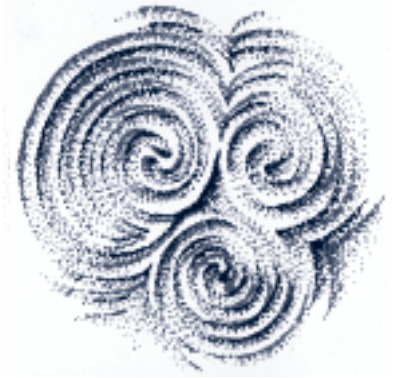


PAST



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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PREHISTORIC SOCIETY

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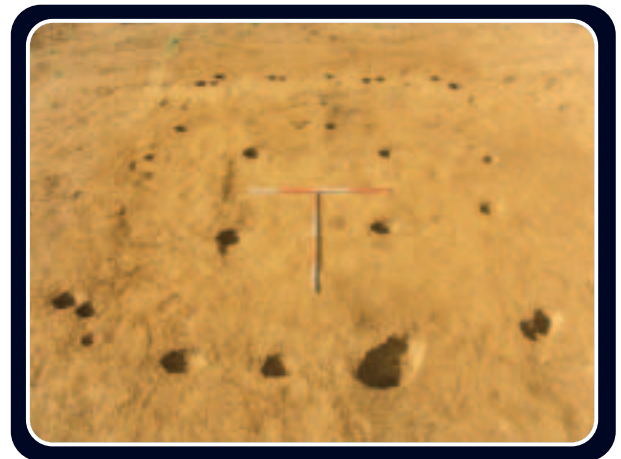
<http://www.prehistoricsociety.org/>

A POSSIBLE SECOND NEOLITHIC HOUSE AND AN UNUSUAL MORTLAKE BOWL FROM KINGSMEAD QUARRY, HORTON, BERKSHIRE

During excavations conducted by Wessex Archaeology at the CEMEX Kingsmead Quarry at Horton last summer, a post-built structure interpreted as a possible rectangular house was revealed. It may prove to be Early Neolithic in date and if so will be the second such feature to be recorded as part of the ongoing works. The quarry site is close to the River Thames and the site of the Staines (Yeoveney Lodge) causewayed enclosure that was excavated by Robertson-Mackay over 50 years ago.

Defined by 27 postholes, the house was rectangular in plan with four deeper and more substantial central postholes that may have supported an upper storey or elevated storage space. A pair of relatively substantial postholes on the south-east side could have defined an entrance. Dating is uncertain at present as the feature yielded scant evidence, though this did include a flint blade core, bladelets, chips and burnt flint along with tiny, abraded sherds of possible pottery and fired clay. Despite extensive sampling, few environmental remains were recovered from the posthole fills. In plan, the structure bears a striking resemblance in both size and dimensions to one of the Early Neolithic buildings found at Lismore Fields, Buxton, Derbyshire. It also shares a number of features - a bowed end wall and paired corner post-settings - with this site. It is different from and smaller than the first Horton structure (discovered in 2008) which was constructed around massive corner posts with probable plank-built walls

(noted as a darker soil stain). The wall slots of this building had the capacity for trapping refuse and, therefore, a greater range of material was recovered including probable Carinated Bowl pottery, flintwork, charred cereal and hazelnut shell, animal bone and a flake from a Group VI (Langdale) axe. This building has been radiocarbon dated to the 38th to 37th centuries BC.



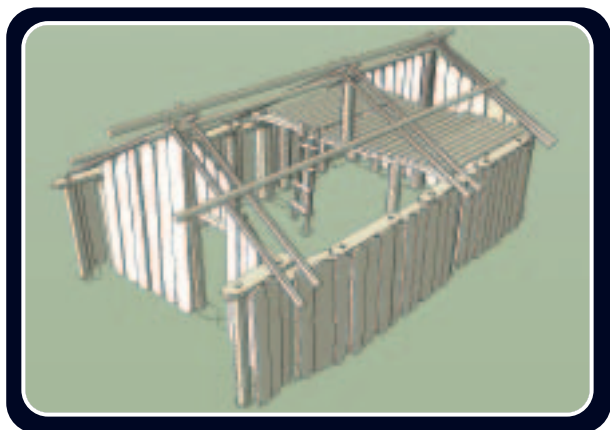
Possible Early Neolithic house

The new structure adds to our increasing knowledge of activity at Horton during the 4th millennium BC and could be associated with deposits of occupation debris found within the ditch of an Early Neolithic U-shaped enclosure. Other finds of this date include a pit-defined 'house-void' and a low scatter of residual finds of flint and pottery.

Early Neolithic houses are rare in southeast England and it is unusual to find two in close proximity. As well as the two buildings from Horton, at least two more are known from the surrounding area of the Colne Valley. One occurs only a few miles to the east at Cranford Lane (Nick Elsdon pers. comm.) and the

The copy date for PAST 72 is 1 October 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.

other is higher up the Colne Valley at Gorhambury. Other examples are known from the Upper Thames and from around the Thames estuary. These structures are small in number and of two broad types - post-built with probable wattle walls and post with plank walling. Collectively they occur in a wide range of sizes. As noted above, the ground plan of the new Horton house is remarkably close in size and layout to one of the two overlapping structures at Lismore Fields (we thank Daryl Garton for a useful discussion of this point). It is unclear whether this difference in construction choice and technique between the two Horton buildings is significant. Certainly a possible link between a site in the Thames Valley and one in the Peak District has implications for how we interpret the spread of a farming lifestyle around 3800 BC. This is no less true of the other Horton building that is similar in plan to structures recorded at Gorhambury, Stansted and Fengate - all in eastern England. How these links in architecture, dwelling and material culture (similar ways of making pots, knapping flint and the use of Langdale axes) played out in terms of identity, movement and social connections in these small-scale societies is beyond the scope of this note. The possibility of a common understanding and knowledge of how to plan and build in timber is certainly intriguing.



Reconstruction of the 2008 house
(© Karen Nichols, Wessex Archaeology)

The quarry also provided an opportunity to further investigate an oval barrow that had been discovered 20 years ago and since published by Dr Steve Ford of Thames Valley Archaeological Services. It was possible to examine the remaining part of the outer ditch, which belonged to a secondary oval barrow phase of late 4th millennium date. This ditch surrounded a much smaller U-shaped enclosure that is currently imprecisely dated but probably belongs to the mid-4th millennium. The previous investigations had recovered a remarkable series of birch bark containers along with a near complete Fengate-style bowl from the outer ditch. Excavation in 2011 produced no further bark bowls, although traces of waterlogged wood were recovered. However, placed on the base of the ditch was a large fragment from a Mortlake Ware bowl. The vessel,

which has traces of charred residue from cooking, is decorated with panels of impressions and curvilinear motifs made from end-to-end fingernail impressions. This type of decoration is rare in southern England and includes a 'cup' from the West Kennet long barrow. However, the most striking parallel for the Mortlake bowl is with a series of vessels from East Yorkshire. The curvilinear end-to-end impressed finger-nail motifs also link this vessel with the earlier find of the Fengate-style bowl, which also had cooking residue. In terms of decoration, both vessels are regionally unusual. Their placing near the ditch base hints that they may have been deposited in special circumstances, perhaps as refuse from feasting. Enough of the Mortlake bowl survives to indicate a hemi-spherical profile, while the Fengate bowl is of typical trunconic flat-based form. Their recovery as placed deposits on the base of the outer ditch once again reinforces the idea that the round and flat-based bowl forms were in contemporaneous use during the final centuries of the 4th millennium BC.



