (with retention fee) and every four years these will be scrutinised for re-validation. Rejected applicants will receive feedback. Criteria for validation are intended to facilitate inclusion rather than exclusion but persons with forensic qualifications but minimal archaeological background, or field archaeologists

without forensic training or experience, are likely to be advised to take additional training.

For CRFP purposes, forensic archaeology and anthropology are treated as different disciplines, the former under Incident Investigation and the latter under Medicine & Healthcare, so those with dual expertise make separate applications. There is a reduction in fee for two or more applications submitted at the same time. Units or organisations cannot be accredited, only individuals, and units which advertise competence in 'forensic archaeology' will need to ensure that only registered staff take responsibility in forensic cases.

#### HOW TO APPLY

Application packs can be obtained from the CRFP Registration Officers, Russell Howes and Stephen Keene, at CRFP, Tavistock House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HX, rhowes@crfp.org, skeene@crfp.org; tel 020 7874 1922/3; fax: 020 7383 0888. For general enquiries email info@crfp.org or phone 020 7383 2200.

The Lead Assessor for archaeology is, unsurprisingly, Prof John Hunter and the speciality assessors are Paul Cheetham (Bournemouth University), Cecily Cropper (ICMP Sarajevo) and Rob Janaway (University of Bradford). For any further advice or information contact Professor Hunter in the Department of Archaeology and Antiquity, Arts Building, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, Tel 0121 414 5497.

Corinne Duhig  
Anglia Polytechnic University and Wolfson College  
Cambridge  
Gone to Earth consultancy

When mass graves need to be identified, excavations involve cleaning and recording clothing and other modern artefacts.

Photograph: Corinne Duhig



# HELM: Training the decision makers

Catherine Cavanagh

**Historic Environment Local Management (HELM)** is a new training programme being set up by English Heritage to raise the profile of the historic environment among local planning authorities and government agencies. We aim to encourage non-heritage professionals to assign more significance to historic environment issues in the decision-making process. The target audience includes elected members, planning officers, highways engineers and estate managers.

This training will cover buried archaeological sites, monuments, buildings and landscapes. Seminars and courses will be supported by guidance papers available on a website launched in March 2004. Modules will include topics such as managing the impact of transport strategies, golf courses, farming, regeneration and retail development.

#### Real threats

The benefits of heritage-led regeneration extolled in *Heritage Counts* (EH 2003) are not always recognised and exploited. The report states that 'the erosion of historic character and distinctiveness through poor planning decisions and unthinking development is a real threat to our quality of life.' It is important to develop 'a land-use planning system that can respond intelligently to the management of change.'

Those approached during the study resulting in *Heritage under Pressure* (Baker & Chitty 2002) 'identified a need to consider training for generalist planners, especially those involved in development control work, to enhance awareness of historic environment and design issues.' The report highlights the need for adequate resources, including appropriately qualified conservation advisors supported by specialised information systems.

#### Heritage champions

The project is also responding to proposed reform of the English planning system, in particular the forthcoming PPS 15. Capacity building within local authorities is a key objective of English Heritage's modernisation agenda, and we hope that local authorities will put forward elected members as



Local authority staff touring archaeological excavations. Photograph: Catherine Cavanagh

Heritage Champions. Heritage Champions will ensure that the historic environment is a fundamental consideration in local authority policy development and service delivery.

#### Best practice

*Homes with History* (IFA, EH & Housing Corporation 2003, see p18-19) provides examples illustrating the relevance of archaeology and buildings conservation to regeneration. We wish to build on this by providing a database of case studies illustrating best practice, and we will be approaching all local government archaeologists and conservation officers via ALGAO and IHBC for examples. Submissions from archaeological contractors and consultants would also be welcomed.

#### Our partners

ODPM has provided initial funding and is committed to the role of heritage in building sustainable communities, as stated by Yvette Cooper, MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary at the recent HLF Heritage and Regeneration conference. The IHBC, ALGAO, IFA, CABE, CBA, LGA, RTPI, etc will also be involved. Training will take place alongside existing EH training initiatives, such as the professional skills courses.

Training is due to commence in September 2005. Please contact me for further information and enquiries relating to the case studies database.

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Historic environment training for local authorities  
English Heritage  
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# Medieval pottery production in England: a new gazetteer

Phil Marter and Chris Gerrard

A selection of medieval pottery illustrated by William Chaffers in 1850. The second half of the nineteenth century saw a rapid development of interest in medieval pottery. The database lists no medieval pottery production centres prior to 1850, but by the end of the century fifteen had been located across the country, the first at Scarborough in 1854. Image: Gerrard, 2003, *Medieval archaeology: understanding traditions and contemporary approaches*



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English Heritage recommended 'an initiative to establish a national list of production centres, recording the whereabouts of the finds, references to publication, or the current state of work', a response to the disappointing rate of publication

of excavated production sites and the need to improve identification and common nomenclatures for medieval pottery. A new national database could address these concerns, be a basis for further technical studies of kilns, and make further research more cost-effective, especially for archaeologists working across large areas of the country.

**Gathering the data**  
The project was established at King Alfred's College, Winchester, designed and managed by Chris Gerrard, undertaken by Phil Marter and funded by English Heritage. The procedure was simple. Information held on medieval pottery production sites (defined here as c. 850–1600 AD) in England was obtained from the NMR Long-listings and Excavation Index and from county SMRs (70% of whom responded), plus the Medieval Ceramics Survey and the National Reference Collection of Medieval Ceramics at the British Museum. Major published national and regional data sets and journals, Victoria County Histories and published documentary sources (Lay Subsidy 'potting-related' names, for example) were used. An advance digital

copy of the thin-sections database allowed descriptions from pottery fragments found at production sites to be linked in. About half the county museums targeted responded to a request for accession numbers. These sources, nearly 1500 in all, were cross-checked against the National Medieval Ceramics bibliography to verify a master database of some 4500 entries which was circulated to regional secretaries of the Medieval Pottery Research Group for further checking.



## Providing the access

The key to success has been a series of linked tables within a Microsoft Access database, allowing easy interrogation in various ways. These records include archaeological investigations, kilns, components (eg waster dumps), pottery fabrics, forms (standardised using the *Classification of Medieval Pottery Forms*; MPRG 1998) and sources. In all, we have recorded 738 kilns, 97 waster pits, 80 buildings interpreted as potters' workshops or living accommodation, and a wide range of associated features such as clay pits, puddling floors, fuel dumps, fences, drains and boundary ditches.

The bibliography confirms that most recent work has been undertaken by a small pool of active researchers, with a notable lack of academic research in universities, especially at MPhil and PhD levels. Teaching with medieval pottery collections also seems minimal. Few recent theses were identified, the weight of publication strongly favouring short descriptive articles rather than broader scale analysis of results. It is a sign of the times that the basis of modern research into kiln

classification remains Musty (1974) and that, with some notable exceptions (Le Patourel 1968; Moorhouse 1983), documentary evidence for the medieval pottery industry remains untapped.

## Functions and additions

The database is by no means complete and individual entries are of variable quality. The process of refining these is ongoing. The main strength of the database is that it can provide a broad picture of pottery production in any given area. A list of linked bibliographical references is also provided. The hope is that organisations will be led to comparative material which they can relate to their own results.

Resources such as this will enhance the growing links between local, regional and national research agenda as well as bridging between organisations such as the Medieval Pottery Research Group, university staff and commercial archaeology units. It should stimulate research and prompt final publication of some key sites. Of course, it should go without saying that the database is not a substitute for experience in handling medieval pottery and the recognition of fabrics and forms, and where more detailed information is required the advice of a pottery specialist should be sought.



## Where to find it

The database is now equipped with an 'easy-to-use' front end complete with a selection of regularly used data queries and a help file, and is available on CD. The CDs are free of charge to all who originally supplied information to the project,



Medieval pottery kiln excavated at Potterspury, Northamptonshire. The database lists archaeological work which has revealed evidence for pottery production, including information on what was found, where it was found, and when the work took place. Organisations and individuals undertaking archaeological work are listed along with the location of resulting archives and associated publications. Photograph: authors



At Magdalen Street, **Norwich** a scheme was put in place to renovate this ancient building, then functioning as a nightclub, as part of a regeneration programme of the city centre. No building analysis was done until work was well underway, and belated discoveries that the house was fifteenth century, of outstanding importance but lacking any sort of foundations, added hugely to the costs and complications of the project. Restoration work was eventually a success, but the housing association was left with a deficit that might have been avoided if the problems (and potential) of the building were known in advance



IFA was therefore delighted when the Housing Corporation and English Heritage asked for some research and glossy literature that demonstrated the benefits that housing associations (and, more importantly, their tenants) could enjoy if they looked at all elements of the historic environment as potential bonuses. This should also make their relationships with archaeologists and historic buildings specialists a bit easier.

