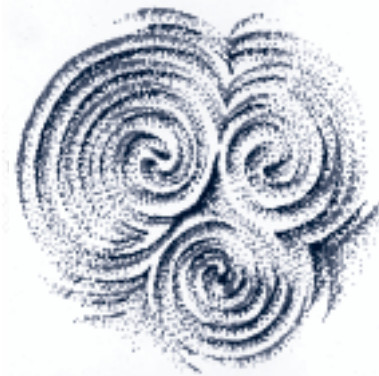


PAST



NUMBER 70 April 2012

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PREHISTORIC SOCIETY

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

<http://www.prehistoricsociety.org/>

FOURTH MILLENNIUM BC HILLTOP SITES IN THE DORSTONE AREA, HEREFORDSHIRE

Three hilltop locations were the subject of exploratory investigations in July 2011 by an international team drawn from Manchester University, Kyushu University (led by Associate Professor Koji Mizoguchi), the University of Leipzig, Herefordshire county archaeological service and local volunteers. The aim of the field season was to confirm evidence for early Neolithic activity, and the possible construction of enclosures, at these prominent hilltops which stand in close proximity both to each other and to the Cotswold-Severn chambered tomb at Arthur's Stone, Dorstone, and the putative long barrow at Cross Lodge, Dorstone.

At the Knapp, Bredwardine, following up casual discoveries of worked flint in the 1970s, a series of trenches were excavated on the top and flanks of a steep-sided knoll overlooking the Wye floodplain east of Hay-on-Wye. They produced an assemblage that included many more worked flints including a number of leaf-shaped arrowheads of strongly contrasting forms (with some evidence of production of some of these on-site), and sherds of plain bowl pottery from a pit. No definite traces of an enclosure ringing the knoll were found: an apparent ditched feature encircling the knoll noted on a recent aerial photograph either was not intercepted at the right point, or was a hydrological feature. One trench indicated that at least part of the top of the hill had been deliberately cut back in antiquity, perhaps purposefully to mark the activities attested there.



Dorstone Hill, looking south. In the foreground the quarried area produced only worked flints and Neolithic pottery. The bank beyond the quarry faces west, cutting off the neck of a broad promontory facing the Black Mountains and overlooking the Dore Valley to the south. The site is just over two kilometres to the south of the Knapp, and partially intervisible with it.

At Dorstone Hill, a broad bank cutting off the hilltop from the rest of the ridge of equivalent elevation was first investigated in the 1960s, but this small-scale work remains unpublished. Subsequently, much of the site has been damaged by arable cultivation. A 30m long trench in 2011 extended northwards across the putative course of an associated ditch. Quarries were

The copy date for PAST 71 is 1 June 2012. 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 Jacky Nowakowski, 4 Melrose Terrace, Campfield Hill, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1EZ. Email: jnowakowski@cornwall.gov.uk Queries over subscriptions and membership should go to the Society administrator Tessa Machling at the London address above.

found cut into a sandstone outcrop. They are of uncertain date but were sealed by deposits containing only plain bowl sherds and worked flints including at least one broad blade fragment. The bank was not proven to be of fourth millennium date, but again only Neolithic finds were made, including one fine blade scraper. The form of the bank, although heavily truncated by localised bulldozing and deep ploughing in the 1970s, is nonetheless interesting because there appears to have been a frontal stone-clad glacis slope, backed by a timber-laced stone and earth bank that had been heavily fired. Some resemblances therefore exist to early Neolithic fortifications at Crickley Hill, but perhaps without the ditch found there. A pit containing plain bowl sherds was found just behind the rear of the rampart.



Dorstone Hill, looking east. The bank across the neck of the promontory was faced with a carefully placed deposit of stone covered by large quarried slabs. Behind this, the bank comprised clay and stones set around upright posts. Both posts and clay had been subject to intense localised burning.

At Windy Ridge between Dorstone and Peterchurch and overlooking the Golden Valley, a ditch had been located by aerial photography, overlooking and traversing a prominent hill spur. The upper levels of the ditch were found to have been removed by early nineteenth century quarrying (indicated by clay pipe fragments), the debris of which filled most of a hollow beside the rock outcrop. However, the basal silts of the surviving lower portion of the ditch produced a single leaf-shaped arrowhead from a very small slot cut across it. While this could have been residual, it is provisionally regarded as a likely indicator of construction during the fourth millennium BC.

Keith Ray (Herefordshire Archaeology) and Julian Thomas (Manchester University)

CROUCHED INHUMATIONS FROM NORTON SUBCOURSE QUARRY, NORFOLK

Northamptonshire Archaeology has been engaged since 2006 in an ongoing programme of watching brief

during extraction works at Norton Subcourse Quarry, near Lowestoft, Norfolk. The works are funded by Cemex UK Materials Ltd and overseen by the Guildhouse Consultancy. The quarry is located to the north of the village of Norton Subcourse, some 12 miles southeast of Norwich, on gravel terraces overlooking the lowlands of the Broads to the northeast.

During the 2009 and 2010 seasons, two parallel ditches, dated to the Middle Bronze Age by a large sherd of Deverel-Rimbury ware and aligned northwest to southeast, were found. The southern ditch cut a pair of tightly crouched inhumations placed within a shallow grave, one directly above the other, and both buried face down. It appears likely that the position of the burials influenced the route of the later droveway, which may have been deliberately aligned on the burial site.

The burials

The two burials were both tightly flexed, perhaps indicating that they had been bound. The lower skeleton was largely complete, although the right arm and clavicle and both hands were absent. This individual was possibly female, probably between 25-40 years old. The upper skeleton was heavily truncated, mostly from later ploughing, with only fragments of the right arm, the legs, parts of the pelvis and feet surviving. This individual was probably male and over 20 years old. Radiocarbon dating indicates that both people could have been buried within a few years of each other during the Middle Bronze Age: the lower skeleton produced a date of 3060±40 BP (1430-1210 cal BC at 2 sigma; Beta-299801) while the upper skeleton was dated to 3030±40 BP (1410-1130 cal BC at 2 sigma; Beta-299800).



The burials in situ. The later ditch cut is to the left of the picture and stud SF1 can be seen to the left of the skull.

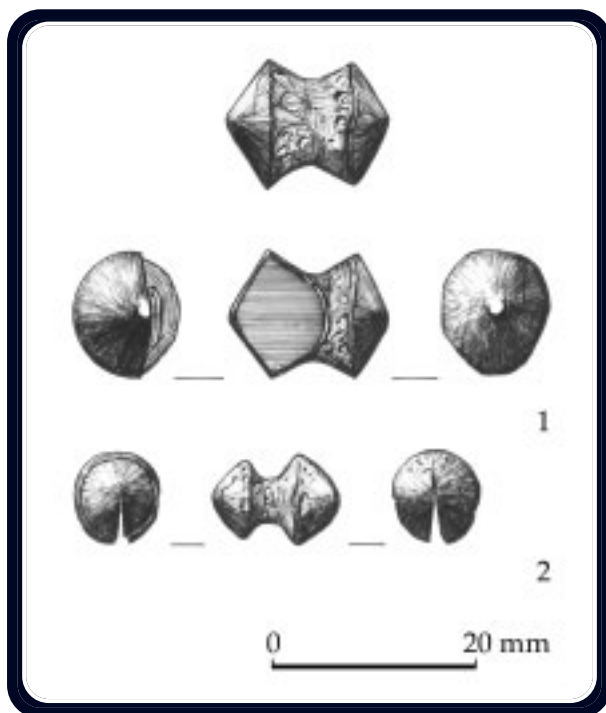
From what little evidence remains, it was possible to see that the two burials had skeletal pathologies (particularly

dental pathology) which have been commonly identified in the Bronze Age. Metric indices were also consistent with what would be expected for the Bronze Age. No unusual pathological, metric or non-metric traits were observed. Similar flexed burials can be found at Octon Wold, Humberside, and at Liberty Heath, RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk. The latter, akin to the Norton Subcourse skeletons, provided evidence for the disturbance of older burials by later interments.

The jet studs

Adjacent to the skull of the lower individual were two jet studs: one (SF 1) was found beside the lower part of the skull, roughly corresponding to the position of an ear, while the other (SF 2) was found underneath the skull. Although not identical, the two clearly formed a pair and are likely to have been worn through the earlobes.