Mortlake bowl from the base of the oval barrow ditch
(© Karen Nichols, Wessex Archaeology)

Finally, discovering the first Neolithic house was down to having the right approach to the excavation. Finding the second involved keeping to this strategy and targeting otherwise blank areas in a landscape masked by Middle Bronze Age and Roman farmsteads, fields and open land. At Horton the equal importance of looking at all areas has been rewarded by a number of important discoveries. Our gratitude is therefore to the client, and to the various individuals, Andy Scott (CEMEX), Adrian Havercroft (Guildhouse Consultancy) and Fiona MacDonald (Berkshire Archaeology), who have advised and supported this endeavour and not least those in the field who had a flexible and professional approach to the unexpected significant discoveries and at times low density archaeology.

Alistair Barclay, Gareth Chaffey and Andy Manning
(Wessex Archaeology)

RUBIRIZI: A NEW STONE AGE SITE IN UGANDA WITH GIANT BIFACES

Introduction

Stone Age archaeology in eastern Africa is currently enjoying a revival of interest due to advances in dating methodologies which have allowed far better chronological control than has previously been available. New discoveries and the increasing influence of genetic studies have played a significant role in increasing the prominence of Africa in theories concerning the emergence and spread of *Homo sapiens* to the rest of the world. These early members of our species are generally associated with early Middle Stone Age (MSA) stone tool assemblages. Consequently Early Stone Age (ESA) assemblages and ‘transitional’ (ESA-MSA) lithic industries (such as the ‘Sangoan’ and ‘Lupemban’) are increasingly important in elucidating how these early humans lived. In general, the trend in stone tool analyses has moved away from unilinear progression of evolving stone tool types to a much more contextual and complex impression of emerging technological variability both within the ESA and the MSA. While eastern Africa has played an important role in arguments relating to the spread of *Homo sapiens*, most sites lie in the eastern branch of the Rift Valley, while the western branch of the Rift has remained largely neglected despite its ecological diversity and suitability for hominin occupation during the Quaternary. Here, we offer a preliminary overview of new work in the western branch of the Rift directed by one of the authors (Laura Bassell), following two survey seasons since 2009 and the first season’s excavation, completed in January and February this year. The aim of this work is to examine human evolution in its palaeoecological context.

Context of survey and excavation

In 2009 and 2010, targeted survey was conducted from Sango Bay along the Kagera River to establish the potential of this important region for further research. The aim was to try and identify ESA/MSA (‘Sangoan’) artefacts in a stratified context with a view to obtaining reliable dates on this ‘transitional industry’, which remains poorly defined both chronologically and technologically. An additional and equally important aim was to situate the archaeology in its landscape context and relate the behavioural signature to larger scale theoretical issues such as the role of refugia during periods of aridity. Several sites were identified that are of high potential for further excavation and dating, as well as for environmental reconstruction and landscape change.

The first excavation season has focussed on an area in Uganda, along a tributary of the Kagera River



View of Rubirizi 1 excavation area looking to the north west over the Orichinga Valley (photo: L. Bassell 2012).

known as the Orichinga. The Kagera forms the boundary between Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania, and drains into Lake Victoria. The principal excavation area occurs to the north of the once famous sites at Nsongezi, and the new sites were identified as artefact horizons in the laterally variable Nsongezi Series. Unusually for Africa, the Kagera exhibits a fluvial terrace sequence at least partly related to the tectonic activity associated with the western Rift. The extensive exposures that have been the foci of our archaeological excavations are located in an area known as Rubirizi. Photographs taken in the 1930s show erosion gullies in this vicinity, but with limited clean exposures and no houses. Due to increased building related to the local refugee camp, road development schemes and house construction, the sand in these comparatively stable badlands gullies is now being extensively quarried, exposing deep sections and numerous artefacts.



Main artefact horizon at Rubirizi 1: note the very large biface to the left of the excavator (photo: L. Bassell 2012).

2012 excavations and survey

Two principal excavation areas were opened at Rubirizi in February of 2012 which were about 1km apart, Rubirizi 1 and Rubirizi 2. Both sites were in areas that are regularly being quarried by hand for sand. At Rubirizi 1, an area of 8m x 8m was opened. At Rubirizi 2, an area of approximately 4m x 3m was opened. In both locations excavations proceeded to the main artefact horizon, seen in section prior to excavation at both locations. The aim of opening two areas was to ascertain whether major chronological or behavioural differences exist between the two sites, and to determine whether there were any preservation differences. Survey demonstrated that comparable artefact horizons are extensive in the region, and are currently being destroyed. For example, the piles of stones in the right hand corner of Figure 1 above are all artefacts that have been discarded from quarrying activity just outside the picture. Precisely how these horizons relate to each other temporally is not yet clear. The excavations were conducted together with extensive geomorphological survey, differential GPS survey and sedimentological logging to assist in answering these questions.

Large areas were opened to determine artefact density and distribution/pattern and to clarify the depositional environment or environments. Based on survey prior to excavation, it was thought that the artefact distribution was most likely to be patchy with artefacts occurring in small but separated concentrations. However, in both Rubirizi 1 and 2 the artefacts uncovered were found to be almost continuous 'pavements' of densely packed and sometimes interlocked artefacts. Full analysis of the lithics has not yet been conducted, but a wide variety of bifacial forms was found, numerous cores, flakes and other debitage. Some of the bifaces are extremely large, being in excess of 34cm maximum linear dimension (MLD) while others are less than 10cm MLD. The lithics are generally quartzite which is locally abundant, and occasionally quartz. At both sites the condition of these artefacts was fresh and unrolled, suggesting minimal movement prior to their deposition. Preliminary examination of the lithic material suggests that at both sites nearly all the material recovered is the result of knapping. One difference between the two excavation areas is that Rubirizi 2 yielded a greater proportion of unworked quartz pebbles.

The sediments at both the excavation sites are fluvial, although lacustrine deposits were also identified within the Nsongezi Series during survey, probably postdating the fluvial sediments in which the artefact horizons were found. Previous researchers had postulated that similar lacustrine sediments observed elsewhere in the area were related to former levels of



Examples of two very large bifaces and one very small biface from Rubirizi 1.

Lake Victoria, but our research indicates alternative explanations are possible. Excitingly, some fossilised faunal remains were also recovered from these lacustrine deposits. Samples were taken for environmental analyses and also for dating.

Ongoing work and observations

Post-excavation analysis of the material collected this season is ongoing. Although stone tools have previously been reported from the Kagera, this is the first time that it has been possible to realise the extent of unmixed, fresh artefact horizons, in what appears to have been a rapidly deposited sedimentary environment. The famous Kenyan sites of Olorgesailie, Kilombe and Kariandusi spring to mind as comparable in terms of site type, artefact density and distribution, although it remains to be determined whether the Rubirizi sites are comparable in age, lithic technology and typology. This research will also be the first time that any extensive environmental work has been done on the Quaternary deposits in the region. The key questions raised by this research are: 1) how old are these sites?; 2) who made the artefacts?; 3) what accounts for the tremendous concentration of artefacts in one area?; and 4) what were the environments like at the time of deposition? It is anticipated that future work will also focus on other Stone Age sites in the Kagera catchment, in Tanzania and Rwanda as well as Uganda. Through this future excavation and survey, it is hoped that the promise identified by Howell and Clark in the mid-twentieth century can be realised: 'The . . . Kagera Valley is of extraordinary importance to prehistoric archaeology' (in Howell and Bourlière, *African Ecology and Human Evolution*, Chicago, 494).

