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INTRODUCING THE 'LONG-TAILED OBLIQUE' ARROWHEAD: EXAMPLES FROM MARDEN HENGE, WILTSHIRE, AND SANTON WARREN, NORFOLK

In *PAST 66*, the recent excavations at Marden henge in Wiltshire were reported on, alongside the various surveys that have lately been undertaken at the monument. The article discussed the very well preserved Neolithic building surface, and mentioned two exquisitely worked and near identical ripple-flaked oblique flint arrowheads that were found next to the building. We can now provide a brief update on these arrowheads and describe another long-tailed example from Norfolk.

The Marden arrowheads belong to Green's markedly asymmetrical, or lop-sided, ripple-flaked types dateable to the Later Neolithic (see his volume, *The Flint Arrowheads of the British Isles*). These are characterised by having near all-over ripple flaking, acute tips, hollow bases and asymmetric 'tails' composed of a small sharp barb on one side and a longer and thicker stem on the other. The execution, techniques, positioning and extent of the retouch on the two Marden arrowheads is virtually identical and it would be very easy to be persuaded that they were made by the same, very competent, flintworker. Both arrowheads have their very tips missing and their stems have also been broken off, leaving just remnant 'stumps'. These, however, would clearly have originally been longer.

The Marden arrowheads either side of the Santon Warren arrowhead

In the previous *PAST* article, it was suggested that a long, narrow, finely worked 'rod' of flint, found in another part of the site, represents one such broken stem or tail. This narrow piece of flint was initially assumed to be a microlithic rod, but Martin Green, who briefly worked with us at the site, suggested that it might instead be associated with the arrowheads. Closer inspection after the excavation supports this: the piece has been very carefully formed using bifacial retouch, and the size, form and techniques used in its manufacture do indeed indicate that it was once part of the 'tail' of an arrowhead of very similar form to the others. This means that the arrowheads would have had a grossly elongated tail on one side. Although made using the same techniques and closely matched to the remnant stumps on the arrowheads, the tail does not actually conjoin either of these and must have come from another, almost identical, arrowhead.

The copy date for PAST 69 is 3 October 2011. Contributions to Joanna Brück, School of Archaeology, Newman Building, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland. Email: joanna.bruck@ucd.ie Contributions on disc or as e-mail attachments are preferred (either word 6 or rtf files) but hardcopy is also accepted. Illustrations can be sent as drawings, slides, prints, tif or jpeg files. The book reviews editor is Dr Mike Allen, Wessex Archaeology, Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wilts, SP4 6EB. Email: aea.escargots@gmail.com Queries over subscriptions and membership should go to the Society administrator Tessa Machling at the London address above.

The earlier article concluded regarding the arrowheads, perhaps somewhat prematurely, that "As far as we know, nothing similar exists in Britain...". However, after reading the article, Peter Robins got in touch, via *PAST*, to point out that Norwich Castle Museum also has one such 'unique' piece in their collection. This was found by Tim Holt-Wilson (formerly with the Diss Museum in South Norfolk and now working on the Geodiversity Project) in 1999-2000, while he was fieldwalking a compartment on Santon Warren (centred on TL 825 883), Norfolk, which had recently been cleared of pine trees and had trenches ploughed for replanting. In 2008 Tim, with the agreement of the Forestry Commission, donated his collection to the Norwich Castle Museum (accession number 2008.286). Among his finds was an oblique arrowhead of unusual, even to say eccentric, design, with an elongated 'tail'. This was duly noted as a probably 'unique' artefact. The accompanying collection included an incomplete polished flint axe, scrapers, piercers, cores, including an unstruck Levalloisoidal core, and other debitage, and is a typical example of what Frances Healy has described as a Breckland Late Neolithic assemblage.

Although very different to the Marden arrowheads, lacking their ripple flaking and not nearly so finely worked, the Santon Warren example is important as it shows that some oblique arrowheads did indeed have elongated tails. Most published examples of markedly asymmetrical ripple-flaked arrowheads so far encountered have had their stems broken off. However, based on the Marden henge 'tail' fragment and the complete Santon Warren example, we suggest that very long stems/tails is a recurring, previously unrealised, type of oblique arrowhead. There are other examples too: for example there is at least one with its tail intact in Salisbury Museum from the 1966/7 Durrington Walls excavation, and we suspect that there are further examples within other museum collections. When accessioning the Santon Warren arrowhead, Peter Robins described it as a 'long-tailed oblique' arrowhead - we suggest that this is a useful term.

In the previous *PAST* article, we also challenged flint knappers to reproduce the Marden long-tailed obliques . . . we have yet to hear from anyone!

