The Satrupholm fen: an extraordinary site of the Trapeze Mesolithic

For a long time, the Satrupholm fen (“Satrupholmer Moor”) in central Angeln, northern Germany, has been known for its numerous Stone Age archaeological sites. It is one of the few at least partially excavated inland sites of the Trapeze Mesolithic with good organic preservation. Furthermore, it has played a crucial role in the development of wetland archaeology in Schleswig-Holstein.

In the early post-glacial period, what is now a silted fen with an intact bog core was a lake of approximately 2 km². In the Mesolithic, hunter-gatherers established their seasonal settlements at its edge. Mesolithic surface finds were reported since before 1938, variously discovered by peat-cutters or amateur archaeologists. Many artefacts were found in the area later named “Satrup LA 2” at the northern edge of the fen. Further Mesolithic finds concentrations are known from one of the drier island-like areas (Satrup LA 60) and from the south edge of the fen, where larger-scale excavations took place shortly after WW II. Numerous flint tools, but also animal bones, antler axes and unique wooden items were discovered there, documenting the extraordinary preservation conditions of the fen for the first time. Due to calcareous deposits and the overlying layers of peat, the preservation conditions for organic material are exceptionally good here.
In the 1950s, this motivated Hermann Schwabedissen (at this time director of the State Museum of Prehistory and Early History in Schleswig) to carry out several excavation campaigns in the fen, including at Satrup LA 2. In his preliminary report he presented an overview of the artefacts, but did not go into detail regarding stratigraphy and distribution patterns. These aspects are unfortunately unknown to this day.

In the following years, many artefacts from Satrup LA 2 came into the possession of the Schleswig-Holstein State Archaeological Museum, generally from private collections built up by amateur archaeologists. Among them were about 400 core and trancheit axes, over 200 blade tools and about 100 trapezes and transverse arrowheads. Pieces of special interest are about 30 complete antler bur axes und antler shaft-hole axes. Overall, this collection is one of the biggest Mesolithic assemblages in northern Europe. Further systematic archaeological research at the site followed in 2010 and 2011, carried out by Dr Sönke Hartz (Schleswig-Holstein State Archaeological Museum). Alongside a great number of flint artefacts, he found well-preserved animal bones and teeth, several antler tools and their production debris, as well as pottery sherds. The finds indicate use of the site in both the Kongemose and the Ertebølle period.

Blessing in disguise: the rescue excavation of 2016
In the early summer of 2016, committed volunteers reported larger-scale soil removal at Satrup LA 2. It appeared that the nature conservation authority of the district had ordered these measures without informing the Archaeological Department of Schleswig Holstein (ALSH). An inspection of the site showed that a great part of the occupation layer had been removed and dumped, forming a bank at the western end of the area. To save the remaining finds, a rescue excavation was undertaken. The campaign ran over five weeks and was carried out largely by ALSH volunteers, plus the help of archaeologists from England, Denmark and Germany.

The recent excavations demonstrated an intact occupation layer at the shore of the former lake that is almost completely covered with high-quality flint artefacts and excellently preserved animal bones, teeth and antler fragments. Based on the flint material, a Kongemose culture date (c. 6800–5500 BC) is probable.

Most of the animal bones have been processed for meat. Cut marks on red deer antler fragments indicate tool production (e.g. of axes or retoucheurs). The consistently high-quality craftsmanship of the flint artefacts is remarkable. Although unmodified blanks dominate, there are many tools typical for bone and antler processing, such as burins, scrapers and borers. Some were found directly beside, under or above bones or antler fragments with matching marks. Large numbers of microliths were also recovered, among them simple points, triangular micro-points and transverse arrowheads of very high quality. Hundreds of tiny microblades document the local production of microlithic points and sideblade insets. Furthermore, there are numerous preparation flakes and several hammerstones. The microblade cores show the typical preparation traces of Kongemose technology, with strong convex striking platform edges and very regular blade negatives. In the same occupation layer, simple blade and flake cores, mostly with the same traces of careful preparation, have also been found. There were also two small core axes and two flake axes. The blades are often of very high quality, long and narrow and with parallel edges. Their style is indicative of the punch technique.

Two pit-like features within the Kongemose layer are of special interest. Among animal teeth and bones with processing marks, they contained a great number of corresponding flint tools. These features could thus be interpreted as Mesolithic waste pits. In addition, an area densely covered with preparation flakes, spread out in a semi-circle in front of a larger stone, was recorded. The remains of a fire pit with numerous burnt bones and flints were found alongside. This is most likely a knapping area.

This older occupation layer is partly covered with colluvial sediments eroded from the northern higher ground. At the southern end, it is covered with low peat that grew as the lake dried out. The peat sediments contained many sherds of Ertebølle pottery (about 5200–4300 BC), among them the remains of three pointed-base vessels, as well as T-shaped preparation flakes and several hammerstones. The microblade cores show the typical preparation traces of Kongemose technology, with strong convex striking platform edges and very regular blade negatives. In the same occupation layer, simple blade and flake cores, mostly with the same traces of careful preparation, have also been found. There were also two small core axes and two flake axes. The blades are often of very high quality, long and narrow and with parallel edges. Their style is indicative of the punch technique.

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antler axes, high-quality blade cores and many transverse arrowheads typical for the Ertebølle culture toolkit. Redeposited flint artefacts found in the colluvial sediments from the higher terrain could represent an even older activity phase at the site, maybe associated with the so-called Maglemosian culture (8300–6000 BC). The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in a 12 m long section, reaching from the northern shore area southwards into the former lake.

The latest excavation has clearly shown that an intact Mesolithic cultural layer is present along almost the entire length of the slope from east to west. It is densely packed with material left by (possibly seasonally sedentary) hunter-gatherers of the Kongemose phase, in turn covered by a later Ertebølle layer. There are even hints of a still older phase of settlement.

