

PAST

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/>

Two Middle Neolithic radiocarbon dates from the East Midlands

Earlier this year, radiocarbon dates were commissioned for two Middle Neolithic artefacts from the east Midlands. The first was obtained from a macehead of red deer antler from Watnall, Northamptonshire, currently in the collections of the National Museums Scotland who acquired it in 1946/7. The macehead is No. 2 in Simpson's corpus (*PPS* 1996). It is of standard 'crown' type, it is undecorated, and unfortunately the circumstances of the find are unknown. A radiocarbon date was obtained from the antler itself and produced a result of 4395 ± 30 BP (SUERC-40112). This date unfortunately coincides with a plateau in the calibration curve but nevertheless calibrates to 3097–2916 cal BC (95.4% probability) and is in keeping with the few available dates already obtained for these artefacts (see Loveday *et al.* in *PPS* 2007) thus confirming their Middle Neolithic currency.

The second date was obtained from a cremated long bone fragment found in a pit with a small bowl at Maxey Quarry, Cambridgeshire. The site was excavated by Northamptonshire Archaeology in advance of gravel quarrying and is currently

awaiting confirmation of post-excavation funding. The bowl was originally identified as a Food Vessel. It has a fine thin fabric, a concave neck, rounded body and foot-ring. It is decorated all over with incised herring bone motif and certainly has a Food Vessel form. However the rim form is much more in keeping with Impressed Ware ceramics and the foot-ring has been added to an otherwise rounded base. Both the foot-ring and the decorated lower part of the vessel are features more common in Food Vessels than in Impressed Wares. Could this be a missing link? Does this vessel bridge the Impressed Ware-Food Vessel gap? A later Neolithic or Chalcolithic date was expected but instead the date is very firmly in the Middle Neolithic – 4790 ± 35 BP (SUERC-39011) or 3650–3517 cal BC (94.5% probability).

Once again we are in a situation where the links between Impressed Ware and Food Vessels are undeniable, in this case uncannily close, but we are left with a divide of almost a millennium between the demise of one and the emergence of the other. Work continues.

Alex Gibson



Manor Farm cursus complex: floodplain investigations on the River Great Ouse, Milton Keynes

Nestled between low-lying limestone hills of the River Great Ouse corridor and buried by up to 1.5m of alluvium, a significant Neolithic monument complex has been discovered on its southern gravel terraces. The floodplain was transformed into a ceremonial space through the construction of a Neolithic mortuary enclosure, four cursus monuments and a hengiform pit circle. Situated in the Upper Great Ouse region, this complex will provide a new component to the understanding and interpretation of the Ouse Valley in prehistory.

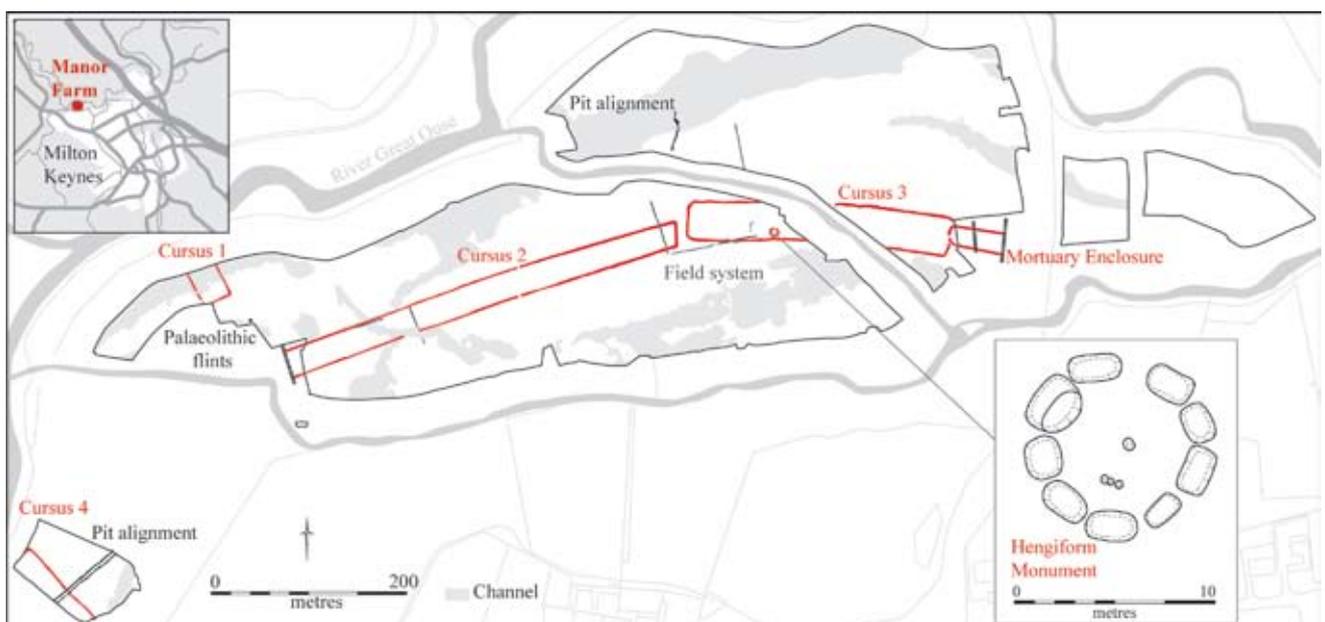
Since 2007, the Cambridge Archaeological Unit has conducted a series of excavations at the Hanson Aggregates Manor Farm Quarry, Old Wolverton, Milton Keynes. Prior to and post-dating the Neolithic monuments, transient activity during the terminal Upper Palaeolithic, Late Mesolithic and Middle Bronze Age seems to stand in complete contrast to the longevity of the monumental landscape. It is from this latter period onwards that major river inundations and overbank flooding led to the accumulation of alluvial silts, thus sealing the gravel islands and burying the monuments. Within the post-alluvial floodplain, two Iron Age pit alignments established a second phase of monumentality in the landscape, whilst brushwood and limestone trackways dating from the Roman and later periods signify access and movement between the higher and drier limestone hills either side of the floodplain.

The changing course of the Great Ouse is integral to our understanding of the prehistoric archaeology and its environmental setting. Within the quarry area, two major braided palaeochannel systems have been exposed, bracketing the Neolithic monuments to the north and south. Whilst

the southern system probably has its origins in the Roman period (or immediately preceding it), the larger system to the north comprised a significantly more complex series of migrating channels spanning the early Holocene through to at least the eleventh century AD. Minor tributaries branched off from these major courses at various points in the river's long history and have carved the gravel terraces into islands and ridges, on which the Neolithic and Bronze Age activity is situated.

The cursus monuments (numbered 1–4) were categorised as such by the presence of internal banks and staggered causeways; a fifth monument, yet to be fully excavated, may represent the remains of a mortuary enclosure or bank barrow, seemingly the earliest monument in the landscape so far discovered. This feature, in the easternmost area of the quarry, was significantly narrower than the cursus monuments and was further distinguished by its rounded western terminal, breached by a single causeway. Remnant internal banks associated with its ditches were similar to those associated with the cursus monuments; however, the survival of a buried soil deposit throughout the internal space of the fifth monument raises the possibility of a now-lost internal mound.

In plan, this feature is broadly comparable to the bank barrow of Earlier Neolithic date within the Cardington-Cople complex further along the Ouse in Bedfordshire. On the other hand, the relationship between the fifth monument and cursus 3 (which appears to partially enclose the presumed earlier monument) is seemingly analogous to the Brampton cursus in Cambridgeshire, the ditches of which appear to flank an earlier mortuary enclosure. Bank barrow or mortuary



Site plan and location



Looking southwest along Cursus 2

enclosure, this fifth monument seems likely to be the earliest of the long enclosures.