Barry Bishop, Jim Leary, and Peter Robins

LATE NEOLITHIC CIRCULAR STRUCTURE DISCOVERED IN LEICESTERSHIRE

Recent excavations at Rothley (8km north of Leicester) in Leicestershire have revealed evidence for a Neolithic settlement, the highlight being a circular structure dated by Grooved Ware pottery and radiocarbon samples to *c.* 2700-2500 BC. Surrounding this was evidence for at least a further two possible structures, along with numerous pits containing significant quantities of artefacts.

The excavation was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services between January and May 2010 in advance of residential development by Charles Church (North Midlands). The site was located midway up a north-facing slope on the west side of the River Soar, 1.7km south of earlier excavations at Lodge Farm that identified significant Neolithic discoveries in 2005 including a stone plaque (see *PAST 50*, July 2005).

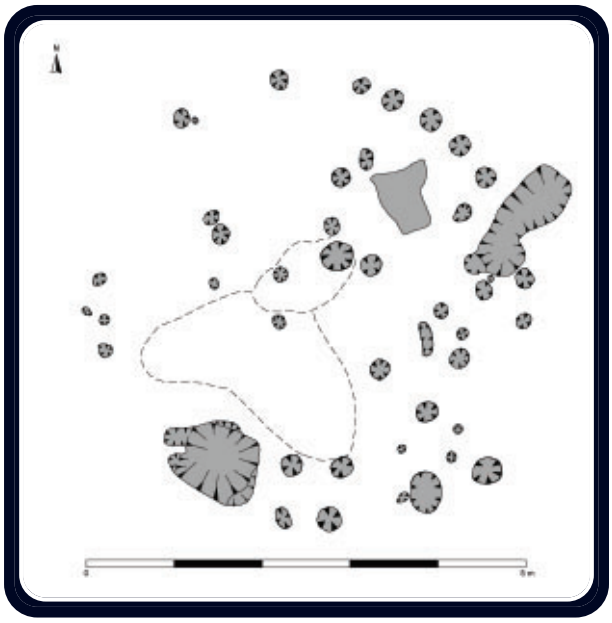
The Neolithic circular structure being excavated

The structures

The circular structure comprised 48 postholes forming a rough circle *c.* 5m in diameter. Three sherds of pottery were recovered from the structure, including a sherd of Grooved Ware. Three of the post-holes had charred hazel fragments that were suitable for radiocarbon dating. At 95.4% probability, the dates were 2880-2580 cal BC, 2700-2480 cal BC and 2780-2570 cal BC.

Eight metres northwest was a further possible structure. This consisted of a shallow irregular-shaped pit or hollow measuring at its maximum extent 2.8 x 2.8m, becoming narrower at the east end (1.5m). Within this were five postholes, all located on the sloping sides of the pit. Overlying the postholes and filling the hollow was a pale brown sandy silt that contained around 30 finds (including Grooved Ware

pottery and worked flint). The structure has broad similarities to sunken-floored buildings - or pit-dwellings - of the Neolithic period, seen most often in southeast Europe. A broadly similar building of Neolithic date was found at Lodge Farm. A further cluster of postholes 25m to the northeast indicates at least two phases of another circular structure.



Plan of the Neolithic circular structure

Pits and pieces

Surrounding these structures were dispersed clusters of refuse pits or perhaps 'working hollows'. Four pits contained large quantities of worked flint and pottery sherds. Of particular interest was a large undressed Charnwood-type axe, along with flaked fragments from the polished surface. Fragments of the same axe were found in another pit 60m north. The deliberate destruction of later Neolithic axes is a practice widely recognised across Britain including at the nearby Lodge Farm site. Two of the four pits also had leaf-shaped arrowheads placed on their bases. A radiocarbon sample from one of these provided a date of 3520-3330 BC and suggests earlier Neolithic activity, perhaps some 800 years earlier than the circular structure.

Discussion

Settlement evidence of the later Neolithic in the East Midlands is rare - and is generally limited to a few pits or residual finds. However, in more recent years there has been an increasing number of settlement sites of this period excavated including Lodge Farm, Rothley, Leicestershire; Eye Kettleby, Leicestershire; and Curzon Lodge, Derbyshire. The discovery of the circular structure of late Neolithic date is rare within the region and further afield. The building is very small, being comparable in size to examples excavated at Trelystan, Powys, though the structure at Rothley is far more substantial being constructed with wide posts, rather than thin stakes. In view of its size, the circular structure may best be interpreted as a domestic house rather than a timber circle. The deposition of the objects within the various pits - including the deliberate destruction of the axe - appears to have been structured, and may signify an act of closure to the settlement. The discovery of two important Neolithic sites within a short period of time - both from developer-funded projects - is in part down to good fortune, but also due to their perceived favourable location in the landscape. Rothley is situated in the River Soar valley, close to the confluence zone with Rothley Brook and the River Welland. It is not far from Charnwood Hills - a major outcrop site for axes that were widely distributed across the country. The two Rothley sites combined therefore offer significant new information on Neolithic settlement in the region, and more widely to Neolithic studies across Britain.

