

PAST



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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PREHISTORIC SOCIETY

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THE ARDNAMURCHAN TRANSITIONS PROJECT, WESTERN SCOTLAND

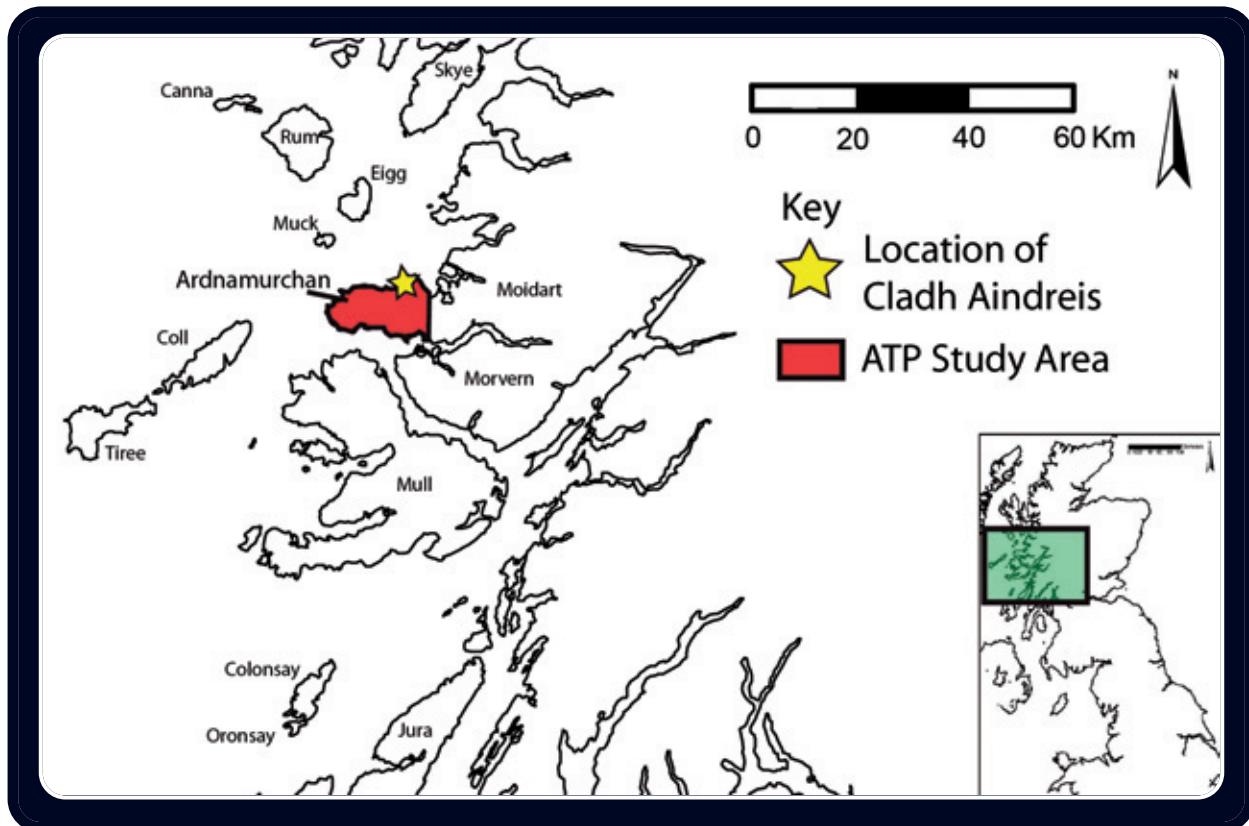
The Ardnamurchan Transitions Project (henceforth the ATP) is undertaking a 5-year investigation of the Ardnamurchan Peninsula on the west coast of Scotland co-directed by the authors. Since our last report in *PAST* 54 two further seasons of excavation have taken place, concentrating on the chambered cairn of Cladh Aindreis (NM 5470 7076). This monument, one of three known in Ardnamurchan, is situated in the picturesque surroundings of Swordle Valley on the north coast of the peninsula. Excavations, designed to investigate the history of the monument, have been ongoing since 2006 and have discovered extensive details of its development. In 2007 we discovered a prehistoric ditch in front of the monument, and further investigations in 2008 revealed this to be a two phase feature. Initially a ditch, about 1m deep and 1.5m wide, was dug. This probably took place in the Early Neolithic, as a diagnostic scraper was discovered in the main body of the fill of this ditch. Then, after the ditch had filled up, most likely having been backfilled, a second scoop-like feature was cut into the fill of the ditch. Pottery discovered in the primary fill of this later feature has been provisionally dated to the mid fourth millennium BC. As we note below, the material taken from the digging of this feature may have been used to block off access to the front of the cairn, although we await further analysis of soil deposits before we can confirm this.



Swordle Bay from the south east (Cladh Aindreis is indicated by the arrow) (photograph: Dan Addison)

A key area for investigation, particularly after a careful topographic survey of the cairn, was the development of the monument itself. In order to follow this up we excavated both at the front of the cairn and in the middle, where robbing appeared to have taken place. The excavation at the front of the cairn revealed that the monument was much smaller than both our own surface analysis and the work of Audrey Henshall (who surveyed the site in the late 1950s as part of her extraordinary career) suggested. The front of the cairn may well have been much closer to the main chamber than we had previously anticipated, and access appears to have been blocked off by the deposition of large amounts of a gravel-rich soil. It is this material that may have been produced through digging of the scoop in front of the monument. Further excavations are planned for the front of the cairn in 2009 which will allow us to resolve questions about the original size and shape of the monument.

The copy date for PAST 62 is 1 June 2009. Contributions to Joanna Brück, School of Archaeology, Newman Building, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland. Email: joanna.bruck@ucd.ie Contributions on disc or as e-mail attachments are preferred (either word 6 or rtf files) but hardcopy is also accepted. Illustrations can be sent as drawings, slides, prints, tif or jpeg files. The book reviews editor is Dr Mike Allen, Wessex Archaeology, Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wilts, SP4 6EB. Email: aea.escargots@gmail.com Queries over subscriptions and membership should go to the Society administrator Tessa Machling at the London address above.



The location of the Ardnamurchan Peninsula, the ATP study area and Cladh Aindreis

Careful excavation in the middle of the cairn revealed further information about the development of the monument. Not only had robbing taken place, as we had suspected, but we were able to demonstrate that the end of the monument - its 'tail' - was constructed on a soil that had built up against the back of the monument. This suggests that the current trapezoidal shape was the result of at least two phases of construction, the monument having begun life as a smaller, possibly round, cairn, only having had the tail added at a later date. We have not yet been able to determine how long this interval may have been, though it was clearly long enough for material to have built up against the monument. It is hoped that material recovered in post-excavation may allow us to date the development of the monument more exactly.

Four trenches were also opened up in 2008 looking for the route of the ditch first uncovered in 2007 and also to investigate an area of material protruding from the cairn to the northeast and included by Henshall in her plan of the monument. On the surface this appeared to be separate from the original monument, and we hypothesised it may have been a later addition of some form. Initial investigations suggest that this is indeed the case, and the trench opened on part of the monument revealed what appeared to be a cobbled surface and a possible entrance to a structure. Further excavations planned for 2009 will open a bigger trench to attempt to

ascertain the size and scale of the structure and if possible to recover some dating evidence. The three other trenches revealed the ditch in two of them but not in the third. Geophysical analysis and further excavations will help us to resolve the path of this feature in 2009.



Bailing the half-sectioned ditch, with the front of the tomb to the left of the image (photograph: Dan Addison)

In addition to the excavations at the chambered tomb we have begun an extensive process of landscape survey within Swordle Bay. This has revealed a small flint scatter, 6 probable clearance cairns, two lime kilns and surviving evidence for occupation prior to the clearances that took place here in 1853. ATP will continue to examine these archaeological remains as part of a broader assessment of the archaeological potential of Swordle Valley and Ardnamurchan as a whole. One

of the clearance settlements will be excavated in 2009 and 2010 along with an extensive test pitting programme throughout the valley, and the conclusion of our excavations at Cladh Aindreis. Our aim for these investigations is to develop a detailed understanding of landscape and environmental change in order to engage with particular moments of social transformation and the long-term histories of this part of Scotland.