Morphologically, the monuments appear to evolve from rounded into more rectangular forms. The physical relationships between the five enclosures implies a succession of monument construction from east to west, roughly paralleling the general course of the Great Ouse (both the present course and the route of the northern palaeochannel system), with cursus 1 and 2 being directly comparable in overall form and dimensions, possibly implying contemporaneous construction.

The monuments have typically yielded very little material culture but a small dump of Peterborough Ware pottery from cursus 2 provides a late fourth millennium *terminus post quem* for its construction. Elsewhere from cursuses 2 and 3, *in situ* flint working debris of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date in the final silt accumulations of the ditch-fill sequence imply that the ditches were almost completely infilled by this period. This is reiterated by the superimposition of the Middle Bronze Age field systems over the infilled cursus ditches, seemingly showing no awareness of, or certainly no desire to respect their existence. Patches of poorly preserved buried soil deposits have survived beneath remnant internal bank upcast, although any traces of surface deposition or

activity associated with the monuments has long since been destroyed or scoured away by floodwaters.

Within the internal space of cursus 3, a hengiform monument (pit circle) comprising nine oblong pits with an 'entrance' gap to the northeast yielded a relatively large assemblage of Grooved Ware pottery. At the centre of the feature was a large posthole and to the rear of the internal space, three small pits contained cremated human remains. In spite of significant truncation, the assemblage of Grooved Ware and cremated remains highlights the contrast in depositional practices between the hengiform and the earlier cursus monuments and enclosures. Without a regionally comparable example, a close parallel to the Manor Farm hengiform is the Dorchester IV hengiform in the Upper Thames Valley, also located within the internal space of a cursus and comprising a ring of eight intercutting pits.

Bracketing the monumental landscape, activity on the pre-alluvial floodplain was transient by comparison. A preliminary assessment of the discrete assemblage of *in situ* terminal Upper Palaeolithic flints from a localised patch of early buried soil suggests that the material belongs to the Federmesser tradition (B. Shaw, pers. comm., 2010). As such, the assemblage marks the first of its kind in the Milton Keynes area, but appears to fit with an emerging trend of Federmesser sites identified along lowland river valleys in the south and east of England. Late Mesolithic flint scatters found in association with an alluviated buried soil to the north of the site attest to more intensive activity perhaps associated with seasonal exploitation of the floodplain.



A complete Late Neolithic hengiform monument

A total of 12 pits of probable Earlier Neolithic date suggests some limited activity prior to the creation of the ceremonial landscape. Whilst no structural evidence for Early Bronze Age activity has so far been discovered on the site, the Middle Bronze Age saw some occupation of the floodplain, represented by the partial remains of field systems, pits containing large burnt stone assemblages and cremation deposits. From this period, alluvial silts began to accumulate,



The terminal Upper Palaeolithic flint assemblage

sealing the gravel islands and burying the monument complex. A resurgence of monumental construction was seen during the Iron Age, when two disparate pit alignments were cut across the alluviated floodplain. The functionality of the alignments and their environmental setting are poorly understood, although they were probably constructed during the Early-Middle Iron Age.

At a glance, the most striking discoveries at Manor Farm have been the Neolithic monuments, but it is important to note the significance of the activity pre- and post-dating the ceremonial landscape, much of which is certainly new for the Milton Keynes area. Future work will undoubtedly shed further light on the changing role of the Upper Ouse corridor throughout prehistory.

Shannon Hogan, Cambridge Archaeological Unit

A mace-head from the Thames foreshore

The Thames foreshore has been described as the longest archaeological site in Greater London. It was from this remarkable environment that a beautiful Neolithic polished mace-head of finely-banded olive-grey 'sandstone' was recovered by a member of the public searching for recyclable waste. The finder recognised it as something exceptional and reported it to the Portable Antiquities Scheme at the Museum of London for identification and recording. The mace-head was found lying in gravel and was covered with a lime-scale concretion which nineteenth century antiquarians called 'Thames 'race'.



The mace-head has an hour-glass perforation located approximately one third of the way along its length. Parallels exist within Roe's amorphous Proto-Cushion form (in Coles and Simpson's *Studies in Ancient Europe*) although the length is closer to the more elongated Cushion form; the latter are typically more slender and have a cylindrical perforation. Cushion mace-heads were described in detail by Gibson (*PSAS* 78), who noted their 'extraordinary fineness and accuracy of craftsmanship', the deliberate choice of 'hard crystalline rocks' and 'a preference ... for green of various shades from grey to olive ... with natural colour-banding used to the best advantage for ornamental effect'. All of these observations could be applied to the present piece with equal justification.

This latest mace-head was found at Hammersmith and joins a group of other mace-heads recovered from the west London Thames. It is one of the finest artefacts to have been recovered from the river in recent years and adds another layer to our interpretation of the prehistoric Thames and surrounding areas. The full record of this object can be seen on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database – finds.org.uk with the id LON-8DC9F7. The mace-head has been acquired by the Museum of London, accession no. 2012.70.

Jon Cotton and Kate Sumnall

The Lithic Share Project

This new online project aims to document as many lithics as possible to create a comprehensive database for study and research. By having different examples of lithic types available for review in one place, the project provides a useful resource that can yield many research opportunities. The database also safeguards the provenance of known lithics, especially those in private collections which, if unrecorded, can unfortunately often become lost. The project already has a growing Facebook following (<http://www.facebook.com/lithic.share>). It is intended to be community-based with members contributing to the content and deciding its future direction.

Please view the project website at www.LithicShare.com.

Phill Palmer

Society visit to the Ham Hill excavations, 2012

Around 20 members of the Prehistoric Society assembled at Ham Hill Country Park, Somerset, on a sunny Sunday afternoon in early September for an exclusive guided tour of the excavations at Ham Hill Iron Age hillfort. A team from Cambridge Archaeological Unit and Cardiff University are midway through a three-year programme of archaeological investigation at the site in advance of large-scale commercial extraction of the distinctive, honey-coloured Ham Stone, required for the conservation of many of the historic buildings within the region.



At 88 hectares in extent – over four times the size of Maiden Castle – it is a phenomenally large site, and very hard to get your head around. Luckily for us, Niall Sharples (Cardiff), Chris Evans and excavation director Marcus Brittain (both CAU) were on hand to walk us through it, literally and figuratively. Niall Sharples started the tour with a brief overview of the history of research at Ham Hill. The hillfort was subject to some *ad hoc* investigation in the late nineteenth century, followed by the excavation of a substantial Roman building, possibly a villa, on the east side of the hillfort in the early 1900s. Further small-scale excavations took place in the mid-1920s, under the direction of the curator of the Somerset County Museum, Harold St. George Gray. His archive was never fully published but is being revisited and collated as part of the current project. A decline in demand for Ham Stone in subsequent decades meant a break in archaeological investigation until the 1980s, when English Heritage's Central Excavation Unit and Wessex Archaeology carried out several small-scale excavations in step with the re-opening and phased expansion of Ham Hill quarry. In 1997, the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England mapped the earthworks, highlighting two potential entranceways along the ramparts. During this survey it became apparent that 40% of the interior of the hillfort had been disturbed by quarrying. RCHME also undertook a geophysical survey of the surviving interior, revealing a palimpsest of multi-period occupation activity including circular houses, roadways, field boundaries and pre-modern stone extraction. The most striking feature is the systematic division of the interior into a co-axial system of enclosures, although there are very few areas of the interior that appear to be densely covered by settlement features.