Contacts all over England (NB similar projects are needed in Scotland, Wales and N Ireland) showed how imaginative social housing schemes had already (by luck if not judgement) benefited from this approach. Cosy cottages on the Norfolk coast, magnificent Georgian townhouses in Liverpool, model villages in areas of old coalfields, medieval halls in red light districts, industrial buildings in deprived areas of historic towns, military earthworks in housing estates, fragments of ancient masonry, all have become successful and satisfying developments.

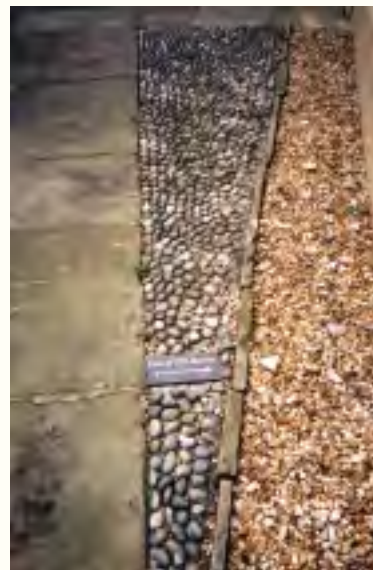


Excavation of Low Hall, **Waltham Forest**, in advance of development by a consortium of housing associations uncovered a history of exactly 600 years: tree-ring dating showed that the bridge across the moat was built in the summer of 1344, and the V1 flying bomb that destroyed the house on 18 July 1944 was unearthed. The aerial view shows the unearthed foundations for the medieval manor house (bottom centre), with private rooms to the right and servants' quarters to the left. Photograph: Museum of London Archaeology Service

# HOMES WITH HISTORY



Just in time: local initiatives, often with English Heritage backing, are at last pulling handsome buildings in **Liverpool's** historic centre back from the brink of collapse. Recognising the sustainability of such derelict structures plays a major part in the city's economic renaissance and its present cultural status



Some below-ground features may be by marked on the ground, with different paving materials or altered relief. Patterned paving at Salisbury College, **King's Lynn** makes an important point about changes to the medieval environment

'Heritage is all around us' is a message archaeologists never tire of handing out, but it's still hard to make it heard in some walks of life. Housing associations charged with the charitable objective of creating homes for those outside the private sector for example can be forgiven if this is not their first thought when sizing up a new scheme. They might even think it hard that limited budgets have to include archaeological and architectural evaluation and excavation.

Below-ground evidence can work in the same way if archaeologists work closely with the development team to sort out problems before they happen. Excavation and mitigation strategies need not then be disruptive, and archaeologists in the team can be useful when it comes to incorporating features physically within a site, inspiring relevant artwork – and generally telling the story of the past.

The remit of archaeologists today takes us into the various ethos of sustainability, social inclusion, community cohesion, best value, and inspiration of arts projects. Working with social housing projects takes archaeologists into a world where these values are not extras – they are the heart of the project.

The free 16pp booklet that illustrates numerous successful case histories was launched at the House of Lords in December and is now available from the IFA, the Housing Corporation (149 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0BN, Tel: 020 7393 2000 enquiries@housingcorp.gsx.gov.uk) or English Heritage (enquiries@english-heritage.org.uk), or can be downloaded from the IFA website (www.archaeologists.net).

Alison Taylor  
Institute of Field Archaeologists



Conversion of a late-Victorian granary to high-density residential use helped turn around the fortunes of **King's Lynn** as a residential area in the late 1980s. Refurbishment of historic buildings has played a major part in bringing people back into the town



# The Wreck of the 'Dimitris'

Gary Green



The *Dimitris* stranded on Redcar Rocks. Although seemingly afloat, the vessel is in fact hard aground. Photograph courtesy of Ian Atkinson

The wreck of the Greek steamer *Dimitris* on the East Scar Rocks at Redcar is probably the most dived shipwreck on the Cleveland coast. A popular and easy site to reach, her remains cover a large area of the seabed. A recent Local Heritage Initiative grant enabled British Sub-Aqua Club 978 Branch 'Cleveland Divers' to make the wreck accessible to the public, whether they wanted to get wet or not.

The *Dimitris* was originally laid down in 1918 by Caird & Co Ltd at Greenock as a Standard 'A' Class vessel, the *War Malayan*. She measured 400 feet long, with a beam of 52 feet and a depth of hold of 28 feet, with a top speed of 11 knots. Completed in 1919, she sailed under the Greek flag as the *Michael L Embiricos*, until 1952 when she was sold to new Greek owners who re-named her *Dimitris*. She was wrecked at Redcar on 14 December 1953 while on a voyage from Bona, Algeria, to Middlesbrough with 7500 tons of iron ore.

## Project 'Shipwreck Dimitris'

This project set out to

- produce a 'Virtual Reality Dive', so non-divers could visit the wreck without getting wet
- allow the public to carry out practical research
- carry out a basic archaeological survey prior to establishing a 'Diver-Trail' around the site
- produce an exhibition for Redcar museum
- make a video/photographic record of marine life on and around the site

The project became so successful that, fifty years after sinking, *Dimitris* became a flagship, this time for LHI. She stirred memories too, particularly for Mrs Pauline Barker, whose photographs of her trip out to the wrecked ship in 1953, featured heavily in the local press and the *Dimitris* Exhibition; the project even resulted in a song being written about the vessel.

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Pauline Barker on board the *Dimitris* in 1953. Photograph courtesy of Pauline Barker

# Jobs in British Archaeology

# 2003

James Drummond-Murray

Here once again is the annual review of Jobs in British archaeology – based on the ads placed in the JIS, plus some from BAJR. There were a larger number of ads this year, an encouraging sign that the slowdown in the economy may be coming to an end. It also means the figures are more meaningful, as last year they were skewed in several categories by the low number of jobs. 127 jobs were noted this year, markedly up on last year's 79 but still less than the 146 of 2001.

## Pay

Overall 2003 produced a mixed bag. Excavators' pay slipped back to £12,903 from £13,232, which was discouraging after several years of steady progress. It also shows the effect of the IFA minimum of £12,720. Similarly there was a slight drop in supervisors' pay from £14,806 to £14,765 – somewhere between the IFA minimums for the start and end of the year of £14,316 and £14,817 respectively. This shows the growing influence of the IFA recommendations at the lower end of the scale and the need for the IFA to increase them more aggressively if archaeology graduates are to have any chance of paying off their top-up fees!

Field officers (from £18,489 to £16,592) and Project Managers (from £21,536 to £19,701) also saw falls but the number of jobs advertised in 2002 was so low (only 5 in each category) that the comparison is less meaningful.

Junior CRM and SMR posts saw a welcome increase to £17,274 from £15,563 and their senior colleagues were up to £23,840 from £23,012 in 2001 (only 2

posts advertised in 2002).

The best advances were made by the Specialist and Illustrators categories which were up to £17,170 and £16,914 respectively, from under £15,000 the previous year.

## IFA membership

Jobs mentioning IFA membership was also up from 10% to 15%. This would be over 20% if the lowest two digging grades are removed, a welcome sign that recognition of IFA membership is increasing amongst employers.

## IFA recommended minimums

The IFA recommended minimum is becoming increasingly influential and with the continuing threat to council archaeologists from short-sighted local authorities (Gloucester, Winchester) trying to save tiny sums of money at the expense of the heritage, it may be time for the IFA to consider breaking the link between their rates and local authority ones (I suggested this last year as well).

Will realistic pay negotiating – involving several units where Prospect is the recognised Trade Union and with SCAUM, IFA and Prospect all involved, happen this year? Let's hope so. Next year's review should look more cheerful if it does.