Given the very good preservation conditions, the site provides great potential for further investigations. The well-preserved organic remains allow conclusions on the range of species hunted and possibly their kill-off age and seasonal movement. Together, this will provide information concerning Mesolithic subsistence. Furthermore, the local environmental conditions can be reconstructed.

The current excavation results have amply demonstrated the scientific value of this site and steps have been taken to ensure the timely involvement of archaeologists in any further environmental protection measures.

Acknowledgements:
Thanks to all ALSH volunteers and colleagues who spent their free time at the excavations. Without their help, this research would have been impossible.

Mirjam Briel, Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege (mirjambriel@yahoo.de)

Durrington Walls: was this the start of Britain’s Copper Age?

Last year, archaeologists returned to Durrington Walls to excavate a small part of this enormous Neolithic monument less than two miles from Stonehenge. The Stonehenge Hidden Landscapes Project teamed up with the Stonehenge Riverside Project to investigate electromagnetic induction (EMI) and ground-penetrating radar (GPR) anomalies beneath the south and north banks of Durrington Walls henge, most likely a circle or horseshoe arrangement. The excavation’s discovery that this circuit of anomalies was produced by massive postholes was reported on at the time in British Archaeology and Current Archaeology. These postholes, spaced approximately at 4–5 m intervals within a 440 m diameter circuit could well have held more than 300 posts if the circuit was a full circle.

The small trench investigating two of these anomalies on the south side of the henge revealed that the postholes were dug in the Late Neolithic through a thick occupation layer – the remnants of the large settlement prior to the henge – and their posts were taken down immediately before the henge ditch and bank were constructed. Voids in this loose chalk filling the postholes after the posts had been withdrawn were responsible for the GPR and EMI readings, indicating that many postholes had their ramps left unfilled. Although not as large or as early as the Hindwell Late Neolithic palisaded enclosure in Powys, Wales, the Durrington Walls circle can be considered a major element of a complex which included Woodhenge, the Northern and Southern Circles, and other timber monuments south of Woodhenge.

Now that a year has passed, the results of post-excavation analysis are adding further insights into what was going on at Durrington Walls. Whilst there is nothing particularly unusual about the faunal assemblage – dominated by pig and, to a lesser extent, cattle, just as found elsewhere in the Durrington Walls settlement – the 1,217 lithics from this trench tell a slightly different story. Whilst the raw material, technology and composition of this assemblage is in keeping with the other Durrington Walls excavations, there are two interesting differences. The first is that blades, bladelets and blade-like flakes make up just under 5% of the assemblage, compared to just over 1% of the assemblage from the east entrance of Durrington Walls. The second is that there is an abundance of scrapers in this southern part of the henge;
the ratio of scrapers to oblique arrowheads – the two most common tool types across Durrington Walls – is only 0.13 here, whereas elsewhere it is 0.67. Given the general uniformity in technology and assemblage composition across the previous Durrington Walls excavations, the differences suggest greater variability across the site in the activities associated with occupation than hitherto understood.

Another unusual discovery in 2016 was of tool marks in the chalk sides of the two postholes. These were best preserved in the larger of the two postholes, and a 3D representation using image-based modelling shows them very clearly. They appear to have been made by a wide, curved blade, mounted in an adze-like manner and brought downwards against the side of the pit. The tool marks indicate that the blade was at least 10 cm across. It was also relatively thin, able to cut into the chalk beneath a slight overhang (location 3 in the figure) where a fatter blade could not have been swung.

It seems unlikely that these marks were produced by a flint or stone adze or axe; perhaps this is evidence for use of a copper axehead mounted as an adze. Similar evidence for...
use of copper axes at Late Neolithic Durrington Walls was published in British Archaeology in 2008 when tool marks consistent with use of a copper axe were found on chalk blocks in the henge’s eastern bank. Since the building of the henge bank was completed by 2480–2450 cal BC (95% probability), it is 95.7% probable that this was anywhere up to a century before the first Beaker burials in 2475–2360 cal BC (95% probability), from which we have Britain’s earliest copper artefacts. This raises the possibility that copper artefacts, or even metallurgy, were introduced from continental Europe before the arrival of the Beaker inhumation rite.

It may be difficult to ever be certain that the Durrington Walls tool marks were made with copper axes/adzes, but there is a certain amount of circumstantial evidence that copper axes were in use at Durrington Walls, but not deposited there. From a lithic assemblage of over 100,000 flints, the Stonehenge Riverside Project recovered only one fragment of a polished axe; there is a similar dearth of stone or flint axes from Late Neolithic contexts excavated at the henge by Geoff Wainwright in 1967. We should also consider the explosion in timber monument-building across Britain in the mid-3rd millennium BC, involving the felling of substantial quantities of large trees. Was this facilitated by the arrival of a metal technology? Gatherings of the kind found at Stonehenge and Durrington Walls would surely have been the perfect situations in which such novelties were displayed, discussed and desired.

Mike Parker Pearson (UCL, m.parker-pearson@ucl.ac.uk), Ben Chan (Leiden University), Henry Chapman (Birmingham University), Vince Gaffney (Bradford University), Paul Garwood (Birmingham University), Peter Marshall (Historic England), Lisa Aldrian and Wolfgang Neubauer (both Ludwig Boltzmann Institut)

‘Sealing wax’ red glass in Late Iron Age Britain

‘Sealing wax’ red glass is a very bright opaque glass containing significantly high amounts of both lead and copper; the colour is produced by the formation of large crystals of reduced copper oxide (Cu₂O) within the glass. ‘Sealing wax’ red was used principally on high status decorative bronze work, dating from La Tène traditions in both Europe and Britain. Its use flourished in Late Iron Age Britain (first century AD) as decoration inlaid into objects exhibiting ‘Insular Celtic’ art styles, especially from regions resistant to Roman occupation. The quantity of ‘sealing wax’ red glass produced was also significantly greater during this time than in previous periods.