Walking out onto site, Marcus Brittain described to the group what has been uncovered to date. The proposed area

of quarry expansion is roughly 130 × 200m and contains a variety of archaeological features, such as Iron Age pits and a series of linear boundaries, most likely part of a Bronze Age field system. The area also almost completely encompasses a large (c. 110 × 80m) rectilinear enclosure, one of a number that have been identified in the hillfort interior, which may date to the Middle-Late Iron Age. Its function is as yet undefined; the amount of material culture recovered has not been substantial and there is little indication of settlement activity. The enclosure ditch had been re-cut several times, however, and the presence of a (palisade?) slot immediately inside the entrance points towards the screening of activity within and/or the control of movement.

Walking across a couple of fields, we came to the southern edge of the hillfort. Here, a small trench has been opened to investigate the nature and phasing of the southern ramparts. As Niall and trench supervisor Nick Wells explained, these may well have a Bronze Age origin, although the relationship between the earthworks, a circular Ham Stone building (the earliest of its kind!) and some possible Bronze Age pottery has yet to be fully disentangled. We then clambered into the site mini-van and drove to the northern ramparts (giving you an idea of the extent of the earthworks), where Niall pointed out features in the two rampart trenches that have been opened up here. The first trench was that excavated by Harold St George Gray in the 1920s, which has been re-opened to properly record the profile of the rampart at this point. Four main phases have been identified, each separated by a dark occupation soil, the later phases characterised by the use of large Ham Stone boulders or blocks to build up the rampart. This blocky layer also seemed to be emerging in the second trench that had been opened across the northern rampart.



Possible entrance through the rampart

As to why such an expansive settlement had developed at Ham Hill, Niall suggested we had only to look at the surrounding landscape of fields, orchards and medieval manor houses to see that this was very productive land with a high carrying capacity. Also, quite simply, such a dramatic hilltop location very likely had a pull of its own. Taking in the spectacular view in front of us, the early evening sun slanting across the south Somerset countryside, it was difficult to argue.

Jessica Smyth, University of Bristol

Notice of the 2013 (for 2012) Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Saturday 15th June at 4.00pm in the John Stanley Bell Theatre, Richmond Building, University of Bradford.

Agenda

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Reading University on 9th June 2012 (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. Awards
John and Bryony Coles Award
Research Grants (Bob Smith Award and Leslie Grinsell Award)
8. Election of Officers and Members of Council

The meeting will be followed at 4.30 p.m. by the 22nd Europa Lecture. The lecture will be followed by a wine reception.

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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 1st May 2011.
3. Forms of proxy may be obtained from the Secretary at the above address.

Prehistoric Society activities 2012

This report covers the period January to December 2012.

Meetings and study tours

The Society continues to fulfil 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.

During January and February, joint lectures were held with the Devon Archaeological Society and Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Society. Niall Sharples talked on 'The problem of Ham Hill' at Exeter, and Nick Ashton on 'Early humans at Happisburgh' at Norwich. A second joint lecture to the Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Society was held in November, when Jody Joy gave a talk on 'Creating communities: torcs and identity in later Iron Age Norfolk'. Each of these lectures proved highly successful. Society members also attended a strong series of lectures held at the University of Bradford across the year. Speakers included Barry Cunliffe, Janet Montgomery, Bill Cavanagh, Gill Varndell, Toby Driver, Sonia O'Connor and Clive Waddington.

In October, Anwen Cooper (University of Oxford) delivered the 11th Sara Champion Memorial Lecture at the Society of Antiquaries. Her topic was 'Tangled histories: British prehistorians, research practice and disciplinary change, 1975–2010', a version of which has been published in this year's *Proceedings*. For the second time, this was combined with the presentation of the student dissertation prize. Earlier

in the year, Pete Topping provided an introductory lecture on the Mississippian 'Moundbuilders' to an audience at the Society of Antiquaries.

Conferences held during 2012 included the last of the highly popular Thames Valley days in February. This year's theme was 'The long view: place and prehistory in the Thames Valley'. As with the preceding events, it drew a large and enthusiastic audience. A joint symposium with the South Somerset Archaeological Research Group on recent work on hillforts in southwest England and Wales was attended by 94 delegates. The Society also provided support to the 15th Iron Age Research Student Symposium, held in Southampton during the spring.

The highlights of this year's events were the Europa conference (see below) and a tour to the American mid-west led by former Society Vice-President, Pete Topping. Proving hugely successful, this took in numerous sites associated with prehistoric 'Moundbuilder' communities along the Mississippi corridor, including that at Cahokia. The UK weekend study tour during September provided an enjoyable and informative opportunity to hear of new discoveries and research on Cranborne Chase, it being 12 years since the Society's last visit to the area. Finally, current Vice-President Niall Sharples provided members with a tour of his excavations at Ham Hill in September.

Europa Prize

Prof. Richard Bradley (University of Reading) was the 2012 recipient of the Europa Prize, which was presented in Reading. For the fifth year, the Europa lecture was preceded

by an exceptionally well-attended day-conference, which in turn followed a successful student conference held on the preceding day. This year's Europa was based around the theme 'Landscape, Monuments and Society'. Speakers included our President, Alison Sheridan, Ramón Fábregas, Colin Richards, Mike Parker Pearson, Joakim Goldhahn, William O'Brien and Colin Haselgrove, who addressed topics relating to rock art, monumentality, and the later prehistory of northwest Europe. Prof. Bradley's Europa lecture, 'Houses of Commons, Houses of Lords', formed the end-piece of a very enjoyable day immediately after the Society's AGM (see below).

Research grants

Research grants were awarded to R. Johnston for the Shaw Cairn excavation (Leslie Grinsell Prize); M. Lawson and J. Harding for survey work on Northumberland rock art; G. Robinson for the excavation of the Pillar of Eliseg; B. Stewart for survey work on Middle Stone Age sites in South Africa (Bob Smith Prize); and C. Tsoraki for the study of stone assemblages from Cyprus. The John and Bryony Coles Awards went to P. Hadley for museum visits in Denmark, and E. Hellewell for the collection of archaeological samples in Denmark. Awards were made from the conference fund to A. Jorge (to attend the ISA conference) and L. Winch (EurASEAA conference).

Annual General Meeting for 2011/12

The AGM was held at 4pm on 9th June, 2012, in the Madejski Lecture Theatre, School of Agriculture, University of Reading, after the Europa day-conference and immediately before the Europa Lecture. The President reported on a busy and successful year. She thanked all officers and members of Council for their work over the year, and especially those retiring from office: H. Fokkens, J. Last, F. Sturt and E. Wilkes. Thanks were also offered to all the contributors and the organisers of the Europa Day for their work in bringing such a successful event to fruition, especially Reading students Courtney Nimura and Alice Rogers.

The following officers and members of Council were elected:

Vice-Presidents	Alex Gibson
Treasurer	Clare Randall
Secretary	Joshua Pollard
Managing Editor	Julie Gardiner
Editor <i>PAST</i>	Joanna Brück
Editor, Prehistoric Society	
Research Papers Series	Mike Allen
Meetings Secretary	Tom Moore
Conservation Coordinator	Adrian Chadwick
Council	Frances Griffith, Jim Leary, Heather Sebire

The Baguley Award

The Baguley Award was presented to Rebecca Redfern for her article on 'A re-appraisal of the evidence for violence in the Late Iron Age human remains from Maiden Castle hillfort, Dorset, England' in volume 77 of the *Proceedings*.

Student Award

There were nine entries in total for this year's student dissertation prize. The winner was Peter John Heyes of the University of Leicester. The three runners-up were Christian Hoggard (Southampton University), Lucy Cummings (Newcastle University) and Cezary Namirski (Reading University).