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	AV WAGE 2003	NO OF ADS (2002)	MENTION IFA	AV WAGE 2002	AV WAGE 2001	AV WAGE 2000	AV WAGE 1999	AV WAGE 1998	IFA MINIMA APRIL 03
Excavator / site assistant	£12,903	26(19)	0	£13,232	£12,378	£12,024	£11,174	£10,245	£12,720 (PIFA)
Supervisor	£14,765	11 (12)	0	£14,806	£12,741	£12,868	£12,700	£12,420	£14,817 (AIFA)
Field Officer / Project Officer	£16,592	14 (5)	4	£18,489	£15,572	£15,518	£13,777	£14,274	£19,185 (MIFA)
Project Manager	£19,701	13(5)	4	£21,536	£20,881	£19,447	£18,671	£18,268	
Junior CRM / SMR	£17,274	27 (14)	10	£15,563	£17,532	£15,608	£14,167	£12,629	
Senior CRM / SMR	£23,840	15 (2)	2	£30,605	£23,012	£23,486	£20,654	£17,680	
Specialists	£17,170	8(14)	1	£14,992	£16,531	£14,632	£15,476	£13,442	
Illustrators etc	£16,914	10 (8)	0	£14,085	£14,908	£15,497	£13,271	£13,229	
		127 (79)	21 (15%)						



# The Shotton Project: taking the Palaeolithic to the public

Alex Lang



The author holding an artefact recognition session with Kidderminster metal detectorists' group. Photograph: The Shotton Project/Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity

The Palaeolithic is not the easiest period for any of us to grasp let alone explain, but it has an enduring fascination for the public. Unfortunately, within modern archaeology it is rare that we can demonstrate physical evidence from this time in areas such as the Midlands, let alone make it widely intelligible. New funding through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) however has thrown open new opportunities for bringing archaeology to the wider public, and one such opportunity is the *Shotton Project: a Midlands Palaeolithic Network* which received funding, administered by English Heritage, in March 2003.

The main aim of this Project is to raise awareness of the Palaeolithic and its Quaternary context through talks, displays, training days and research, aiming both at the public and the profession, as potential Quaternary deposits and Palaeolithic finds are not always covered by planning guidelines. The Network views the Palaeolithic from both an archaeological and Quaternary perspective, using its Quaternary context to place archaeological evidence in a framework of geology, mammalian palaeontology and palaeoenvironmental evidence.

We use a number of methods to get the community involved. Leaflets were distributed to museums, local societies, and county archaeology and SMR offices, and articles published in the West Midlands CBA newsletter and the *Birmingham News*. These were followed up by presentations at County Archaeology days (Worcestershire, Staffordshire and Herefordshire), and talks and artefact identifications sessions have been held for local groups and societies (including one metal detectorists' group).

## Understanding and identifying tools

We also wanted active input from the public, and to maintain involvement through training programmes and a hands-on approach. Firstly, the Shotton Project organised a fieldwalking day over the terraces of the Carrant Brook, south of Bredon Hill, Worcestershire, involving the South Worcestershire Archaeology Group alongside students from University College Worcester and the University of Birmingham. The main emphasis was understanding and identifying Palaeolithic tools, as



A snail identification session during a Weekend in the Ice Age. Photograph: The Shotton Project/Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity

the area has yielded a number of Palaeolithic artefacts in recent years. This day yielded only one possible Upper Palaeolithic blade, but it informed local archaeology groups of the potential for Palaeolithic surface finds in the area where they undertake numerous surveys, and it made the landowner aware of the history of human occupation in the area.

## A weekend in the Ice Age

However, there is also a need for training those participating in the Midlands Palaeolithic Network as well as archaeological groups, so we held an ambitious *Weekend in the Ice Age*. The Saturday event, at the Lapworth Museum of Geology, University of Birmingham, included recognition sessions for Palaeolithic tools (notably handaxes) and mammalian remains, and hands-on identification sessions for snails and beetles. The day was completed with a knapping session by one of the best exponents of flint working, John Lord from Brandon, Norfolk. His display was extremely impressive and in a two hour session produced a handaxe, a Levallois 'tortoise' core, Upper Palaeolithic blades, pressure flaked tools and microlith cores. He described every stage of tool making and explained the different processes used (eg the use of various hard and soft hammers). This event was open to all, but especially those who had no archaeological experience.

## Handaxes in context

The second day included a visit to Waverley Wood Farm Pit in Warwickshire, a well known Lower Palaeolithic site with evidence of the earliest occupation in the Midlands. The field visit was led by Prof David Keen (Quaternary geologist), one of

the specialists who had sampled and published the site in 1993. This was followed by a visit to Warwickshire County Museum to view the andesitic tuff handaxes and quartzite flakes that were picked up on the quarry floor and donated to the museum. These have a pride of place position in the museum and were discussed within their regional and national contexts.

The provision of the ALSF has allowed projects such as the Shotton Project to get the community far more involved in understanding our national heritage. Communication between the Shotton Project and others funded by ALSF (eg Welton-le-Wold {Lincolnshire Heritage} and the Swale-Ure project, {University of Durham}) has made it clear that outreach and community involvement are central to the success of these projects.

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John Lord knapping a handaxe during a Weekend in the Ice Age. Photograph: The Shotton Project/Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity





Group members from the *Carving History at the Wilderness* Young Roots project practice sculpting techniques whilst learning about Anglo-Saxon crosses. Photograph: FoDAS

### CARVING HISTORY

One major project, initiated by FoDAS and working with Gloucestershire Youth Service, is the *Carving History at the Wilderness* project, funded by the new Heritage Lottery Fund 'Young Roots' scheme. *Carving History* is a yearlong project for unemployed young adults from areas in need of regeneration. They work with a member of the FoDAS team to learn about Anglo-Saxon and medieval archaeology including sculpture, architecture and local sites. Then, working with a sculptor, they use their new knowledge to create modern sculptures. One enthusiastic group member declared 'this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Not many people are lucky enough to have projects like this to do'. Group members will also be able to gain Open College Network certificates in 'Sculpture' and 'Researching the Past'.

We have also inspired the local University of the Third Age group to get involved with survey work. Using simple questionnaires, they augment the Survey team's desk based research by visiting targeted sites. Under the name 'The Heritage Detectives', they systematically check sites on a parish-by-parish basis, and tap into local knowledge. Their contribution has proved of enormous value: the information is added to the SMR as a working record, and enables the FoDAS team to prioritise sites to investigate after desk based research is complete.

### FAMILIES IN THE FOREST

In July, FoDAS organised Forest Archaeology Day (part of CBA's National Archaeology Days) in



Young children learn about Roman Britain through objects from the handling collection. Photograph: FoDAS

## FOREST OF DEAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY: AN OUTREACH UPDATE

Danielle Wootton

*Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service is currently carrying out the Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey (FoDAS). The project was welcomed by the local community, and in TA 43 Jon Hoyle, Project Officer for FoDAS reported his concerns that public demand for involvement was so high that the team would be unable to meet expectations. Last year, to cope with this demand, Danielle Wootton was recruited to lead the outreach programme. In this article she illustrates how the FoDAS team have successfully broadened the scope of outreach.*

At a time when damage to archaeological sites continues to cause serious concerns, increasing public awareness about archaeological issues is more important than ever. We have therefore expanded our outreach programme significantly, continuing to hold regular workshops for local history and archaeological societies and proactively disseminating archaeological information to new audiences.

conjunction with the Forestry Commission. Aiming the day at families, we attracted over 1500 visitors to learn more about industry in the Forest of Dean through the ages. Focusing around a sculpture trail at Beechenhurst Lodge, created by artists inspired by the Forest's industry, we used information boards to explain the archaeological influence and background behind the sculptures. A blacksmith gave a demonstration, and one of the few remaining Forest freeminers reconstructed a timber mine entrance. There were also guided walks and talks, a simulated excavation, and opportunities for local societies to recruit new members. The Forestry Commission have asked us to organise another National Archaeology Day this summer, and this time we will work with the RSPB, holding the event (on Sunday 18 July) at Symonds Yat, a hill fort with nesting peregrine falcons in the cliffs below. We are also in the early stages of organising the first Heritage Open Day to be held in the Forest of Dean at Coleford on 11 September 2004.

In order to reach a wider audience, we have also developed a travelling exhibition for communities in remote rural areas. Available in two sizes, the smaller version allows village halls, small churches and school classrooms to display the exhibition. We attend events where we take our new handling collection (devised to fit in with National Curriculum Key Stage 2, but just as popular with adults), and a portable Gloucestershire SMR, enabling anyone to look up archaeological information for themselves.