Both studs were waisted and had conical ends. The larger and more gently domed stud (SF1) is black and black-brown. It weighs 1.27g and measures 16.3mm long by 9-13.1mm wide. A large flake scar is probably the result of damage during manufacture, and there are marks left by the process of cutting the central hollow and grinding it smooth. The smaller stud, with steeper conical ends (SF2), is black-brown. It weighs 0.59g and is 13.6mm long by 5.2-9.6mm wide. The absence of tool marks on SF2 may indicate wear. Both studs have a fine woody texture and are warm to the touch; analysis has confirmed that they are of jet, almost certainly from Whitby in Yorkshire, some 260 km to the north (but fairly easily reachable by sea). The fact that SF2 is in poorer condition than SF1 may indicate that soft jet had been used for SF2 and hard jet for SF1; both are readily available around Whitby.



The jet studs (illustration by Marion O'Neil).

Studs are a type of personal ornament normally found in Early Bronze Age contexts. Forty three examples of jet, clay and other materials are known from 27 findspots in England, Wales and Ireland, and the distribution shows a marked bias towards East Anglia (and adjacent counties) and Yorkshire. A few are known from in and around the Peak District, North Wales and Wessex, and one pair has been found in Ireland (Mary Cahill pers. comm.); however, no definite examples are known north of Yorkshire. In shape they generally range from having flattish discs to having one or two conical ends, with varying steepness of the cones. All are united by having a waisted profile. The examples from East Anglia and adjacent counties are all conical.

These studs most commonly occur in funerary contexts, although they are not unknown in settlements. The funerary finds have been found with both inhumed and cremated human remains, with the latter being associated with Collared Urns in six cases in Wales and the Midlands. Of the examples associated with unburnt bodies, the arrangement of the bodies has ranged from extended to slightly flexed, to tightly flexed and possibly bound, as in the present case. A close parallel to the Norton Subcourse skeletal arrangement is that of an adult male, found with a pair of biconical studs of Kimmeridge shale (and a dog) in a pit at Langtoft, Lincolnshire. Unusually, this Langtoft example came from a male burial: in most cases where the sex of the deceased has been reliably identified, it has been female - as the Norton Subcourse individual is suspected to be. Most studs are likely to belong to the first quarter of the second millennium BC, as in the case of the pair of fired clay examples from Brenig 44, Clwyd. The finds from Norton Subcourse stand out as being significantly later than this, even though they are not noticeably different from a pair of biconical jet studs dated to the first quarter of the millennium at Barleycroft, Cambridgeshire (Chris Evans pers. comm.). The Norton Subcourse studs could have been ancient, heirloom objects when buried, but the observed degree of wear is not very heavy, as one might expect had they been passed down the generations. It may be that the tradition of manufacturing studs endured for half a millennium.

Studs probably formed part of a 'vocabulary of prestige' in Bronze Age societies, particularly given the use of jet and Kimmeridge shale - both relatively scarce and precious materials. This is certainly suggested by the high-status, 'Wessex 1' grave assemblage that accompanied the fired clay example and the body of an 'aged' woman in a barrow at Manton, Wiltshire: the grave goods here included a miniature halberd pendant and a gold-bound amber disc pendant. The Norton Subcourse studs are a particularly interesting demonstration of the longevity of the tradition of using this type of personal ornament.

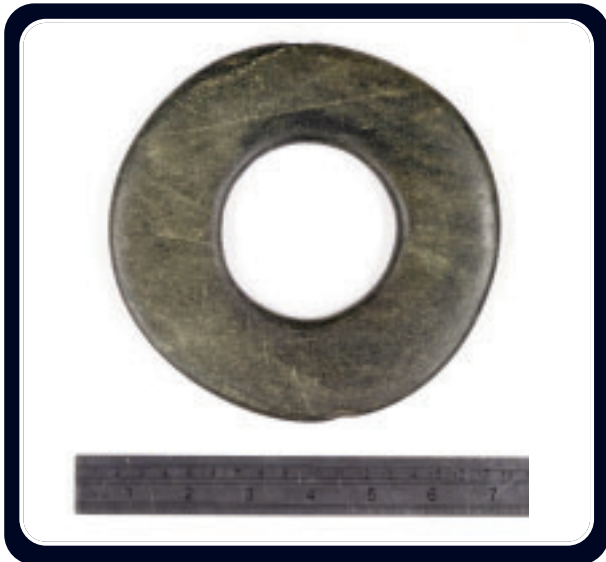
Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was supervised for Northamptonshire Archaeology by Mark Patenall assisted by Sam Egan, Ian Fisher, Robin Foard and Dan Riley. The works were funded by Cemex UK Materials Ltd and overseen by Adrian Havercroft of the Guildhouse Consultancy.

Adam Yates (Northamptonshire Archaeology), Andy Chapman (Northamptonshire Archaeology), Sarah Inskipp (Southampton University) and Alison Sheridan (National Museums Scotland); stud illustrations by Marion O'Neil

RARE NEOLITHIC JADEITE RING RETURNED TO JERSEY

Jersey Heritage and the Société Jersiaise are delighted to report that they have secured the return to Jersey of a rare Neolithic jadeite ring. It was thought to have been lost to the island, after it was sold to a private collector at a Bonham's auction in London in 1993. Thanks to a generous donation from a member of the Société Jersiaise, the ring was bought at Christie's antiquities sale, New York, on 7th December 2011. The ring was discovered in 1986 and brought to the Société Jersiaise for identification. It was one of two complete rings, along with two fragments, that had been found by two local residents, on separate occasions, in topsoil derived from the same source in the parish of St Ouen. They were the first stone rings ever found in Jersey.



Courtesy of the Société Jersiaise

The ring, which measures 16.2cm in diameter, is the largest and finest example found in the Channel Islands. It features in Mark Patton's 1990 publication on 'Neolithic stone rings from the Channel islands' (*Annual Bulletin of the Société Jersiaise* 25:2). One of

the fragments had been examined in petrological thin section and was found to be of jadeite. In the 1990s, the Société Jersiaise acquired the other complete ring, which is on display at the Jersey Museum. This piece was analysed by *Projet JADE* in 2008 and found to be of Alpine serpentinite.

This hoard of stone rings is a highly significant find for Jersey and the Channel Islands. Polished stone rings are extremely rare and they are normally found as fragments, making this hoard quite exceptional. They demonstrate the wide distribution of such prestigious artefacts made from stone quarried in high and remote Alpine sources. Stone rings were important objects in the Western European Neolithic period and were circulated within an extensive network, linking distant early farming communities in the fifth millennium BC. This is a dramatic demonstration of the integral role of the Channel Islands in the spread of farming, providing some of the earliest evidence for offshore colonisation of the Atlantic fringe.

We have made contact with both the finders, one of whom still owns the two fragments, and are aiming to establish a more accurate provenance for the hoard. It is also our desire to have the ring and fragments analysed non-destructively so the source of their stone can be determined. Jersey Heritage and the Société Jersiaise wish to thank our many colleagues for their support and encouragement in securing the return of the stone ring, especially Dr Alison Sheridan and the Prehistoric Society, Gillian Varndell (British Museum), Dr Pierre Pétrequin (on behalf of *Projet JADE*), Dr Serge Cassen and Dr Ian Kinnes. The stone ring will be on display at the Jersey Museum during 2012 and then will be added to the permanent archaeological displays at La Hougue Bie Museum in 2013.