Publications

During 2012 the Society published Volume 78 of the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, which contained 11 refereed papers and one shorter contribution on various aspects of British, European and South African prehistory. This year, there was a particular emphasis on Palaeolithic topics. Three editions of *PAST*, the Society's newsletter, were also published during the year. A further two volumes in the Society's Research Papers series were published, one on the British Chalcolithic resulting from the conference held in 2008, and the other a festschrift for this year's Europa recipient, Richard Bradley. The next volume in the series, on Irish Neolithic houses, is close to publication. The major event of 2012 has been the securing of a new publisher for the *Proceedings*. As of January 2013, Cambridge Journals (of Cambridge University Press) will publish both *PPS* and *PAST*. The new arrangement will provide online access to the full back-run of *PPS* and *PPSEA*.

Advocacy

The Society has continued to develop its advocacy profile. This year, several statements have been prepared in response to threats to archaeological heritage, including the damage to the Priddy Circles, that to suspected Palaeolithic art in South Wales, and the threat through road development to Cherrymount Crannog in Northern Ireland.

Membership and administration

The new website is continuing to attract additional members, including a good number of students. Overall, membership is looking healthy.

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, and especially to its administrator, Tessa Machling.

Run of PPS

A complete run of *PPS* from 1952 to 2012 for sale at a price to be negotiated; available for collection from the Norwich area, or buyer to pay carriage. For further information, please contact Peter Robins (email peter.a.robins@talktalk.net) or Richard Robins (email richard.robins@numericable.fr).

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2012

	2012	2011
	£	£
<i>Incoming resources</i>		
From generated funds		
Voluntary income	48,165	47,679
Investment income	8,881	9,014
	57,046	56,693
From charitable activities		
Publication grants	10,506	5,463
Copyright fees	2,052	1,897
Publications	524	0
Back numbers of Proceedings	1,795	2,675
Conferences	5,290	4,375
Study tours	777	825
Other	19	1,400
	20,963	16,635
Total incoming resources	78,009	73,328
<i>Resources expended</i>		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
	8,698	7,458
Charitable activities		
Grants	4,825	5,438
Lectures	1,719	275
Proceedings	34,001	37,483
PAST	10,436	9,416
Back numbers of Proceedings	1,755	2,217
Conferences	9,609	9,281
Study tours	407	1,407
	62,752	65,517
Governance costs	5,969	6,325
Total resources expended	77,419	79,300
Net incoming resources	590	-5,972
Total funds at 1 January	158,913	159,094
Net incoming resources	590	-5,972
Revaluation of investments	2,154	5,791
Total funds at 31 December	165,761	158,913

The Statement of Financial Activities is an extract from the full accounts of the Society. Copies of the full accounts for 2012 can be obtained from Tessa Machling at the registered office.

Report of the Treasurer

The Society's situation at the end of 2012 is slightly improved on the preceding year, with voluntary income (subscriptions and donations) holding up well. We were able to award a similar sum in grants as in 2011. We ended the year with

a slight surplus compared to 2011. This was due to a slight reduction in the production cost of the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* (although partly offset by the increase in costs of *PAST*, largely due to the increase in postage), and importantly an increase in publication grants obtained. Our investments, however, did not do as well as in the preceding year, but in the current climate continue to perform relatively well. There will of course be some changes to the format of the statement for 2013, following our new publication arrangements for *PPS*.

Calling all Prehistoric Society members who are Chartered Accountants!

Are you a Chartered Accountant? Would you be willing to serve as honorary External Assessor of the Society's annual accounts? We are looking for someone who is willing to give up a couple of days of his/her time each year to scrutinise the Society's accounts, starting with this year's. If you are willing and able to help, please contact Tessa Machling on t.machling@ucl.ac.uk. Thank you.

The 10th Sara Champion Memorial Lecture, 16th October 2012

'Tangled histories: British prehistorians, research practice and disciplinary change, 1975–2010' by Dr Anwen Cooper (University of Oxford)

The Society is proud to host the annual Sara Champion Memorial Lecture, to honour the memory of a much-loved, much-respected and keenly missed prehistorian who did so much to foster the development of bright young archaeologists. It was therefore entirely fitting that the tenth lecture in this series was delivered by Dr Anwen Cooper, who has been studying the history of British archaeological practice over much of the period when Sara was active. Anwen's review certainly took the older members of the

audience on a trip back down Memory Lane. She succeeded in presenting a balanced view that highlighted the great achievements of this period and the considerable challenges that had been faced by practitioners, of both sexes. A full report of Anwen's research is published in Volume 78 of *PPS* for 2012, and this will make compelling reading in the future, when we may well look back on this period as the 'Golden Age' of British archaeology.



The age of innocence: Balksbury Camp, 1973 (reproduced courtesy of Geoff Wainwright). Many of those pictured, including Jo Jeffries, Peter Donaldson and Dave Buckley, were employed soon afterwards (in 1975) as some of the earliest professionals at the newly established Central Excavation Unit

Conference news

Continental connections: exploring cross-channel relationships from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Iron Age

Foresight Centre, University of Liverpool, 14–15 June 2013

Two day conference with a stimulating programme of leading academic speakers and discussants exploring cross-channel relationships from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Iron Age. Tickets £35 (full)/£25 (students/concessions). For additional information and booking visit http://www.liv.ac.uk/sace/Continental_Connections/ or email Hugo Anderson-Whymark at hwhymark@liv.ac.uk.

Style and function: cultural identities in stone

Queen's College, Oxford, 29 June 2013

Lithic Studies Society day conference presenting new research on Holocene flint and stone tools. Tickets £20 (LSS members/

students/unwaged)/£30 (non-members). For additional information and booking visit www.lithics.org/conference.html or email Hugo Anderson-Whymark at hugo@flintwork.co.uk.

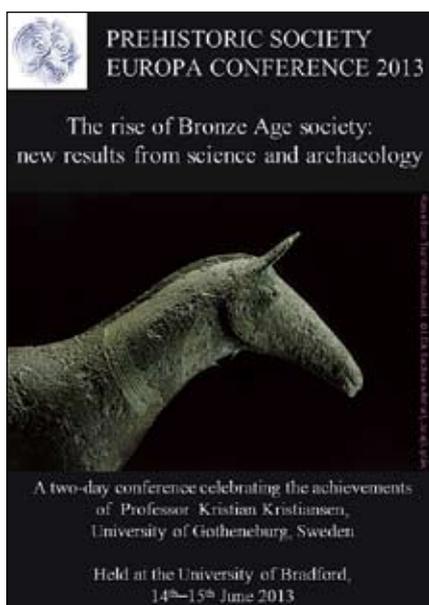
Bronze Age Forum

Queen's University Belfast, 9–10 November 2013

Papers are now invited for the next meeting of the Bronze Age Forum. The session is open to anyone with an interest in the Bronze Age archaeology of Britain, Ireland and our nearest Continental neighbours. To propose a paper, please e-mail the title, 150–300 word abstract, your name and full contact details to BAF2013@qub.ac.uk by 11 September 2013. For further details on the conference, see <http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/gap/News/Events/#d.en.373335>.