### NEWS AND SCOWLES

We have established a regular, bright and colourful newsletter which, again to attract new audiences, is distributed to pubs, shops and cafes, as well as the more usual outlets of libraries, tourist information centres and museums. Demand for the newsletters has proved exceptionally high. We have also



produced and distributed a fact sheet for landowners about scowles (archaeological features found throughout the Forest of Dean where early iron mining has taken place) as part of our commitment to develop a closer working relationship with landowners in the Forest of Dean. Regular talks keep the public informed, and we ensure we address a wide range of people including, for example, families at National Archaeology Day, Summer Schools for the Visually Impaired; local history societies, Conservation Groups; and MA students from Bristol University. We issue frequent press releases, and have a regular slot on Forest of Dean Community Radio's 'History Half Hour'. In conjunction with the Forestry Commission, we also organised the 'Woodland Archaeology Seminar', where practitioners in woodland survey and management throughout Britain discussed techniques for identifying and recording archaeological features in areas of woodland. Papers from the seminar will be published soon.

Since the last article, we have surpassed our original aim to provide an outreach service for local societies and established a proactive, socially inclusive programme involving families, the older community, young adults, children, tourists, landowners, and other professionals. Over the coming year, we will continue to develop this successful outreach programme, with new and exciting initiatives which will improve public awareness about archaeology in the Forest of Dean.

Danielle Wootton  
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One of the many children that visited National Archaeology Day, with John Bruden, a Roman soldier from the Ermine Street Guard, Dave Harvey, a Freeminer and Aisling Tuohy of Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service. Photograph: FoDAS

Jon Hoyle, Laura Butler and Graham Tait from the FoDAS team with local history and archaeology groups at a workshop run in conjunction the English Heritage NMP team. Photograph: FoDAS



# A commercial archaeology unit and its local community

Ronan Toolis



AOC Community Outreach activities at Leith Science Festival. Photograph: © AOC Archaeology

*Out of necessity commercial archaeology today is focused on funded work. Many commercial archaeological units feel they do not have the time or resources to build links with communities except on projects where specific funding has been secured. However, it is possible for a commercial archaeological unit to pursue a public outreach policy that fosters relations with the local community in which it is based.*

AOC Archaeology Group is a commercial company within a small commuter belt town south of Edinburgh. As it conducts operations across Britain and Ireland, but rarely on its doorstep, there is no commercial reason for it to foster relations with the local community in which its headquarters are located. However, since 2001, when AOC Archaeology drew up a public outreach policy in preparation for its application to the IFA for RAO status, the company has sought to develop relations with the local community.

## Open days

The best opportunity to foster relations with the public is during Scottish Archaeology Month, held in September every year and co-ordinated by the Council for Scottish Archaeology. This is an excellent way to bring a lot of people to our events and to publicise what we can offer. AOC also has its own Open Day every year, publicised in schools, libraries and newspapers, itself a way of developing local contacts. This is when we open our doors and organise family orientated displays, presentations and activities. We have mock excavations and other hands-on activities using our own reference collection of artefacts, animal bones and other ecofacts.

## Skills of engagement

While a considerable degree of planning by Lynda Stoddart, AOC's Marketing Coordinator, goes into the event, creation of displays and activities is made easier by the collection of exhibition panels and archaeological 'activities' material we have built up through a rolling programme of community outreach work. This programme has included hosting individual site tours and exhibitions, such as that at Braehead, Glasgow (see TA 45), school visits to the company laboratories and display stands at archaeological and science fairs. One by-product is that AOC staff have developed the skills needed to engage with the public. Visitors now spend hours at the event, and many make return visits. A high ratio of staff to visitors means each visitor can discuss aspects of archaeology for some time with an archaeologist, which has perhaps contributed to the high degree of satisfaction evident from the questionnaires. Our emphasis, as in most outreach work, is on taking people through the whole excavation and post-excavation process, giving a realistic picture of what is involved, a useful corrective to what they sometimes get from the media.



Community Outreach activities at AOC Open Day. Photograph: © AOC Archaeology

## Extending our outreach

Outside these organised events we have a policy of running tours of excavations and also of nearby relevant monuments whenever our projects are appropriate. There are also some projects where it is possible to involve active local volunteers, especially where there is an archaeological or historical society in the area. This year too we have taken over running the local Young Archaeologist Club. Because of the commitment of a large number of staff, the burden has diminished in comparison with reliance on the enthusiasm of one individual. Because of the local contacts AOC has made with the local community new accommodation has been found for monthly YAC meetings, minimising the financial burden.

## Maximising gain

The rationale behind AOC pursuing not-for-profit community work is perhaps best encapsulated in our Public Outreach Policy 'to maximise public gain in the work we do', originally instigated in our application for IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation status. While there is undoubtedly certain PR mileage in engaging with the public, the commercial benefit is



Exhibitions for the public at AOC Open Days. Photograph: © AOC Archaeology



Engaging with the public at AOC Open Days. Photograph: © AOC Archaeology

*As archaeologists we are aware that the proper protection and management of archaeology is only possible with the support of the public.*

fairly limited and doesn't explain why individual members of staff are prepared to give up their own time to host such events. As

archaeologists we are aware that the proper protection and management of archaeology is only possible with the support of the public. The strongest reason, however, is that, like most archaeologists, AOC staff are genuinely interested in what we discover about the past through our work – and we like to tell other people about it.

When there is so much interest in archaeology it is important that a commercial archaeology unit takes the time to engage with the public and to

make the archaeology it practices relevant to local communities. This process can be as rewarding to the archaeologists as it is to the community.

Ronan Toolis  
AOC Archaeology



Questionnaires offer useful feedback for planning future events. Photograph: © AOC Archaeology



# Operation LEOFRIC: a community project

Joe Hillaby and Peter Barker

*Sometimes local societies find a research project of exceptional potential, and with professional support can end up with highly valuable data as well as a galvanised local society and an enthused community. This happened recently at Leominster, where the Friends of Leominster Priory and Stratascan Ltd have found archaeological evidence in support of the historical evidence for the minster's Middle Saxon origins.*

For the last 25 years Herefordshire's local history societies have organised annual day schools to debate themes of general interest. In 2000 it was the turn of Leominster Historical Society to act as host, and the theme 'The Early Church in Herefordshire' was chosen. It was here that John Blair pointed out that 'from a national perspective Leominster looks highly exceptional. Its area of parochial dependence was at least twelve miles across; it was one of the biggest mother parishes known in England; it had three Anglo-Saxon saints, which is most unusual for a non-cathedral site before the Benedictine Reform; and the area around the monastic centre was articulated by complex territorial divisions and satellite settlements'.



Traces of the arch of the cloister vaulting can be seen on the exterior of the north wall of the north aisle



Leominster priory today

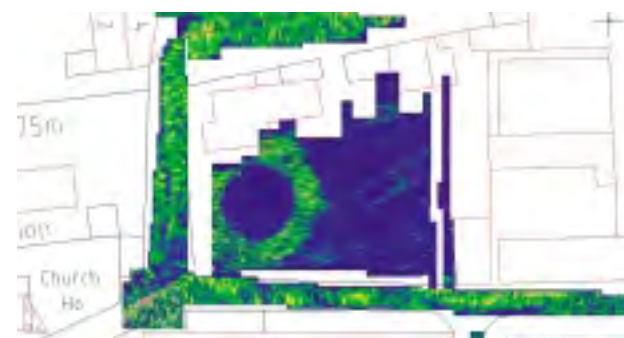
## 'Operation Leofric'

The Friends of Leominster Priory were inspired to embark on a campaign to broaden public interest in the priory and its historic role. This was code-named 'Operation Leofric', after the Saxon earl of Mercia, famous for the supposed exploits of his wife, Lady Godiva, who, according to the chronicler John of Worcester, 'enriched with valuable ornaments the monastery of Leominster'. Application was made by the Friends, through the Countryside Agency, to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Nationwide Building Society for financial support. An award of £30,000 was granted.

The proposal had three very separate elements. The first was a play about the foundation of the priory by Henry I, to be written by Ian Sorley, long-time resident and professional playwright, actor and producer. This would include reference to St Etfrid, founder of the original priory in about 660. Next came ground probing radar (GPR) survey, to enable an accurate scale-model of the pre-Reformation monastery to be constructed. Finally there would be two books, the first by Joe Hillaby on the Saxon minster and post-Conquest priory c 660-1539, the second by local historian, Eric Turton, on the priory's restoration by George Gilbert Scott.