Olga Finch, Curator of Archaeology, Jersey Heritage.
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www.jerseyheritage.org

FROM HOUNSLOW HEATH TO HEATHROW AIRPORT - AND A STRANGE COINCIDENCE

Linear structures can be difficult to interpret, and few could have been more puzzling to the uninitiated than the alignment that was cut across Hounslow Heath in 1784. It was the work of two well-known public figures: Major General William Roy, who had been responsible for mapping the Scottish Highlands, and the great polymath Sir Joseph Banks. Funded by a grant of £2000 from King George III, their aim was to establish an accurate baseline from which the position

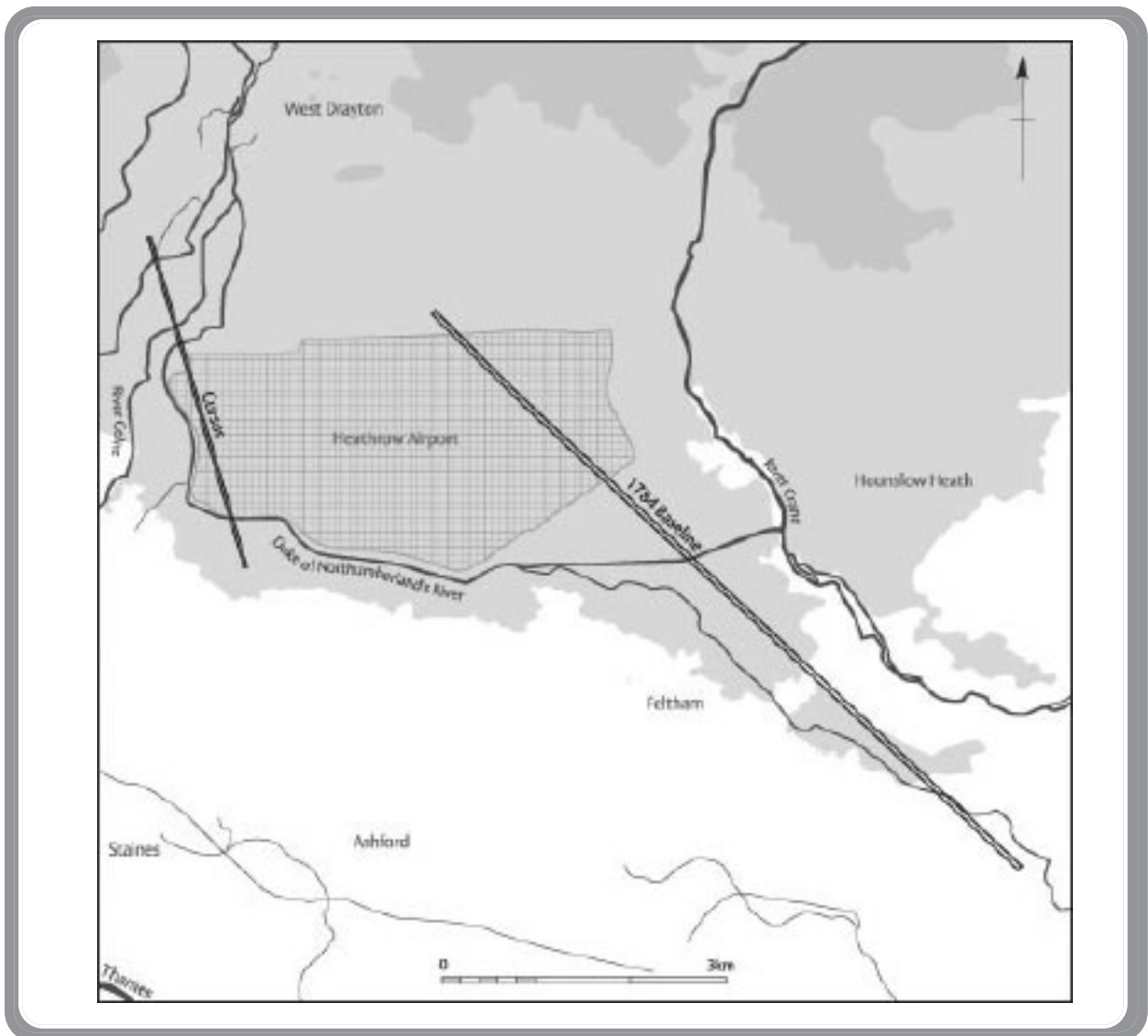
of the Greenwich Observatory could be fixed and placed in its correct geographical relationship to the royal observatory in Paris.

Helped by a team of soldiers, they cleared the undergrowth along a narrow strip that extended in a straight line for a little over five miles. Seven years later, in 1791, that line was surveyed again and provided the basis for the triangulation of the whole of Britain by the newly established Ordnance Survey. The two projects produced almost identical results. The later measurement differed from General Roy's figure by only four and a half inches out of a total length of over 27,000 feet. It confirmed the accuracy of the original survey which had been conducted under the auspices of the Royal Society.

Unknown to Roy and Banks, and indeed to anyone at the time, this was not the first such line extending across that landscape. Today, almost every section of Roy's original baseline has been lost beneath modern development, but its northwest end is occupied by Heathrow Airport. It was here that excavation by

Framework Archaeology identified the remains of an oddly similar feature: the extraordinary Neolithic monument known as the Stanwell Cursus. It consisted of a narrow bank between two parallel ditches. Like the Royal Society's baseline, it followed an exactly straight course, but in this case it extended continuously for a little less than four kilometres - half the length of the strip cut through the vegetation five thousand years later.

On one level, these features could not be less alike. The eighteenth century baseline was laid out with scientific precision and for entirely practical purposes. Its aims were to fix the positions of two astronomical observatories in relation to one another and to facilitate the accurate mapping of Britain. Its limits were marked by a pair of iron cannons which were set upright in the ground like standing stones. The prehistoric monument, on the other hand, was constructed in the late fourth millennium BC, and comparison with better preserved structures elsewhere suggests that it was associated with the dead.



General Roy's baseline, the principal Heathrow cursus and the location of the airport (drawing: Sarah Lucas)

In a way, the eighteenth century project influenced the findings of the excavation. A U-shaped enclosure was constructed close to the cursus and may even have been orientated on the position of a group of posts that was there before the bank was built. To the northeast, it seems to have been directed towards the position of the midsummer sunrise; and to the southwest, in the direction of the Stanwell Cursus, the open end of the enclosure was directed towards the midwinter solstice. The sunset would have been visible behind the earthwork bank. The annual movements of the sun have hardly changed since those structures were built, and it is possible to establish its course across the sky although no trace of the monument survives on the surface. This finding recalls the work carried out in 1784, for its purpose was to establish the positions of two observatories used to study the heavenly bodies. At the same time, mapping of the excavated features at Heathrow employed a Global Positioning System. This was an important innovation, but it was also the latest manifestation of the tradition of exact measurement that had been pioneered by the work of General Roy.

The chain of coincidence does not end there. Sir Joseph Banks was a famous botanist and an explorer who had travelled with Captain Cook on the voyage of the *Endeavour*. He was president of the Royal Society, but was also a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. General Roy was another practical man who could not be confined to a single specialism. He is famous for surveying the Scottish Highlands and is commonly credited with the idea of a national mapping organisation which eventually became the Ordnance Survey. What is less well known is that he was a pioneer of field archaeology, whose book *Military Antiquities of the Romans in North Britain* is still important today. Roy attempted to reconstruct the campaigns of the Roman army in Scotland, and his work was based on accurate surveys of the surviving earthworks of forts and marching camps.

The Stanwell Cursus was only one of five such monuments at Heathrow, although it was the latest and certainly the largest of them. It crosses the west side of the modern airport and extends beneath two of the main runways. The Royal Society's baseline also crosses a runway. An archaeologist in the distant future might be puzzled that so many alignments should have occupied the same area of ground. Yet each one was created for a different reason.

Finally, there is a footnote to this comparison between the two projects. When the results of the excavations at Heathrow Airport were published, where did the book launch take place? Where else but the Royal Society on Carlton House Terrace in London? It was an interesting choice of venue, for it is where both halves of this story come together.

Richard Bradley

THE 10TH SARA CHAMPION MEMORIAL LECTURE, 2011

On a wet Wednesday in October, the Prehistoric Society gathered in the splendid surroundings of Burlington House to hear a fascinating talk by Dr Kate Waddington of Bangor University, entitled 'Creative destruction: middens at the end of the Bronze Age'. The lecture began with a discussion of the definition and formation processes of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age middens. These are large mounds of dark earth mostly composed of animal dung and they are rich in pottery, butchered bones and other artefacts. They are thought to be the remains of seasonal gatherings of communities and provided a stage for the creation, destruction and exchange of objects. Although most of these sites are in southern Britain, the discussion of Whitchurch in Warwickshire, excavated as part of Kate's doctoral work, provided an important insight into this period in the Midlands.



The 2011 Sara Champion Memorial lecturer, Dr Kate Waddington (far R), with Professor Tim Champion and the President, Dr Alison Sheridan.