The 2013 Europa Conference, 14th–15th June, University of Bradford: *The rise of Bronze Age Society: new results from science and archaeology*

This year's conference celebrates the outstanding achievements of Professor Kristian Kristiansen (University of Gothenburg) and includes a stellar cast of speakers, covering topics ranging from mobility to identity, trade to rock art, textile production to the presentation of the human body, and social organisation to societal change. The results of much ground-breaking research in Scandinavia will be showcased,



Detail of horse from the Trundholm sun-chariot. Photo: Juraj Lipták, © LDA Sachsen-Anhalt

and the scope of the lectures will cover the whole of Europe and Eurasia, and will include an intriguing comparison between European Bronze Age social structures with current and recent social structures in Africa. Professor Kristiansen will finish with his Europa Lecture on 'The rise of Bronze Age society: some conclusions and directions for future research'. Book early to avoid disappointment: there are only 80 spaces available for the first day! Full details are available on the Prehistoric Society website: http://www.prehistoricsociety.org/files/2013_Europa_flier.pdf

Sale of PPS back numbers

During 2013 all issues of *PPS* and *PPSEA* will be digitised and become available for download from the CUP website. This service will be free to members. In the meantime we are offering copies of all remaining back numbers at £5 per volume (£3 where only part of a volume is available), first come first served. Available indexes are £5 the set sold as one volume. A list of available volumes can be found on our website. Cheques payable to: The Prehistoric Society and sent to the usual address. If you'd like to buy in bulk, please make us an offer.

A 'package' deal of volumes 68–78 (2002–2012) for £70 including p&xp is offered to UK addresses only.

Postage charges will be: £5 for a single volume posted to a UK address plus £2 for each additional volume; £7 for a single volume to Europe plus £2 for each additional volume; £10 for a single volume to the rest of the world plus £3 for each additional volume.

Lesley Wynne-Davies BA, PhD, MBE (1932–2012)

During her weekdays, her pupils at Haberdashers' Aske's school, in Hatcham, South London, will have known Mrs Lesley Wynne-Davies as their senior Classics mistress. However, in her spare time, Lesley was a regular participant in the Society's activities from the late 1970s. Her photographic record of people on outings, augmented by donations from other members such as Roy Allen (*PAST* 61, 9) grew into the Society's photographic archive. By 1985, she was our Hon. Archivist and in *PAST* No. 1 (July 1986) she appealed for historic images to add to the collection, many of which subsequently featured in this newsletter. In 1991, these responsibilities were passed to the author, who then curated the archive until it went into storage at Bradford University.

By 1991, her interest in the past moved on to investigating medieval records at Kew. This work eventually led to a MBE in the Millennium Honours for 'services to the Friends of the Public Record Office' and to a PhD in Medieval History. With such a background, it will come as no surprise that Lesley was also very active in the Richard III Society (acting under her maiden name, Lesley Boatwright), where

she eventually served as its Deputy Chairman in 2006 and continued as its Editor-in-Chief until her unexpected death from cancer of the liver in October 2012.

Sarah Gretton, who attended her funeral, reports that her Ricardian friends were most disappointed that Lesley had passed away before she knew the results of the investigations into the burial of Richard III at Leicester. As an end-note, she also noted that

Lesley, a convinced Republican, had insisted on Sarah joining her on an excavation to avoid the fuss of the 1981 Royal Wedding festivities, but paradoxically, in her later years, had shown such commitment to Richard III!



Courtesy of the Richard III Society

RJ Cruise

After the ‘Frankenstein mummies’: Cladh Hallan in the Bronze and Iron Ages

The extraction of ancient DNA from three separate individuals merged into a single composite mummy at Cladh Hallan in the Western Isles of Scotland made the news in August (*Journal of Archaeological Science* 39). Yet the DNA results only confirmed what was already known from osteological analysis, that this skeleton was formed from a female torso and a male skull. Few press reports carried the story that the male skull was older than the female torso by 70–205 years (at 68% probability). This was the second of two mummy burials from Cladh Hallan, the other being formed from the skull, mandible and torso of three further male individuals (*Antiquity* 79). The two burials were part of a 3m-deep stratified sequence of funerary and domestic structures spanning 1500 years from the Beaker period to the Early Iron Age.

Excavation of this settlement mound on the *machair* (shell sand) of South Uist finished in 2003, but analysis and writing up are only now reaching the final stages. Bayesian modelling of radiocarbon and OSL dates has provided a precise chronology for the site’s 16 phases, the last nine across the bronze-iron transition from c.1300 cal BC to c.500 cal BC. The two bodies were buried in 1440–1260 cal BC (95% probability; the male composite) and 1310–1130 cal BC (95% probability; the female-male composite) before a row of three sunken-floored, east-facing roundhouses was constructed on top of them. Initial occupation of these roundhouses is dated to 1100–980 cal BC (95% probability), later than the two composite skeletons but broadly contemporary with a third unmodified skeleton that may be considered as a foundation burial for the settlement. The southern half of the settlement remains unexcavated, inaccessible beneath a sand dune.

The Cladh Hallan houses were remodelled and rebuilt multiple times and their deep sequences of preserved house floors provide significant insights into domestic use of space and life cycles of renewal. Pottery manufacture was carried



The skeleton of the male-female composite mummy from Cladh Hallan, buried in 1310–1130 cal BC (photo by Mike Parker Pearson).

out in two of the roundhouses, revealed by the presence of ‘cheese’-shaped blocks of prepared clay as well as smaller, fist-sized buns and, in the northern roundhouse, stacked slabs of a dismantled, unfired pot. In the ante-room entrance to the largest roundhouse, over 400 fragments of clay refractory debris attest to the manufacture of Ewart Park swords, a chape, socketed axes, spearheads, a bifid razor, pins and other copper-alloy ornaments; just where the actual casting had been carried out is unknown – these abraded fragments of clay moulds and crucibles were dumped in the north half of the entrance at the beginning of the house’s long sequence of occupation. A variety of small bronze tools and ornaments of copper alloy and gold are among the settlement’s casual losses and ritual ‘closing’ deposits.

Whilst the metalwork demonstrates long-distance maritime links, exploitation of marine food resources was limited to small quantities of fish and shellfish, in contrast to terrestrial species of sheep, cattle and newborn red deer, and crops of barley. Lipid residues of ruminant dairy fats in pots indicate the importance of milk; ruminant adipose fats and non-ruminant fats have not been detected in Cladh Hallan’s pots although pottery sherds containing such fats were numerous at the nearby Early and Middle Iron Age broch of Dun Vulcan.

The quality of preservation of house floors, walls and refuse deposits makes Cladh Hallan a useful testing ground for theories about the Bronze Age/Iron Age roundhouse in Britain. Ann Woodward’s ideas (developed from David L. Clarke’s Glastonbury model) about modular household organization, especially the two-house module, fit extremely well: the three roundhouses in a row were all inhabited as dwellings but the small south house seems to have been dependent on the large central house for cooking. After 1030–925 cal BC (95% probability), the south house was abandoned and the other two roundhouses formed a conjoined, two-house module of a major residential house and an ancillary building. In 940–775 cal BC (95% probability), the northern ancillary house went out of use and the central roundhouse continued as an isolated single structure until 660–430 cal BC (95% probability) when it was finally abandoned after seven rebuilds over five centuries of occupation.