Throughout our fieldwork we have also been developing links with the local community through open days, talks, working with school children and having local volunteers working on site. We hope to continue in this vein for the 2009-2010 seasons with the introduction of adult-learning courses, the setting up and training of local volunteer task-groups to monitor and record archaeology in the area as well as documenting oral histories and investigating archival material. ATP also aims to provide teacher packs and resources for local schools, and a more permanent exhibition and interpretation of our investigations so far.

Oliver Harris (University of Cambridge), Hélène Gray (CFA Archaeology Ltd.), Phil Richardson (University of Newcastle), Hannah Cobb (University of Manchester)

Contact: ardnamurchantransitionsproject@gmail.com

PULLYHOUR - A SIGNPOST TO THE PAST

In the north of Scotland there are a number of earthwork monuments that have been described as 'henges' or 'hengiforms'. They have several features in common. All are small circular enclosures with an external bank, a wide internal ditch and a surprisingly restricted interior, but it is far from obvious whether they are more closely related to the ceremonial monuments of the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, or to Irish ring barrows which resemble them in surface appearance. None of the Scottish sites have been investigated and published, and the first research excavation did not happen until Easter last year, with the investigation of a well preserved earthwork at Pullyhour in Caithness.

The site was located on the side of a valley overlooking the Thurso River, in a place with evidence of Mesolithic activity. There had also been standing stones and a cist burial in the vicinity. The earthwork had a single entrance and a well preserved external bank. It was exactly aligned on the remains of a large cairn on the opposite bank of the river. In



Pullyhour before excavation

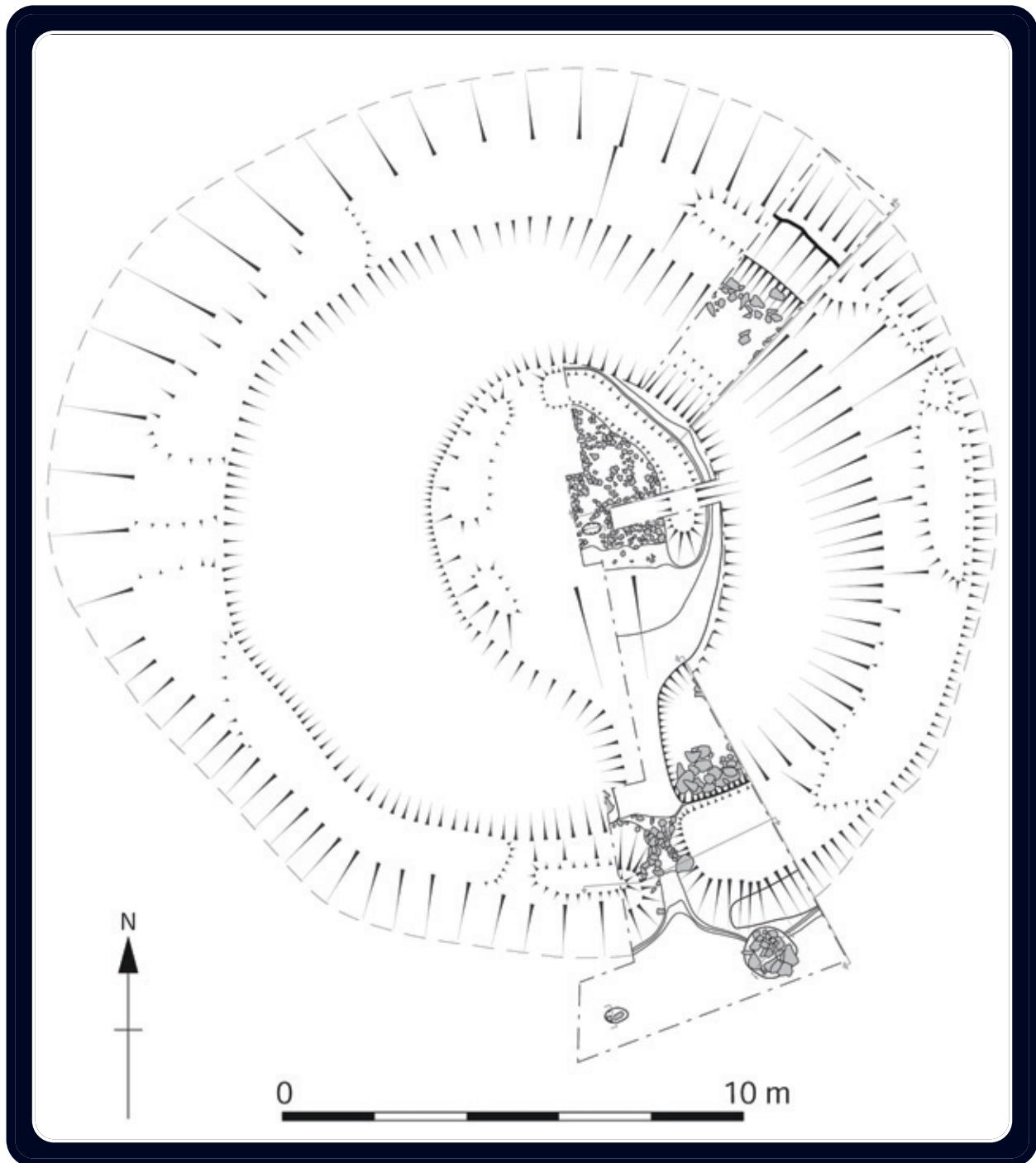


Pullyhour after excavation

Caithness, monuments of this size normally date from the Neolithic; the closest comparison is with a passage tomb beside Loch Calder. The enclosure faced south and was also directed towards the full moon at midsummer as it rises above the far horizon.

Excavation demonstrated that the earthwork was built in two phases. The first was a circular enclosure with a broad internal ditch which must have held water. It had been built in open country which was not used for farming. A date from the old land surface shows that it has a *terminus post quem* of 1620-1450 BC. In its second phase the enclosure was converted to an oval ground plan by widening the ditch on the inside. A small horseshoe-shaped bank was constructed on its inner lip, and the area inside it was cobbled. At the same time the outer bank was enlarged and its inner edge was probably revetted by a rubble wall. This phase is dated between 1320-1120 BC. A small post was erected in the centre of the enclosure.

The entrance was extremely narrow and was flanked by a stone kerb. Just outside it was a pair of posts, one much larger than the other. The base of the principal upright still survived. To our surprise it was a substantial piece of pine, a species which became extinct in Caithness at the end of the Neolithic period. This is confirmed by a date of 2580-2340

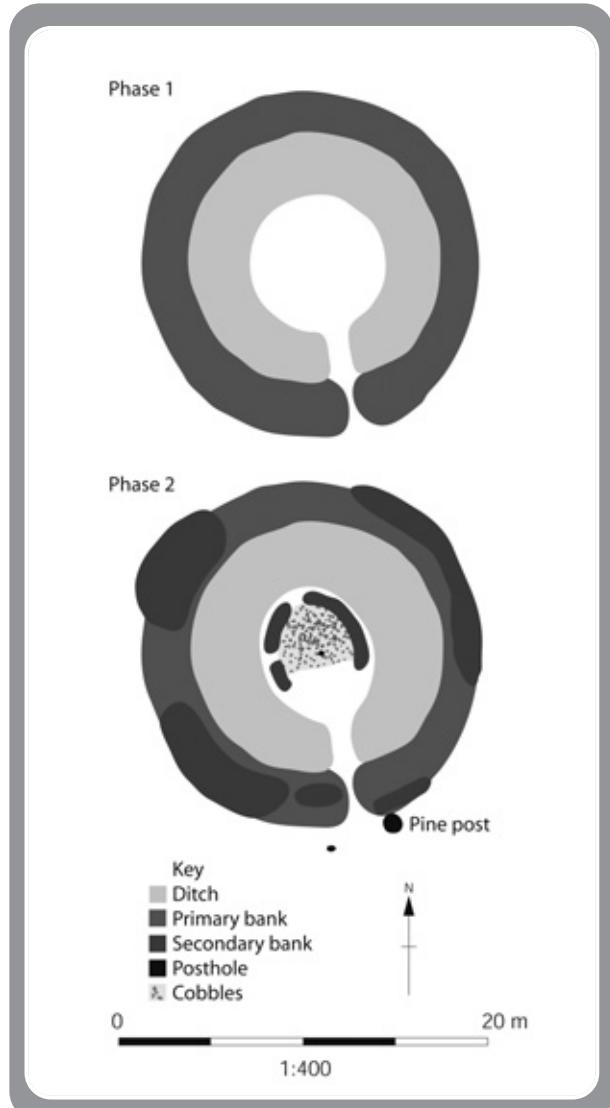


Plan of the earthwork and the excavated area

BC. Since its socket had been cut through the secondary bank, it could not have been erected before the Middle or Late Bronze Age. Not only had the builders aligned the enclosure on an ancient monument, they raised a massive post which must have been dug out of a bog. Its actual age could not have been known, but they would certainly have been aware that it was a relic of some antiquity. The only artefacts associated with the Bronze Age structure were two flint flakes.