The focus of the lecture was on the process of how communities dealt with the changes in society between the eighth and sixth centuries BC. It was argued that the creation, destruction and exchange of objects at midden sites provided a mechanism by which communities and individuals could express new ideologies and identities at a time when bronze was being undermined as the material which structured social relationships. In this way, the destruction of objects was creative for those involved: new ideological systems could be forged where old ones could no longer prevail. In particular, the often neglected miniature axes found at Whitchurch and Potterne were argued to play an important part in the material and conceptual transition from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age.

Kate's interpretation of the modified human skulls found at Potterne was also of particular interest. She argued that the physical transformation of the bones destroyed previous identities and were a way in which people could forget the dead. We were also lucky enough to get a quick preview of ongoing research on the dating of East Chisenbury, carried out with Niall Sharples, Alex Bayliss and Richard Madgwick. This is suggesting that this site (and others) could have been in use *c.* 150 years later than is currently understood. Overall, the lecture was thought provoking and challenging; Kate's interpretations on this little understood but important period in British prehistory will no doubt be influential.

Alex Davies, MA student, Cardiff University

NOTICE OF THE 2012 (FOR 2011) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on Saturday 9th June at 4.00pm at Reading University.

Agenda

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Durham University on 14th May 2011 (papers available from the website or from the Honorary Secretary)
 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. Future composition of Council
 8. Awards
John and Bryony Coles Award
Research Grants (Bob Smith Award and Leslie Grinsell Award)
Conference Fund
 9. Election of Officers and Members of Council
- The meeting will be followed at 4.30 p.m. by the 21st 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 notarily or in some other way approved by Council) must be deposited with

the Secretary, The Prehistoric Society, c/o Archaeology, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton, SO17 1BJ, by 4.30 p.m. on the 31st May 2012.

3. Forms of proxy may be obtained from the Secretary at the above address.

PREHISTORIC SOCIETY ACTIVITIES 2011

This report covers the period January to December 2011.

Meetings and study tours

The Society continues to fulfill its commitment to reach wide regional audiences and promote its aims and objectives through the delivery of an extensive and varied series of lectures, conferences and tours across Britain. As in previous years, many of these events represent collaborations with other archaeological bodies.

Three lectures delivered during January were collaborative events with regional archaeological societies, all of which were well attended. Chris Evans spoke to members of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society on 'Environmental change, monumentality and prehistoric land-use at Needingworth Quarry', while in Exeter, the joint lecture with the Devon Archaeological Society was given by Henrietta Quinnell on 'Later Iron Age ceramics and settlement in south west Britain'. Al Oswald's lecture to the Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Society, postponed from 2010 due to bad weather, was also delivered in January. The tenth Sara Champion Memorial lecture in October, held in the Society of Antiquaries, London, was given Dr Kate Waddington of Bangor University on the topic 'Creative destruction: middens at the end of the Bronze Age'.

Conferences held during 2011 included an event that marked the first formal collaboration with the Société Préhistorique Française. 'Hands Across the Water', held at Bournemouth University in May, saw a stellar line-up of speakers from both sides of *la Manche* discuss cross-channel contact among early farming communities. Among those presenting a range of very stimulating and sometimes provocative papers on Neolithic topics were Serge Cassen, Cyril Marcigny, Steve Shennan, Alasdair Whittle, Frances Healy, Chris Scarre and Tim Darvill. The event, which was co-supported by the Neolithic Studies Group and Bournemouth University, also provided the venue for the launch of the *Stone Axe Studies III* volume.

The Iron Age provided the topic for another of the popular Thames Valley day conferences held in the Society of Antiquaries during February. The joint Prehistoric Society/Dillington House Study Weekend

was held in April, when Mike Parker Pearson, Julian Thomas, Julian Richards and other suitably eclectic speakers delivered a lively programme of talks on the theme 'Stonehenge – then and now', the lectures being followed on the second day by a tour of the Stonehenge landscape. The Society provided support to a lively meeting of the Bronze Age Forum held in Cardiff during November, and to student-led conferences in Belfast and Southampton.

The sixth Student Study Tour visited the Cotswolds and Thames Valley over a sunny weekend in April. This was led in fine fashion by Alex Lang, Tim Darvill, George Lambrick and Gill Hey. It included visits to iconic archaeological sites such as the Rollright Stones, Crickley Hill, Stanton Harcourt and Wittenham Clumps/Dorchester among others.

Europa Prize

Dr Natalia Shishlina (Moscow) was the 2011 recipient of the Europa Prize, which was presented in Durham. For the fourth year, the Europa Lecture was preceded by a well-attended day-conference, on this occasion based around the theme 'Eurasian Interactions, 4000-1500 BC'. Speakers included Volker Heyd, Kristian Kristiansen, Tony Wilkinson, Cyprian Broodbank, William O'Brien and Tim Taylor, who addressed topics on links between Europe and western Asia from the Neolithic to the Iron Age. Dr Shishlina's Europa lecture, 'The mysterious Bronze Age steppe nomads', formed the end-piece of the day immediately after the Society's AGM (see below).

Research grants

Research Grants were awarded to E. Baysal (University of Liverpool) for work at Boncuklu Höyük, Turkey; C. Frieman (University of Nottingham) for research on flint daggers; O. Harris (University of Leicester) for the Ardnamurchan Transitions Project; E. Schech (Durham University) for research on Iron Age glass beads; K. Waddington (Bangor University) for fieldwork on the Meillionydd enclosure (Leslie Grinsell Prize); P. Woodman (University College Cork) for work on Killurgh Caves; and R. Wragg-Sykes (University of Manchester) for fieldwork at La Cotte de St Brelade, Jersey (Bob Smith Prize). The John and Bryony Coles Awards went to R. Enlander (Queen's University, Belfast) to study rock art in Scotland; D. Lord to undertake a research trip to Malta and Gozo; and H. Stokes (University of York) to undertake sample collection and museum visits. No award was made from the Conference Fund.

Annual General Meeting for 2010

The AGM was held at 4pm on 14th May 2011 in the Arthur Holmes Lecture Theatre, Science Site, Durham University, after the Europa day-conference and immediately before the Europa Lecture. The President reflected on the success of events to mark the 75th

anniversary of the founding of the Society, and new initiatives such as the revamped website and formal twinning of the Society with the Société Préhistorique Française. She also thanked all Officers and members of Council for their work over the year, and especially A. Ainsworth who has now stepped down as Hon Treasurer, the retiring Vice-Presidents, J. Chapman and P. Topping, and the retiring members of Council, A. Lang, V. Edwards and N. Milner. The President thanked all contributors and the organisers of the Europa Day for their work in bringing the event to fruition, especially J. Chapman.

The following Officers and members of Council were elected:

<i>President</i>	Alison Sheridan
<i>Vice-President</i>	Stuart Needham
<i>Hon Secretary</i>	Joshua Pollard
<i>Hon Treasurer</i>	Clare Randall
<i>Hon Editor</i>	Julie Gardiner
<i>Editor PAST</i>	Joanna Brück
<i>Conservation Coordinator</i>	Adrian Chadwick
<i>Meetings Secretary</i>	Jonathan Last
<i>Council</i>	Tom Moore, Beccy Scott and Marie-Louise Sørensen

The Baguley Award

The Baguley Award was presented to Stephen Carter, Fraser Hunter and Andrea Smith for their article on 'A 5th-century BC Iron Age chariot burial from Newbridge, Edinburgh', published in volume 76 of the *Proceedings*.

Student Award

A newly initiated undergraduate dissertation award has proved very successful. There were 12 entries in total. This year's winner was Nicola Bray of Reading University. The three runners-up were Emily Wright (UCL), Alex Davies (Cardiff University) and Mark Lawson (Newcastle University).

Publications

During 2011, the Society published Volume 77 of the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, which contained 12 refereed papers and one shorter contribution on various aspects of British and European prehistory. There was a particular emphasis on Bronze Age and Iron Age topics. Three editions of *PAST*, the Society's newsletter, were also published during the year. Progress was made on the production of further volumes in the Society's Research Papers series, including that on the British Chalcolithic resulting from the successful conference held in 2008, and another volume on Irish Neolithic houses. Negotiations to find a new publisher for the *Proceedings* were on-going, with Cambridge Journals

(Cambridge University Press) now the preferred partner.