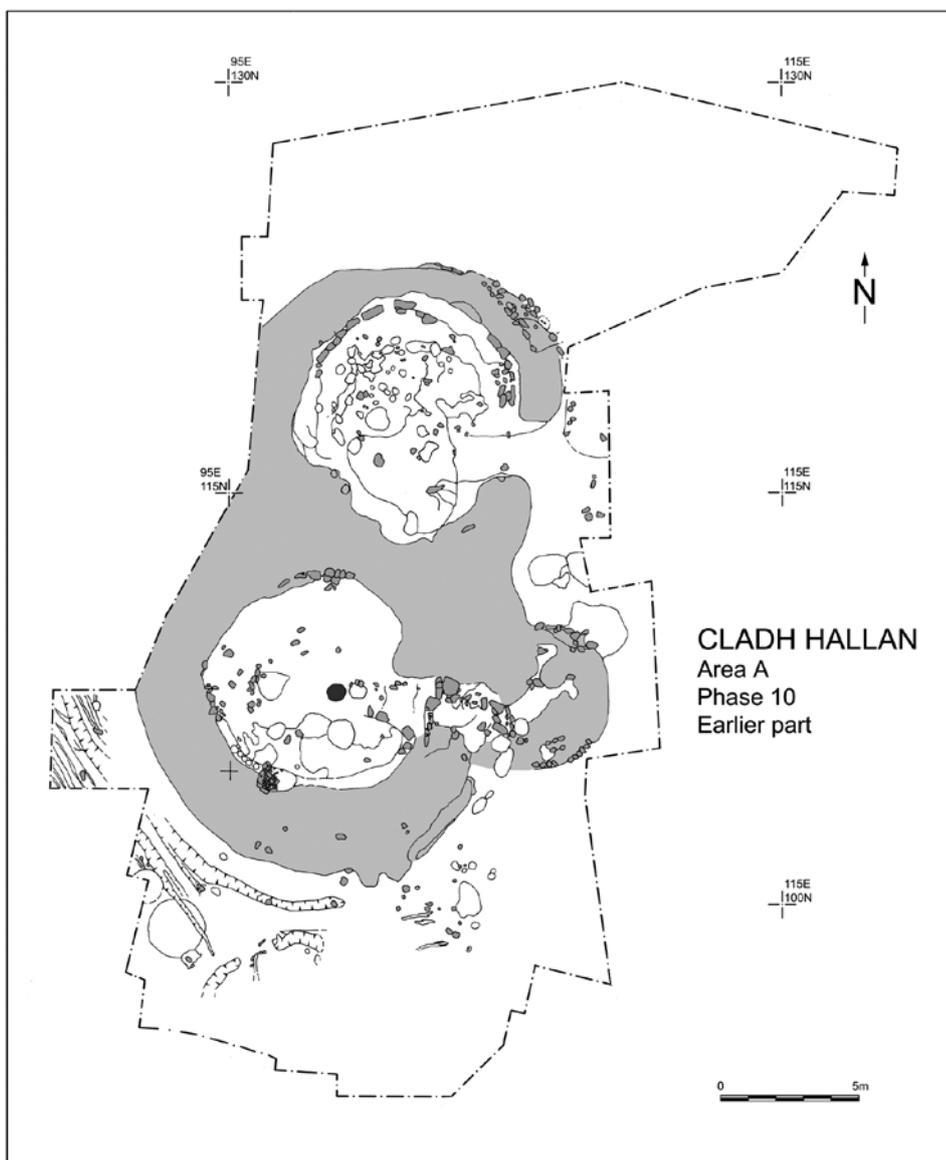
This remarkable length of superimposition is difficult to match elsewhere in Britain during the first millennium BC. It is over a decade ago that *PAST*’s editor, Jo Brück, pointed out that houses in the British Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age were frequently renewed upon the spot where they stood, in contrast to previous and later roundhouses. At Cladh Hallan, this renewal involved the incorporation of part of the old internal wall face into the new house; this new build was always set slightly off-centre (by up to a metre or so) from the previous plan, a not inconsiderable inconvenience requiring major re-modelling of the edges of the sunken-floored area

of the house. This practice of superimposition was perhaps not so much about continuity of place but a concern with the unchanging nature of the house across its transitions of renewal. Superimposition could have been linked to a new pattern of inheritance and land-holding, discouraging partible inheritance and encouraging primogeniture in which only one descendant received the major share.

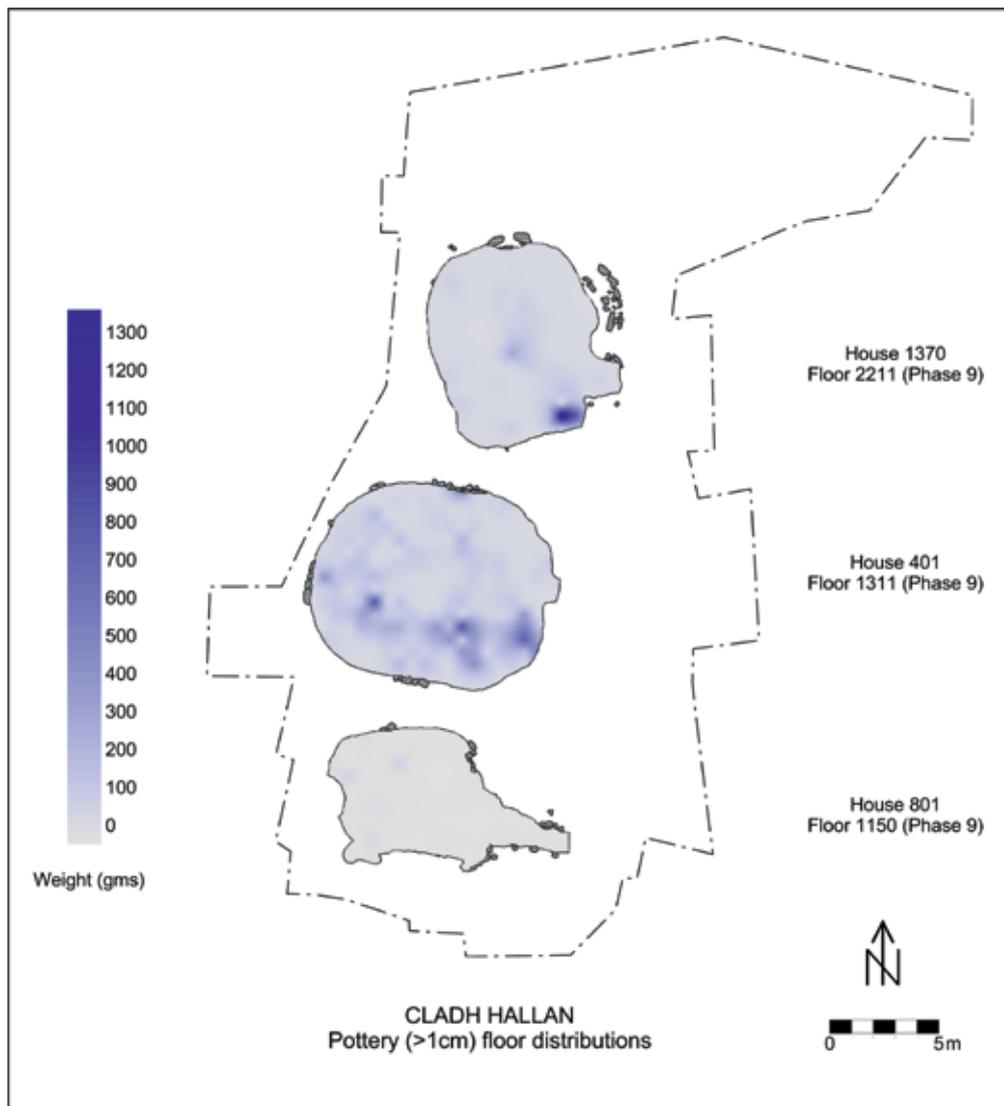
Jo Brück has also suggested that certain types of ‘rubbish’ – notably deposits of smashed pottery and broken quernstones – were broken and deposited as metaphors of the transformation of human bodies after death to mark particular moments in the life cycles of the Late Bronze Age/Iron Age house and its inhabitants. At Cladh Hallan saddle querns were found in foundation deposits, especially within the sand core of the party walls where their presence was immaterial to the wall’s structural solidity. Some had been intentionally broken prior to deposition. There was even a quern fragment in the fill of the composite male-female burial. The numerous spreads of smashed pottery

at Cladh Hallan were also linked to moments of transition and renewal, especially as ‘closing’ deposits at the end of one architectural phase and before the beginning of another. One of the most intriguing deposits was a pit of ten freshly smashed pots at the end of Phase 10, sandwiched between the central roundhouse’s dismantled back wall and the new wall of the rebuild. This marking of the transition from one build to the next was clearly much more than just finding somewhere to dispose of the old crockery.