Gavin Speed
Senior Archaeological Supervisor
University of Leicester Archaeological Services

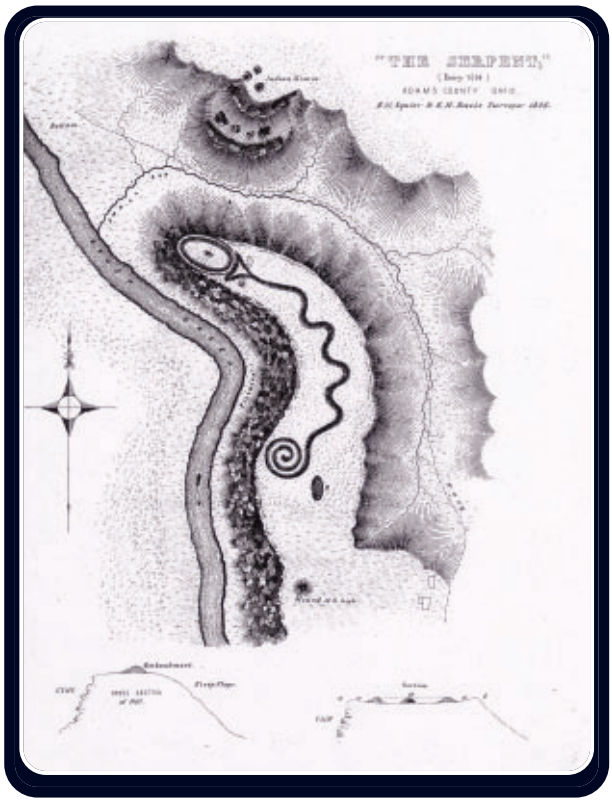
MIDSUMMER SOLSTICE AT CAHOKIA: THE PREHISTORIC SOCIETY'S MOUNDBUILDER TOUR 2012

Imagine looking out from a hotel room in Chicago on a sunny morning in June - perhaps with views over Lake Michigan - at the start of a five state tour of Moundbuilder sites in the US Midwest. This could all be yours by signing up for a Prehistoric Society study tour planned for June next year which will include iconic places such as Cahokia and Serpent Mound (see enclosed leaflet or contact the Membership Secretary for further details).

Cahokia: Monks Mound viewed from the reconstructed 'Woodhenge' (photo: Dave Field)

The tour will leave Chicago to visit the unusual effigy mounds in Wisconsin and Iowa, via the palisaded settlement at Aztalan - considered to be part of the Mississippian trade network which controlled access

to copper around the Great Lakes. We will then follow the Mississippi south, visiting various mound complexes, rock art, settlements and museums until we reach Cahokia to view the towering Monks Mound (three times the bulk of Silbury) and the 104 subsidiary mounds, plazas, palisades and 'Woodhenges' - and an award winning museum. If it can be arranged, we shall return to Cahokia the following morning to witness midsummer sunrise over Monks Mound, one of the great solstitial events of Native North America.



The Serpent Mound, Adams County, Ohio: the Squier and Davis survey of 1846, pre-dating the Putnam restoration. Note the original detail at the head and the egg/sun earthwork with central cairn. Adjacent 'Indian Graves' emphasise the special nature of this location.

When we leave Illinois for Indiana, we will begin to encounter dramatic hilltop enclosures which range in form from what we would consider causewayed enclosures to hillforts. Once into Ohio, we will reach the heartland of the Hopewell Culture where geometric enclosures, scattered farmsteads and mound cemeteries create highly structured landscapes. The Hopewell were also notable for their extensive trade networks which extended from the Great Lakes in the north, to the Gulf Coast in the south, the Rockies in the west and as far as the eastern seaboard. Exotic prestige goods such as mica carvings and effigy pipes were signature artefacts. While in Ohio, we will also visit the Hopewell quarries at Flint Ridge where extraction occurred along a 7-8 mile ridge with 'countless trenches and pits' which have left behind earthworks reminiscent of Grime's Graves. We might also be lucky enough to visit some of the ongoing excavations at Hopewell sites in Ohio if the timings work out.

So, if a tour visiting most of the classic Midwestern sites appeals to you, while providing the opportunity to experience a blues club in Chicago or participate in Margarita Mondays in Chilicothe – then sign up for this once in a lifetime tour. Be there or be geometric, as they would say in the Scioto Valley in Ohio.

Pete Topping

IT'S OFFICIAL - THE MARLBOROUGH MOUND IS PREHISTORIC!