Acknowledgments

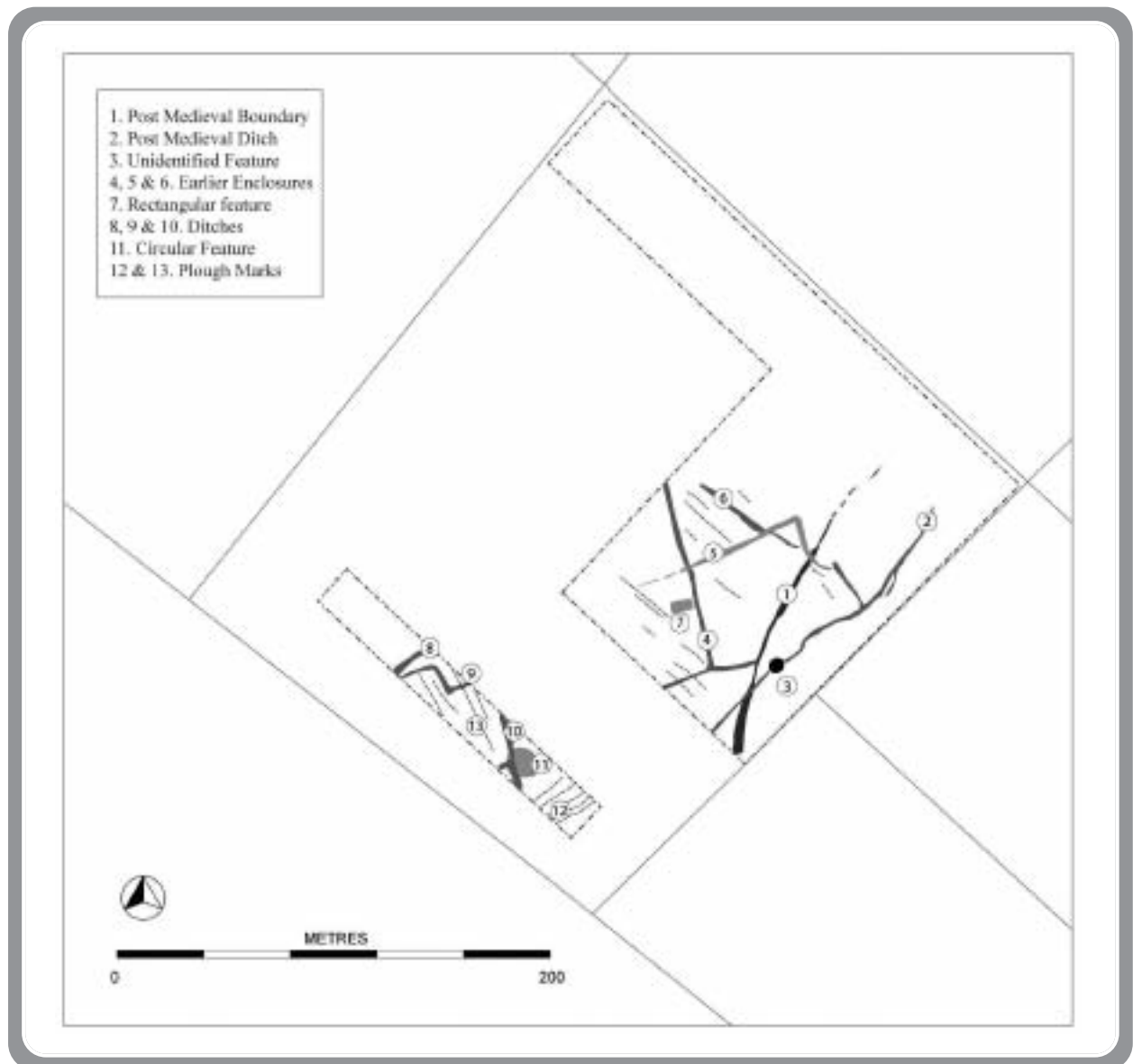
We would like to thank the National Council for Science and Technology for granting us a permit (SS2583) to conduct research in Uganda, and the National Museums of Uganda for facilitating the research, in particular D. Ongwen, R. Mwanjankale and J. Nyiracyiza. Thanks to the BIEA for their logistical support and technical expertise, especially B. Kimeu and J. Mutua. Above all, thanks to the truly international team of researchers, students and local people who made this first season such a pleasure as well as a success. This work was supported primarily by a Phyllis and Eileen Gibbs Travelling Fellowship (awarded to LB) and a Quaternary Research Association grant and British Society for Geomorphology grant (awarded to TB).

Laura Basell (Oxford Brookes University; email lbasell@brookes.ac.uk)

Tony Brown (University of Southampton)

RHUDDGAER ESTATE PROJECT, 5000 BC TO AD 1900, ANGLESEY

Rhuddgaer Estate is located overlooking the Menai Straits on the southwest coast of the island of Anglesey, north Wales. Despite being a clear focus of prehistoric, Romano-British and later activity, the area has been little studied and no in-depth analysis of available sources has been attempted. The aim of our project is to research the archaeology and history of the estate. The first phase of work in 2010 involved an extensive documentary and field name study. This led to the identification of a potential Iron Age village as well as the possible findspot of a Roman lead coffin discovered in 1886. A geophysical survey was then carried out with the aid of a grant provided by the Cambrian Archaeological Association.



Geophysical results

Prehistoric archaeology detailed in antiquarian sources

Several bronze spear heads were recorded as having been recovered close to the shore of the estate. A bronze socketed axe (now lost) was also found on the estate and was identified by Frances Lynch as belonging to the class of Irish bag-shaped axes.

Rhuddgaer Farm itself is situated within a rectangular, doubled-banked enclosure which may be associated with Iron Age and Romano-British activity. A large farm house was built on the site in the post-medieval period and all finds from this period were recovered in association with later improvements to the main farm building in the late 1800s. The existence of stone-built circular habitations described as Iron Age or Romano-British at this location is suggested by descriptions in a local antiquarian's tour of Anglesey in 1871.

Little, if anything, of this enclosure survives although it is described as rectangular in the antiquarian literature. Antiquarian records also document a number of settlements of Iron Age and Romano-British date within the surrounding area exhibiting a similar morphology to Rhuddgaer Farm. Two have been identified within the study area: Caer Leb and Bryn Eryr. Excavations at Bryn Eryr by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust in 1998 identified three distinct archaeological phases, spanning from the Middle Iron Age to the fourth century AD.

A tantalising but unfortunately unsubstantiated report of possible Bronze Age funerary activity was made by the Reverend Wyn Williams in the journal of the Cambrian Archaeological Association in 1861. He recorded that a farmer on the estate discovered a stone cist containing bones in the southwest corner of the main farmyard enclosure. This was subsequently removed and the farmer could not say whether the bones were human or not.

Sun 9 Sept 2012 **Open Day**
2pm Ham Hill, Somerset

Fri 14-Sun 16 Sept 2012 **Weekend study tour**

Tuesdays 2012-13 **Lecture series**
5.15pm **Venue:** University of Bradford

Results of geophysical survey

Geophysical survey was focused within the field identified as the likely location of archaeological remains recorded in antiquarian sources. A careful study of these sources indicated that an Iron Age settlement may have existed in the northern part of the field. Results for this area showed little evidence of prehistoric activity and it was decided to change strategy and target a large rise at the southern end of the field.

This strategy was much more successful and a number of features were identified. Features 4 and 5 appear to show evidence of early land enclosure, while features 8, 9 and 10 show a number of ditches centred around a circular feature (feature 11). It is likely that these features are part of the prehistoric settlement which was discussed in the antiquarian sources. Features 12 and 13 appear to be plough marks which may be Medieval in date, while features 1 and 2 are related to recorded post-Medieval agricultural activity.

The survey outcome was very positive and confirmed the presence of archaeological remains on the Rhuddgaer Estate. The survival level of these features is unknown and these works will form the basis of excavations to be carried out this summer. It is hoped that this work will lead to a larger project studying the wider landscape surrounding the prehistoric ditch and bank enclosures.

Matthew Jones

MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2012-2013

Further details, including times, prices, contact information and booking forms, will be posted on the Society website as soon as they become available.

Prehistoric Society open day: excavations at Ham Hill

Meet at Ham Hill at 2pm.