Cladh Hallan also confirms Andrew Fitzpatrick’s 1994 theory of sunwise ordering of internal roundhouse space. With 15 surviving house floors across the site, plotting the spatial distribution of micro-debris embedded in these soft peaty floors provides evidence for standardized daily routines in the Cladh Hallan roundhouses over 500 years. Any expectations that craft-working or cooking were performed in areas of optimum daylight are dashed. Instead, the arrangement of interior space and activities in all phases conforms well with the Fitzpatrick hypothesis. Food preparation and/or eating



The two-house module of Phase 10 (1030–925 cal BC), constructed after the three-house row (drawn by Irene Deluis).



The distribution of pottery sherds (by weight) on the house floors of the three-house row in Phase 9 (1100–980 cal BC) at Cladh Hallan (drawn by Harry Manley).

was in the southeast, corresponding with the sun's position in the morning. Other daytime tasks, involving bone, pumice and stone tools for hide-working, were performed in the south, southwest and west. The sleeping platforms, recognizable as raised, level areas surfaced with turves, were in the north, corresponding with the sun's transit below the northern horizon.

Although Cladh Hallan's dead have stolen much of the limelight, the living have interesting stories to tell as well.

Mike Parker Pearson, Christie Cox Willis, Pete Marshall, Jacqui Mulville, Helen Smith, Trevor Cowie, Oliver Craig, Irene Deluis, Matt Juddery, Harry Manley, Jean-Luc Schwemninger and Gillian Taylor

Woodcock Corner: a Neolithic enclosure

Archaeologists from Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall, working at the site of the future Truro Eastern District Centre (TEDC) have discovered the fragmentary remains of a prehistoric enclosure likely to have been built around 5,800 to 4,400 years ago.

Initial findings from the excavations suggest that at the eastern end of the site is a Neolithic enclosure dating to the period 3800BC to 2400BC. The enclosure takes the form of

two segments of ditch with a causeway between them. The ditch segments are up to 1.9 metres deep and 3.5 metres wide. The enclosure occupies a striking location, lying on a slightly projecting spur above a steep valley just above the point where it joins the Trevella Stream. The ditch segments are located in a saddle of land, possibly focussing on a knoll of harder bedrock that may have formed a surface outcrop in prehistory. At this stage it is uncertain whether the site represents a causewayed enclosure of Early Neolithic date



Woodcock Corner from the south-east

(4000 BC to 3400 BC), a henge of Late Neolithic date (2800 BC to 2400 BC), or an enclosure representing an intermediate stage between the two forms. It is not even clear whether the monument was ever completed.

Features within and around the ditches include pits containing Peterborough Ware and Grooved Ware of Middle to Late Neolithic date, the latter also associated with an unusual slate disc carved with geometric patterns on both sides, one side in the style of a chessboard, the other reminiscent of the decoration of the Grooved Ware it was found with. The slate has been shaped and appears to be a type of object that is often termed a 'pot lid'. Interestingly, the Peterborough Ware was found outside the ditch, while all of the Grooved Ware found has been from pits in the interior of the enclosure. It is possible that the enclosure ditch segments mark a division between two different zones. The identification of Peterborough Ware in Cornwall is extremely rare, only one previous site outside Helston being known. No finds from the construction phase of the monument have yet been identified but a process of post excavation assessment and analysis should identify material suitable for dating this event. One of the more notable features of the site is the survival of Neolithic soil horizons over a large area within the enclosure. It is planned that the monument and associated deposits will be preserved *in situ* before the development continues.

The monument is unusual for Cornwall and no direct comparisons can be made with other known sites in the county at this stage. The only Early Neolithic enclosures



Slate disc: chessboard pattern



Slate disc: geometric pattern

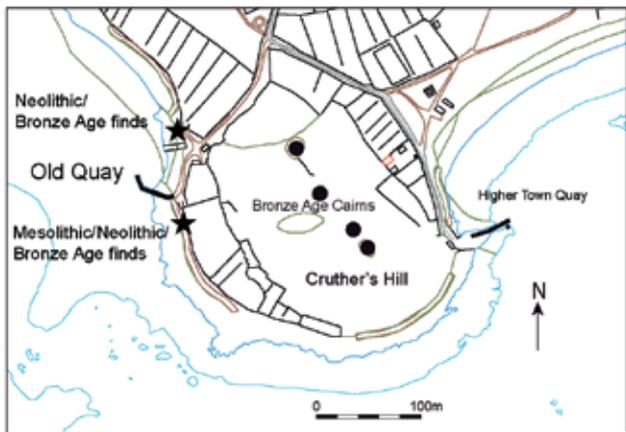
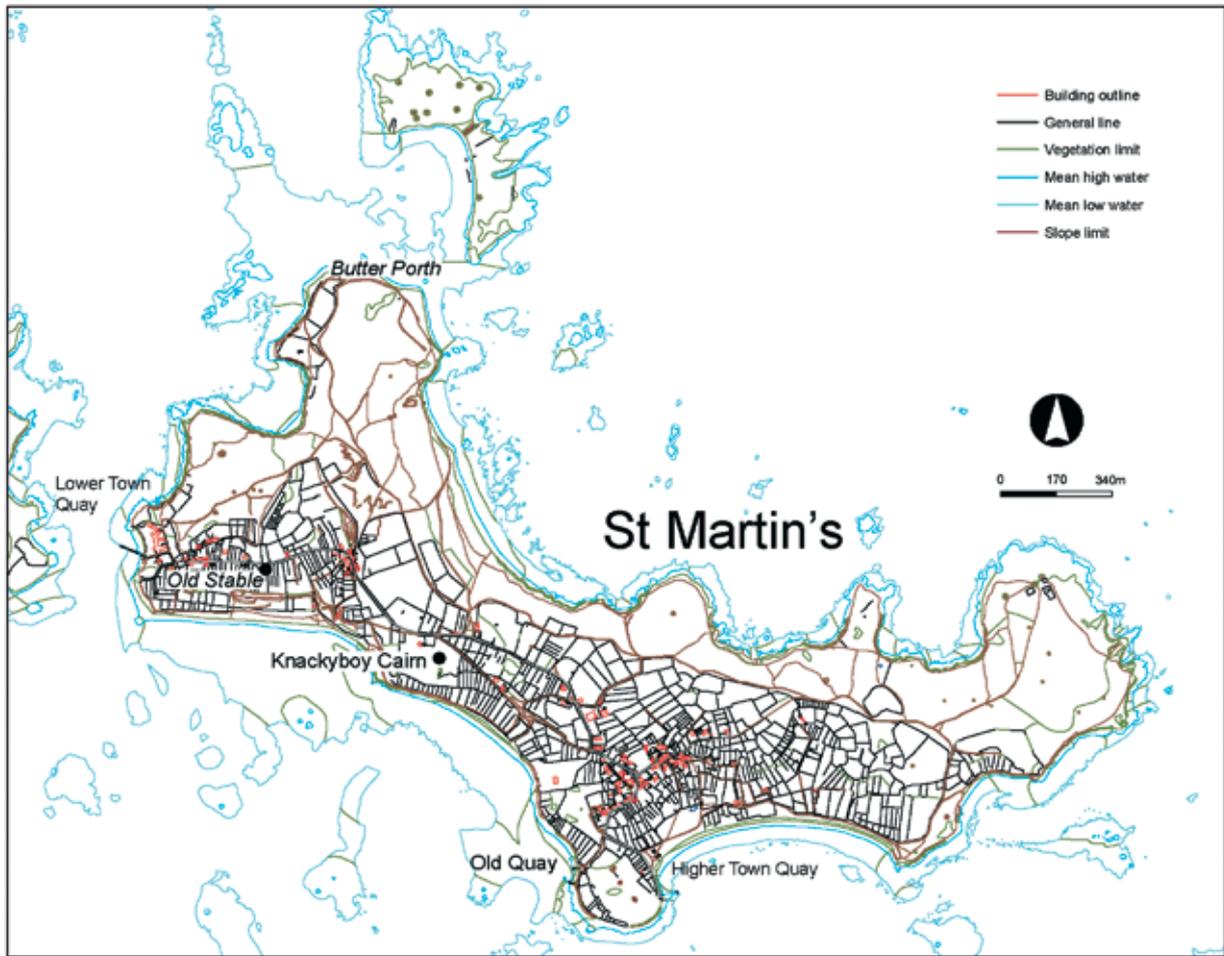
known in Cornwall are the tor enclosures; these are defined by stony banks and occupy prominent hilltops such as Carn Brea and Helman Tor. It is thought that they fulfilled the same functions as the causewayed enclosures known from the rest of the British Isles. There are no known Middle Neolithic enclosures and only a small number of henges. These are circular or oval earthwork enclosures with an external bank and an internal ditch. Two have been excavated, Castilly near Bodmin and the Stripple Stones on Bodmin Moor. Neither site provided much in the way of dateable artefacts. Woodcock Corner is therefore unique in a Neolithic Cornish context.