Finally, the monument was decommissioned. The rubble supporting the bank was pushed into the ditch and the entrance was blocked by a small cairn. The pine post was uprooted and the stones that had held it in place were smashed to pieces and used to cover its socket. While Pullyhour was in use, the wooden upright had acted as a signpost to the past. Now all trace of it was removed and the site was abandoned.

THE NEOLITHIC OF THE THAMES VALLEY: EXPLORING REGIONAL DIVERSITY



Outline plans showing the structural sequence at Pullyhour

Acknowledgements

First, we must thank George McDonald for permission to excavate at Pullyhour. We also wish to thank the following people who worked on the site, often in dreadful weather: Elise Fraser, Paul Humphreys, Emma Sanderson, Ronnie Scott, and members of the Caithness Archaeological Trust and the North of Scotland Archaeological Society. Alex Brown analysed the pollen samples, Douglas Scott advised on the orientation of the site, and Alison Sheridan kindly arranged for the waterlogged post to be dated.

Richard Bradley and Hugo Lamdin-Whymark

Saturday 7th March 2009

This one-day conference was held at the Society of Antiquaries and was organised by Jane Sidell and Alistair Barclay for the Prehistoric Society. It comprised a series of ten papers, all discussing various aspects of the Neolithic in the Thames Valley, and combined a refreshing mix of new research themes and archaeology that has recently been discovered during developer-funded fieldwork. One theme considered in several of the papers was the archaeological contrast between the north and south sides of the River Thames and the remarkable diversity evident in the Neolithic of the Thames Valley.

After introductions by Alistair Barclay and Jane Sidell, Nigel Brown began the proceedings and examined the excellent environmental data available from estuarine sites and the submerged forests of the Thames. He proposed that the Thames linked up a wide zone of interaction during the Neolithic, and promoted wide-ranging links across the eastern and western parts of Britain with France, the Netherlands and Belgium.

Jane Sidell talked about the gap in our understanding of the Neolithic that still exists on the north side of the Thames although a number of new and exciting discoveries are helping to fill this, including human remains. She suggested that central London can no longer be considered a backwater during this time.

Jon Cotton provided a whistle-stop tour of the Neolithic in Greater London and provided a really useful and informative summary of recent discoveries of Peterborough, Grooved Ware, Beaker and Collared Urn features and sites. Jon stated that generally Neolithic sites only survive on the gravel terraces or under alluvium or colluvium. It is only recently that evidence of Grooved Ware has been found in London, almost completely focused in west London. There is frequently a juxtapositioning of Grooved Ware pits with earlier monuments, and the pits vary markedly in depositional practices and finds assemblages. Beaker pits tend to show a different distribution pattern, shifting away from the earlier monumental Peterborough or Grooved Ware landscapes, and concentrating around the Thames and its tributaries.

Paul Garwood looked at the significance of Beaker burials and the social construction of the dead in relation to the idealised categories of the dead and the living in the Thames Valley. He introduced the idea that most Beaker burials in the Upper Thames Valley are adult males and tend to follow consistent patterns (orientation, grave goods, etc.) in burial ritual. Female and child Beaker burials are much rarer and more

random with regards to burial positions. He suggested that Beaker burial ritual was associated with creating individual identities and biographies. Garwood identified that, on the exceptional occasions that child burial occurs, the child or children almost invariably accompany an adult in satellite positions that seem to reference the older person. Garwood perhaps controversially implied that this might mean the child acted like a grave good, or at least served some specific, symbolic practice.

With regards to the new archaeological discoveries, these included recent excavations by Wessex Archaeology at Kingsmead Quarry Horton, four kilometres west of Heathrow, where an Early Neolithic rectangular plank and post-built house was uncovered in 2008. Paul McCulloch and Alistair Barclay discussed the significance of this discovery.

Roy Loveday revisited previously investigated cursus monuments in the Thames Valley. He compared and contrasted the various cursus monuments in this region (long versus short; straight versus irregular ditches), and the geographical peculiarities of these types of monuments that tend to focus around river confluences. Some cursuses have short use-spans, whereas others (e.g. Dorchester-on-Thames) demonstrate almost a millennium of continued use and respect. Roy argued that we need to understand cursus monuments within overarching themes of shared orientation (NW-SE or NE-SW) possibly reflecting solar alignments, and that this type of ritual architecture carries a message, albeit with regional dialects.

This paper was followed by the recent discoveries at Heathrow Airport, excavated by Framework Archaeology in advance of the construction of Terminal 5. John Lewis presented the preliminary results from excavations of the Neolithic landscape here, including undoubtedly the most fully excavated cursus monument in Britain (a large proportion of the 3.6km long Stanwell Cursus) and proposed that cursus monuments may have articulated, or made physically different, two separate worlds (in the case of Stanwell the world of the flood-plain and that of the gravel terrace).

Steve Ford of Thames Valley Archaeological Services introduced the discovery of a major new henge monument in the University Parks in Oxford in 2008. Although only part of this monument was revealed, two radiocarbon dates from the base of the ditch suggest a late third millennium cal. BC date. A number of antler picks were placed along the base of the ditch.

Gill Hey brought many of the earlier themes discussed together through an overview of Neolithic monument variability in the Thames Valley. These included small versus large monuments, rectangular versus round monuments, and the fact that tree-clearance (particularly in advance of cursus construction) must have been more of a physical effort than that of actually creating the monuments

themselves. She contemplated the different ways in which people were buried in the Neolithic and argued that this diversity suggests that human remains were used or functioned in different ways, just like the monuments. There was a great deal of food for thought in this paper with a final overview of how monuments changed throughout the Neolithic from being communal, permeable and accessible in the earlier Neolithic (e.g. segmented causewayed enclosures) to one where monuments demanded to be seen in terms of control, display and power in the later Neolithic.

This was a very successful day conference bringing together some interesting new ideas and discoveries from the Thames Valley, and demonstrating that interpretations of this period and area keep changing as the pace of new developer-led archaeology in this area increases. The conference was useful in updating our understanding of Neolithic archaeology in this region, and adding a large number of new dots to the distribution maps.

Catriona Gibson, Wessex Archaeology

CONFERENCES

TAG 2009

Durham, 17-19 December 2009

The 31st annual TAG conference will be held at Durham University between the 17th and 19th of December 2009. Session proposals can now be submitted. Information about how to do this can be found at http://www.dur.ac.uk/tag.2009/call_papers.html. The deadline for session proposals is the 30th of June 2009. The call for papers will open in July. If you have any questions please email the TAG 2009 organisers (tag.2009@durham.ac.uk).

NOTICE OF THE 2009 (FOR 2008) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on Saturday 30th May at 4.00pm in the Tempest Anderson Hall at the Yorkshire Museum, York.