Membership and administration

There are signs that the steady if slow decline in membership that has characterised the last few years may now be at an end. The new website is attracting additional members, including a healthy number of students.

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 2011

	2011 £	2010 £
Incoming resources		
From generated funds		
Voluntary income	47,679	41,681
Investment income	9,014	9,188
	56,693	50,869
From charitable activities		
Publication grants	5,463	10,243
Copyright fees	1,897	2,497
Publications	0	572
Back numbers of Proceedings	2,675	4,054
Conferences	4,375	8,155
Study tours	825	810
Other	1,400	-
	16,635	26,331
Total incoming resources	73,328	77,200
Resources expended		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
	6,765	7,537
Charitable activities		
Grants	5,438	3,183
Lectures	275	435
Proceedings	37,483	34,066
PAST	9,416	9,685
Research papers	-	-
Back numbers of Proceedings	2,217	2,676
Conferences	9,281	11,377
Study tours	1,407	1,262
	65,517	62,684

Governance costs	6,325	5,806
Total resources expended	79,300	76,027
Net incoming resources	-5,972	1,173
Total funds at 1 January	159,094	156,541
Net incoming resources	-5,972	1,173
Revaluation of investments	5,791	1,380
Total funds at 31 December	158,913	159,094

The Statement of Financial Activities is an extract from the full accounts of the Society. Copies of the full accounts for 2011 can be obtained from Tessa Machling at the registered office.

Report of the Treasurer

The Society's situation at the end of 2011 is largely unchanged compared to the preceding year. There has been a significant increase in voluntary income (subscriptions and donations), and largely static investment figures. However, there was a reduction in funds obtained from other sources during 2011. There was an increase in the overall production cost of the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*. A larger sum was paid out in grants than in 2010. The increases in costs and larger grants have therefore balanced the increased income from subscriptions.

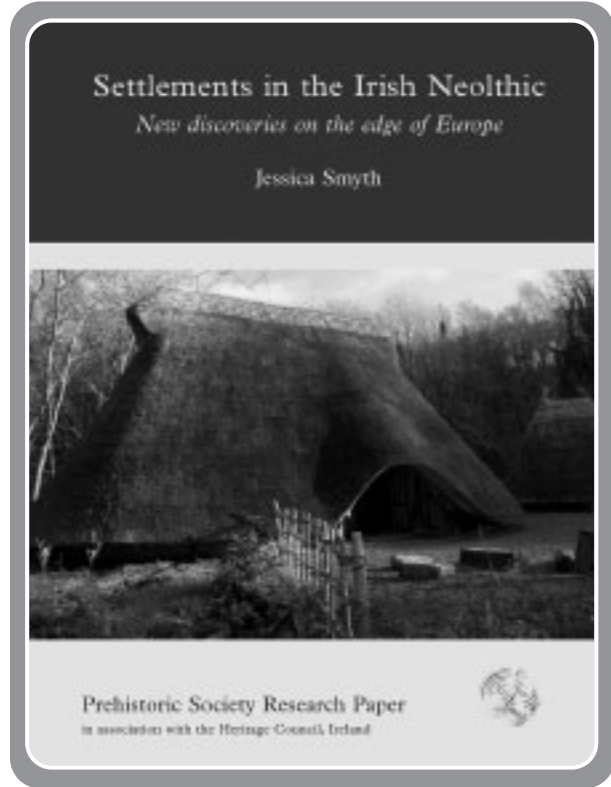
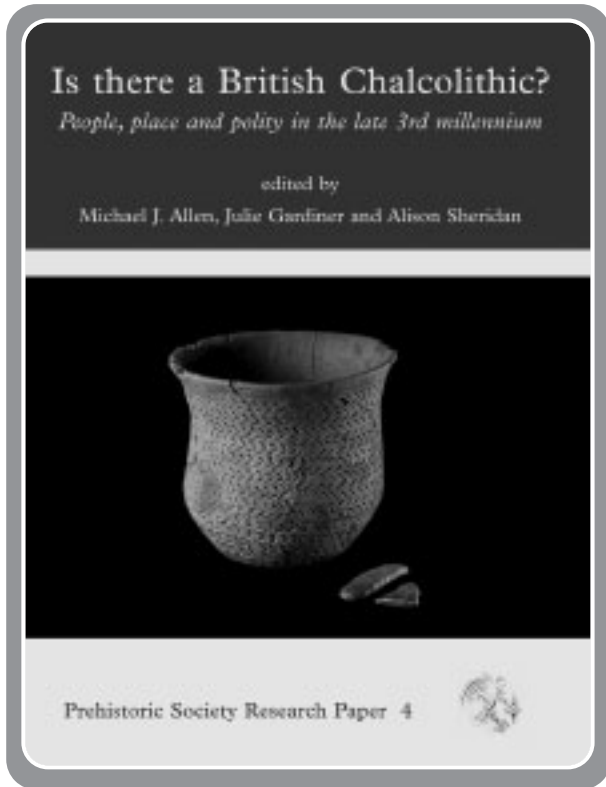
NEW PUBLICATIONS

The *Prehistoric Society Research Papers* series will soon be launching two major new books in this hard-back peer-reviewed series.

Is there a British Chalcolithic? People, place and polity in the later 3rd millennium
£39.95 – pre-publication offer £29.95

This volume with 20 papers by over 30 leading authorities from Britain, Ireland and northern Europe is the first publication to address the concept of a British Chalcolithic. While continental colleagues have long been happy to use the term 'Chalcolithic' to describe the period of pre-bronze metal use on their side of the Channel, there has been a reluctance to embrace that term in Britain and Ireland. The volume significantly expands upon the successful and lively conference in Bournemouth from which it is derived. Papers discuss the English, Welsh, Irish and Scottish evidence, and this is placed into a European context by internationally renowned scholars.

This book will be the text-book for the Chalcolithic of Great Britain and Ireland and consequently it is larger than our previous volumes. Critical reviews of the evidence are presented over 362 pages, 105 figures, and 34 tables, while an accompanying CD includes further illustrations, case studies and tables including gazetteers of radiocarbon dates. It will sell



for slightly more than our three previous volumes at £39.95, but is available to Society members at a pre-publication price of just £29.95. The book will be launched at the Society's Europa Day in Reading on 9 June.

Settlements in the Irish Neolithic: new discoveries on the edge of Europe
£35 – pre-publication offer £25

The Irish Neolithic has been dominated by the study of megalithic tombs, but the defining element of the Irish settlement evidence is the rectangular timber Early Neolithic house, numbers of which have more than quadrupled in the last ten years. The construction of these substantial buildings was a short-lived architectural phenomenon of as little as 90 years. This book explores the evidence for Irish Neolithic houses and settlements, setting these in their wider British and continental European context. More importantly, it incorporates the wealth of new, and often unpublished, material from developer-led archaeological excavations and grey-literature resources.

The volume is due to be published in November 2012 and offers the first comprehensive review of Neolithic settlement of Ireland, providing the social context for the more famous stone monuments that have traditionally shaped our views of the Irish Neolithic.

Further details including full contents for these volumes are available on our website. You can also now set up a standing order to ensure that you receive

every volume at the *pre-publication* price; the standing order form can be downloaded from the Society's website. *Don't miss out on the series!*

Mike Allen, *Series Editor*

INTERPRETING IDENTITY: OUR CONSTRUCT OR THEIRS?

'Interpreting Identity: Our Construct or Theirs?' was a two-day symposium exploring prehistoric identity in Europe held in Queen's University Belfast in May 2011. The meeting was supported by the Prehistoric Society, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Queen's University Belfast Student-Led Initiative Fund. Conceived and organised by Victoria Ginn, Rebecca Crozier and Rebecca Enlander (QUB post-graduates), the symposium brought together a wealth of research themes and periods.