During the first century AD, in much of the Romanised world the composition of red glass changed significantly from the high lead, high copper ‘sealing wax’ type used in the Middle Iron Age and Continental La Tène pieces to the use of low lead, low copper red glass (coloured by sub-micron particles of copper), produced for Roman mosaics and probably exported from the Roman Mediterranean as tesserae or rods. However, within Britain the use of ‘sealing wax’ red glass was retained, but was of a slightly altered composition to the majority used within the ‘Celtic’ La Tène world; the principal difference was a significant increase in antimony. Although not used for earlier La Tène red glass, there are some examples of similarly high antimony ‘sealing wax’ red glasses from within Hellenistic and south-eastern Mediterranean areas, where this glass was used for vessels, and broken fragments were re-used in early mosaics.

Antimony was used in small quantities as a decolourant for clear glass in the first century AD; however, its addition in larger quantities in ‘sealing wax’ red glass was advantageous in several different ways: it replaced iron as an internal reducing agent, produced a brighter red colour and acted as a fining agent. However, antimony ores are relatively rare in Britain, and there is no evidence these were exploited in Iron Age or Roman Britain. Conversely, it is known that antimony

Red glass inlaid into LIA bronze objects (c. mid first century AD). Left: strap union from Santon, Norfolk (University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology: 1897.225A); above: horse brooch from Polden Hill, Somerset (British Museum: 89.7-6.78).
was mined in the Caucasus and was available in the form of a lead antimonite pigment, for which there were ancient and extensive trade networks. This pigment was used as a yellow colourant in glass; yellow beads from the Middle and Late Iron Age in Britain were usually coloured using lead antimonate, and tesserae continued to be coloured in this way well into the Romano-British period.

One hypothesis for the prevalence of the distinctive composition of red glass in Britain is that yellow glass was converted to red by the addition of copper and lead, metals readily available in Britain. When yellow glass is heated, lead and antimony can dissociate; the subsequent addition of copper and lead or their oxides, plus careful cooling and striking (heating to help the formation of coloured copper oxide crystals in the glass), could result in the production of red glass. This would account for the levels of antimony in Late Iron Age British red glass, for the change in technology, and for the increase in the use of red inlays. Theoretical quantities of additional copper and lead or their oxides can be calculated from known analysed yellow and LIA red glass; these amounts can be notionally added to the composition of analysed yellow glass to achieve hypothetical results similar to those of analysed red ‘sealing wax’ glass from Britain.

Mark Taylor, a Roman glass maker, was contacted to see if it was possible to produce ‘sealing wax’ red glass from the addition of lead, copper and their oxides to yellow glass of a composition typically produced in the first century AD. For this it was necessary first to make the yellow pigment used for colouring yellow glass. This was produced by heating lead oxide, silica and antimony trioxide in a small furnace. The ‘pigment’ was cooled in water, then ground into small lumps; it was then added to molten clear soda-lime-silica glass of typical Roman composition to produce a yellow glass.

Six experimental glass melts were produced using the yellow glass, plus a variety of additional materials including copper, copper oxide, lead oxide and iron oxide (charcoal and potassium bitartrate were also added to some melts as potential further reducing agents). These were added in quantities which theoretically would combine to form the LIA sealing wax red glass composition analysed from archaeological material.

A glass cake for each composition was made and then put in a kiln for five hours at 600°C to ‘strike’ (re-heating to enable the formation of red crystals from the green coloured glass); when cooled, these were broken and examined by photography, microphotography and SEM EDS.

Scatter diagrams showing the different lead and copper contents for high lead/high copper ‘sealing wax’ red glass and ‘Roman’-style low lead/low copper red glass (left) and antimony and iron oxide contents for continental La Tène and British MIA ‘sealing wax’ red glass versus LIA ‘sealing wax’ red glass (right).
All the cakes produced some red glass, however one had a significant amount of ‘sealing wax’ glass; this had the addition of copper oxide, lead oxide and potassium bitartrate (potassium bitartrate crystallises out when grapes are fermented during winemaking or when wine has been stored under cool conditions; it was reportedly used in red enamels in the Late Medieval period, so its use here is equally possible). Analyses showed the successful sealing wax red glass had a very similar physical and chemical composition to the archaeological examples; the amounts of copper oxide, lead oxide and potash (usually slightly elevated within LIA sealing wax red glasses) were near identical. The majority of the glass cakes released copper from the melt, and the red glass produced from these was more like Roman low lead, low copper red glass. This indicated not only the significance of the added ingredients, but also the importance of the heating and cooling systems required for the production of the high lead, high copper red glass.

Much more work could be done on refining the techniques and analysing the less successful cakes of glass, but these preliminary experiments show that sealing wax red glass could reasonably easily be produced from yellow glass with the addition of lead and copper oxides. This would provide an explanation for the consistent, but different composition of red glass found in Britain on LIA style objects in the first century AD, and the relatively large amount present; it is also interesting in potentially providing a different chaine opératoire for the LIA British material, which was diverging from Continental La Tène and Middle Iron Age objects in Britain, and which developed into a distinctive ‘Insular’ art in both style and technology. The origins of producing high antimony sealing wax red glass of this composition appear to lie in the Hellenistic world, and the knowledge of such technology was applied to British Late Iron Age material at a time when the use of high lead, high copper red glass was being abandoned in Continental and Mediterranean Europe and the Near East. The use of traditionally native colours employed with the use of bronze and bright red glass symbolised a strongly native British culture in opposition to Roman conquest and influence, one which later had a distinct impact on the future production of enamelled work that flourished in Roman Britain.