The Marlborough Mound, a large earthen mound (just over 18m high) located within the grounds of Marlborough College, Wiltshire, has been dated for the first time. The mound is a feature of considerable historical significance having previously formed a mount in a major seventeenth century garden and, earlier, the motte of Marlborough Castle. However, as early as 1821, Richard Colt Hoare had suggested that it may be of prehistoric date because of its similarity in form and valley location to Silbury Hill, just a few miles to the west. The mound has subsequently entered the prehistoric literature as an enigma, with some authors feeling that it is likely to be a medieval construct, and others more accepting of a Neolithic origin. The Archaeological Research Agenda for the Avebury World Heritage Site summed the situation up as: "It would appear, however, sensible to reserve judgement until the date of antlers associated with the mound are known."

The Marlborough Mound (© Pete Glastonbury)

With this as the background, and with the recent work at Silbury Hill and the Hatfield Barrow in Marden henge underway (the other two giants of Wessex), it seemed like a good time to discuss the possibility of coring centrally through the Marlborough Mound with a view to obtaining dateable material. It was particularly good timing since the Marlborough Mound Trust is currently

engaged in a major conservation programme there, co-ordinated by Donald Insall Associates, and after due deliberation the trustees and the college agreed to the work. Scheduled monument consent was granted and the coring was paid for by the Marlborough Mound Trust, which is supported by a legacy from founder and former college pupil, Eric Elstob.

Two 10cm diameter cores were drilled by Geotechnical Engineering Ltd from the summit to the base and four smaller cores were drilled through the surrounding ditch. The cores were brought back to the English Heritage laboratories at Fort Cumberland in Portsmouth for analysis (the cores were described and assessed by Matt Canti and the palaeo-environmental remains by Gill Campbell). Four fragments of short-lived wood charcoal were recovered at a variety of levels through the mound and submitted by the English Heritage Scientific Dating Team to SUERC for radiocarbon dating. The results showed that the majority of the mound is contemporary with its neighbour, Silbury Hill, falling within the second half of the third millennium cal BC. This is a significant discovery: the Marlborough Mound is now known to be the second tallest prehistoric mound in Britain, and a major addition to the Wiltshire prehistoric landscape; it also has implications for the interpretation of Silbury Hill. The search is now on to find Marlborough's missing henge.

Jim Leary

FURTHER NOTES FROM MARDEN HENGE

The fascinating discoveries at Marden henge remind me of a time in the fifties when, as the very young curator of the Devizes museum, I got to know and cultivate the farmer who lived in and worked its interior, Joe Simper. His home-made and unbelievably alchoholic mead was one attraction. The other was the ever-growing collection of flint implements which he was finding when ploughing. He could spot a good implement at several yards from his tractor. In particular, I recall a splendid, medium-sized flint scraper with a ground edge. I had plans to borrow the collection, draw and publish it. But before I could start, I moved to a museum in the Midlands and my project foundered. Shortly afterwards Joe Simper died, and his widow - completely oblivious to the importance of his flint collection - threw the lot out. If a present-day field archaeologist should come across a notable surface concentration of flints somewhere within Marden henge, they may well be Joe's assemblage. Look out for that scraper!

Nicholas Thomas

PREHISTORIC SOCIETY STUDENT STUDY TOUR APRIL 2011

During a beautiful, hot, sunny weekend in April, archaeology students from seven different UK universities gathered in Oxford for the Prehistoric Society's annual student study tour. Students on this year's tour were introduced to the archaeology of the Cotswolds and the Upper Thames Valley by a team of experts in the area: Alex Lang, Tim Darvill, George Lambrick and Gill Hey. The contrasting landscapes of the two regions provided an excellent setting in which to study the changing nature of Neolithic monument construction and Iron Age settlement, in the context of differing levels of modern intensive land-use.

Oxford, Friday 8 April
The weekend commenced with a Friday night reception, kindly hosted by Oxbow Books at their Oxford headquarters, where students met their archaeological guides for the weekend and picked up some great bargain books. A drink or two later, and with bags slightly heavier, the group made its way to the base for the weekend - the magnificent St Edmund Hall, Oxford University - before heading out to sample real ales at some of Oxford's fine public houses.

The Cotswolds, Saturday 9 April
The fieldtrip began in a sunny but apparently empty field at Rollright Heath in the Cotswolds (SP345310). However, as was soon explained by tour leader and excavator, Alex Lang, a late Iron Age banjo enclosure had recently been discovered on this site. With the aid of a geophysical survey map, he explained the layout of the enclosure and outlined the nature of the site's discovery via aerial photography and subsequent excavation. Despite the concentration of known banjo enclosures in the Cotswolds, the site is notable as one of the few in this area to have been excavated.

Throughout the rest of the day, the diverse and changing nature of Iron Age settlement in the region was highlighted, with visits to a small low-lying 'hillfort' (Chastleton; SP258282), a large hillfort (Crickley Hill; SO928161), as well as a large low-lying square enclosure (Salmonsbury; SP174208). In contrast to the flat site at Rollright Heath, these sites consisted of extensive banks and ditches. All three sites have been excavated to some extent, and while Crickley Hill and Salmonsbury provide clear evidence for domestic settlement, the lack of extensive occupation remains at Chastleton suggests that it may have been used as a focus for communal activities rather than permanent settlement.