Agenda

- 1 Minutes of the AGM held at the British Geological Society on 23rd May 2007 (papers available from the website or from the Hon Sec)
- 2 President's report
- 3 Secretary's report
- 4 Editor's report and R. M. Baguley Award
- 5 Treasurer's report
- 6 Report on meetings, study tours and research days
- 7 Awards
 - John and Bryony Coles Award
 - Research Grants (Bob Smith Award and Leslie Grinsell Award)
- 8 Election of Officers and Members of Council

The meeting will be followed at 4.45pm. by the 18th Europa Lecture. The lecture will be followed by a wine reception.

Registered Office: University College London, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY.

Notes:

1. A member entitled to vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and, on a poll, vote in his or her stead. A proxy must be a member, other than an institutional member.
2. To be valid, an instrument of proxy (together with any authority under which it is signed or a copy of the authority certified notably or in some other way approved by Council) must be deposited with the Secretary, The Prehistoric Society, c/o Department of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford, Bradford, BD7 1DP, by 4.30 p.m. on the 1st May 2009.
3. Forms of proxy may be obtained from the Secretary at the above address.

PREHISTORIC SOCIETY ACTIVITIES 2008

This report covers the period January-December 2008.

Meetings and study tours

Prehistoric Society events over the past year have again tended to move away from London and have been held across most of Britain, often in collaboration with other archaeological bodies thus increasing access to members and promoting the Society's aims and objectives while also demonstrating the Society's commitment to reaching wide regional audiences.

The January 2008 lectures were both collaborative events. Andrew Lawson addressed members of our Society and the Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Society when he gave a talk in Norwich on some recent research into round barrows and grave goods, while Professor Barry Cunliffe told of recent work on the island of Sark at a joint meeting with the Devon Archaeological Society in Exeter. A joint meeting with the Sussex Archaeological Society in Lewes in February heard Paul Garwood deliver a lecture entitled 'Visions of Power and Virtue: Making the Significant Dead in Early Bronze Age Britain'. In November, Professors Tim Darvill and Geoff Wainwright lectured in Bournemouth on their Preseli-Stonehenge Bluestones Project and their excavations at Stonehenge. The eighth Sara Champion Memorial lecture in October was by Dr Rebecca Redfern and was entitled 'Wheeler's Legacy: The Bioarchaeology of Maiden Castle'.

Conferences and day-schools for 2008 started with a conference on 2nd February on aerial photographic

mapping entitled 'The View from Above, the View from Below: Surveying the Prehistoric Landscapes of England'. This was held at the Society of Antiquaries in London and was well-attended. A weekend conference on the British Chalcolithic at Bournemouth in April was also well-attended and hosted by Bournemouth University. There was an excellent mix of fascinating papers which prompted the audience to take part in some lively discussion. There was an Iron Age theme at the annual Dillington House weekend in May (Iron Age or Celtic Britain) which again was well-attended by members. In December, a day-school hosted by Archaeological Sciences at the University of Bradford examined recent research into the prehistoric use of caves. Study tours included a budget weekend tour of Mendip led by Jodie Lewis and a visit to Star Carr led by Chantal Conneller.

Europa Prize

Professor Barry Cunliffe was the 2008 recipient of the Europa Prize which was presented in Oxford. The Society experimented with a new format to the Europa lecture this year by incorporating it into a day-school on the same theme. This year the conference examined 'Britons in the Celtic World' and was well-attended. Also speaking were Professor John Waddell, Brendan O'Connor, Peter Schrijver, Professor John Koch, Professor Sir Walter Bodmer and Professor Stephen Oppenheimer. As well as considering the archaeological evidence, recent linguistic and genetic research was also presented. Professor Cunliffe's Europa lecture, 'A Race Apart? Insularity and Connectivity', formed the end-piece of the day immediately after the Society's AGM (see below).

Research Grants

Research grants totalling £2958 were awarded to D. Boric for the survey of early agricultural settlements in Brazil, J. Bradbury for survey work at Libyan tumuli, J. Lewis for excavation at the Priddy Circles (Leslie Grinsell Prize), S. Rosendahl for research into the early colonisation of Cyprus (Bob Smith Prize) and H. Wickstead for the survey of new Neolithic and Bronze Age sites on Cranborne Chase. G Naumov received conference funding to present a paper on the fragmentation of Macedonian figurines at the World Archaeology Conference in Dublin.

The John & Bryony Coles Award

The President announced that the John and Bryony Coles Award had been presented to K. Cooper (visits to Alpine Lake Villages) and A. Gray-Jones (research into the Mesolithic Burials from Hardinxveld).

Annual General Meeting for 2007

The AGM was held at 4pm on 17th May, 2008, in the Department of Physics, University of Oxford, after the Europa Prize day school and immediately before the Europa Lecture. The President thanked all Officers and members of Council for the work over the year. He particularly thanked retiring Vice-President A. Whittle and retiring Council members J.

Last, G. Halliwell and R. Hosfield. Special thanks were extended to D.McOmish who had had to resign as Vice-President due to pressure of work and had worked hard as meetings secretary. J. Chapman and J. Gardiner were thanked for bringing the Europa day to fruition.

The following officers and members of council were elected

<i>President</i>	Prof. Clive Ruggles
<i>Vice-president</i>	Peter Topping
<i>Hon Sec</i>	Alex Gibson
<i>Hon Treasurer</i>	Alastair Ainsworth
<i>Hon Editor</i>	Julie Gardiner
<i>Hon Meetings Secretary</i>	Jonathan Last
<i>Council Members</i>	Veronica Edwards, Jacqui Nowakowski, Alex Lang

The Baguley Award

The Baguley Award was presented to Duncan Garrow for his paper *Placing Pits: Occupation and Depositional Practice during the Neolithic in East Anglia* in Volume 73 of the *Proceedings*.

Membership

There was a decline in membership over the year which causes concern to Council.

As ever, the Society could not function without the help of a large number of individuals who give freely of their time to organise events and deliver the results of their research. The Society offers sincere thanks to all the individuals who help throughout the year.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

	2008	2007
	£	£
<u>Incoming resources</u>		
From generated funds		
Voluntary income	50,868	50,324
Investment income	10,024	10,434
	60,892	60,758
From charitable activities		
Publication grants	8,369	7,101
Copyright fees	2,064	2,091
Merchandise	28	129
Advertising in publications	-	200
Back numbers of Proceedings	1,811	3,191
Conferences	6,677	-
Study tours	4,423	16,017
	23,372	28,729
Total incoming resources	84,264	89,487

<u>Resources expended</u>	8,894	6,844
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Charitable activities		
Grants	3,958	3,822
Lectures	894	3,957
Proceedings	46,974	41,704
PAST	9,708	10,808
Back numbers of Proceedings	1,595	2,663
Conferences	9,480	143
Study tours	5,453	13,517
	78,062	76,614
Governance costs	4,362	4,940
Total resources expended	91,318	88,398
Net (outgoing) /incoming resources	(7,054)	1,089

Total funds at 1 January	163,519	163,755
Net (outgoing) /incoming resources	(7,054)	1,089
Revaluation of investments	3,173	(1,325)
Total funds at 31 December	159,638	163,519

The Statement of Financial Activities is an extract from the full accounts of the Society. Copies of the full accounts for 2008 can be obtained from Tessa Machling at the registered office.

Report of the Treasurer

The Society had an operating deficit of £7,054 in 2008 compared to a surplus of £1,089 in 2007. The production costs for the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* increased again in 2008 compared to previous years. The Society is investigating how these costs can be reduced in the future. The unexpected surpluses made on the study tours in 2007 were not repeated in 2008. To encourage participation, the Society budgets to break even on its educational events such as study tours and conferences.

ACCOUNTS EXAMINER WANTED

Due to changes in the regulations governing charities, the Society needs to appoint an Honorary Independent Examiner. If any member with financial experience could spare a few hours once a year to examine the Society's annual accounts, please could they contact the Administrator at prehistoric@ucl.ac.uk or the Society's London address. The duties of an Independent Examiner are described on the Charity Commission website.