## GPR survey and timeslicing

Stratascan Ltd had already undertaken resistivity and GPR surveys of the east end of the church, demolished after the dissolution of the monasteries. Both techniques produced clear results which correlated closely with an RCHME plan drawn after excavations in 1932. The Friends of Leominster



Priory commissioned a further geophysical survey in 2003, to confirm the position and layout of the cloister for the proposed model (traces of the arch of the cloister vaulting can be seen on the exterior of the north wall of the north aisle). The cloister lies beneath a car park, so the only viable geophysical technique was GPR.

Based on the results of extensive trials at Cardiff Castle and other sites, it was decided to use a 400MHz collecting 40 scans per metre along parallel transects at 0.5m centres. This offers a good compromise between areal resolution and cost. Using the high computing power of modern PCs it is possible to compile a three-dimensional matrix of the data and then sample this *horizontally* to produce a series of plans showing the strength of returned signal for different radar travel times (timeslicing). If a signal velocity is calculated or estimated then these times can be converted to depth. The image shown here is a timeslice from the car park area at an approximate depth of 0.6m. As can be seen, instead of the linear foundations expected from the west range of the cloisters, a very clear circular feature was revealed, some 17m across with 3m 'wall' thickness. The image continued to a depth in excess of 1.5m.

## Monastic lavatorium?

The immediate assumption was that these were traces of a monastic lavatorium. Remnants of a fine octagonal example, with sculptured panels of c 1180-90, can be seen some 30 miles north, at Much Wenlock. The foundations of a circular lavatorium were found at St Pancras, Lewes, the premier English Cluniac house. Its Prior, Hugh of Amiens, became second abbot of Reading, Leominster's mother house, in 1123. However, such lavatoria were only half the diameter of the Leominster feature.

After the Dissolution, only a small block north of the cloister (infirmary, rere-dorter and chapel) was retained. It became first the town house of the Coningsbys of Hampton Court, then Mansion House for the borough bailiff, to keep his 'feasts and entertainments'. Illustrations show no circular

structure. In diameter no dovecote of the county exceeds 8m.

## Anglo-Saxon connections

If not of priory or post-Dissolution centuries, what of the pre-priory era? Founded c 660, the minster predates Hereford cathedral. Edmund Bishop described the Kalendar in the early eleventh-century Leominster prayer book as from 'not merely the most remote but most Celtic, backward, part of the country', evidence of continuity of liturgical observance from the seventh century. A nunnery, but not minster, was secularised after Harold's brother, Swein, abducted the last abbess. John of Worcester describes Earl Leofric, close associate of Cnut, enriching the monastery of Leominster. At Bury Cnut built a rotunda for Edmund's relics and at Worcester Stratascan revealed a curving wall concentric with the circular Romanesque chapter house, described in Philip Barker's *Short History* as 'the Anglo-Saxon rotunda'.

At Leominster have we now found a similar rotunda to add to this select group, physical proof perhaps of Leofric's devotion? For the locals, enthusiasm is now for excavation.

Joe Hillaby  
Friends of Leominster Priory

Peter Barker  
Stratascan Ltd

For the minster see: J Hillaby, 'Early Christian and Pre-Conquest Leominster' *Trans Woolhope NFC* 45iii (1987) 557-685



Photographs by Friends of Leominster Priory and Stratascan

A timeslice through the car park shows the circular feature clearly

The cloister now lies beneath this car park



Nineteenth and  
twentieth century  
finds from the metal  
detector survey.  
Photograph: York  
Archaeological  
Trust



# Metal-Detecting, Research and Community Archaeology: *exploring a new approach*

Neil Macnab

 *Metal-detectorists and archaeologists have had many wars of words, especially in the 1970s, but in recent years, especially with the advent of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, more bridges have been built and fascinating results of these collaborations are starting to surface. Neil Macnab reports how, with funding from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), York Archaeological Trust (YAT) has been undertaking innovative community-based archaeological research in partnership with York and District Metal-Detecting Club (YDMC), local amateur archaeologists and the local community at Osbaldwick, a suburban community on the eastern fringe of York.*

The project followed archaeological investigations, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust (JRHT), who wish to develop land at Osbaldwick for social housing. The investigations included desk based assessment, geophysical survey, contour survey and archaeological evaluation. Archaeological features included Roman field boundary ditches, an enclosure of probable tenth – eleventh-century date, ridge and furrow, and post-medieval and modern features. Five local primary schools joined in, looking at the ridge and furrow earthworks, soils and finds.

### Collecting artefacts

Fieldwalking was not an option as the fields were under pasture, but the use of metal-detectors was thought to be a way of exploring the site further. There was an initial trial at an Open Day during the evaluation, when metal detector users were

encouraged to scan topsoil excavated from evaluation trenches. The local community, helped by volunteer archaeologists, got involved and collected artefacts from the spoil heaps. The day also gave JRHT an arena to discuss their proposals for a housing development. Lively debates took place amongst visitors as they examined the finds recovered that day and the results of the archaeological evaluation. There was a metal-detecting finds display and an exhibition of the plans and aerial photographs.

Wanting to build on this success we proposed a new metal-detecting project to JRF, who agreed to fund it. This project has enabled us to develop a methodology (or protocol) for future collaborations with metal-detector club members and amateur archaeologists on green field sites, and has provided further opportunities to engage metal-detectorists and local people in community-based archaeological research.

### Working together in the field?

The project was designed to examine how far constructive working relationships between archaeologists and metal detector users have developed in the York area. Both parties have been working quietly together for some years, especially with the Portable Antiquities Scheme where metal detector finds are recorded at YAT's Archaeological Resource Centre in a weekly 'finds surgery'. But this current project is the first major opportunity to see if we can work together in the field to build up a better understanding of the past history of an area, becoming more familiar with and making use of each others' skills.

### Involving experts

Four community participation metal detecting days took place during weekends in 2003. These were exciting events, and they have enabled YAT and YDMC to survey four fields before development area. 895 finds was recovered. Accurately locating artefacts using an EDM as well as a hand-held GPS has been fundamental to the recording methodology. We could accurately plot the distributions of different categories of finds, and also compare the accuracy of a budget-priced GPS device with an expensive EDM. Best practice for this type of project has been developed which may assist other professional and amateur groups in carrying out similar ventures in the future. Bridges have been built and friendships formed which will enable development of future community archaeological research projects. Procedures include project preparation, research designs, finds disposal or retention policies, project execution, finds recording and conservation, and surveying and plotting finds distributions. This too has been a collaborative endeavour, involving experts from the Excavation, Education, Finds Administration, Artefact Research and Conservation departments at YAT as well as the detailed knowledge and skills of YDMC members.

### Nineteenth-century artefacts and social history

At Osbaldwick the distribution plots of finds have not revealed anything of great archaeological importance – but the picture could be very different elsewhere. Artefacts included agricultural equipment, railway memorabilia, buckles, coins, badges, military buttons, a Victorian commemorative medal, toys, door and furniture fittings. These have, however, added significantly to our knowledge of the social history and use of this site. Also we noted that significantly lower quantities of pre nineteenth-century finds were located during the metal-detecting days in 2003 than were found on the open day in 2002, when the spoil heaps of evaluation trenches were searched. This may be because pre nineteenth-century finds are likely to occur at a greater depth than the modern topsoil (c.20cm thick), the main zone examined by metal-detector users in 2003. Alternatively, it may be that the medieval ploughsoil remains relatively undisturbed, sealed by modern topsoil.

A travelling exhibition has been created to show off this research, and this will go to schools, libraries, community centres, doctors' surgeries and conferences. The project results are also available on a specially designed website <http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/osbaldwick/osbaldframeset-1.htm>

So it seems that this sort of collaboration on greenfield sites is a great opportunity for people to become involved in the history and archaeology of their immediate surroundings – and will also give that vital 'sense of place' to future residents. It is hoped that archaeologists, planners and developers will see the benefit of such projects both in creating a constructive environment for the discussion of a development proposals as well as carrying out valuable integrated research into archaeology and social history.