An exclusive tour for Prehistoric Society members of the new excavations by Dr Niall Sharples (Cardiff University) and Chris Evans (Cambridge Archaeological Unit) at Ham Hill, the largest Iron Age hillfort in Britain.

Cranborne chase revisited (plus Hambleton Hill and Hengistbury Head)

Led by Dr Mike Allen and Dr Julie Gardener

University of Bradford AGES Research Seminars

Weekly lectures on prehistoric topics including the Celts in the West; whales in prehistory; bioarchaeology of the French and Italian Upper Palaeolithic; and aerial archaeology in Wales. Open to members by kind invitation of Dr Alex Gibson (see website for full details).

Sat 6 Oct 2012 9.30-4pm	Day conference Venue: North Cadbury, Yeovil, Somerset	'Hillforts in the West of Britain' Joint symposium with the South Somerset Archaeological Research Group, covering recent work on hillforts in southwest England and Wales. For further details contact: Dr Clare Randall (clare.arch@gmail.com; 01305 833015). Price: £15
Weds 17 Oct 2012 6pm	Lecture Venue: Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London	The 11th Sara Champion Memorial Lecture: 'Tangled histories: British prehistorians, research practice and disciplinary change, 1975-2010' by Dr Anwen Cooper (University of Oxford) Including wine reception at 7pm and presentation of the Society undergraduate dissertation prize.
Sat 3 Nov 2012 2.30pm	Lecture Venue: Castle Museum, Norwich	'Creating communities: torcs and identity in later Iron Age Norfolk' by Dr Jody Joy (British Museum) <i>Joint Prehistoric Society/Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Society lecture</i>
Thurs 24 Jan 2013 7.30pm	Lecture Venue: County Hall, Exeter	'Maritime horizons in the Bronze Age of the south- west peninsula' by Dr Stuart Needham (Prehistoric Society) <i>Joint Prehistoric Society/Devon Archaeological Society lecture</i>
Weds 27 Feb 2013 6pm	Lecture Venue: Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London	'Peasant life in a dynamic landscape. How Dutch Prehistoric farming communities structured their cultural and physical environment' by Prof. Harry Fokkens (Leiden University) A special lecture to introduce the subject of the 2013 Study Tour. Open to all, whether coming on the tour or not.
Sat 2 Mar 2013	Day conference Venue: Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London	The prehistory of people and the body A conference examining the person and the body in prehistory. Further details and list of speakers in due course.
Spring 2013 TBC	Afternoon event Venue: Cambridge	Personal Histories - a panel on prehistory and prehistorians followed by discussion, Cambridge, organised by Dr. Marie-Louise Stig Sørensen
May Sun 26-Sun 2 June 2013	Overseas study tour Venue: Netherlands	Netherlands Led by Prof. Harry Fokkens (Leiden University). For details and queries contact: Prof. Harry Fokkens h.fokkens@arch.leidenuniv.nl
June 2013 TBC	Day conference & Europa Lecture Venue: TBC	Europa award conference for 2013: Prof. Kristian Kristiansen (University of Gothenburg) There will be a fee for the conference but the Europa Lecture is free to members.

IMPORTANT: ARE YOU A STAR?

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If you are in any doubt about the status of your subscription, please contact our administrator Tessa Machling at the address below, or by email at prehistoric@ucl.ac.uk. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Prehistoric Society' and sent to: The Prehistoric Society, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PY. Many thanks for your support!

THE EUROPA PRIZE 2012: A TRIBUTE AND CELEBRATION

The Europa prize this year was awarded to Richard Bradley in front of a packed auditorium at the University of Reading. The conference was one of celebration and while the academic subjects centred on Richard's research interests, the main themes of the day's proceedings were warmth, friendship and good humour. All of these categories are as equally attributable to Richard as his academic achievements and his contribution to European prehistory.



The Europa prizewinner with a slightly more youthful doppelgänger

The stage was admirably set by Ramón Valcarce (Santiago de Compostella) who started by informing would-be tourists that Galicia has a higher average rainfall than Glasgow and Cork and proceeded to explain the complexity of Galician rock art and in particular its location in the landscape; the view *from* being more important than the view *to*, which resonates strongly with the British material. Colin Richards (Manchester) continued the humorous vein and, stopping short of libel on the way, informed us that long cairns were living things with skins and spines, and were conceived and were modified over considerable time periods before finally entering ancestral realms. Sworn to secrecy, Mike Parker Pearson (Sheffield) broke his oath but not before detailing the new evidence for the early history of a certain pile of rocks on Salisbury Plain and the (final) identification of the bluestones' origins north of Preseli around the Craig Rhosyfelin area. To Joakim Goldhahn (Kalmar) death rituals on Scandinavian rock art were all about feet and boats with some new and important stratigraphical detail for the panels; once again the Neolithic estate agents were crying 'location, location, location'. Billy (sorry, Professor William) O'Brien (Cork) reassured the present writer by informing us that Irish prehistoric sites were almost as unproductive as Welsh ones. The hillforts of his hillforts project were not helping themselves by producing the artefacts necessary to resolve the huge chronology problems or indeed the questions of function and societal role. However, the upland hillforts did overlook the lowlands: now we await the dates. The final contribution from Colin Haselgrove, Marc vander Linden (both Leicester) and Leo (Brad Pitt) Webley (Reading) gave preliminary results of their synopsis of European grey literature. We eagerly await the final publication because as Marc pointed out, the time allotted equated to almost 2 minutes per millennium.

The Society's AGM, with probably the fullest house in the Society's history, was admirably chaired by the President who awarded the Baguley Prize to Rebecca Redfern and then the Europa Award to Richard Bradley who in return (and adjacent to a life-sized cardboard cut-out of a younger self) told us of the links between domestic and ritual architecture in Europe from the Neolithic to the early historic period. There were other highlights: the launch of two new research papers (a festschrift to Richard and the volume 'Is there a British Chalcolithic?'), a wine reception hosted by our new publisher CUP and the President's bottle of 1908 cognac to name but five (sorry, that was the cognac). I hope members will forgive the flippancy of this review of what is the biggest day in the Society's calendar, but it was exactly what a Prehistoric Society event should be: informative, cordial, even jovial, and above all a celebration of prehistory. Our thanks to all who helped make this celebration special.

Alex Gibson

THE EUROPA POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE

From northernmost Europe to northwest Portugal via Sweden, Orkney, Ireland, and Cumbria... If this sounds like the itinerary for a typical Richard Bradley field season, that may be because much of the research presented at this year's conference was directly inspired by his work. His wide interests were reflected in themes of landscape, society, monumentality, image and memory, and represented in discussions of megaliths, mountains, material culture and, of course, rock art.

The programme began with three papers examining the role of northern rock carvings as social agents. Courtney Nimura explored this in relation to the cultural and social re-negotiation of shoreline cosmologies in Scandinavia; Mark Sapwell considered the carvings as a medium for knowledge transfer - 'think tanks' for the exploration of ideas at communication nodes in the landscape of western Russia and northern Sweden; and Rebecca Enlander looked at the role of rock art in the north of Ireland in the creation and maintenance of regional identities.

Post-lunch the focus switched to the thorny question of mobility - of people, things, and ideas. H el ene Pioffet offered an innovative multi-scalar *ch aine op eratoire* approach to the acculturation vs colonisation debate, exploring regional transmission of pottery technologies. Neil Wilkins then used Food Vessel ceramics to explore changes and continuity in Early Bronze Age ritual and materiality, and movement and connections were also key to Alice Roger's paper which outlined her plans to investigate maritime cultural interactions and exchange along the North Sea coast through a study of monuments, intervisibility and material culture. The section was concluded by Hugo Sampaio who explored the power of natural places in northwest Portugal. He argued that concentrations of diverse artefacts found at distinctive sites may indicate that these locales were symbolic nodes within prehistoric networks.