A range of important Neolithic monuments were also visited during day one of the tour, including the Rollright Stones monument complex (SP29753105), Belas Knap long barrow (SP02092554) and Crickley Hill causewayed enclosure (SO928161). The Rollright Stones consists of three separate sites: the King Stone, the King's Men stone circle and Whispering Knights portal tomb. While the portal tomb and stone circle represent early and late Neolithic monuments respectively, it is probable that the King's Stone was a later, perhaps Bronze Age, addition to the monument complex. Interestingly, both the stone circle and dolmen have western British parallels: the form of the King's Men resembles some of the major Lake District stone circles, such as Swaledale and Long Meg and Her Daughters, and the Whispering Knights is similar to many dolmens in south Wales and Cornwall. Each of the monuments showed considerable levels of post-Medieval interference. For instance, many of the stones in the King's Men stone circle had either been completely removed or had been re-erected in antiquity, and the shape of the King Stone has been considerably altered by the removal of fragments as souvenirs in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Our group at Belas Knap long barrow

The second Neolithic site visit of the day was to Belas Knap, a large, well-preserved Cotswold-Severn type long barrow. Tim Darvill outlined the key features of the site - a false portal setting, drystone walling in the back of the forecourt and three small lateral chambers of different sizes - before everyone squeezed into the side chambers to test their differing capacities. The highlight of the day was the visit to Crickley Hill causewayed enclosure (SO928161) which, thanks to the beautiful weather, provided spectacular panoramic views across the Severn Valley and beyond. Interestingly, excavation of the site in the 1970s-90s revealed that after several phases of reuse, the earlier Neolithic enclosure had been modified in the later Neolithic as a defended settlement.

The Upper Thames Valley, Sunday 10 April

Day two focused on the archaeology of the Thames Valley region. The sites visited were equally varied, but in general showed greater levels of modern interference and destruction than the Cotswolds sites. For instance, both of the Neolithic-Bronze Age sites visited (Dorchester-on-Thames and the Devil's Quoits) have been almost completely destroyed by gravel extraction during the twentieth century.

At Dorchester (SP5795), all that remains of the once-extensive monument complex, which included a cursus monument, enclosures, henge and post circles, are crop marks visible in aerial photographs, together with occasional records from a few of the sites excavated prior to gravel extraction. Similarly, the Devil's Quoits henge (SP4005) was completely destroyed by gravel extraction and use as a second world war airfield, except for a few stones left lying on the surface of the site. However, subsequent excavation has revealed the locations of the stone-holes, allowing the stone circle to be reconstructed using the distinctive type of orangey gravel conglomerate employed in the original monument.

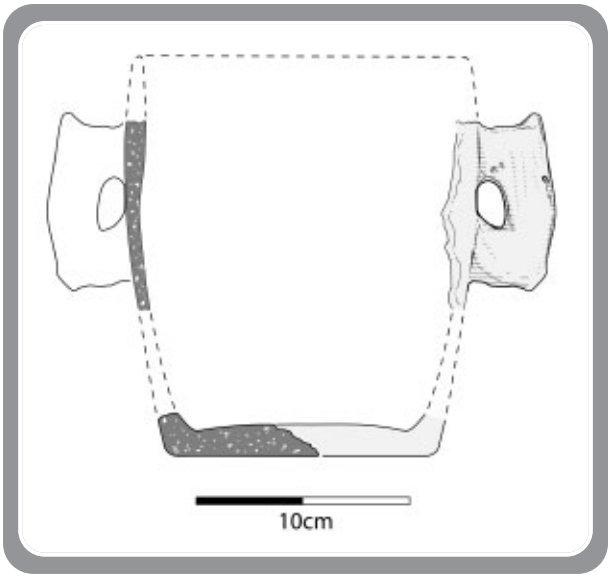
In contrast to the Neolithic monuments visited, the Iron Age settlements that were explored had undergone much less modern disturbance and destruction. Three different Iron Age site types were visited, each in contrasting topographical locations. The huge (*c.*1km across), low-lying late Iron Age nucleated settlement at Dyke Hills (SP574933) was particularly well preserved in most places except for rabbit burrows, with massive ditches and banks surrounding the hut circles on the two sides not encompassed by the River Thames. Likewise, the earthworks around the early-mid Iron Age hillfort at Castle Hill, Wittenham Clumps (SP569924), were still clearly visible. However, as at Chastleton, there is little evidence for permanent settlement within the hillfort itself, except for a few pits mostly containing human burial evidence. This emphasises the diversity of hillfort functions in the area.