Neil Macnab  
Field Officer, York Archaeological Trust



Metal detectorists, archaeologists and members of the local community working together at Osbaldwick. Photograph: York Archaeological Trust



Getting to talk to the professionals: Andrew Jones, Education Officer at YAT, reveals the archaeology of Osbaldwick to local school children. Photograph: York Archaeological Trust



# ARCHAEOLOGY AND ROADS IN IRELAND

The conferences predate the abolition of Dúchas and the change to ministerial responsibilities, but a helpful editorial note tells readers who is now responsible for what, and Seán Kirwan's authoritative opening paper on legislation and government policy is unaffected. Archaeologists who have not previously encountered the Irish system should not find this unfamiliar territory: there are significant differences in detail from some parts of the UK – notably the licensing system – but the principles are readily recognised. British readers will note that this paper, like other Irish government publications, sets the processes in the context of EU legislation and agreements (eg the Valletta Convention), rather than hooking them in as an afterthought. Therefore archaeology on the massive roads programme is presented as a response to the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC), supplemented by the provisions of the Roads Act 1993, which puts EIA onto a primary legislative footing and has ensured fuller integration of archaeology into the road planning and construction process.

Following Jerry O'Sullivan's summary of the licensing system Nessa O'Connor describes the role of the National Museum of Ireland. All archaeological objects with no known owner are the property of the state: the Museum is the state's repository, has a consultative role in the issue of licences and has archiving requirements that extend deep into standards of excavation and publication – interesting fare for those drafting the UK government white paper on heritage protection in England and Wales. The NRA clearly has a strong focus in ensuring archaeological value for money. It has appointed a team of Project Archaeologists to assess the archaeological implications at Route Selection and oversee the rest of the process (described here by Ken Hanley).

Other chapters deal with the procurement of archaeological services and the implications of EU law; the operation of public-private partnership (PPP) schemes, the role of the archaeologist in the client team and PPP company, and the allocation of risk; PPP case studies; assessment methods (terrestrial and waterborne); the legislation, funding and practice basis for post-excavation work; and publication (and why it isn't happening).

Finally, as is proper in a book on archaeological practice, the volume culminates in a piece on our fellow professional institute, the Institute of

Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI). Martin Byrne lays down that IAI intends to become more involved in the NRA Code of Practice, linking implementation to IAI's work on rates of pay and specification tender documents, and highlighting the role of private companies and the proposals for reforms to the licensing system (see TA 46) – with a hint of an RAO scheme.

This volume is beautifully illustrated with examples of wonderful discoveries from the roads programme; it is well organised and has a useful bibliography and contacts list. No IFA member thinking of working in Ireland can afford to be without it.

## Kenneth Aitchison adds

The Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland has launched an ambitious project to develop a programme of professional post-graduate education and training leading to the introduction of a structured, accredited Continuing Professional Development programme for its members. This project is being led by Cynthia Deane of Options Consulting, and IFA is delighted to be invited to contribute to this programme. Drawing on our organisational experiences in the development of National Occupational Standards through the Roles and Skills in Archaeology initiative, IFA is initially assisting in refining the training needs analysis for the archaeological profession in Ireland, building on research carried out by CHL Consulting in 2002.

The issues confronting Irish archaeology are not dissimilar to those on this side of the Irish Sea.

Previously, there has been limited supply of vocationally-relevant training and a lack of support by employers. This project seeks to develop structures that will integrate CPD into IAI's membership structure and lead to identifiable career structures across the profession.

A significant difference between archaeology in Ireland and Britain is that of excavation licensing. A review of the system is currently in progress. It now seems likely that the statutory basis for licensing system will remain in place, but its procedures and its management by Government is likely to undergo some change, in the near future, shifting the regulation of standards towards the IAI.

Aerial view of the early medieval settlement and cemetery at Johnstown, Co Meath, on the M4 Kinnegad-Enfield-Kilcock scheme. Photograph: Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd



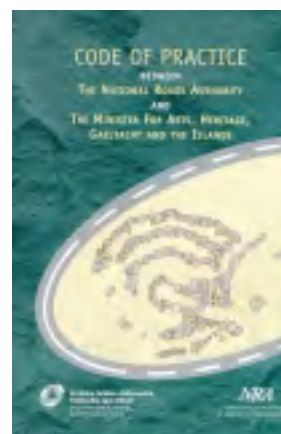
## Archaeology and the National Roads Authority

Jerry O'Sullivan (ed)

National Roads Authority Mono Series no 1, 120pp, €15  
Publications Department of the National Roads Authority,  
St Martin's House, Waterloo Road, Dublin 4 (Tel. +353 1  
6602511, ext. 266; egan@nra.)

## Review: Peter Hinton

This volume contains the proceedings of two conferences in 2002 on provisions for archaeological work within Ireland's National Roads Programme. It sets out the structure of archaeology in Ireland, and is therefore essential reading for any UK archaeologist wishing to work in the Republic.



Code of Practice between the National Roads Authority and the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands



Excavation of human skeletal remains in the early medieval cemetery at Johnstown, Co Meath, on the M4 Kinnegad-Enfield-Kilcock scheme. Photograph: Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd

REVIEW



# English Heritage Regional Advisors for Archaeological Science

# (RSAs)

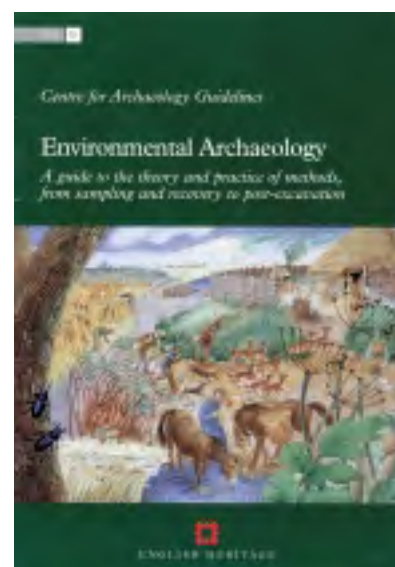
Peter Murphy

Peter Murphy (RSA for the East of England) gives the background to the present system, and how we can make better use of it.

PPG16, shortly to be integrated into a new Planning Policy Statement (PPS15), has been the great success story of archaeology in England. Over £50 million a year was injected into archaeology during the '90s, leading to an unprecedented level of archaeological investigation. However, problems associated with this growth were inevitable, and in particular it became plain that the quality of archaeological science at development-led interventions was variable. English Heritage, through its Regional Science Advisors, set out to improve this situation, and is now keen to ensure its services become more widely used by IFA members.

Exemplary and innovative scientific studies have already been achieved at developer-funded interventions, but their findings are often not disseminated beyond client reports. In some cases only a limited range of scientific techniques is applied, and both the standards of their application and inter-site comparability of results could be improved. The quality of some reports also raises the concern that under-qualified and inexperienced staff are sometimes being employed. Obviously, it would be absurd to suggest that a full range of archaeological science techniques should be applied to all interventions; but we all know that opportunities have been missed.

This perception of variable quality led English Heritage to establish the nine RSA posts in 1999, initially to provide scientific advice to the EH



Guidelines to Environmental Archaeology, available (free) from [customers@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:customers@english-heritage.org.uk)

Regional Teams and to local authority curatorial archaeologists. In fact, many of the RSAs had previously collaborated as specialists with field units, and so immediately found themselves also being asked for advice directly. The posts – almost five years old now – have recently been subject to external review by Gill Chitty (Hawkshead Archaeology and Conservation). The overall conclusion is that the RSAs have made a significant contribution to the quality of archaeological science in England since 1999.

**Information network** Archaeological science draws on a range of disciplines including geophysics, scientific dating, hydrology, engineering, geoarchaeology, analysis of biological

remains, artefact conservation and investigative analysis, and analysis of technological residues, ceramics, glass and stone. Plainly, one person cannot provide expert advice on all these fields. The need to develop a network of specialists has led to the RSAs becoming points of contact between EH, university research workers and the wider regions within which they work – a 'one stop shop' for advice independent of the pressures of contract archaeology. The review also highlighted the fact that some archaeologists were unclear about the RSAs' roles and activities and may even see the RSAs as interfering or irrelevant. So where are we, what do we do, and what can we offer?

Eight posts were originally contracts placed at universities, but five are now based in EH Regional Offices. The RSAs work closely with Inspectors of Ancient Monuments, Regional Planners and Policy Officers on statutory casework, site management and regional planning issues. They collaborate with government agencies and departments, National Parks, Wildlife Trusts, national and regional museums, and universities in developing joint management and research projects and bringing in new streams of funding. Much time is spent collaborating with local authority curators to produce briefs and/or comment on specifications, monitor fieldwork, help develop appropriate analytical programmes and comment on the quality of reports, besides contributing to regional Archaeological Research Frameworks and standards documents. They also provide advice directly to field units and consultants.