ROY ALLEN BEQUEST

In July this year Council learned that probably one of our longest serving Society members, Roy Allen, passed away leaving a small sum of £3000 to the Prehistoric Society, which we were delighted to receive. For many years Roy was a regular on UK and foreign study tours and he also left us a couple of albums of photos taken on our trips to the likes of Spain, Cornwall, the Channel Islands, Wessex and Sicily in the 1980s. In addition to photos of many a young tour leader of our acquaintance and any number of other familiar faces, there are also shots of the likes of Stuart Piggott, Richard Atkinson, Pieter Modderman, Thurston Shaw, and Bernabò Brea and some excellent views of monuments. The albums will become part of the Society's archive and your editors are open to bribes to publish (or not) youthful photos of Bradley, Kinnes, Shepherd, Briggs, Topping, Stoddart, Wainwright, Lawson . . . the list is endless.



Photos supplied are of Richard Atkinson (talking to group) and Stuart Piggott on the 1985 Wessex tour.

EUROPA DAY 2009

The 2009 Europa prize winner is Professor Peter Woodman who retired in September 2006 after 23

years as Professor of Archaeology at University College Cork, and previously Assistant Keeper of Prehistoric Antiquities at the Ulster Museum, Belfast. His research interests lie in the areas of the early human settlement and ecology of Ireland and Atlantic Europe and the antiquarian history of Archaeology. He has carried out excavations at many sites in Ireland (including Mount Sandal, Newferry, Killuragh Cave and Ferriter's Cove) and has revolutionised the way in which the Irish Mesolithic is studied. He has also worked in other parts of Europe, and has a particular interest in Norway and Scotland.

The Europa day conference will be held on the 30th May in the Tempest Anderson Hall at the Yorkshire Museum, York. Six international speakers will present their research on the Late Glacial, Mesolithic and Mesolithic/Neolithic transition: Hein Bjerck (Norwegian University of Science and Technology); Caroline Wickham-Jones (University of Aberdeen); Roger Jacobi (British Museum); Rick Schulting (University of Oxford); Alison Sheridan (National Museums of Scotland); and Doug Price (University of Wisconsin and University of Aberdeen). Peter Woodman will be presented with the Europa prize at the end of the day and will give a paper on 'The pleasure of finding things out: living with the Irish Mesolithic for 50 years'.

In addition, Oxbow will be launching Mesolithic Horizons (edited by Sinéad McCartan, Rick Schulting, Graeme Warren and Peter Woodman). This marks the publication of the proceedings of the seventh international conference on 'The Mesolithic in Europe' (Belfast 2005). This is an enormous compendium of research published in two volumes with over 140 papers drawn from the whole of Europe, ranging from the European Arctic to many parts of the Mediterranean, and from the British Isles to Russia. There will be a special offer on the day of £99.95 (publishers price £150).

See enclosed leaflet or the Prehistoric Society website for details of how to register for this event.

Students of the Mesolithic may also be interested to know about a Mesolithic conference for students only, to be held the day before at the University of York. For further details see: <http://sites.google.com/site/mesolithicstudents/Home>

DISCOVERIES TO THE EAST OF CRANBORNE CHASE: THE DAMERHAM ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

Cranborne Chase is one of the best researched prehistoric landscapes in Europe. However, the discovery of two previously unrecorded earthworks, alongside a remarkable series of cropmarks to the east of Cranborne, proves that there is yet more to be

found in this region. Last year we formed the Damerham Archaeology Project to find out more about these discoveries. The Prehistoric Society supported one week of fieldwork in September. The immediate goals were to enhance existing knowledge using geophysical survey and to identify potential future approaches. This article summarises the context of discovery, fieldwork findings and directions for future work.

Discovery

The presence of an extraordinary cropmark complex on land belonging to Ashley Park Farm, Damerham, was first identified in 2003 through English Heritage's annual aerial reconnaissance programme. Detailed study by Martyn Barber of those aerial photographs, and others held by the National Monuments Record, led to mapping (at 1:2500 scale) of the following cropmarks:

1. Two large circular enclosures (just above the farm on the aerial photograph here). The largest, c. 57 metres in diameter, with a ditch c. 5m across, contained at least two rings of slighter, concentric features. The smaller enclosure, immediately adjacent, contained a large negative feature.
2. At least 26 ring ditches and other features. Among these, a circular ditch with a U-shaped extension (below the enclosures on the aerial photograph). Both circular and U-shaped features surrounded concentric pit- or post-settings. Another interesting feature - an elongated oval ditch - lies on the other side of the enclosures.
3. Linear features, disappearing over the right edge of the photograph.
4. At the top of the photograph, a long mound c. 78 metres in length, flanked on either side by a straight ditch. Aerial photographs of the long mound taken in 1997 when the field was clear of crop suggested a chalky mound that retained some height. A 2004 visit confirmed the existence of a low earthwork.

Interpretations are provisional at this stage. It is possible that the large enclosures may represent ceremonial, henge-type structures of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (c. 3000 to 1800 BC) date. Most of the 26 ring ditches are probably plough-levelled round barrows of broadly Early to Middle Bronze Age date (c. 2500 to 1500 BC). Clear analogies for the circular ditch with U-shaped extension are few but not unknown. It would be reasonable to assume a date broadly contemporary with the enclosures, although excavation would be needed to confirm this. The elongated oval ditch may be the remains of a Neolithic oval barrow or long mortuary enclosure, or may equally represent a single ditch surrounding a pair of Bronze Age round barrows. The linear features are of unknown date - they appear to represent a field system, possibly later prehistoric or of relatively recent date.

That an earthwork - almost certainly an Early Neolithic long barrow (c. 4000 to 3500 BC) - could



Cropmarks near Damerham, NMR 21270/36 (SU 0815/43) - © English Heritage, NMR

have remained unrecognised in this well-explored landscape was extraordinary, but further surprises were in store. During the planning stages of the 2008 fieldwork another probable long barrow was found a short distance to the east. This was spotted by Martyn Barber on the Windows Live Local website, which currently features aerial imagery for Damerham dating from about 1999. Site visits confirmed the presence of a second mound, lower and shorter (around 30m in length) than the first.

Fieldwork

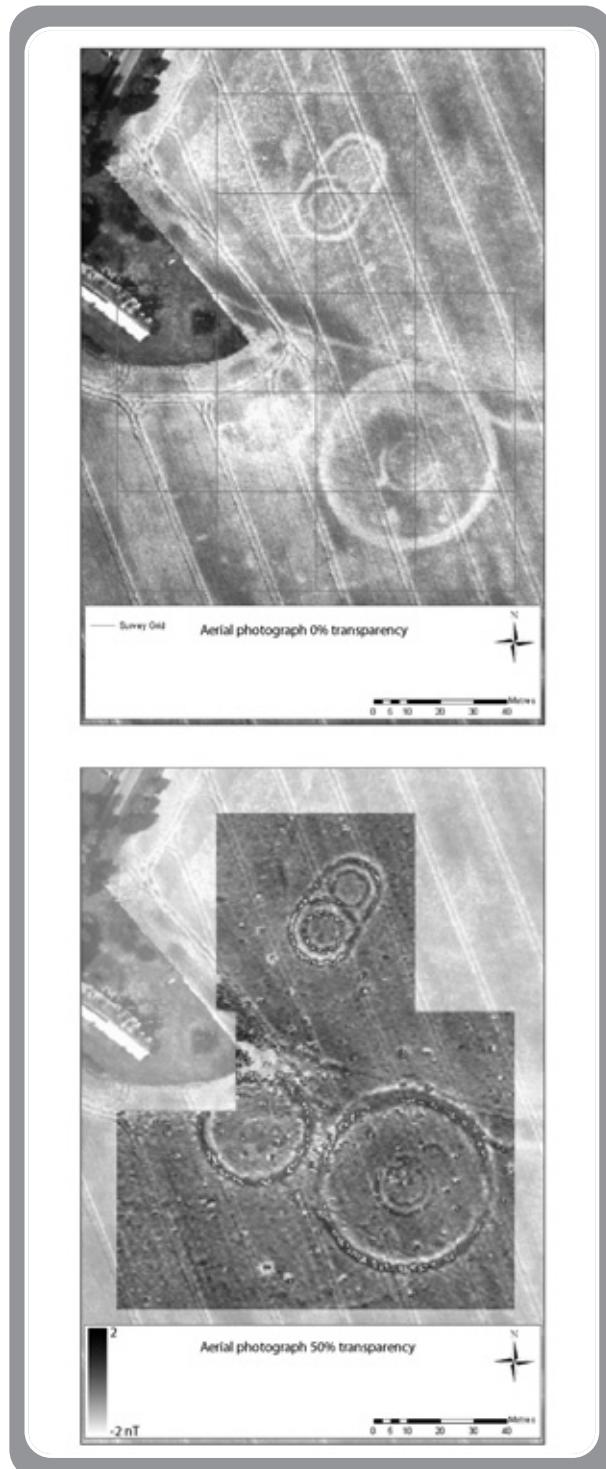
Fieldwork aims were to:

1. Test the potential of different geophysical survey techniques (including gradiometer, earth resistance and ground penetrating radar).
2. Investigate field-walking potential.
3. Target areas and devise methodologies for future work.