The final site visit was to Port Meadow, Oxford, a flat grassy common which, amazingly, has remained unploughed since the Medieval period. As a result, extensive areas of Bronze-Iron Age open settlement are faintly visible on the surface of the common. There was just time to trace some of the slight Iron Age roundhouses and enclosure features, before the group dispersed at Oxford station.

Overall, the weekend was extremely enjoyable and provided an interesting introduction to the plethora of exciting Neolithic-Iron Age sites in the two regions. The study tour also provided a thought- provoking case-study of the nature of site preservation and destruction within a densely populated lowland southern British context.

Rosie Bishop, Department of Archaeology, Durham University

AN IRON AGE 'TANKARD' FROM NORTH YORKSHIRE



Reconstruction of the calcite-tempered 'tankard' vessel

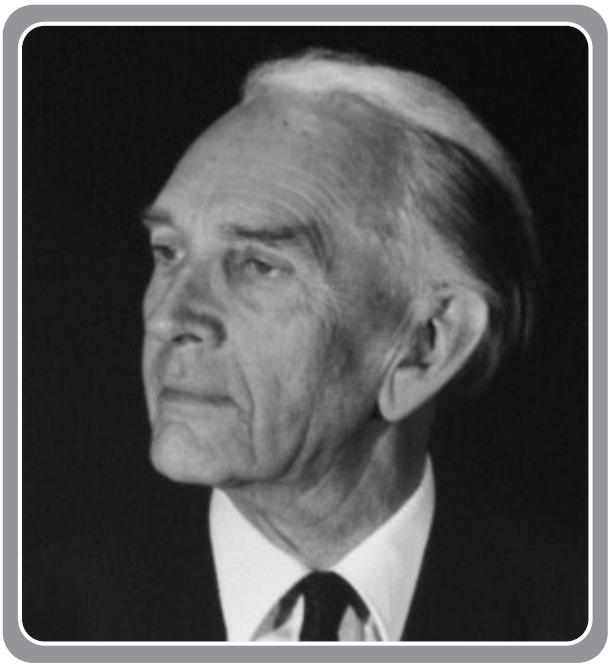
Prehistoric archaeology, likely to be of Iron Age date, was encountered in summer 2010 during building works at a primary school in Sherburn, Vale of Pickering, North Yorkshire (SE 9587 7702). It was recorded by Fern Archaeology and was sealed beneath Medieval occupation. Its most significant component was 46 sherds of calcite-tempered pottery, local to the area, including parts of a handled 'tankard' of possible ritual significance. The findings occur in the context of an extensive local prehistoric to Roman landscape recorded by the Landscape Research Centre Ltd. and characterised by ladder settlement, the precursor of some of the medieval villages that today straddle the main A64 Malton-to-Scarborough road. The archive is to be deposited with Malton Museum.

Chris Fern, Fern Archaeology, Ampleforth, North Yorkshire

IN MEMORIAM: PROFESSORS JOHN DAVIES EVANS AND MAREK ZVELEBIL

In a single week, the Society has lost two distinguished Members: Professor John D. Evans OBE (President, 1974–78) on 4 July, aged 86, and Professor Marek Zvelebil (Council member, 1996–99) on 7 July, aged 59. Both had made a major contribution to European prehistory and to the teaching of archaeology. The Society extends its condolences to the families and expresses its heartfelt thanks for their service to the Society.

John Evans specialised in Mediterranean - and particularly Maltese - prehistory and was the Director of the Institute of Archaeology in London from 1973 to 1989. He excavated several key megalithic sites in Malta during the 1940s and 1950s, and in 1952 was invited by the Royal University of Malta to prepare a catalogue of the National Museum collections in Valletta and to oversee archaeological fieldwork on the island. His connection with the island continued over several decades: in 1992 he advised UNESCO on extending the inscription of Maltese temples. His many publications on Mediterranean archaeology include an influential article on 'Islands as laboratories for the study of cultural process' (1973). His work at the Institute of Archaeology - holding the Chair of Prehistoric Archaeology before serving as Director - included establishing the Field Archaeology Unit and overseeing the Institute's incorporation within University College London. His many distinctions include the fact that he was President not just of our Society, but also of the Society of Antiquaries of London (1984–87), and was the first President, in 1954, of the Archaeological Society of Malta. He was not only an eminent scholar but also a dedicated and widely respected teacher and communicator, who will be missed by all his students, as well as by colleagues across Europe.