Dr Dirk Brandherm (QUB) opened the first session ('Material Culture of the Dead') with his paper discussing burial customs, gender roles and long-term cyclical change in European Bronze Age societies, with an emphasis on Central Europe. Samantha Reiter (Aarhus University) continued the examination of identity through burial practices and discussed 'in-grave' regional identities of individuals in comparison to their "in-bone" location. Nicole Taylor (Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel) suggested that the conceptual bonds of our personal contexts do not necessarily have to obscure our interpretations of

mortuary evidence, but that the baggage archaeologists bring with them may have its own validity. Our international keynote speaker, Professor Helle Vandkilde (Aarhus University), closed the first day with her paper on 'travelling cultures' in theoretical and archaeological perspectives which examined, in particular, the Scanian coastal site of Pile and contemporary Papua New Guinea, from the perspective of this anthropological concept.

The second day began with a session emphasising material culture of the living and was opened by Dr Kerri Cleary (University College Cork) who examined how human remains deposited in unusual contexts in Bronze Age Ireland were a method for the creation and reinforcement of social relations. Dr Katherina Becker (University of Bradford) concentrated on the creation of multi-faceted social identities in Iron Age Ireland, with an emphasis on hoards. Dr Eoin Grogan (University of Maynooth) examined Bronze Age Ireland from the perspective of the 'lower' workers and suggested the presence of tight-knit social clusters with a strong sense of community.

The third session ('Architectural and Ritual Expressions') opened with a discussion by Michael MacDonagh (National Roads Authority, Senior Archaeologist) regarding the actual layout of the stone circles in Ulster and ending with a startling and convincing conclusion. Jessica Howe (University at Buffalo) examined the potential role of DNA in establishing relationships between possibly contemporary monuments, with an emphasis on Neolithic tombs. Neil Carlin (University College Dublin) gave a detailed appraisal of Beaker objects, arguing that such objects did not simply represent commodities but instead played a key role in the construction of regional and supra-regional social identities in Ireland.

In the final session ('Our Construct or Theirs?'), Catalin Popa (University of Cambridge) argued that modern Romanian identity has been shaped by nineteenth and twentieth century scholarly manipulation of the image of Late Iron Age Romania and that this misrepresentation of the past has since been transmitted to the population through the education system. Dene Wright (University of Glasgow) offered a theoretical exploration of the philosophical principles of understanding 'identity' and focused on a case study from the Mesolithic period in West Central Scotland. The symposium ended with the guest closing speaker, Dr Joanna Brück (University College Dublin), who spoke about the possibility of deconstructing Bronze Age chiefdom models.

The organisers would like to take this opportunity to thank all the speakers and the delegates, who came to Belfast from as far as America, Scandinavia and

Germany. Over 60 delegates attended the symposium and it was great to have such a turn-out from the commercial sector, interested members of the public, and students and academics alike. Thanks are also extended to our sponsors who enabled the symposium to be fee-free. The papers from the symposium are currently being transformed into an edited volume which will be entitled *Exploring Prehistoric Identity in Northwest Europe: our construct or theirs?* and will be published by Oxbow.

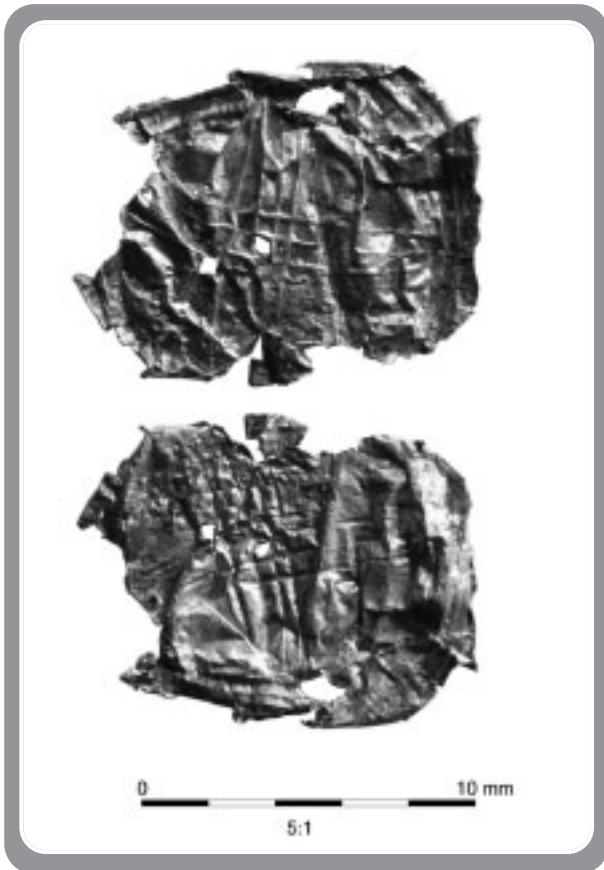
Victoria Ginn, Rebecca Enlander and Rebecca Crozier

A SUN-DISC FROM TUBNEY WOOD, OXFORDSHIRE

Excavations by Oxford Archaeology at a site in western Oxfordshire have recovered a rare example of a gold sun-disc, a type of decorative item that dates from the Chalcolithic period (c. 2450/2400-2200/2150 BC), when metalworking was first introduced into Britain. The investigations were undertaken on behalf of Hills Aggregates Ltd in advance of an extension to their existing sand quarry at Tubney Wood, located on the Corallian Ridge, a ridge of low hills that extends south-west from Oxford towards Swindon and forms the interfluvium between the Thames Valley and the Vale of the White Horse.

The sun-disc was recovered from one of a pair of cremation burials that were located close together within an area of disturbance, the cause of which was not fully understood. Each burial comprised a simple pit into which the cremated remains of an adult of unknown sex had been placed, without an urn or evidence for other grave goods. The actual quantities of bone recovered from each burial was small, amounting to only 222.7g and 25.7g respectively, and clearly represented the burial of only a token amount of material from the pyre. The sun-disc was spotted during sieving of soil from the more substantial burial.

The object was identified as a sun-disc by Stuart Needham based on photographs. The item was approximately oval and measured 12 x 9mm and had been partially crushed. A cruciform pattern could be discerned incised into the object, comprising four vertical and four horizontal lines, surrounded by an incised band around the surviving parts of the circumference, although the latter was less well preserved due to damage to the edges of the object. The disc was probably displayed on a garment, to which it would have been sewn by means of two small perforations, each measuring c. 0.5mm across, that were located slightly off-centre to the disc c. 1.2mm apart. The Tubney disc is a little smaller than most other examples but the decorative scheme is characteristic of the type. Most of the sun-discs that



are presently known from the British Isles have been discovered in Ireland, which has produced twenty-one of the corpus of thirty-four examples; only five have previously been found in England. Both their rarity and the use of gold in their manufacture indicate that sun-discs were objects of great value and indicative of the high status of the wearer.

Curiously, cremated bone from the burial returned a radiocarbon determination of 3409 +/- 30 BP (1870-1840 cal BC or 1780-1620 cal BC at 2 sigma; NZA 34865), indicating that the sun-disc was several centuries old when it was buried and it may represent an heirloom that was in circulation for a considerable period of time prior to deposition. A pair of similar gold discs were found at Mere in Wiltshire in the nineteenth century; these were associated with a Beaker pot, tanged metal dagger, wristguard, bone spatula and the unburnt, crouched skeleton of 'a large man' along with a second individual. This Chalcolithic grave is up to 600 years older than the Tubney Wood burial.

The uncovering of the two cremation burials may also provide a solution to the puzzle of the 'lost' barrow at Tubney Wood. Prior to changes to the county boundaries in 1974, the site lay within Berkshire, and the Victoria County History for that county, published in 1924, records the existence of two putative round barrows within the area of the quarry, one of which it records as having been

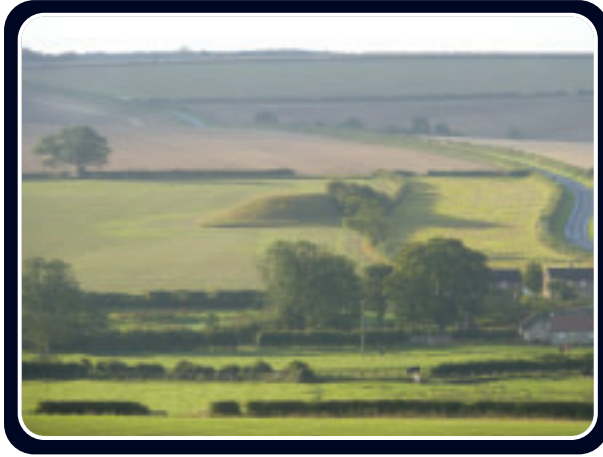
levelled around 1872. However, historic maps of the area, including estate maps drawn before this date, show only a single mound at a location that continued to be indicated as a tumulus on modern OS maps. This presumably represents the mound that was not levelled, although archaeological evaluation trenches dug at this location in 1988 and 1991 found no evidence for a barrow. The location of the levelled mound mentioned in the VCH is not recorded but it is possible that the two recently excavated cremation burials formed part of this monument and, although the structure of the barrow itself did not survive, that the area of disturbance with which they were associated resulted from colonisation of the mound by rabbits or trees, or from the destruction of the mound. At the very least, the burials provide confirmation of the funerary use of this location during the Bronze Age.