The final session demonstrated the dividends yielded by applying new perspectives and re-examining existing data. Ed Blinkhorn revealed how analysis of 'grey literature' from developer-led archaeology has re-drawn distribution maps for the English Mesolithic, and called for greater knowledge transfer between academia and commercial units. Olaf Bayer re-analysed lithic material from southern England in the context of aerial photographs, geographical survey and targeted excavation, suggesting that surface scatters have potential far beyond a proxy for human presence/absence.

The final two papers moved to northern Britain. Recent dating work in Orkney was the basis of Chris Kerns' exploration of Neolithic 'lifeways' through

time/space relationships between chambered cairns and settlements. Peter Style then drew together a number of Bradley-inspired themes, introducing a new 'mini-monument' - the boulder-cairn - found close to the stone axe quarries of central Cumbria. Peter suggested these may reflect an extended social significance for this important locale, proposing a possible mythological link between the distinctive profile of the mountain stone sources and the decoration of similarly-shaped outcrops in the valleys below.

In his keynote speech, Chris Gosden discussed the complicated nature of continuity in relation to settlement patterns and field systems, with genealogies written across the English landscape. The continuity of research is surely just as complex, but if one were to analyse the genealogies of ideas written across the archaeological literature of recent years, many of the younger 'branches' could no doubt be traced back to a Bradley publication. On the evidence of the papers presented here, Richard must feel reassured that his many seeds of inspiration appear to be flourishing!

Kate Sharpe, Durham University

RUN OF PPS

Run of PPS 1973-1982 inclusive for sale for a reasonable price. Buyer must be willing to collect from southeast London, though seller could deliver to central London. Please contact christine.bannan@virgin.net or telephone +44 20 7732 9243 for further information.

CONFERENCE NEWS

Archaeology across the border: prehistoric communities in the Tyne-Forth region and beyond

The Royal Society of Edinburgh, George Street, Edinburgh, Sat 29 Sept 2012, 10am-5pm

In the last two years the Tyne-Forth Prehistory Forum has sought to stimulate new discussion and research into the prehistoric archaeology of northeast England and southeast Scotland. In this meeting of the AHRC-funded project 'Investigating prehistoric social and cultural networks through the Tyne-Forth prehistory forum', we aim to consider: What can we now say about the prehistoric communities living between the Forth and the Tyne - about their landscapes, dwellings, monuments, burial practices and the things of their everyday lives? How were they interconnected with one another, and with communities elsewhere? We also aim to focus on the Tyne-Forth region in prehistory at a larger scale, and

explore whether this region could even be characterised as such at various times. What were the major events, changes and trends in the prehistory of the region? Were these apparent across the region as a whole or confined to particular landscapes?

The event is free and open to all, but advance booking is required as places are limited. To book a seat please email Rachel Crellin (r.j.crellin@ncl.ac.uk). Speakers and presentation titles will be announced on our website <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/tyneforthprehistoryforum/290912meet.html>.

African Archaeology Research Day

Dept. of Archaeology, University of Southampton,
3-4 Nov 2012

A two day meeting on recent research in African archaeology. Keynote speakers: Prof David Mattingly and Dr Henry Lamb. For further information, see <http://aard.soton.ac.uk/>

THE WORLD'S EARLIEST MOUNTAIN FOLK?

If you take a trip to hike or ski in the mountains, as someone with an interest or career in archaeology, you may find yourself wondering, 'Why did people in the past come up here? How did they make a living?' And rightly so. Mountains may play host to many picnics, but for the most part they are not one. This is because, relative to lower elevations, mountains can make life tough on account of shorter growing seasons, lower primary productivity, prolonged snow cover, unpredictable resources, lower temperatures, reduced partial oxygen pressures and rugged, broken terrain. As the American archaeologist Mark Aldenderfer has pointed out, these factors are especially restrictive for hunter-gatherers, whose lifestyles are so bound up with the distribution of natural resources in time and space. By contrast, for agriculturally-based societies, mountains don't seem to pose much of a problem, something evident from the fact that these areas supported some of the world's greatest empires - the Inca and the Tibetan empires, for example - and that today, according to the United Nations Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, they are home to no less than one-fifth of the world's population. Yet it was foragers, not farmers, who originally colonised the world's mountain systems and high plateaux. Again, why and how?

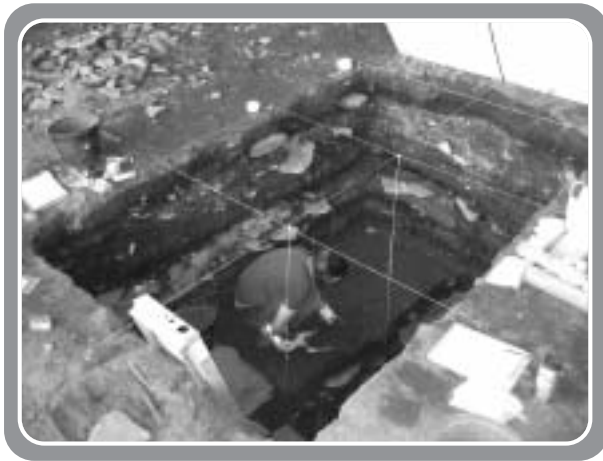
For the last several years, with financial support from the Prehistoric Society, these questions have been at the fore of a University of Cambridge-based multidisciplinary project, 'Middle Stone Age of the Lesotho Highlands'. The Maloti-Drakensberg mountains of eastern Lesotho in southern Africa are

not as tall or ecologically extreme as the world's great mountain systems - the Andes, the Rockies, the Alps, the Karakoram or the Himalayas - but they are heavily dissected, difficult-to-access uplands with the highest peaks exceeding 3000m, highly seasonal rainfall and temperature, snowfall in the winter months, and patchy resource distributions. And in contrast to their bigger cousins, none of which were permanently occupied by humans until the climate began improving at the tail-end of the last glacial, our preliminary results show that the Maloti-Drakensberg were exploited regularly, and sometimes intensively, as early as 85,000 years ago. Finds dating to this time from sites in other parts of southern Africa suggest modern humans were exhibiting unprecedented degrees of technological and cultural complexity, which provokes the question of whether these behavioural innovations are somehow linked to a newfound ability, or flexibility, to adapt to challenging ecosystems such as mountains.



Our research in the Lesotho Highlands focuses on two large rockshelter sites, Melikane and Sehonghong. The sites are situated along tributaries of the Orange (locally known as the Senqu) River at altitudes of 1875 and 1800 metres above sea level respectively. Both were originally excavated in the early 1970s by the pioneering Cambridge archaeologist Patrick Carter, who was unable to date substantial portions of their deep sedimentary sequences because they stretch beyond the limits of the radiocarbon dating method. But by employing optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) and rigorous pre-treatment techniques for radiocarbon samples, we are developing robust chronologies for both sites. At the moment, the overall impression from our cross-correlated radiocarbon and OSL results from Melikane is that human occupation of that rockshelter was strongly pulsed, with occupations occurring at c. 85-80 ka, 60 ka, 50 ka, 46-38 ka, 28 ka, 9 ka, 3 ka, and in the first millennium AD, and long hiatuses between these pulses when the site was largely or totally abandoned. Another major thrust of recent research at the site is to understand the environmental conditions under which the site, and by extension the highlands, were occupied. Various proxy

indicators from Melikane indicate that human occupation there often occurred, grossly speaking, when environmental conditions were relatively arid. Perhaps the best example of this is the occupational pulse between 46 and 38,000 years ago, when the climate appears to have deteriorated, with rapid oscillations within generally very cold and arid conditions. Yet these layers comprise over one third of the sequence and contain some of the densest archaeological material. Thus, despite the reduced temperatures, lower precipitation and rapid climatic oscillations, early modern humans were clearly intensely exploiting the highland landscape at this time.