Acknowledgements
Many thanks to the Prehistoric Society for funding the experimental work, and to Mark Taylor for his knowledge, patience and expertise.

Mary Davis, Cardiff (mary.davis77@ntlworld.com)

The Brighton & Hove Prehistoric Peoples Research Project

A partnership between University of Winchester PhD researcher Dawn Cansfield, Andy Maxted, Archaeology Curator at Royal Pavilion & Museums (RPM) Brighton & Hove, and osteoarchaeologist Dr Paola Ponce of Archaeology South-East (UCL) was the inaugural recipient of the Prehistoric Society’s new Collections Study Award. The team has used the grant to catalogue and assess the prehistoric human remains in RPM’s collections, including estimating the individuals’ age and sex and identifying any obvious signs of disability or disease, and gauging their condition and potential for further museum and research use/analysis. Additionally, the human remains have been repackaged to modern curatorial standards.

Background and analysis
The 28 human remains in the collection were all discovered in the Brighton and Hove area between the 1920s and 1990s and had largely remained in storage in their original packaging ever since. Some had been found during local archaeological investigations, while others resulted from council and residential building work in the 1920s and 1930s, and several came into the collection via the police in the 1950s as a result of chance finds reported to them. The human remains comprise mostly adults and have previously been assigned to the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age periods on the basis of various types of evidence. A number of the skeletons had been subject to some previous osteological evaluation and we have been able to compare these with our own assessments. We identified pathological conditions in three quarters of the skeletons and were able to estimate stature in half of the individuals.

Additionally, due to funding from the University of Winchester, we were able to carry out radiocarbon dating on samples from six of the individuals, which resulted in Bronze Age and Iron Age dates. Further radiocarbon dating of several more individuals is planned for 2017. In addition,
the Natural History Museum has taken samples of bone form three individuals in the collection, one each belonging to the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age, for DNA analysis.

**Human remains assessment**

The 28 individuals comprise 24 adults, three sub-adults and one neonate. Of those adults to whom it was possible to assign a biological sex 46% were found to be male/probably male and 36% were female/probably female.

We found evidence of three quarters of the skeletal sample being affected by some palaeopathological condition, categorised in order of prevalence as dental disease, trauma, congenital abnormalities, infectious diseases, joint disease, metabolic conditions and neoplastic conditions. Dental disease in the collection includes familiar issues like calculus, caries and abscesses, along with congenital abnormalities such as fused and peg-shaped teeth, and other conditions resulting from infection, for example oro-antral fistula, a small drainage hole between the mouth and maxillary sinus. Instances of trauma in the collection include Schmorl's nodes and spondylolysis to the spinal vertebrae in a number of skeletons, both of which result from mechanical stress on the spine during bending while weight-bearing. There were also cases of *myositis osificans traumatica* affecting the legs of two individuals, resulting from local trauma to a muscle or tendon by an external force, and a case of *osteochondritis dissecans* in the foot of another, a condition caused by repetitive stress and microtrauma to a joint. Congenital abnormalities were found in several skeletons in the form of persistent frontal sutures of the skull, fusion of the fifth lumbar vertebra with the sacrum, and a case of a deviated nasal septum. Evidence of infection was found in half of the skeletal population with one individual having a particularly complex picture including, possibly, tuberculosis. Joint disease was apparent in the form of osteoarthritis affecting a number of joints in several individuals, and there was a possible case of osteoporosis. Finally, there was an instance of a benign tumour found in the sample, namely a button osteoma on the forehead of one of the skeletons.

**Public engagement**

Another exciting aspect of the project was being able to share the research with the public as it progressed. In addition to a number of blog posts about specific individuals in the collection, we were able to participate both in a busy public archaeology day during the Festival of Archaeology in July 2016 and in well-attended monthly ‘drop-in’ days in Brighton Museum’s Museum Lab. During these, alongside other archaeological work being carried out, visitors were able to see a skeleton being laid out and recorded, and talk to us about the research. It became very clear during these events that there is a keen appetite for this type of experience and that many people are fascinated by human remains and what we can learn from them.

As a result of this project the museum has been encouraged to try and adopt a very personal approach to its new archaeology gallery, due to open in summer 2018, where we now plan to tell the history of Brighton and Hove based upon information.
from individuals excavated within the city, including at least three from this project. To this end, in addition to the radiocarbon dating and DNA analysis, the museum has also been working with the University of Brighton to 3D-scan a number of skulls from the collection with the intention of attempting facial reconstruction. Furthermore, we have investigated the background stories of some of the individuals from historical newspaper reports and even through personal communication with a Brighton resident who, it transpired, originally found one of the skeletons!

Now that the assessments have been completed, all the human remains located have been properly packed, the database records have been updated and consolidated and the analysis of each set of human remains added to the various records. Where human remains were split between boxes or museums (for example, several skulls were located at a nearby sister museum), they have now been re-associated. In addition, those boxes that were previously recorded as containing ‘possible’ human remains have been analysed and the records amended accordingly to reflect the presence or otherwise of human remains. All this leaves RPM’s prehistoric human remains collection in a much improved state. We feel the project has been highly beneficial in terms of rejuvenating a latent museum collection for the future benefit of the public and researchers as well as the museum itself and we look forward to sharing our findings in more detail over the coming months.


Acknowledgements
We would like to thank the Prehistoric Society for funding this research, Dr Nick Thorpe and the University of Winchester for funding the radiocarbon dating and the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre for carrying it out so efficiently, the Natural History Museum for carrying out the DNA analysis, and the University of Brighton for its work on 3D digitisation and 3D printing to support facial reconstruction.