Andrew Simmonds (Oxford Archaeology)

DATING DUGGLEBY

The large iconic round barrow at Duggleby Howe, North Yorkshire, was excavated by Mortimer at the end of the nineteenth century and was seen to have been a complex mound covering a number of contracted inhumations. These inhumations were associated with prestige artefacts of middle Neolithic type. Dates for the burial sequence have already been published (see *Archaeological Journal* 166) and it was established that the primary mound was constructed in the 29th or 30th century cal BC. Unresolved in the site sequence, however, was the causewayed penannular ditch that encircled the mound. The enclosure has been variously compared with causewayed enclosures and henge monuments, but at some 380m across, the site bears more comparison in terms of size with the large Wessex superhengings than with henges proper. However, the lack of an associated bank, and the interrupted and penannular nature of the ditch, do not make this comparison totally convincing.

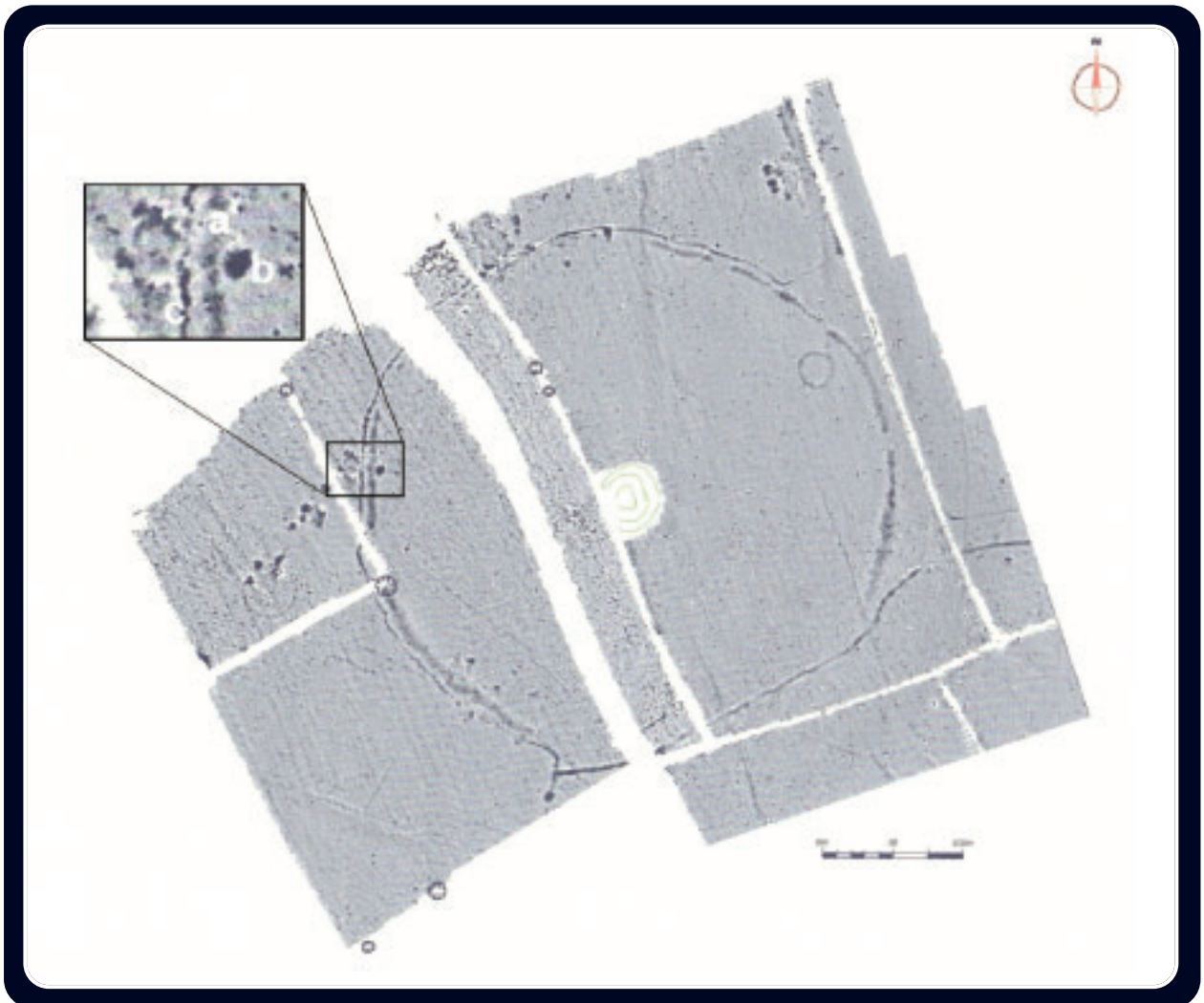
In order to date this ditch a small excavation was mounted over both features in 2009. The enclosure ditch varied between 7.75m and 5.25m wide and proved to be some 2.80m deep. The uppermost clayey fill overlay a smooth soft dark brown silty loam with occasional chalk and flint flecks. This soil was interpreted as representing slow natural silting and continued more or less uninterrupted to the top of the rapid primary silts. It was removed in a number of arbitrary spits, there being no visible stratigraphy within the deposit apart from a slight reddening towards its base. The only interruption in



produced a late Roman date from a partially articulated bovine carcass in its secondary fills. A sunken or partial causeway was also located within the excavated section of the ditch.

The base of the slow silts directly overlay a layer of rounded weathered chalk blocks marking the stabilised top of the rapid primary silts which comprised a loose layer of chalk blocks with occasional clay patches. Immediately on top of these rapid silts was a small localised patch of *in situ* burning with carbonised plant remains (overwhelmingly hazel wood and nutshells) and some flint knapping waste. Fragments from 6 antler picks also lay widely dispersed directly on top of the rapid silts. Both the hazelnut shell fragments and the antlers produced radiocarbon dates in the 25th to 23rd centuries cal BC. These rapid silts are likely to have taken no more than a generation or so to have formed so the antler picks may well derive from the construction of subsequent sections of ditch. They therefore may be regarded as dating the construction of the enclosure.

this silty fill was a dense, packed gravel layer on the west side (outside) of the ditch. Roman Grey Wares and Huntcliffe pottery from the slow silts immediately below this gravel layer suggests that this unidirectional silting is late in the ditch sequence and related to the digging of the later, narrower ditch running round the outside of the enclosure which



*Gradiometer survey showing the ditched enclosure surrounding the mound
(a – causewayed ditch; b – medieval pit; c – Roman field boundary).*

The secondary mound at Duggleby is comprised totally of large chalk rubble of the type excavated from the enclosure ditch. The volume of the ditch equates well with the volume of the mound and as there was no bank (either internal or external) associated with the penannular causewayed ditch, it seems logical to assume that this was the quarry for the material used to construct the secondary mound. If this is the case, then the large barrow at Duggleby only reached the size we now see round about the 24th century cal BC. This is almost a millennium after the burial sequence started in the central pit grave (c. 3555-3415 cal BC at 68% probability) and almost 500 years after the construction of the primary mound (c. 2915-2840 cal BC at 68% probability). Rather than the conventional view of Duggleby Howe representing a large Neolithic round mound, we can instead see a complex and protracted sequence of pit burial, followed by the construction of a modest mound and finally the large chalk capping. This sequence is interspersed with prolonged periods of no visible archaeological activity. Duggleby must now be seen as a composite mound, the result of over 1000 years of intermittent development.

Full results will be published in the *Archaeological Journal* in 2012. The excavation was generously funded by English Heritage and the University of Bradford.