Returning to the one of two questions posed at the outset of this report - why were they doing this? - one possibility is that during arid phases humans were drawn to highland Lesotho because of its stable supply of fresh water, and the animal and plant resources dependent on it. Seen in this light, the mountains may not have been quite so grim, provided that buffering mechanisms and foraging strategies were in place to counter problems like cold and marked seasonality. This leads on to our second question - how were they able to make a living? Having constructed our chronological and environmental frameworks, we are now turning our efforts to answering this key question by analysing the faunal and lithic assemblages obtained from each site. We are also comparing the latter with data generated from field surveys of the many undated open-air Middle Stone Age lithic scatters in the areas surrounding these shelters, with the ultimate aim of understanding how the highland landscape was successfully exploited by these, some of the world's earliest mountain dwellers.

Dr Brian A. Stewart, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge

A FIRST MILLENNIUM BC DOUBLE-RINGWORK ENCLOSURE AT MEILLIONYDD

In July 2011, a team of archaeology students from Bangor University, Cardiff University and the University of Vienna excavated part of a hilltop enclosure near Rhiw, on the southwestern end of the Llŷn Peninsula in northwest Wales. This was our project's second excavation season at Meillionydd. It was funded by the Prehistoric Society and the University of Wales Publications and Collaborative Research Committee. An HLF-funded community project ran alongside the excavations, in collaboration with Menter y Felin Uchaf and the Llŷn Landscape Partnership.

The project is designed to explore a 'double-ringwork' hilltop enclosure which dates to the first millennium BC. Leslie Alcock's excavations at Castell Odo in the 1950s first highlighted the significance of these monuments. This enclosure has a Late Bronze Age-Earliest Iron Age timber predecessor, in the form of a palisade and post-built roundhouses, provisionally dated by the pottery assemblage to the ninth and eighth centuries BC. The excavations at Meillionydd have produced preliminary radiocarbon dates spanning the mid-eighth century to the end of the third century cal. BC, and while no early timber palisade has been identified, separate timber and stone phases are apparent. A further ten double-ringwork sites exist on the peninsula, suggesting the presence of a relatively distinct regional tradition. They are all under 1ha, enclosed by bivallate circular-shaped banks, and they contain a handful of roundhouses.

Meillionydd was first investigated in 2007 by G. Smith and D. Hopewell from Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, who undertook a magnetometer survey which defined a circular bivallate embanked enclosure 105m by 85m, with roundhouse platforms located on the inside of the inner bank and in the centre. A recent GPR survey, carried out by Ray Karl and Klaus Loecker in April 2012 with a team from the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology in Vienna, produced spectacular results which have provided additional data on the structure and layout of the settlement.

In the excavation season in 2011, we reopened and extended the 2010 trial trenches on the southeastern side of the enclosure, near to the entrance-way, in order to characterise different areas. Trench 1 was originally positioned to examine a roundhouse, the inner bank and part of a quarry hollow; it was



Trench 2: the stone roundhouse wall set into the outer bank next to the entranceway. The original inner facing stones of the outer bank are visible in the floor on the left.

extended in 2011 to the east and the west so that a full section through the outer and inner bank and the inner roundhouse could be explored. Trench 2 originally examined the outer bank and this was extended in 2011 to explore more of the bank structure and the quarry hollow. Trench 3 examined part of the inner bank and roundhouses.

The excavations demonstrated that the outer bank is constructed from simple dumps of earth and stone, faced roughly with stones, and associated with quarry scoops. A wide quarry hollow, c. 6m wide, is located in front of the outer bank. It truncated an earlier ditch which is visible on the geophysics and

represents an earlier phase of boundary. The quarry hollow was also the focus for occupation activity in a later phase of the settlement. Rather unexpectedly, the extension to trench 2 revealed that the bank had been partially cut away to incorporate a later stone roundhouse (see Figure 1). This building, being attached to the outer bank and next to the enclosure entranceway, may have played an important role on the settlement.

The inner bank is very different. This was badly preserved and only the foundation stones survived, consisting of a linear arrangement of boulders set within a shallow foundation trench and located



The hut platform in Trench 1 west extension, showing the pits before excavation and the curvilinear wall gully, with upright packing stones in situ (the stretch of the gully in the foreground was excavated in 2010). The stone infill of the roundhouse is clearly visible in the section.

immediately behind a roundhouse platform. The stone infills within the quarry hollow demonstrate that the banks were deliberately slighted during occupation or abandonment.

The roundhouse platform in trench 1 west extension was set within a shallow terrace scoop, and the floor is characterised by a number of postholes and large pits. The curving wall slot of a plank built roundhouse terminated within a large pit with packing stones, which is probably the door-post of an east-facing entrance porch. Part of a curvilinear stone wall was located next to the wall slot. This was originally interpreted as the remains of a later stone roundhouse which was set into the body of the bank, although it may well be an outer wall-face associated with the plank-built roundhouse. On abandonment, the roundhouse platform was deliberately infilled with compact rubble layers which appear to partly derive from the slighting of the adjacent bank structure. This is a substantial packing, *c.* 0.5m thick, which is rich in heat-affected stone and it is certainly a deliberate infill.



Trench 3: the Middle Iron Age stone roundhouse wall, which sealed a hearth pit associated with an earlier Iron Age post-built roundhouse.

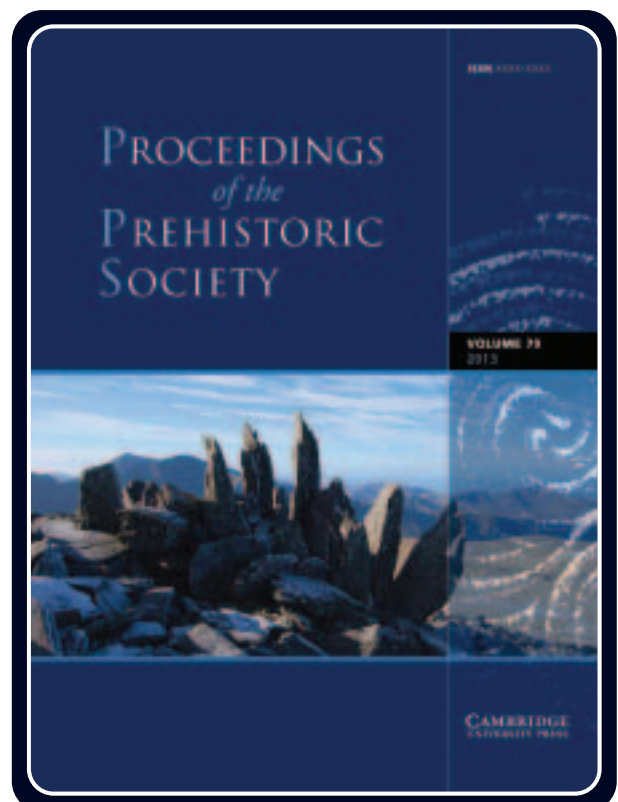
In trench 3, a number of roundhouses were identified. The early occupation phases are represented by small pits and gullies which are difficult to reconstruct. A post-built timber roundhouse, *c.* 12m in diameter, was clearly identified and this contained a central hearth pit. This showed evidence for being rebuilt at least once and a large double posthole on the southeast indicates the location of an entrance porch. The central hearth is securely placed in this phase as it was truncated and sealed by a later stone roundhouse wall. A date of 753-410 cal. BC (2 sigma);

GU26311) on charred twigs from the basal fill of the hearth confirms an earlier Iron Age date for the building. Following its abandonment, a substantial cut for a terrace was created and within this there is tentative evidence for two roundhouses. The next phase was well defined, and involved the construction of a stone roundhouse with a diameter of *c.* 9m and an entrance to the southwest. Where the stone-faced wall was positioned within the terrace cut, it stood to a height of 0.75m with a thickness of *c.* 1.5m. The house floor was cut by pits which include a stone-lined storage pit and a series of working hollows. One of the final working hollows produced a date of 384-203 cal. BC (2 sigma; GU26312), which would place this building in the Middle Iron Age. The building had also been deliberately infilled with stone rubble and the deposits produced three spindlewhorls, two of which were unfinished. These deposits may well indicate the presence of elaborate closing rites which took place on the settlement during its abandonment.