Dawn Cansfield, University of Winchester (D.Cansfield.10@unimail.winchester.ac.uk), Andy Maxted, Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove (andy.maxted@brighton-hove.gov.uk), Dr Paola Ponce, UCL/Archaeology South-East (p.ponce@ucl.ac.uk)

Brexit and The Prehistoric Society

Following the result of the referendum to leave the EU, the council of the Society wished it to be known that we continue to support European research and international collaboration. Accordingly, the following letter was sent to Felipe Criado-Boado, current president of the European Association of Archaeologists.

Dear Felipe

At the Council meeting of the Prehistoric Society last month, concerns were raised for Britain’s place in European archaeology post-Brexit. Whilst the mood amongst Council members was optimistic, nevertheless we felt that we should issue a statement to the effect that the Prehistoric Society is fully committed to European archaeology. As prehistorians, we cannot view Britain in isolation and we are keen to maintain, preserve and develop European research collaborations.

As you know, each year we award the Europa Prize to a scholar who has advanced the field of European Prehistory and this year we will be presenting Helle Vandkilde with the award at our conference in Southampton.

With this in mind I am writing to ask if we could establish formal links with the EAA. We could collaborate in sessions at the EAA conference, or give support in other ways such as offering student bursaries to attend the conference.

Please let me know if you think that this would be beneficial. With kind regards,

Alex Gibson

I am delighted to report that Felipe was enthusiastic in his very positive response and we hope to be able to discuss formal links with the EAA at Europa in Southampton.

Alex Gibson, President
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 December 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<td>Income from donations and legacies</td>
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<td>Income from charitable activities:</td>
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<td><strong>79,225</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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| Expenditure                     |      |      |
| Expenditure on raising funds    | 8,082 | 7,237 |
| Expenditure on charitable activities: |      |      |
| Grants                          | 8,625 | 7,694 |
| Education support               | 1,000 | -    |
| Lectures                        | 580   | 1,392 |
| Proceedings                     | 21,929 | 23,187 |
| PAST                             | 5,078 | 5,300 |
| Research Papers                  | -     | -    |
| Conferences                      | 21,346 | 21,296 |
| Expenditure on governance        | 6,943 | 7,140 |
| **Total expenditure**            | **73,583** | **73,246** |

| Net income                      |      |      |
| Total funds at 1 January        | 194,565 | 193,449 |
| Net income                      | 7,301 | 5,979 |
| Unrealised investment gains/(losses) | 11,644 | (4,863) |
| **Total funds at 31 December**  | **213,510** | **194,565** |

The Statement of Financial Activities is an extract from the full accounts of the Society. Copies of the full accounts for 2016 are available on the website or can be obtained from Tessa Machling at the registered office.

**Report of the Treasurer**

The Society’s accounts remain in a healthy state. Costs have risen in a number of areas, including in producing PPS, which includes changes to postage and other costs. However, we continue to benefit considerably from income from royalties from CUP in respect of institutional subscriptions and access to back copies online (copyright fees now go through CUP). We were slightly more successful in obtaining publication grants for PPS in 2016, but we will keep this under review. We continued to do well in staying within budget for administrative and governance costs, although room hire charges have again increased. Individual membership is also holding up well, which means voluntary income (subscriptions and donations) remains stable. Our investments continued to perform reasonably in the recent volatile climate, and we have a healthy and accessible reserve (an area of increasing interest to the Charities Commission). Our continued healthy cash position has meant that the Society was again able to provide a greater level of grant assistance in 2016 than in previous years, as well as provide support for various conferences and events run by other organisations.

Clare Randall
## Programme of meetings 2017–2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Details</th>
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| Sun 16 July 2017   | Marden, Wiltshire          | Prehistoric Society “Grand days out”  
This summer’s programme includes:  
**Tour of excavations at Vale of Pewsey**  
Led by Dr Jim Leary (University of Reading). |
| Wed 19 July 2017   | Dorstone, Herefordshire    | Prehistoric Society “Grand days out”  
**Tour of excavations at Dorstone Hill**  
Led by Dr Keith Ray and Prof Julian Thomas. Prior expression of interest required. |
| Sat 5 August 2017  | Hail Weston, Cambridgeshire| Prehistoric Society “Grand days out”  
**Tour of Willow Row Barrow contemporary megalithic burial ground**  
Led by Toby Angel, Managing Director of Sacred Stones Ltd. Light refreshments will be offered. Start: 11 am. |
| Sun 13 August 2017 | Avebury, Wiltshire         | Prehistoric Society “Grand days out”  
**Tour of excavations at Avebury**  
Led by Dr Josh Pollard. |
| Thurs 14 Sept 2017 | Downing Street, Cambridge  | Prehistoric Society “Grand days out”  
**Behind the scenes at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology**  
Led by Dr Jody Joy, the museum’s Senior Curator. Special tour through the museum archives and prehistoric collections from East Anglia. Prior booking required.  
For all Days Out, directions and details will be posted on the website.  
To book any of these events, please email prehistoric@ucl.ac.uk |
| Sat 30 September 2017 | Lecture Leeds City Museum | “A prehistoric Pompeii – new insights into Must Farm near Peterborough”  
by David Gibson, Cambridge Archaeological Unit  
Inaugural joint Yorkshire Archaeological Society / Prehistoric Society lecture  
For updates on this event, please check our website |
| Sat 7 October 2017 | Castle Museum, Norwich     | “What are Icenian coins?” by John Talbot, independent researcher  
Joint Norfolk Archaeology Society / Prehistoric Society annual lecture |
“Making and breaking the British Iron Age: a holistic approach to craft and material culture” by Dr Julia Farley, British Museum.  
Followed by free wine reception and presentation of the Society Undergraduate Dissertation Prize. |
| Wed 24 January 2018 | Lecture Devon County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter | “The origins of art: new chronological and psychological research on the development of Palaeolithic cave art” by Prof. Paul Pettitt, Durham University  
Joint Devon Archaeological Society / Prehistoric Society annual lecture  
There is a wine reception at 7.30pm, followed by the lecture at 8pm. |
| Sat 3 March 2018   | Day School Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London | Wetlands and Drylands  
This day school continues our series into exploring prehistoric landscapes.  
Further details will be posted online in due course and a booking form included in the autumn issue of PAST. |
| Mon 5 March 2018   | Lecture University of Cambridge | “The long-term character and development of the (pre-)historic landscape of south-west Cambridgeshire”, by Dr Jonathan Last, Historic England  
Joint Cambridge Antiquarian Society / Prehistoric Society annual lecture  
For updates on this event, please check our website |
| Tue 8 May 2018     | Lecture Museum of London, 150 London Wall | “Hidden depths: Re-evaluating Bronze Age Thames finds from the British Museum’s collections” by Dr Neil Wilkin, British Museum  
Joint London and Middlesex Archaeological Society / Prehistoric Society annual lecture.  
For updates on this event, please check our website |
| Late June 2018     | Day conference & Europa lecture University of York | Europa conference 2018: “Submerged, Coastal and Shell Midden Archaeology” (indicative title)  
This year’s recipient of the Europa Prize is Geoff Bailey, York University. Further details of the event and a booking form will be posted online and advertised in PAST in due course. |
| Weekly, autumn to spring | Lecture series University of Bradford | University of Bradford Archaeology Guest Lectures  
Weekly lectures on prehistoric topics open to members by kind invitation of Dr Alex Gibson. For full details, please see the university’s website. |
Response of the Prehistoric Society