Sean Taylor

New evidence for Mesolithic occupation and environments in the Isles of Scilly

Although the evidence is sparse, it has long been considered that the Isles of Scilly were visited, at least on a seasonal basis, by groups of Mesolithic hunter gatherers travelling some 45km by boat from the mainland. The islands they encountered would have been very different in form to those we see today. At the end of the last glaciation, the archipelago

consisted of a single landmass roughly 17km long and 8.5km wide, but as the ice sheets melted the sea level rose. From as early as 4000 BC, submergence of low lying areas may have led to the formation of a number of different islands. To the north, the modern islands of St Mary's, Bryher, Tresco and St Martin's were encompassed in one large island, while to the



Location map showing St Martin's and the finds area at Old Quay

Everden in 1998. There has been more regular monitoring between 2005 and 2011 as part of the 'Islands in a Common Sea' and 'Lyonesse' projects (see *PAST* 64) with the most recent recording in April 2012 by ShoreWatch Scilly with the assistance of local volunteers. This event was organised under the auspices of CBA-South West and led by Charlie Johns (Historic Environment, Cornwall Council), Jacqui Mulville and Ian Dennis (Cardiff University) with the aim of making benchmark records of key archaeological sites under threat from coastal erosion.

The Old Quay cliff section has changed little in the last 20 years – although such sites often suffer only minor damage for many years and can then be suddenly destroyed by a single severe storm event. A number of finds have been recovered by archaeologists and members of the local community over the recent monitoring periods and provide further evidence for Mesolithic and Neolithic activity in the islands. The finds were recovered from two locations on the east and west sides of Old Quay. Since 2005 a total of 169 flints have been recovered from this area along with 44 sherds of pottery, some of which has been identified as Neolithic Hembury-style ware (H. Quinell pers. comm.).

south, St Agnes, Annet and the Western Rocks constituted three smaller tracts of land.

Paul Ashbee commented on the lack of early archaeology in the islands twenty-five years ago and suggested that rising sea levels had obliterated much of the evidence for Mesolithic occupation. Prior to recent surveys, only a handful of flints collected from various sites suggested a possible Mesolithic presence, with Old Quay on St Martin's the only identified flintworking site.

The cliff face at Old Quay has previously been recorded by the Cornwall Archaeological Unit in 1993 and by Shirley

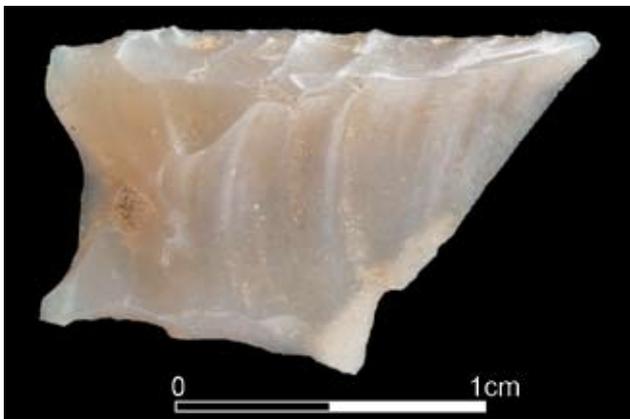
All of the flints are small, derived from pebble flint and could be locally sourced (possibly from White Island at the

Type	Flakes/chips	Scrapers	Blades	Cores	Microliths	Utilised	Knife	Point	Serrate	Unidentified
Number	135	2	2	6	2	10	1	1	1	9

Flint from Old Quay



Two examples of the pottery sherds found in the same context as



Truncated trapezoidal blade microlith found in 2012

northwest end of St Martin's). Initial analysis indicates that a mixture of hard-hammer and soft-hammer techniques were used in the removal of flakes. A more in-depth analysis of the lithic assemblage will be forthcoming. There are only two diagnostic flints in this assemblage, and these have been identified as Mesolithic trapezoidal microliths. Using the Clark classification of microlith forms (*Archaeological Journal* 90), they are Group H (trapeze-shaped microliths) and can be classified as narrow-based, with either straight or curved edges. According to Jacobi's scheme (in Drewett's *Archaeology in Sussex*, 1978), they are 2b bi-truncated trapezoidal blade/bladelet microliths.

The microlith found in 2012 is 18mm wide by 11.5mm deep and 3.2mm thick with retouch running along both straight edges. This retouch took place on a blade prior to notching and snapping to form the microlith. The second microlith was found in one of the collections given by a local resident and was not identified until the assemblage was examined at Cardiff University. It is of the same form and shape, and is 18mm wide by 12mm deep and 2.3mm thick. It also has retouch running along both straight edges. This retouch also took place on a blade before notching and snapping to form the microlith. The similarity between the two microliths is remarkable and may suggest that the same individual produced them. These two microliths are the 'Star Carr type', characterised by broad, obliquely-blunted points, isosceles triangles and trapezoids, and date to the early Mesolithic (8500–6000BC).

The presence of these two microliths adds to the corpus of previous evidence for Mesolithic activity in Scilly. The larger landmass of the islands at this time would have provided significant resources for humans and animals (for example, migrating birds), in addition to the exploitation of the marine environment. New evidence from the Lyonesse Project (an English Heritage-funded study of the evolution of the coastal and marine environment of the islands – see *PAST* 64), suggests that during the Mesolithic, the Old Quay site would have looked out over a central plain of herb-rich grassland. Over time, this became gradually colonised by oak, birch and hazel woodland, which charcoal evidence suggests was possibly cleared by fire, with later recovery of oak-dominated woodland. An increasingly wet surface environment indicates rising sea levels at this time, with willow appearing, before a final change to open marsh.

The remaining lithic and ceramic finds point towards possible Neolithic occupation at Old Quay. During September 2013, the AHRC-funded 'Stepping stones to the Neolithic?' project lead by Duncan Garrow and Fraser Sturt will further the investigations of this archaeologically-productive part of St Martins. In May 2013, the Scilly ShoreWatch community team will continue the valuable work of monitoring the effects of coastal erosion.

Ian Dennis, Jacqui Mulville and Charlie Johns

The copy date for PAST 74 is 24 May 2013. Contributions to Joanna Bruck, 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 on page 1.