Full details of sampling strategy, methodology and results are available in our forthcoming report. Geophysical techniques were strategically targeted with intensive methods like earth resistance used to complement the more rapid gradiometer survey. Here we summarise a subset of our findings to demonstrate the results achieved:

The enclosures

The accompanying figure shows the gradiometer results for an area including the enclosures and circular ditch with U-shaped extension. The substantial ditches of the enclosures showed up well. No unequivocal entrances could be found in either enclosure. Shallowing of the ditch and bank on the east-west axis of the larger enclosure may indicate causeways, or may reflect plough erosion. The ditches of the circular feature and its U-shaped extension were clearly apparent, with a definite break between the U-shaped ditch and its circular neighbour.



Gradiometer and aerial photographic survey of circular enclosures

The interiors of the enclosures were particularly intriguing. Two concentric rings, possibly ditches or post settings, showed up inside the larger enclosure. Within these rings, just to the north of the centre, was an area of marked disturbance. Gradiometer anomalies within the enclosure corresponded with four substantial negative features visible on aerial photographs. Within the smaller enclosure was a large (>10m), curiously shaped, negative feature.

Linear features were apparent, some of which may be boundary ditches, probably related to the field system visible on the photographs. These features swerved to avoid the enclosures, or reused the ditches as part of their length, suggesting they post-dated the enclosures, but were constructed when the enclosures were upstanding bank and ditch structures. A double linear feature that runs across the figure and slighted both enclosures' southern edges is a route for farm machinery.

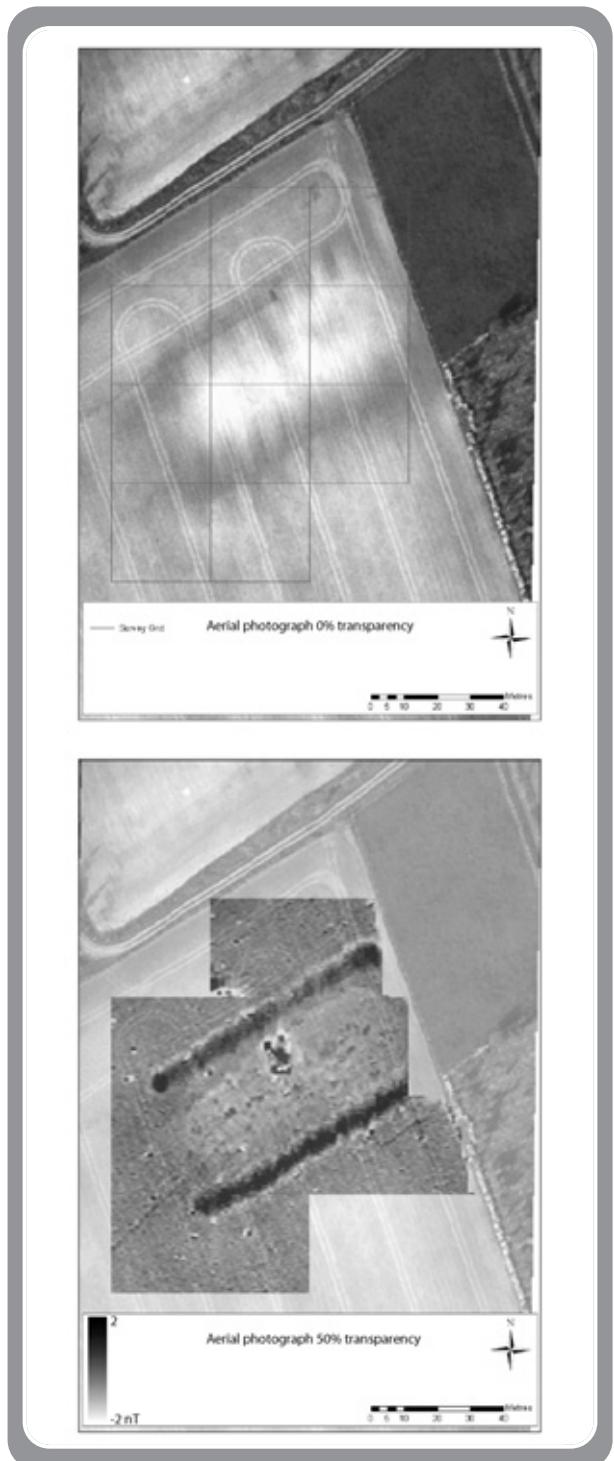
A series of anomalies running from north to south, curving around the circular and U-shaped ditches and then exactly between the two enclosures was interpreted as an alignment of substantial pits. The pits were widely spaced (c. 8 to 15m) and probably made after the circle, U-shaped ditch and enclosures were in place, but while all three were extant earthworks.

Dampney long barrow

Geophysical survey strongly confirms Barber's initial interpretation of the larger long mound as a long barrow. The body of the mound is clearly visible on the ground and showed up as an area of high readings in the earth resistance results. The accompanying figure shows the gradiometer results, clearly showing the two flanking ditches (also defined using earth resistance). A GPR profile confirmed the survival of buried deposits, suggesting the flanking ditches reached up to c. 1m in depth. Both gradiometer and earth resistance located a negative feature in the mound's northern flank, possibly an antiquarian trench, although we have found no documentary records for any such venture. It is not impossible that there is a chamber in this part of the long barrow (R. Bradley pers. comm.), but the strength of negative readings give a more recent feature greater plausibility. Future topographic survey will reveal more about the character of this earthwork. It is christened 'Dampney long barrow' after Mr Dampney, the late father of the landowner.

Assessment of fieldwalking potential

The fields were inspected under poor surface conditions (stubble and unbaled straw). Nonetheless, artefacts, including numerous prehistoric lithics, medieval pottery and oyster shells were visible on the surface. A sherd of prehistoric pottery was picked up close to the enclosures and identified by Rick Peterson (pers. comm.) as from an Early Neolithic carinated bowl. The fresh, unabraded condition of this sherd shows that



Gradiometer and aerial photographic survey of long mound

archaeological deposits are being severely truncated by ploughing, underlining the urgent need for investigation before features are lost.

Future work

During our short field season we were able to confirm and refine existing knowledge of the cropmarks and identify new features invisible in the remotely sensed dataset. Productive as our fieldwork has been, we have barely begun to characterise the archaeological landscape around Damerham. We still do not know for sure where the limits of the complex are. Remote sensing has identified further

cropmarks outside the sample areas of the 2008 fieldwork. There may be many more, as yet unsuspected, sites under pasture. Our discovery of another long mound this year demonstrates that there may be a great deal yet to be found.

More survey to fully characterise the resource is clearly a priority. Our next steps will extend geophysical techniques successfully applied in 2008. GPR was especially useful for dealing with a plough-damaged resource. Future use of GPR will compare the degree of plough damage between areas to model the impact of intensive agriculture. We are also initiating a field-walking programme, offering an alternative approach to past activities. The process of learning about this intriguing, and remarkably under-explored, location has only just begun.

Acknowledgements

Alongside the authors, the field-team comprised Sarah McCarthy, Jess Hancock-Piper, John and Paul Quinlan. Mark Dover and Kate Welham of Bournemouth University and Chris Ellis of Wessex Archaeology provided vital assistance and advice. See www.damerhamarchaeology.org for more information.