Jim Williams installing piezometers at Fiskerton. Note sections of the wooden causeway visible just below and slightly left from Jim's right hand. Photograph: Vanessa Fell

**'Level playing fields'** In the context of contract archaeology, the aim is always to enhance standards and to foster a 'level playing field', so that units with high standards are not handicapped during tendering. Producing good practice standards documents and guidance has been a priority. *Archaeological Science at PPG16 interventions: Best Practice Guidance for Curators and Commissioning Archaeologists* was published on the EH Website in 2003. Over 70% of curators now use it, and its key components were incorporated into the *East of England Regional Standards* document (Gurney 2003). In collaboration with EH's Centre for Archaeology (CfA), the RSAs have produced *Guidance on Environmental Archaeology* (English Heritage 2002). These documents are in no sense intended to replace the existing IFA *Standards and guidance*, but to amplify and extend them.

**Professional training** A successful collaboration between the RSAs and the CfA has been in delivering professional training in archaeological science. In the last four years over 1000 people have attended one or more of 41 regional courses. Topics so far covered have been scientific dating, geophysics, ancient technology, conservation, faunal and botanical remains, and geoarchaeology. Practical workshops on sample collection and processing have also been held. A continuing programme of professional training is planned.

**Reports unread** The RSAs and other EH contractors in archaeological science are also currently working on *Regional Reviews of Environmental Archaeology*, some of which have been published in the CfA Reports Series. There are hundreds of published and unpublished reports which have never been synthesised (indeed may

Natural erosion and coastal management can both be destructive to structures and deposits. Anglo-Saxon timber jetty recorded during a watching brief by Colchester Archaeological Trust at Abbot's Hall, Great Wigborough, Essex, part of a Habitat Creation Scheme. Photograph: Peter Murphy





have rarely been read). These represent an enormous information resource, which needs drawing together and disseminating, partly to establish our present state of knowledge, but also to develop priorities for future work. RSAs are also contributing a science component to Regional Archaeological Research Frameworks.

**Collaboration and monitoring** The interaction between regional management requirements and RSAs' individual research is leading to practical applications of archaeological science methodologies. For example, at Fiskerton, Lincolnshire past excavations have revealed an Iron Age timber causeway, a log boat, and a large quantity of fine metal artefacts. To assist Lincolnshire County Council with the management of this site and its immediate landscape, piezometers to monitor groundwater levels and chemistry have been installed by Jim Williams (RSA, East Midlands) and Ian Panter (RSA, Yorkshire), with the assistance of Vanessa Fell (CfA) and James Rackham, a local independent consultant. English Heritage has paid for the piezometers, and also the monitoring meter for data collection. The collection of monitoring data is now carried out by Lincolnshire County Council staff. This project has been a helpful demonstration of capacity building, as Jim has received training from Ian, and both have now passed this information (and the responsibility for the collection of monitoring results) onto the County Council. A partnership approach to the analysis of the results will also be taken.

Peat rafts eroded from near-shore exposures at Walberswick, Suffolk. Photograph: Peter Murphy



Schematic representation of environmental conditions and types of material typically preserved. From Centre for Archaeology Environmental Guidelines

Experiences learnt from terrestrial sites has been employed on marine sites and Ian Panter has been offering advice on proposals to monitor the sea bed environment during stabilisation trials for the wreck site of HMS Colossus, off the Scilly Isles.

**Waterlogged sites** Wetland site monitoring and management are also high priorities in the South West, the region covered by Vanessa Straker, and in the West Midlands, Lisa Moffett's region. English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Somerset CC are funding the *Monuments at Risk in Somerset's Peatlands* project (MARISP). Richard Brunning (Somerset CC) is directing the project, and has recently carried out small-scale evaluation of twelve scheduled sites on the peat moors and is installing monitoring equipment. Vanessa is also involved with the River Parrett Flood Management Scheme. Consultative workshops has been held for agencies and groups. There are archaeological interests to be considered in relation to works on flood banks, river diversions and floodwater storage. She is also working with partner agencies on a proposed managed realignment scheme in Bridgwater Bay in the Severn Estuary, which has major implications for waterlogged sites and stratigraphic sequences.

Lisa is currently collaborating with local authority curators over wetland creation schemes in the Severn/Avon vale and effect of these schemes on archaeological deposits and palaeochannels. A project of geomorphological mapping and survey



Mollusc shells from fluvial sands at Marham, Norfolk. Photograph: M Howard



Basketry from Roman deposits at Annetwell Street, Carlisle. Photograph: J Jones

in the Arrow valley in Herefordshire carried out by the University of Aberystwyth under the direction of Prof Mark Macklin represents the most complete study of the development of a river valley in this area of England.

**Coastal erosion** In the East of England many sites are threatened by natural processes of coastal change, but coastal management and flood defence schemes pose an even more immediate threat. Peter Murphy (RSA, East of England) is developing protocols and methods for archaeological mitigation in response to coastal change and managed realignment, and has co-authored, with Steve Trow, EH guidance on this topic (English Heritage 2003). Peter has provided scientific support and advice for the EH-funded Suffolk and Norfolk *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys*, designed to enhance coastal SMRs. He is also working to ensure that the historic environment is adequately considered in development of Shoreline and Estuary Management Plans and Strategies. Several major new port developments are proposed, at Felixstowe, Harwich and Shellhaven (the new London Gateway port). Negotiations between the port developers, EH and County Council archaeologists have provided the basis for current maritime survey work by Antony Firth's team at Wessex Archaeology.

**North West** In the North West region, Sue Stallibrass finds that recurring themes include deep waterlogged deposits containing organic remains, coastal erosion of prehistoric landscapes, industrial archaeology and the problems of geophysical prospection on intransigent or complex deposits. She is involved with a report on the risks posed by works to remedy land contamination, funded jointly by EH and the Environment Agency. Sue's own specialisms are vertebrate remains and their integration with other forms of archaeological evidence, taphonomy and site formation processes.

**North East** Jacqui Huntley (RSA, North East and Hadrian's Wall) is actively involved in developing Archaeological Research Frameworks (ARF) for the

World Heritage site and the NE Region as a whole. An important objective is to encourage collation, analyses and syntheses of data – in turn feeding into the ARFs. Much of the region is remote, with little urban development, thus making the historic landscape a living reality. Understanding and presenting this landscape is another important aspect of Jacqui's work, from both public outreach and palaeoenvironmental research angles.

**South East** Intense development pressure in the South East has led to Dominique de Moulin's (RSA, South East) particular involvement in large infrastructure developments, such as the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. Elsewhere, Late Glacial and Mesolithic sites with associated sediment sequences pose their own problems: in particular, Dominique is concerned to gain acceptance that palaeoenvironmental sequences *are* archaeology, whether or not artefacts are present. She is prioritising preservation in situ of such sequences, and of other, later, deposits, where programmes of groundwater monitoring have been employed with developer funding. Another concern involves incorporation of palaeoenvironmental data in SMRs and HERs.

**London** In London, Jane Sidell's particular interests relate to landscape reconstruction, with particular reference to human interaction with the landscape and riverine environments. In addition, she has developed an interest in site management and preservation in situ. More specifically, she is researching piling and compressional impacts associated with construction works.

Your editor has asked me to provide a 'check-list' of Archaeological Science techniques. Obviously, there are very many, so I just list overleaf techniques that I know have been applied in England. Some are easy, but be honest: how many of these have you considered applying? Following this article, we hope that many more excavators will be going to their RSA for advice and help with more sophisticated use of science in archaeology.