On the 27th February 2017, the following letter was sent to Mr C Taylor, Director for Complex Infrastructure at Highways England. Given the importance of the consultation process, the main text of the document is reproduced here in full:

The Prehistoric Society (hereafter ‘The Society’) promotes the preservation of and research into all aspects of human prehistory. The Society applauds Highways England’s intention to improve the visitors’ visual experience at Stonehenge by removing the A303 either to the south of the World Heritage Site or via a new tunnel running under the WHS. We also appreciate the infrastructure and congestion issues that the scheme is intended to address. We also respect the aspirations of the National Trust and English Heritage as landowners and custodians of the area. Our response addresses archaeological issues and in particular how the proposals affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS of which Stonehenge and other nationally important Scheduled Ancient Monuments are parts.

The Stonehenge landscape is internationally iconic and must be considered one of, if not the most significant archaeological landscape in Britain. Its designations, significance and value could not be greater, therefore whilst the attempt to remove the A303 from within the landscape is greatly welcomed, the potential harm to the landscape posed by the new proposals must be carefully weighed against the public benefits that would accrue from the removal of the road.

1 Options Presented at the Consultation

Three route options were presented at the public consultation

- Option 1N – tunnel with the road exiting west and running to the north of Winterbourne Stoke
- Option 1S – tunnel with the road exiting west and running to the south of Winterbourne Stoke
- Option 2 – (F10) road running to the south of Amesbury and to the south of the WHS joining Option 1S to the south of Winterbourne Stoke.

2 The Society’s Preferred Routes

Option 2 (F10)

Archaeologically, The Society supports Option 2 (F10) as the preferred solution as it completely avoids the WHS. Nevertheless it has not been comprehensively evaluated and the route may cause significant harm to other archaeological deposits or sites. We would urge that this route is more fully evaluated from an archaeological perspective.

Options 1N & S

The Society’s preference is for minimal impact within the WHS and therefore Options 1N and 1S are unacceptable in their current form due to the siting of the portals. Nevertheless, The Society regards Option 1S as the next preferred route. There appear to be fewer archaeological implications on this route (though we have concerns – see below) and Option 1S is only acceptable to the Prehistoric Society if changes to the siting and positioning of the western portal are addressed including any archaeological effects that may result from any road or tunnel re-design and re-routing.

Option 1N is not acceptable to The Society. This route has the same western portal position as Option 1S but then passes close to and with adverse visual and aural impact on known nationally important Scheduled Ancient Monuments that constitute the Winterbourne Stoke barrow cemetery, the barrows on Winterbourne Stoke Down and the Coniger tumuli. Although not within the WHS, these monuments nevertheless form part of the wider Stonehenge landscape and may be argued to constitute its true western edge. Therefore the potential negative archaeological impact appears greater than for the southern route.

3 Option 1S Concerns

a. The eastern portal as presently proposed would not be visible from Stonehenge itself and utilises the existing route of the current A303 dual carriageway, but it still lies within the area of the WHS. We welcome the commitment to site the eastern portal to the east of The Avenue but it is close to and will have a negative visual and aural impact on the line of the Avenue, Vespasian’s Camp and the Mesolithic site at Blick Mead. The Society reserves judgement on the position of this portal until more detailed plans are available and a full understanding of its likely impact has been assessed.

b. The western portal lies to the south-west of Stonehenge and lies directly on the midwinter solstitial alignment as seen from the circle. Although the portal itself does not appear to be visible from the circle, the light pollution from approaching vehicle headlights and any proposed portal streetlighting will negatively impact on the visual experience of the midwinter solstice (the most important alignment at Stonehenge) and it will cause harm to the significance of the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS. The Society feels that this is unacceptable.

c. The position of the western portal also involves new-build road construction over virgin ground within the WHS and in particular the dry valley to the south of the Winterbourne Stoke barrow cemetery and to the west of the Normanton Down barrow group. This dry valley is of the highest value: the rich burials concentrated almost exclusively along its sides declare the valley to have been the focus of high status interest during the Early Bronze Age. Furthermore, road construction at this point will have a considerable negative visual impact on the Winterbourne Stoke and Normanton Down barrow groups which both share horizon positions from this valley.