Helen Wickstead, Chris Carey, Olaf Bayer and Martyn Barber
Website: www.damerhamarchaeology.org

NEW INITIATIVES – PREHISTORIC SOCIETY WEBSITE AND RESEARCH PAPERS

Over the past three years, your Council has been discussing initiatives to improve and increase the facilities we offer our members. This is a part of the improvements the Society is making which includes the new format for the Europa lecture, taking more lectures and events around the country, and organising more budget accommodation study tours.

Over the next six months, two new initiatives will be rolled out to members. These will include a completely redesigned website with more information for members on our activities, but also information on key archaeological sites around the country. Some of this information will only be available to members. There will also be online subscription facilities.

In addition, we will be launching the Prehistoric Society Research Papers this year. This is a peer-reviewed monograph series, published with Oxbow Books, with hard covers in a similar format to the *Proceedings*. These will be available to members at a 25% discount off the normal price. The series aims to publish collections of edited papers covering

aspects of prehistory. These may be derived from conferences or research projects, although they specifically exclude the publication of single excavation reports. The Research Papers present the fruits of the best of prehistoric research, complementing the Society's respected *Proceedings* by allowing broader treatment of key research areas.

Forthcoming volumes include *Land and people: papers in memory of John G. Evans* (eds Michael J. Allen, Niall Sharples and Terry O'Connor). This will be published in association with the Conchological Society of Great Britain & Ireland and will be available in September. The volume will cost £35 but will be offered to members at the special pre-publication price of £25 for a limited period of time (see flyer with this edition). A further volume, *Materialitas: working stone, carving identity* (eds Blaze O'Connor, Gabriel Cooney and John Chapman) will be available in October-November (see flyer with this edition for offer price and order details). Downloadable order forms are also available on our website.

Land and people will contain selected papers covering a wide range of topics, and is dedicated to John Evans in celebration of his contribution to environmental archaeology. The 20 papers address themes and landscapes on a variety of levels. They cover geographical, methodological and thematic areas that were of interest to, and had been studied by, John Evans. In some instances, papers have been inspired by John's approaches to landscape and landscape analysis and their application to new or wider areas than John himself studied in detail. Others take forward, re-examine or elaborate on some of his specific theories and interpretations, looking at new or improved datasets. As a collection, the papers in this volume provide a diverse yet cohesive picture of how archaeological landscapes are viewed within current research frameworks and approaches, while also paying tribute to the innovative and inspirational work of one of the leading protagonists of environmental archaeology.

Contributors: Michael J. Allen, Martin Bell, M. Jane Bunting, Oliver E. Craig, Paul Davies, Jane Downes, Andrew Fleming, Charles French, Julie Gardiner, Neville Gardiner, Frances Healy, Richard Jones, Steve Mills, Nicky Milner, Jacqueline A. Nowakowski, Terry O'Connor, Simon A. Parfitt, Aikaterini K. Paschali, Mark Robinson, Niall Sharples, George R. Speller and Alasdair Whittle.

The book will be launched at the Association for Environmental Archaeology's 30th anniversary conference in York on 3-5 September 2009. It will be offered to members at a special pre-publication price, and there will be an opportunity for members to include their names in a list published in the volume of those who wish to honour the memory of John, his work and contribution to environmental archaeology, conchology, and archaeological

thinking. Details of this offer and a downloadable form will soon be available on our website.

Mike Allen, Series Editor

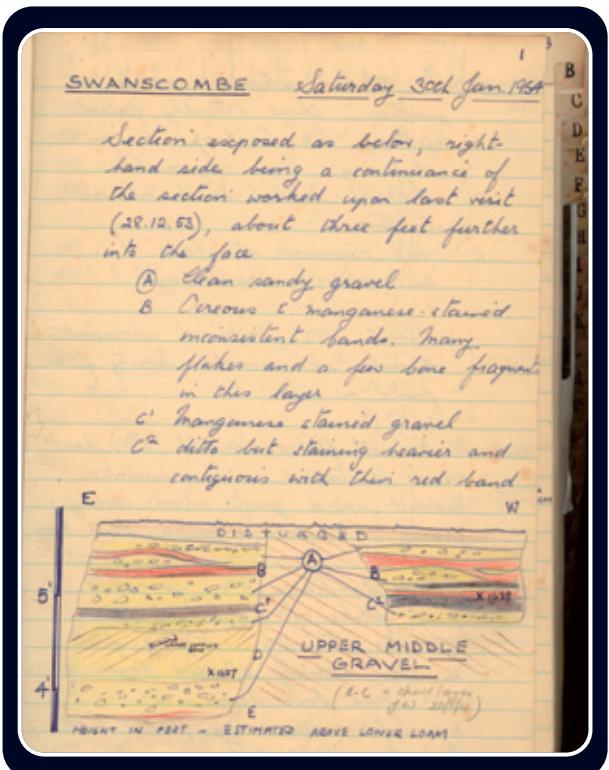
PRESERVING THE JOHN WYMER ARCHIVE

The label on the cover of the old year six physics homework book (belonging to 'J. Wymer Sci: VI') bears the title 'Archaological (sic) Rec's, VOL 1 1949-1952 (1-1016)'. At the top of the first page, in neat cursive handwriting, is the entry: 'W1 Yiewsley, Middx - gravels. Chellean hand-axe 5½" long - abraded (From Father's collection)'. So begins the unique personal archive of John Wymer's life's work in Palaeolithic archaeology.

The first impression is that this is an archive from a past era and, when seen in the light of the current plans to transform it into an accessible, on-line digital resource, it probably is, although the scholarship retains its value to this day. The seven hardbound field notebooks that followed on from VOL 1 (in all some 1600 pages), written in an increasingly neat and precise italic hand, contain dated accounts of excavations, site visits and artefacts, illustrated with small, hand-coloured location maps and section drawings of quaternary stratigraphy, and accompanied by numerous black-and-white photographs of sites, sections and colleagues.

John Wymer's parents, from whom he inherited his interest in Palaeolithic artefacts, were keen amateur archaeologists, and it was in 1956, during one of their excavations of the Upper Middle Gravels at the Barnfield gravel pit at Swanscombe, that he found an *in situ* fragment of human skull. That the bone should fit with two other fragments found some 20 years earlier was an accident of remarkably good fortune, but the very fact of the find within its precise stratigraphical Middle Palaeolithic context, and Wymer's appreciation of its full significance (it remains the earliest known find of human remains in Britain), was down entirely to the patient and systematic approach to observation, excavation and recording which he had brought to the task, and which characterised his work (as evident in the archive) throughout his long career.

While Wymer had no formal training in archaeology, there was nothing amateurish about the work that this archive documents, or the dedication that propelled the young amateur to become the foremost authority in his field - serving variously as President



of the Quaternary Research Association, Chair of the Lithic Studies Society and a Vice-President and Honorary Life Member of the Prehistoric Society, receiving an honorary doctorate from Reading University and the Stopes Memorial Medal from the Geologists' Association and, in 1996, being elected to the British Academy. In fact, the archive probably owes its distinct and individual character to the fact that Wymer was largely self-taught and approached his work with an independence of mind which might not have found such ready expression within the academic system. Moreover, the archive's consistency of approach from that first entry, and its methodical and meticulous attention to detail, suggests that from the beginning, even before his Swanscombe discovery, Wymer appreciated the need for a systematic investigation of the Palaeolithic archaeology of Britain. In 1997 he organised a celebration of Suffolk landowner John Frere's recognition, 200 years earlier, that Palaeolithic artefacts were the tools of people living in the very remote past, but when Wymer started his work there was still no consistent understanding of the geological sequence which could provide a chronological framework for the British Palaeolithic.

Wymer embarked on this ambitious and often solitary task at a time, therefore, when the study of the Palaeolithic in Britain was both unfashionable and unresourced, something which his lifetime's work, as documented in this archive, played a major role in reversing. Central to the changing status of the subject was Wymer's publication of three major

synthetic works on the Palaeolithic, covering first the Thames Valley (1968, *Lower Palaeolithic Archaeology in Britain as Represented by the Thames Valley*), then East Anglia (1985, *The Palaeolithic Sites of East Anglia*) and culminating in The English Rivers Project (TERPS), the results of which were published as the two volumes of *The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain* (1999).