The third excavation season is taking place in July 2012. We will reopen and extend trenches 1 and 2 to create a 10m by 20m trench. Here we will continue to investigate the inner and outer boundaries with the associated roundhouses.

Kate Waddington and Raimund Karl, Bangor University

THE PREHISTORIC SOCIETY AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS



As many of you may be aware, the Society has been in negotiation with a number of publishers regarding publication of *PPS*. Following an exhaustive comparison process we have decided to partner with Cambridge University Press from January 2013.

It was the decision of Council that CUP best appreciates our unique history and is very sympathetic to our requirements. Indeed, CUP already manages a number of other related archaeological journal titles. *PPS* will be available in print and electronic formats on Cambridge Journals Online and back copies (including *PPS East Anglia*) will be digitised as part of the Cambridge Journals Digital Archive. These will all be available to members for no extra fee and are expected to become available, in batches, over the next year.

We have decided that it is time to update our journal cover and will be moving to a more colourful design in keeping with CUP's other titles. Be assured that the quality of the journal will remain unchanged and we retain editorial and copyright control. *PAST* will be slightly rebranded and will become a full colour, 16 page, publication.

As far as membership goes, all will remain the same: our Membership Secretary, Tessa Machling, will still be the main contact for the Society and will continue to handle all individual membership payments.

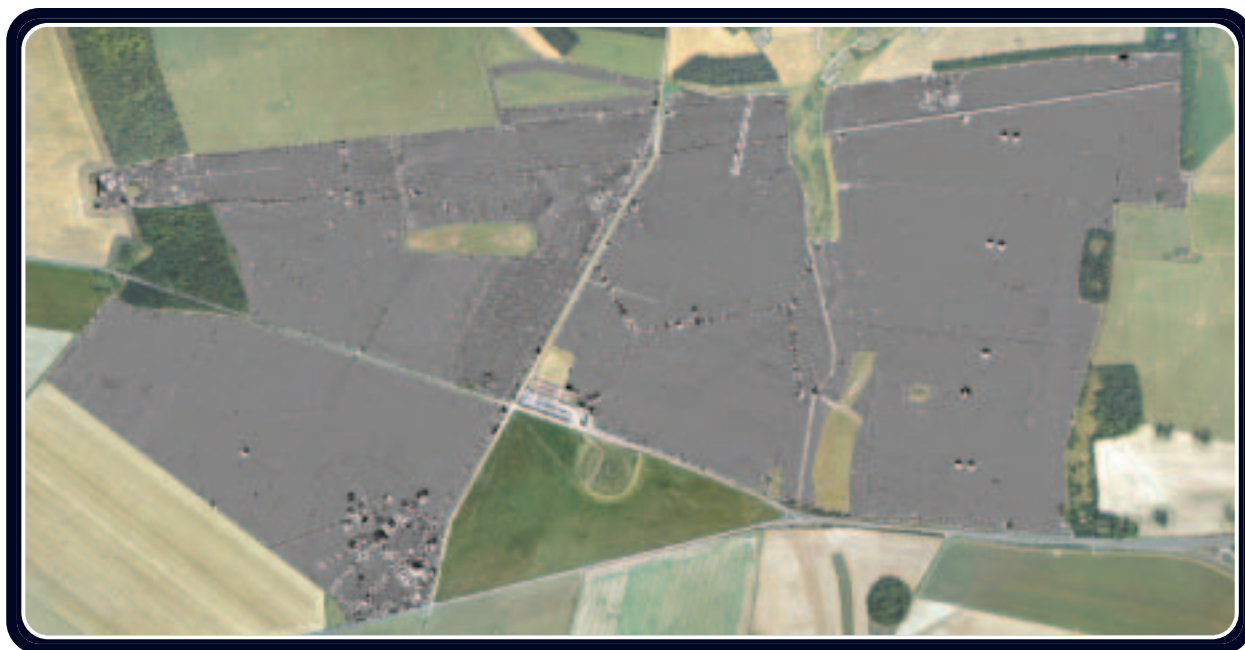
We are very excited about the new partnership and feel it will offer many benefits to our members. We will be in touch with more information as we move through the transition process. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Tessa at prehistoric@ucl.ac.uk.

THE STONEHENGE HIDDEN LANDSCAPES PROJECT

Despite intensive archaeological and antiquarian research over several hundred years, much of the Stonehenge landscape remains unsurveyed and effectively *terra incognita*. The Stonehenge Hidden Landscapes Project (SHLP) seeks to transform our knowledge and understanding of the landscape through intensive surveys not only of the known monuments but also of the areas between them, using state-of-the-art geophysical and remote sensing techniques. This work is being undertaken at an unprecedented scale, with a projected initial survey area of about 8.2 km², covering most of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site.

The scale and ambition of this project is possible due to recent advances in data acquisition, processing and visualization, adopted and developed within the research programme of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology in Vienna and its international partners (LBI ArchPro: <http://archpro.lbg.ac.at>). The collective resources and expertise of the LBI ArchPro Institute and its partners permit innovative approaches to the exploration, documentation and investigation of entire archaeological landscapes. The SHLP is one of the LBI ArchPro case studies, directed by the Visual and Spatial Technology Centre (VISTA) at the Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham, in co-operation with Archaeological Sciences at Bradford and the University of St Andrews.

The results of this work are steadily being integrated into a highly detailed archaeological map of the



*Magnetometry coverage of the central northern part of the SHLP survey area to August 2012.
Since then, extensive further areas have been surveyed to the northwest and southeast.*

'invisible' landscape, involving an interpretative synthesis of the high-density datasets being produced by the project, along with all existing remote sensing and geophysical data from the study area, and comparative evaluation of the results of previous archaeological excavation data in relation to geophysical results. For the first time, it is possible to create total digital models of the Stonehenge landscape at a true 'landscape scale', transcending the immediate surrounds of individual monuments and tying them together within a seamless map of sub-surface and surface archaeological features and structures. The scale and comprehensive nature of this dataset will allow archaeologists to pose new questions about past Stonehenge landscapes that are otherwise impossible using information only from surface remains or limited excavations.

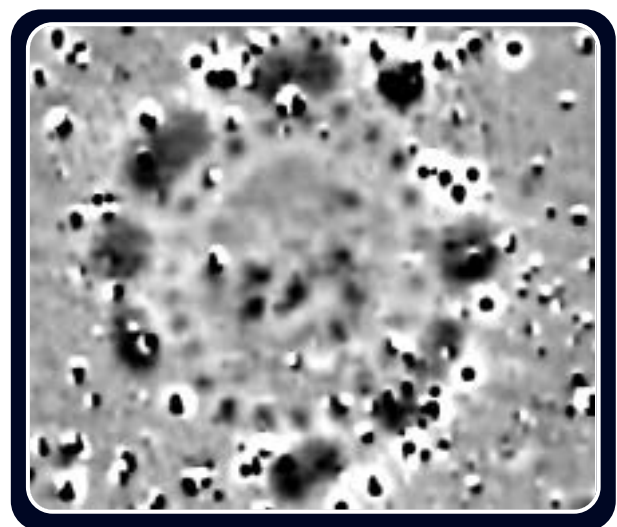


Two of the SHLP motorised geophysical survey systems in operation at Stonehenge: multi-sensor fluxgate-gradiometer array (upper); MALA Imaging ground penetrating radar array (lower).