Analytical technique	Main applications/information gained on	Analytical technique	Main applications/information gained on
Large mammal bone	Hunting and farming economies	Elemental analyses (eg ICPMS)	Site prospection, location of activity areas
Small mammal bone	Palaeoecology, dating (Pleistocene sites)	Particle size	Deposit taphonomy
Bird bones	Wildfowling, domestic fowl	Augering/boreholes	Establishing stratigraphy, ground-truthing geophysical data
Avian eggshell	Wildfowling, domestic fowl	Magnetic susceptibility	Site prospection
Fish bones	Fishing economies, trade	Magnetometry	Site prospection
Human bone	Age, sex, health, pathology, demography, activity	High sensitivity caesium vapour Magnetometry	Site prospection (including deep sediment sequences)
DNA analysis	Relatedness, sex, microbial infection	Ground penetrating radar	Site prospection (eg in urban locations)
Stable isotope analysis	Diet, health, pollution, geographical origins	Cone penetrometry	Sediment/deposit characterisation: this is a standard geotechnical technique
Lipids, proteins	Uses of ceramics, uses of raw materials	Dipwells – hydrology	Wet site monitoring
Insects	Palaeoecology (beetles, chironomids), economy (dung beetles, grain weevils)	Dipwells – chemistry, pH, Eh	Wet site monitoring
Crustaceans	Palaeoecology (ostracods), economy (crabs, lobsters)	Radiocarbon dating (inc. AMS)	Dating organic materials, employing modelling to enhance calibration precision
Foraminifera/ Thecamoebans	Palaeoecology (mainly coastal sites)	Palaeomagnetic dating	Dating sediments, fired clays
Molluscs	Palaeoecology, economy (edible species)	Luminescence dating (eg OSL)	Dating inorganic sediments and deposits
Nematodes/other parasites	Human health	Dendrochronology	Dating wood
Diatoms	Palaeoecology, salinity, organic pollution	X-raying all Fe objects	Artefact detection
Charred seeds/fruits	Crop production and processing, palaeoecology	Investigative conservation	Technological data
Uncharred seeds/fruits	Palaeoecology, crop production and processing	Ceramic/lithic petrology	Sourcing clays and stone, trade
Wood and charcoal	Palaeoecology, wood technology	Slag analyses	Technology
Pollen and spores (palynology)	Palaeoecology; farming; uses of plant materials	Sampling for micro-slags	On-site activities
Phytoliths	Palaeoecology, uses of plant materials		
Soil micromorphology	Soil development history, deposition, use of space		
Soil/sediment X-raying	Soil/sediment taphonomy and fine stratigraphy		
Mineralogy	Sourcing materials, deposit taphonomy		

#### Contact details: RSAs and their regions

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Peter Murphy  
RSA East of England

English Heritage 2002 *Environmental Archaeology A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* Centre for Archaeology Guideline 2002/01 Swindon

English Heritage 2003 *Coastal Defence and the Historic Environment* English Heritage Guidance Swindon

## New members

### ELECTED

#### Member (MIFA)

Angela Boyle  
Matthew Edgeworth  
Thomas Evans  
Richard Moore  
Simon Mortimer  
Andrew Pearson

#### Associate (AIFA)

Laura Griffin  
Mark Hewson  
Kathryn Hilsden  
Elizabeth Jones  
Erica Macey  
Donna Maguire  
Paul Middleton  
Emma Noyce  
Mercedes Planas  
Sandra Rowntree  
Jim Williams

#### Practitioner (PIFA)

Stephen Beach  
Jana Boulet  
Syann Brooks  
Karen Dennis  
Eleanor Ghey  
Eliza Gore  
Chris Healey  
Brian Hession  
Colin Lacey  
Kate Nicholson  
Christopher Smith  
Ian Travers  
Brian Verity  
Lynne Walmsley

#### Student

Paul Bevan  
Dean Bolton  
Timothy Duckett  
Mara Durst  
Deborah Elliott  
Nikki Farquhar  
Nicky Garland  
George Geddes  
Oliver Good  
Timothy Howard  
Anne Locke  
Patrick MacPhail  
Rebecca Mann  
Philip Richardson  
Matthew Smith  
Gemma Stevenson  
Tina Tapply  
Robert Webley  
Leanne Whitelaw

#### Affiliate

Philip Carpenter  
Matthew Chandler  
Trudie Cole  
Paul Cort  
Richard Cruse  
Rosemary Hooker  
Stella Jackson

### TRANSFERS

#### Member (MIFA)

Edward Impey  
Robert Masefield  
David Parham  
Ronan Toolis  
Colin Wallace

#### Associate (AIFA)

Simon Carlyle  
Daniel Elsworth  
Helen Martin  
Richard Meager  
Elizabeth Rowe

#### Practitioner (PIFA)

Leo Heatley  
James Moore  
Elizabeth Penman

### IFA membership subscription

Following the consultation on subscriptions, a narrow majority (57%) voted in favour of keeping subscriptions based on income category as opposed to membership grade. There were strong feelings about the rates paid in each subscription bracket, and as a result Council voted to maintain the current levels, increasing them by inflation. Useful suggestions were received that Council wishes to discuss over the next year with a view to bringing in some alterations in 2005, particularly to make the system simpler (and so cheaper) to administer.

Council would like to thank all the members who responded to the consultation. Renewal notices have been circulated, so please do continue to support the Institute to enable it to continue to advance the profession as a whole.

### Members news

**Nicky Garland** (student member 2639) is currently in his third year studying History and Archaeological Studies at the University of Kent and is looking to move on to a masters degree next year. He has been digging for the Colchester Archaeological Trust during vacations for the last three years, clocking up about six months on site excavation. He is particularly interested in Roman Britain and has done a dissertation on the Boudiccan destruction of Colchester. He hopes to carry on with part-time excavation while finishing studies, eventually moving into an archaeological career.





## Members news



**Sandra Garside-Neville** (AIFA 405), a ceramic building materials specialist, is now primarily involved in research projects, including the St Leonard's Medieval Hospital Excavations in York (<http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/yordig/>). She is also available for lectures, and teaching CBM recording.

Paul Middleton with prize-winning student Glenys Wass and the Duke of Gloucester



**Paul Middleton** (AIFA 2578) has just succeeded in setting up a new degree-level course in Archaeology and Landscape History, at Peterborough Regional College. In the past two years his A level students have been achieving the top marks nationwide, and have also won the Society of Antiquaries of London awards for their high scores. Paul had already spent thirteen years as full-time lecturer on archaeological topics for the WEA, which included excavations with his students in the Cambridgeshire fens, before starting lecturing at Peterborough in 1997. The new course, which started autumn 2003, has strong scientific components. Students and staff work with archaeological units in Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire on soil sampling and phosphate analysis, with students seeing the whole process from site to publication. They also work on the archaeology of wetlands, taking part in work at Flag Fen where Paul is a trustee.



**Dai Morgan-Evans** (HonMIFA 88) has just retired as General Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, where he has worked since 1992. Before that he had been an Inspector of Ancient Monuments since 1969, first in Wales and then London. One of his roles in the Inspectorate was to give archaeologists the lead in defending the historic environment at public inquiries. In his 'retirement' he will be trying to get back to real archaeology, with field projects already lined up in Pembrokeshire and Montgomeryshire, but he is also committed to making APPAG continue to work effectively, helping Butser get on a more sound footing and representing the Society of Antiquaries in their current battle to retain the premises they have occupied since 1874. He is also taking up some TV work, so should become another personality in our living rooms.



**Adrian Tindall** (MIFA 66) is moving on – leaving his post of County Archaeologist of Cheshire this April to take up the equivalent post in Cambridgeshire. Adrian began his archaeology with a degree at Sheffield, followed by an MA at Bradford and then four years of solid fieldwork as a site supervisor in West Yorkshire. He then moved to Manchester to work with John Walker and Philip Holdsworth in setting up a new unit, and in 1986 went to Hereford and Worcester as County Archaeologist (which at that time also meant running a field team). In 1989 he took up a similar post in Cheshire, and is now set for another change of scene in Cambridge. He is looking forward to more active fieldwork than has been possible in a planning department, and also more involvement in outreach work, an important part of archaeology in Cambridgeshire.

## The National Monuments Record: Resources for Researchers



### The NMR holds:

- **Aerial photography** – comprehensive cover of England, continuously updated with archaeological subjects
- A database of over a quarter of a million **archaeological monuments** in England
- The **Excavation Index** for England
- Thousands of field survey drawings, **transcriptions** from aerial photographs and detailed reports
- An extensive **reference library**
- Many more images and records relating to the built environment

### The NMR offers:

- **Free** basic search services
- **Priority** services (chargeable)
- **Free** access to the reference library and interactive historic image websites, unpublished reports, surveys and photographs at the National Monuments Record Centre

### For more information:

call NMR Enquiry & Research Services on **01793 414600**  
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**e-mail** [nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk)  
**http://www.english-heritage.org.uk**