4 Recommendations

At the ICOMOS/UNESCO consultation in October 2015, it was recommended by The Society that no part of the tunnel should be visible from or lie within the WHS (NB NOT just Stonehenge) and the Society still maintains this view therefore a longer tunnel is essential to protect the significance and integrity of the WHS.

The western portal must be moved outside the WHS to avoid new-build within an untouched and important area of the WHS. Failure to do so would create a dangerous international precedent in diminishing the importance of the status of World Heritage Sites.
Jet fans (as used on some lengthy Alpine tunnels) should be installed in the elongated tunnel to avoid the need for visually impacting ventilation shafts.

Should Option 1 be the only route that will be considered by Government, we wish to be involved in advising on final locations and designs of the portals, and suitable archaeological mitigation of the harm that will accrue to the significance of the WHS, both through archaeological fieldwork and publication, and the wider public benefits of increasing interpretation and understanding through improved public access.

Yours faithfully

Dr Alex Gibson BA PhD FSA FSA(Scot) MCIfA
Hon President
On behalf of the Prehistoric Society

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Our former President (1982–1986) Geoff Wainwright passed away at his Pembrokeshire home in March this year after a battle with cancer. Geoff studied archaeology at Cardiff and then at the Institute of Archaeology London. After a short spell in India, Geoff became an Inspector, then Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments with English Heritage, where he later became Chief Archaeologist – a post that he held until he retired in 1999. During his time with EH he was largely responsible for the introduction of PPG 16, placing responsibility for development damage to the heritage firmly on local planning officers and developers. This was preceded by a considerable central investment in the modernisation of SMRs and the creation of development control archaeologists. PPG 16 was also responsible for an explosion in professional archaeology, particularly in the commercial sector, and for considerably increasing public awareness of heritage matters.

Geoff was himself, of course, a respected archaeological practitioner heading the Central Excavation Unit and undertaking large-scale excavations at sites such as Durrington Walls and Shaugh Moor, to name but two from a long list. He was among the first to engage in open area archaeology that has now become a commonplace, particularly in developer-funded projects.

Geoff was energetic, passionate, entertaining and decisive. He was a go-getter but also a listener. As well as serving the Society, Geoff was a strong supporter of the Society of Antiquaries of London, becoming their President from 2007–2010. He will be sadly missed and the Society sends its condolences to his wife and family.

*Alex Gibson*

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**Uplands and Lowlands – a conference report**

There was a full house for the ‘Uplands and Lowlands’ conference at the Society of Antiquaries on 4th March, where the aim of presenting new evidence and approaches to the interpretation of prehistoric land use across a range of topographies was fully realised. Setting the scene, Mark Bowden’s nostalgic illustrations reminded us of the grit often needed to complete ‘tape and ranging pole’ surveys in conditions far from clement. The papers that followed broadly divided into those reminding us not to overlook natural features, and those illustrating the huge potential of new – as well as old – techniques for tracing human activity in ostensibly empty landscapes or landscape niches.

Richard Bradley pointed to examples of rock art marking places where solar extremes were observable along the profiles of mountains and hills, and suggested that even unembellished natural material (e.g. the erratic at the centre of the Croft Moraig circle) could represent vital pre-monument foci. As Chris Tilley argued, far smaller natural items – pebbles – were selected and valued on the east Devon heathlands for cairn and floor building, with yet others being deliberately fractured beyond the normal limits of heating in burnt mounds. However, Frances Lynch in the plenary suggested the stratification of Chris’ 6 m diameter ritual cairn closely resembled that of a clearance cairn. This laid bare the problem at the heart of the debate: how do we distinguish ritual from rubbish, the magical from the mundane, and has that dichotomy any relevance to prehistoric societies?

As a result of extensive geophysical surveys Alex Gibson furnished a cautionary tale of henges in the Yorkshire Dales. One of a pair at Threshfield was quite differently oriented to the apparent evidence of LiDAR, while Castle Dykes, despite its classic henge morphology, was demonstrated to be of Iron Age date.
Conference review of ‘Late Iron Age oppida: a review of recent and current research into Late Iron Age British towns and their landscape’

On the 22nd April, a large group of students, professional commercial and academic archaeologists gathered at the University of Reading for the ‘Late Iron Age oppida’ conference. Organised jointly by the University of Reading and the Prehistoric Society, the conference presented eight papers and several posters that reviewed recent and current research on British oppida and their surrounding landscapes. The list of speakers represented a wealth of experience on oppida studies and included a small number who were present at the last conference on oppida at the University of Oxford, organised by Barry Cunliffe and Trevor Rowley 43 years ago. The conference was the first to present an analysis of many sites in Britain in one place and provided an excellent opportunity for comparison.

The day began with a paper presented by Tom Moore (University of Durham), detailing the results achieved by the Bagendon Project roughly over the last ten years. In the exploration of the Bagendon oppidum, Tom argues that movement through the landscape created an impression of power, which aimed at emphasising the status of place. Colin Haselgrove (University of Leicester) presented the results of the decades-long investigation of the Stanwick oppidum, North Yorkshire, which was recently published as a CBA volume. Colin stressed the importance of examining this oppidum within its wider landscape, which included sites at Melsonbury and Scotch Corner and forms a comparable landscape to other oppida, such as those at Colchester and Chichester. Catherine Barnett (University of Reading) presented the ongoing results from the Silchester Environs Project. Recent fieldwork has provided important evidence on the Iron Age and Roman occupation of the area surrounding the Cavella oppidum, as well as unexpected evidence for the earlier prehistoric and early medieval inhabitation of settlements within its wider landscape.
this landscape. Unfortunately, David McOmish (Historic England) could not attend, but Roger Thomas presented in his absence on recent survey undertaken around earthworks near Arundel and how they relate to our understanding of the Sussex coastal plain in the first millennium BC. Speaking about the War Dyke and the archaeological evidence for Late Iron Age occupation uncovered during the survey work, the paper set this new evidence against our current understanding of the Chichester oppidum.