Professor John D. Evans. Reproduced courtesy of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

Marek Zvelebil's life was very different. Born in Prague, he fled to the West in 1968 when the Soviet Union invaded, ending up undertaking his PhD on the Scandinavian Mesolithic under Graham Clark in Cambridge and going on to lecture at Sheffield University from 1981. He specialised in the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in Continental Europe, making game-changing contributions to the debate in publications such as *Harvesting the Sea,*

Farming the Forest (1998) and, through his considerable linguistic skills, making otherwise difficult of access information available to an Anglophone audience. Having lived through political troubles (and, as he was amused to point out, having been drafted into the armies of three countries), Marek lived life to the full, and also gave much back to the country of his birth. A bon viveur, a brilliant scholar and a charismatic teacher, he generated a loyal following among his Sheffield students - so much so that a 'Marek Zvelebil Appreciation Society' exists. An unforgettable character, he leaves behind many happy memories and he will be sorely missed by prehistorians and friends around the world.

Dr Alison Sheridan, President

Marek Zvelebil, by Mariana Cook, from her Faces of Science, 2005, published by W. W. Norton.

MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2011-2012

The programme for next year's lectures and meetings is coming together. However, details for a number of events have yet to be finalised - these will be posted on our website, together with times, prices, contact information and booking forms as soon as they become available. Forms will also be included in upcoming editions of *PAST*. If you would like to be kept updated by email, please contact Tessa Machling on prehistoric@ucl.ac.uk.

Mon 3 Oct 2011 6pm	**Lecture** **Venue:** Cambridge	**'Down by the river: excavations of prehistoric timber alignments in the Waveney Valley, east England'** by Dr Ben Gearey (Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham) *Joint Prehistoric Society/Cambridge Antiquarian Society*
Tue 11 Oct-Tue 6 Dec 2011 5.15pm	**Lecture series** **Venue:** University of Bradford	**University of Bradford Ages Research Seminars** Weekly lectures on prehistoric topics open to members by kind invitation of Dr Alex Gibson. For full details see our website.
Wed 19 Oct 2011 6pm	**Lecture** **Venue:** Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London	**The 10th Sara Champion Memorial Lecture: 'Creative destruction: middens at the end of the Bronze Age'** by Dr Kate Waddington (Bangor University) This lecture will consider some of the new material culture practices taking place in the Late Bronze Age and Earliest Iron Age transition, paying particular attention to a selection of 'midden' sites in southern Britain. The historical processes which surrounded this storm of material accumulation, and the apparent shifts in materiality, will be explored.
Sat 12-Sun 13 Nov 2011	**Weekend conference** **Venue:** Cardiff	**Bronze Age Forum** For information and booking details see www.cardiff.ac.uk/share/newsandevents/events/archaeology/baf.html *Reception sponsored by the Prehistoric Society*

Sat 4 Feb 2012 2.30pm	**Lecture** **Venue:** Castle Museum, Norwich	**'Conquering the North: early humans at Happisburgh'** by Dr Nick Ashton (British Museum) *Joint Prehistoric Society/Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Society*
Wed 15 Feb 2012 6pm	**Lecture** **Venue:** Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London	**'Introduction to the Moundbuilders'** by Pete Topping (English Heritage) A special lecture to introduce the subject of the 2012 Study Tour (see below) and open to all, whether coming on the tour or not.
Sat 25 Feb 2012	**Day conference** **Venue:** London	**The long view: place and prehistory in the Thames Valley**
Sat 9 June 2012	**Day conference & Europa Lecture** **Venue:** Great Hall, London Road Campus, University of Reading	**Landscape, monuments and society,** including the Europa Lecture, **'Houses of commons, houses of lords: domestic dwellings and monumental architecture in prehistoric Europe'** by Prof Richard Bradley (University of Reading) There will be a fee for the conference but the Europa Lecture is free to members. The conference will be preceded by a one-day PhD student conference on a related topic on 8 June in the Henley Business School Room G11 on Whiteknights campus.
Thu 14 Jun-Sun 1 Jul 2012	**Overseas study tour** **Venue:** USA	**Moundbuilders** Our rescheduled trip to the USA, led by Pete Topping.
Sep 2012 TBC	**UK budget study tour** **Venue:** TBC	**Cranborne Chase Weekend**

In the planning stages:

- Student study tour
- 'Climate change in prehistory' conference
- Joint lectures with the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and the Devon Archaeological Society

IMPORTANT: ARE YOU A STAR?

Please look closely at the top right hand corner of your copy of PAST. Do you have a coloured star? If so, then you are NOT up-to-date with your subscription for the current year. If you have not paid the FULL amount at one of the following rates, then your subscription will be invalid and you will not be sent PPS when it is published. Rates for 2010 are as follows: £35 Ordinary Members; £25 Retired with PPS; £17.50 Student; £12.50 Retired without PPS; and £50 for Institutional Members. Joint membership for any of the above (not including Institutional Membership) is £5.

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

RUN OF *PPS*

Free to a good home but a donation to the current owner's nominated charity appreciated: *PPS* vols 22 (1956) through to 36 (1970), along with volume 37, part 1. Interested parties must be willing to collect from a west London (Holland Park) address. For further information, please contact Christopher Taylor, tel. 07710525196.