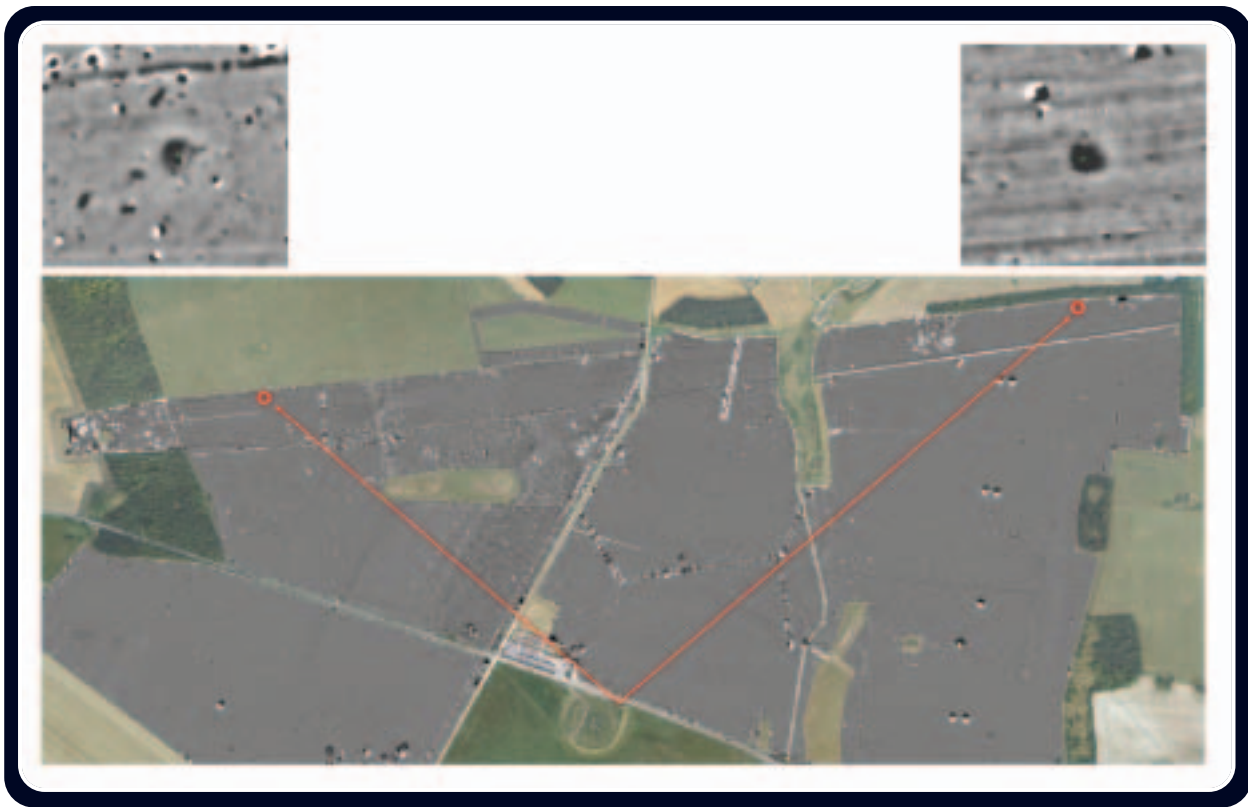
Total survey coverage so far is about 4.5 km², which already makes SHLP one of the largest contiguous geophysical survey programmes ever undertaken. Even this does not fully reflect either the scale or intensity of the survey work which - importantly - combines multiple survey technologies over the same areas. The coverage of such large areas, with hugely increased sample densities recovered at constant tempos in the field, are possible because of the high inherent sampling rates of the motorized multi-sensor and multi-channel survey systems being used, and the advanced positioning and navigation solutions developed by the LBI ArchPro. The level of detail generated by these technologies is unprecedented, and detailed interpretation will inevitably take some time to complete. Nevertheless, points of particular interest following a second season of work can be highlighted.

These include:

1. An apparent major gap exists in the centre of the northern ditch of the Greater Cursus, and several smaller entrances have been identified at points around the circuit, suggesting complex forms of access and ceremonial use;
2. The mapped course of the Palisade/Gate ditch now shows that it almost reaches the Cursus at its northern end, and that a wide gap exists between the northern ditch section and the Palisade to the south of the A344;
3. Numerous small monuments and other distinctive features have been discovered, including:
 - (i) A new 'hengiform' monument at the site of Amesbury 50, to the northwest of Stonehenge, comprising two opposed arcs of large pits surrounding a pit oval;
 - (ii) A large horseshoe-shaped monument south of the east end of the Cursus;
 - (iii) Several large pits in various locations across the surveyed area, including two very large pits situated towards the western and eastern ends of the Greater Cursus;
 - (iv) Several new annular, pennanular and segmented ring ditches, some of which appear to be truncated round barrows while others are more likely to be small hengiform enclosures.
4. GPR surveys of standing round barrows have revealed several examples of probable multi-phase construction sequences, as well as clear evidence for the forms of antiquarian investigations and other kinds of excavation.
5. Field systems and linear and curvilinear ditches, previously unknown or only sketchily recorded, have been identified in several parts of the areas surveyed. These include a range of land boundaries, probable settlement enclosures and other structures of likely later prehistoric, Roman and medieval date.



Amesbury 50 'hengiform' monument. Ground penetrating radar results have shown that the pits forming the inner oval arrangement are each at least 1.0 m in diameter and 1.0 m deep.



The large pits within the Cursus, apparently positioned on alignments towards midsummer sunrise and sunset from the Heel Stone.

Among the most intriguing new features identified so far are the two large pits within the Cursus. These are both about 5m in diameter and at least 1m deep, and appear to be positioned on alignments towards midsummer sunrise and sunset when viewed from the Heel Stone, located just outside the entrance to Stonehenge. Such an alignment is unlikely to be a coincidence and seems to suggest a substantive link between ritual activity within the Cursus and the area of Stonehenge itself. The nature of the pits is uncertain at this time though the existence of timber or stone settings associated with the pits cannot be discounted. The position of the western pit below a near horizon, and therefore not directly visible from Stonehenge, also suggests that visual aids such as fire or smoke would have been required to identify this point for viewers at the Heel Stone. These features, and their relationships to other sites and monuments in the wider landscape, including the possible northern entrance to the Cursus, may provide some clues to help us explain the spatial structuring of the Cursus and Stonehenge monuments, a connection that has long been suspected but which is little understood.

A fuller description of the research background, organisation and methodology of the Stonehenge Hidden Landscapes Project, and a more detailed summary of the results so far, are available in the most recent issue of *Archaeological Prospection* (C. Gaffney *et al.* 2012). Geophysical surveys will continue for another two years, with coverage extending well beyond the current area and involving the use of novel

sensor techniques such as gradiometry. The results of these surveys are already generating new interpretations of the broader Stonehenge landscape, based on a radical new appreciation of very different kinds - and very different spatial configurations - of land use in comparison to those recognised previously. This new framework of knowledge and understanding will inform future research, whilst also enhancing the heritage management plans of regional and national curators. The Stonehenge area has long been investigated archaeologically, but only now - as a result of SHLP - can we say that we are creating a genuine *landscape archaeology* of the Stonehenge landscape.

Vince Gaffney, Paul Garwood and Eamonn Baldwin (University of Birmingham), Wolfgang Neubauer (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology, Vienna), and Chris Gaffney (University of Bradford)

The Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology (archpro.lbg.ac.at) is an international research collaboration of the Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft (A), the University of Vienna (A), the Vienna University of Technology (A), ZAMG-the Austrian Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics (A), the Province of Lower Austria (A), RGZM-the Roman-Germanic Central Museum, Mainz (D), RAÄ-Swedish National Heritage Board (S), IBM VISTA-University of Birmingham (GB), and NIKU-Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (N).