The afternoon began with Phillip Crummy (Colchester Archaeological Trust) discussing several unpublished Middle and Late Iron Age sites found in Colchester, which may change our understanding of this well-known and well-researched oppidum. Phillip went on to discuss the context of Camulodunum within a wider understanding of the available historical sources. Stewart Bryant (CIfA) presented an update of his research on five oppida in Hertfordshire, first presented ten years ago: Verlamion, Baldock, Braughing, Welwyn and the Bulborne valley. Reviewing the results of recent archaeological investigation in each of these oppida, Stewart stressed the distinctive signature of these sites, the importance of natural features in the landscape and the presence of communication routes along the rivers Lea and Thames. Niall Sharples (Cardiff University) and Marcus Brittain (Cambridge Archaeological Unit) presented on recent fieldwork and research at Ham Hill hillfort, including large-scale geophysical survey and open-area excavation. A vast amount of Middle and Later Iron Age occupation sites was uncovered within the hillfort and the speakers compared this site to similar ones on the Continent. The last paper of the day was given by Mike Fulford (University of Reading) presenting the final analysis of the excavation of the Late Iron Age deposits uncovered in Insula IX, Cavella. Due to be published towards the end of the year, the volume will be a fantastic addition to our knowledge of Late Iron Age oppida. The conference was concluded with a summary provided by Barry Cunliffe (University of Oxford), who highlighted that oppida studies had advanced far since the original 1974 conference, moving from the anecdotal to the systematic understanding of these settlements. The talks provided a good cross-section of knowledge of oppida across Britain. The organisers admitted that there were many early career researchers and peers working on oppida sites in Britain and on the Continent who could have also formed part of the conference, if it were not for a lack of time. Hopefully this will be the beginning of a series of conferences that will explore our growing understanding of oppida. The day finished with a drinks reception at the Archaeology Department, which was attended by a diverse group in terms of background and career stage. It struck me that the future of oppida studies was in good hands. Thanks to the University of Reading for organising the event, it was an excellent day!

Nicky Garland, Cotswold Archaeology

The Georgian Stone Age – a major new exhibition

The Republic of Georgia in the Caucasus has a special place in studies of the Stone Age, largely due to the Oldowan site of Dmanisi and its famous five skulls, post-cranial remains and fauna. However, this is only a small part of the archaeological riches from this country. Despite outstanding material having been displayed around the world, there has only been a small permanent exhibition of such material in the main museum of its home country. This has now been rectified.

In September 2016 a major new exhibition opened at the Simon Janashia Museum of the National Museums of Georgia in Tbilisi. This exhibition sets the Dmanisi finds in the context of wider studies of prehistoric hominins, but it also shows much more.

The exhibition is on the ground floor of the museum and the visitor is greeted by an astonishing display of 39 replica skulls and mandibles, arranged on small plinths in groups according to species. The official opening was during the ‘100+25 years of Homo erectus: Dmanisi and beyond’ conference, which was part of the Tbilisi Festival of Science and Innovation, organised by the Georgian Ministry of Education and Science in partnership with the Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum, Frankfurt, the ROCEEH Research Centre, Heidelberg, and the Georgian National Museum.

At this conference, it became clear that there was still a lack of consensus on the shape and branches of the family tree of hominins (and how many of them are usually represented only by evidence of skulls). To their credit, the specialists
restrained from altering the display to show their preferred arrangements.

On either side of this walk-through family tree are two galleries.

The area to the left is devoted to Dmanisi and contains a great deal of information, artefacts and faunal remains. It begins with a case of late Miocene fauna, where visitors can marvel at the sheer size of the molar of a *Deinotherium*, and leads on to actual faunal remains from Dmanisi itself — of species such as elephant, ostrich and big cats and, finally, replicas of the five hominin remains and life-sized reconstructions. The replicas are of all five skulls and of the rarer post-cranial remains discovered at the site. Much of the Dmanisi material is displayed against a reconstructed outline of the living creature, which makes identification of pieces of bone easier for the non-specialist. The display is completed with a selection of the rough chipped stone tools from the site.

The gallery to the right is concerned with the Palaeolithic sequence after Dmanisi, up to the end of the Mesolithic. This latter period is represented by the burial from Kotias Kilde, which appears to have had objects inserted into it post-mortem: a bone stuck into its neck and a flint tool placed in its mouth. It has been radiocarbon dated to around 9,700 years old and its genetic sequence is similar to Mesolithic human remains from Switzerland. This means that genetically, it is part of the clade whose descendants resettled Europe after the Ice Age, and indeed this burial was instrumental in defining this genetic grouping.

Also on this side of the gallery are displays of the varieties of stone tools commonly associated with the different periods, divided conventionally into Lower, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic, and a case containing much rarer decorative and symbolic pieces. These include several beads and pendants, for instance a spectacular necklace made of fossil shells from Sagvarjile cave, ochre and some representational art. The latter ranges from simple marks to possible representations of arrows on a bone mace, while the more figurative art is represented by a ‘venus’ figurine and a bone awl in the shape of a fish, possibly a young eel (two more anthropomorphic figurines, from the caves of Sagvarjile and Kotias Kilde, can be found in the main prehistoric exhibition on the first floor).

The final case in this section holds the bear skulls and limb bones that were found on a shelf in the cave at Zeda Mghvime in Tsutskhvati and which recall similarly displayed bear remains in Switzerland and Belgium.

The exhibition has many information panels in both Georgian and English, which place these discoveries in context, and is especially detailed regarding the Dmanisi stratigraphy and formation processes at the site.

The exhibition alone is well worth travelling to Georgia for, as are the other displays of the wealth of archaeology that the country has to offer.