Alex Gibson

EXCAVATIONS AT THE WHITEHORSE HILL CIST, DARTMOOR

Introduction

An exciting discovery of a suite of Early Bronze Age artefacts that are without parallel in southern Britain was made during the excavation of a cist on Whitehorse Hill, Dartmoor, in August 2011. The excavation was carried out by Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council, for the Dartmoor National Park Authority.

The cist was eroding out of the western side of a peat mound measuring approximately 12m in diameter and approximately 1.5m high. It had been open to the elements for some time and previous attempts to preserve it in situ had failed due to its exposed location. At a height of 604m OD, the cist is the highest to be recorded on Dartmoor. It is situated at the southern end of a north-south ridge and it may be significant that the Whitehorse cist occupies a similar topographical position to that of the Hangingstone hill cairn which lies 700m to the north. It is uncertain

how high the peat mound stood above the surrounding moorland before the cist was constructed. The mound is now a prominent landscape feature, but its current extent is largely artificial, its edges being defined by the limit of adjacent peat cuttings.



Photograph showing the cist in the western section of the peat mound (© Historic Environment, Cornwall Council)

Excavation

Visual inspection of the cist interior prior to excavation suggested that this was empty apart from a peaty fill in the bottom of the cist which was thought to be recent or disturbed. Given the probable absence of datable artefacts and the need to establish the method of construction, the peat mound around the cist was also investigated. This was to determine the extent to which the mound was natural and to recover samples for dating and environmental analyses.

The investigation of the west facing section of the mound revealed that it had developed naturally through peat growth. Two hazel stakes were found close to the bottom of the cist outside it; one was located on the eastern side and was lying prone at the level of the cist base. The other was situated against the northern side of the cist and was still vertical. It seems possible that prior to the construction of the cist the two hazel stakes were pushed into the peat to mark the site for the cist.

The cist was set within the body of the mound and was covered by further peat. It is uncertain whether this material had been backfilled onto the top of the cist, and it is perhaps more likely that it represents natural peat growth. It is hoped that micromorphological analysis will clarify this. Externally, the cist measured 0.78m long by 0.68m wide and 0.3m high. It comprised a flat granite base slab, and around this, several wedge-shaped granite stones set upright within the peat. Most of these uprights were arranged so that the tapering end of the stone pointed downwards into the peat. A large

capstone was placed on top of the cist. Initially it appeared that the cist was aligned east-west and that the western end stone was missing. However, excavation revealed that this appearance had been created by end stones sinking into the peat and leaning inward. The slightly longer axis of the cist was found to be northwest-southeast, which is in keeping with around 94% of all other recorded cists on Dartmoor.

The original shape of the cist is uncertain. It does not appear to have been a neat rectangular shape, but may originally have been squarer in plan. Alternatively, it could have been more irregular and built around the shape of the base stone which in itself is unusual in that few of Dartmoor's cists have a basal stone. The dimensions of the site are within the range of those documented for such cists, although the irregular shape and use of small stones to form the sides of the structure make it rather different from most other Dartmoor cists. Typically, they are neatly built rectangular boxes. However, a few sites have been found to be constructed from smaller stones and a handful of non-rectangular cists are also known.

A cut for the cist was not visible, although it would have been very difficult to identify one in the peat. It is, however, currently considered improbable that the

cist was ever a free-standing structure. The side and end stones are unlikely to have provided long-term support for the capstone and they are likely to have collapsed long before the peat developed around them. It is therefore thought probable that the stones were set around a cutting which had been made into the top of the peat accumulation. The difficulty in cutting a neat shape into the peat might also explain why the cist was less regular than those associated with the mounds of barrows and cairns. By lining the stones around the edge of the cut, with their tapering ends pointing down, the peat would have provided the stability needed to hold the cist together as a structure. However, the weight of the stones and the growth of the mound would have led to some distortion over time, with some stones sinking deeper into the mound and others moving inwards. This is reflected in the final slightly contorted appearance of the cist.

The cist was partially filled with peat, and as noted above it was originally thought that it was unlikely to contain any contents. However, initial investigation of the interior revealed a burial deposit as well as a number of objects, some of which appeared to be organic, preserved by the wet and cool conditions. In the light of this, the contents of the cist were block lifted on the basal cist slab and taken to the Wiltshire Conservation Service laboratory in Chippenham for excavation by Helen Williams.



*Photograph showing the hide (left of picture), basketry object (centre) and beads exposed on cist base slab
(© Wiltshire Conservation Service, Wiltshire Council)*

The artefacts

Although further analytical work is needed before a definitive interpretation of the artefactual assemblage can be given, an initial appraisal is possible. Excavation of the cist revealed a range of exciting organic and other objects that are of exceptional rarity. At the base of the cist there was a layer of matted plant material, upon which was a thin composite textile-and-animal skin object. This object consists of a panel of finely-woven textile set within a piece of fine animal skin, and with triangular appliqués of the same animal skin fringing the panel. As such, this is a fascinating – and, within a British if not European context, unique – combination of textile with animal skin. Above this, cremated human bone had been placed within an animal hide or pelt. At one end of the pelt was a delicate woven bag or basket whose structure is clearly visible. In the immediate vicinity of this container were found pieces of jewellery and X-raying will reveal whether more are contained inside. A further layer of matted plant material covered these objects.

Initial assessment of the jewellery has indicated that we are dealing with a composite necklace – which had probably been de-strung at the time of deposition – together with an ear stud or labret and a bracelet or arm band. The bracelet – another unique and thrilling aspect of the Whitehorse find – consists of woven strands of fine plant fibre, into which had been inserted a large number of small studs of tin (the material identification having been confirmed through XRF analysis): indeed, the object is reminiscent of a fancy cat collar! The necklace comprised around 88 small disc beads of shale and one disc bead of amber, along with 5 amber fusiform beads and a large bead of tin. The stud, with its gently-domed circular exterior surface and medial hollow, is similar to other studs of Early Bronze Age date from Britain and Ireland.



Photograph showing the textile arm or wrist band with the tin studs (© Wiltshire Conservation Service, Wiltshire Council)

The discovery of tin objects is nationally important; normally tin oxidises away, and Early Bronze Age finds in Britain are exceptionally rare. The examples that spring to mind are the segmented tin bead from

Sutton Veny in Wiltshire and the tin-inlaid jet button from Rameldry Farm in Fife. The find is all the more important given that Devon and Cornwall have the most important sources of tin in Europe, which were being exploited from the 22nd century BC onwards. Furthermore, the composite necklace constitutes the largest find of Early Bronze Age beads in the Southwest; only the composite necklace from Upton Pyne comes near, with 55 beads.

The abundance and variety of radiocarbon-datable material from this cist means that its contents can be closely dated; this is especially welcome, as dates for Early Bronze Age activity in the Southwest are relatively scarce. The assemblage is consistent with that seen for high-status individuals elsewhere in Early Bronze Age Britain, and the inclusion of what may be a garment echoes the significance placed on elite costume (as suggested, for example, by the Mold 'cape' or the gold discs and amber objects from the Knowes of Troty in Orkney). It will be particularly interesting to discover whether, as suspected, the individual turns out to be female. In the meantime, a date between the 19th and 17th century BC can be estimated.

Conclusion

The original aims of the Whitehorse cist excavation were to obtain the first radiocarbon determinations associated with a cist on Dartmoor and to recover valuable environmental information. It was not anticipated that there would be much in the way of artefactual information. The extensive antiquarian investigations on Dartmoor barrows and cists had demonstrated that the deposition of artefacts was comparatively rare. The environmental conditions within the cist have led to the discovery of an unparalleled assemblage of organic and other artefacts which are unique in our knowledge of the British Bronze Age and therefore of national importance. The ongoing analyses of this assemblage will yield insights into materials and technology which have not survived elsewhere from the Early Bronze Age in southern Britain. Importantly, this rare survival also reminds us that monuments survive within, as well as below and on top of upland peat in conditions likely to preserve organic remains.

Andy M Jones (Historic Environment, Cornwall Council), Jane Marchand (Dartmoor National Park Authority), Alison Sheridan (National Museum of Scotland), Vanessa Straker (English Heritage) and Henrietta Quinnell

Acknowledgements

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