Along with the archaeological and geological record provided by his field notebooks (which are, equally, a fascinating social and historical document), the archive includes a 6000-card index of every Lower and Middle Palaeolithic artefact then known from Britain, many with illustrations in his clear and distinctive style. The index comprised the primary record of TERPS, and during the course of this research Wymer visited every Palaeolithic findspot and museum collection in Britain to assess its significance and to relate each find to its relevant geological deposit.

However, as a record of Wymer's career, this archive extends far beyond the Palaeolithic of Britain, and is therefore of much wider archaeological interest. In 1956 he took up his first professional post at Reading Museum, from where in addition to his continued investigation of the Thames gravels, he excavated the important Early Mesolithic site at Thatcham (his knowledge of the Mesolithic was brought together in the 1977 *Gazetteer of Mesolithic Sites in England and Wales*), as well as the Lambourn Neolithic long barrow and other prehistoric sites in Berkshire. In 1965 Wymer was appointed by Prof. Ronald Singer of the University of Chicago as research field director for a series of excavations in Britain (Clacton and Hoxne) and South Africa (Klasies River Mouth), and his skills as a field archaeologist helped him to establish new standards for Palaeolithic archaeology, and to create a typology and chronology for Britain and much of South Africa. All these strands of a remarkable career are woven together in his notebooks.

Following John Wymer's death in February 2006, Wessex Archaeology, with the help of a grant from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ASLF) through English Heritage, set about securing the long-term curation of this archive of national archaeological importance, and so ensure its dissemination to public and professional audiences. The complete archive which comprises, in addition to the field notebooks and card index, numerous photographs, box files, folders and other items, has been sorted and catalogued by Wessex Archaeology, and the bulk of it transferred to the British Museum which has agreed to be its permanent home (apart

from artefacts and records relating to Klasies River Mouth which will be returned to South Africa, as well as John's personal collection of more than 4000 artefacts, including some fine hand-axes, and any items of little or no academic interest).

To further secure the archive and make it accessible to the public, the field notebooks (which have been indexed by volume and page), the card index and selected photographs of archaeological significance have been digitally scanned and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The note books have been turned into digital text by copy-typing into database format, and will have further detailed indexing to enable users to search the archive at various levels (such as by site, artefacts, etc.) via the ADS website. In addition, a new Palaeolithic database containing the results of TERPS, as published in *The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain*, will also be made available on the ADS website. This is in the same format as the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archive (PaMela) based on Roger Jacobi's archive, currently the subject of the Colonisation of Britain project under the aegis of Wessex Archaeology, allowing the two datasets to be merged at a future date.

The wide reach of Wymer's interest and influence is reflected in the final numbered artefact record in Wymer's field notebooks - below a photograph of the Namib dunes near Gobabeb is the entry: '4439-4441 Two blade-like flake(s), probably M.S.A., and one of a coarse textured rock, in varying states of weathering. Typical of material within stone scatters.' The notebook ends, a few pages later, with photographs, dated 27th August 2004, of a slightly less exotic location, the village of Churchill near Chipping Norton, showing the monument (and a cul-de-sac) commemorating the life of William 'Strata' Smith, the father of British geology, 'who', as Wymer notes in his distinctive script, 'created "the map that changed the world"'. There is no doubt that John Wymer held a similarly pivotal role in British Palaeolithic studies, and the preservation of his archive will allow its continued use as an archaeological and geological record, as a social and historical document of considerable public interest, and as a fitting memorial to a life's dedicated research.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Andrew Lawson for his invaluable advice and assistance throughout the project, particularly with regard to liaison with John Wymer's family. We would like to thank the Wymer family for facilitating this project and to English Heritage for funding it. The project was managed by Lorraine Mepham; Christine

Butterworth and Helen MacIntyre sorted and catalogued the archive.

Andrew B. Powell

CONQUERING THE MOUNTAINS: LANDSCAPE LEARNING AND THE COLONISATION OF CYPRUS

Despite occasional claims for a 'Palaeolithic' presence on Cyprus, it is only in recent years that the island's pre-Neolithic heritage has become a major focus of archaeological research, concentrating on both the ancient shoreline and the foothills of the Troodos mountains. As part of the former, Albert Ammerman and Jay Noller's work on the cemented sand dunes (aeolianite) along the coast has uncovered a series of eroded lithic scatters, notably at Nissi Beach in the southeast and at Akamas *Aspros* in the west, which are likely to represent some of the earliest campsites on the island. Carole McCartney, Sturt Manning and Sally Stewart's survey and excavation work in the northern Troodos foothills as part of the Elaborating Early Neolithic Cyprus (EENC) project has not only produced the first potential pre-pottery Neolithic A site on Cyprus at Ayia Varvara *Asprokremnos*, but also begun to create a map of raw material exploitation and prehistoric mobility through this resource-rich region.



A short trip to the mountains: Aredhioú Kallikás in its landscape setting. The lithic scatter covers the white hill in the foreground.

Under the umbrella of the EENC project, the current project aimed to expand knowledge of chert sources used for the manufacture of stone tools, and to find connections both in landscape and lithic technology between the various sites and geological and topographical regions in the survey area – a process known as Landscape Learning. Building on

experiences and results from the major systematic surveys on the island, notably the Sydney Cyprus Survey Project (SCSP), as well as previous seasons of the EENC project, our investigations were targeted towards hill slopes in the immediate boundary zone of the volcanic pillow lavas and the chert-containing chalk limestones of the Mesaoria plain. With the help of a Geographic Information System (GIS), we included proximity to water sources, specific elevations, slope aspect, geological setting and visibility of prominent landmarks as factors in a basic predictive model for site location. After some success in identifying sites in this manner in the eastern part of the survey area, between the village of Alambra and Analiondas, where the highest quality cherts can be found, our focus during the 2008 season was the western zone, particularly between Politiko and Agrokypia. Here, the small chalk patches are markedly younger and less likely to produce cherts, and the slopes get steeper more abruptly, producing a very distinct landscape from the rolling hills of the east. Yet both SCSP and EENC have identified aceramic sites in this area which could tentatively represent a pre-Neolithic hunter-gatherer presence.



Surveying the fields around the quarry site of Mathiati Aspromoutti.

In the course of our work last year, our small survey team identified four raw material sources in this area, three of which contained medium to good quality cherts and another one high quality jaspers, a material which outcrops in pillow lavas and was used as an alternative to cherts by the region's prehistoric occupants. In addition, we recorded a lithic scatter near the village of Aredhiou, named *Kallikas*, that showed technological similarities to the assemblages of potentially pre-Neolithic Agrokypia *Palaeokamina* and *Kottaphi*, and a number of smaller lithic findspots associated with the raw material sources. These finds indicate that this more mountainous region was equally of interest to the earliest occupants of the island, albeit maybe not for the same reasons - i.e. raw material extraction and tool manufacture - as the eastern

chert hills. Finds in the eastern part of the survey area, which have been under intensive systematic and targeted investigation since 2005, suggest that a refined predictive model that takes factors common to known sites into account can identify further sites and raw material sources and allow a very targeted approach. Thus, we have identified six further chert sources as well as a chert quarry site at Mathiati *Aspromoutti*, in addition to many lithic findspots closely associated with these, between the villages of Mathiati and Analiondas.



Experimenting with raw materials: ochre was a favoured dye and occurs naturally in close proximity to Ayia Varvara Asprokremmos and a number of lithic scatter sites.

Further GIS work combined with both systematic and targeted fieldwalking will allow us eventually to cover the entire landscape. As one of our interests was to connect the well-known east to the lesser known west, this fieldwork was highly successful in finding routes and landmarks that might have served as travelling aides to the earliest colonisers of the island. Landscape Learning, the method of familiarising oneself with an unknown landscape by utilising and internalising it, is thus a process we as modern archaeologists are repeating some 12,000 years after the first hunter-gatherers came to Cyprus.

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