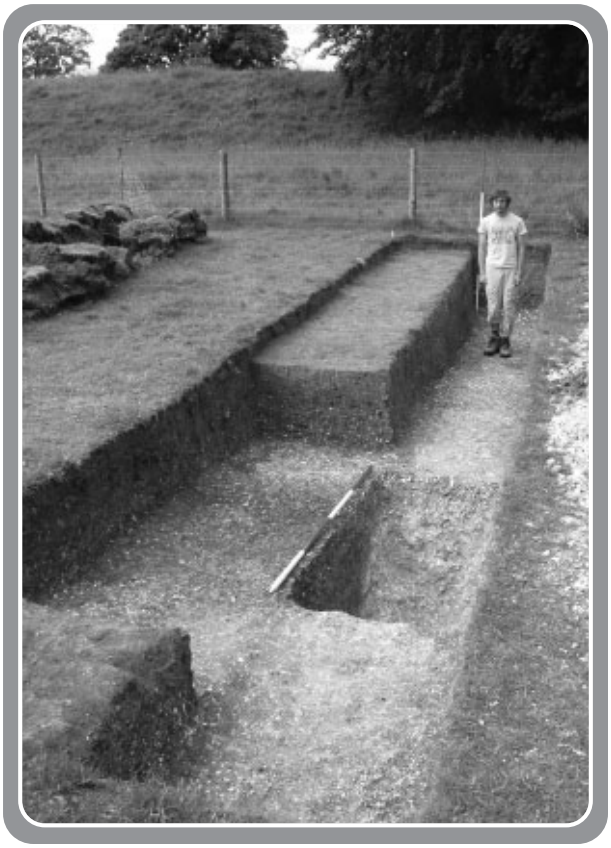
BETWEEN THE MONUMENTS: NEW FIELDWORK AT AVEBURY

Avebury's great Neolithic and early Bronze Age monuments have attracted considerable academic and public attention, but the wider social worlds of routine, subsistence and dwelling within which they were created are by comparison poorly understood. Visitors to Avebury often ask 'where did people live when the monuments were built?' and 'how did they live?' These have not been easy questions to answer. The scale and endurance of monumental constructions contrast markedly with the ephemeral character of the record of everyday activity, and for this reason archaeological narratives of social life during these periods have often been crafted around the 'goings on' at highly visible monuments.

Surface collection of lithic artefacts has now become a well-established methodology for locating areas of Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age settlement and stone working, but the Avebury region has not been subject to the concerted programmes of extensive surface collection that have taken place in the environs of Stonehenge or the eastern Dorset Ridgeway, for example. There have been notable attempts to redress this balance, such as the programmes of fieldwalking undertaken by Robin Holgate and Julian Thomas in the late 1980s, by Alasdair Whittle and Ian Dennis on the southern slopes of Windmill Hill in 1993, and by the National Trust in advance of conversion of arable areas to grassland. An ongoing problem is that the data generated by such work, and by the excavation of features such as stake-holes and pits beneath surface scatters, has often proved very difficult to interpret – we don't always know what the evidence is telling us. Perhaps this speaks of underambitious interpretive strategies and of expectations of what the archaeological signature of residence during these periods should be? We are, however, learning more, particularly from the recent excavation of late Neolithic houses at Durrington Walls, as well as earlier work on those at Trelystan and Upper Ninepence in Powys. One important insight from the work at Durrington Walls is that the digging and filling of artefact-rich pits is closely linked to the closure or commemoration of houses and, by extension, that pits often mark the locations of former dwellings (Parker Pearson 2007).

Here we announce a new project under the title *Between the Monuments* that seeks to investigate landscapes of residence and ecology between the fourth and second millennia BC within the Avebury region. The aim is to identify the range of practices that constituted routine life in the region during this time period, their role in shaping social relations, and their relationship to monument construction and to natural constituents of the landscape. Within this, we wish to better understand the extent, density, character and tempo of human activity in the Avebury landscape during the Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age; how residence was enacted in relation to 'natural' phenomena such as sarsen spreads, woodland, other vegetation regimes, springs, streams and rivers; and prehistoric architectures that are not monumental. A key issue is understanding the dynamic social context in which the monuments were built and used, and the recursive relationship between dwelling/residence and monumentality. Is it the act of living within a landscape which creates the conditions in which monumentality emerges, and how does the presence of monuments then shape histories of settlement? We hope the project will act as a vehicle for new ways of theorising and interpreting landscape inhabitation, and environmental and geomorphological change. The academic imperative can be found within a series of ongoing debates surrounding the character of settlement and routine life during the British Neolithic and early Bronze Age; the Holocene environmental history of the chalklands; human-environment relations in their broadest sense; and connections between landscape inhabitation, memory and monumentality. The project will be carried out by a consortium of individuals from the Universities of Southampton, Leicester, Birkbeck (University of London) and Cambridge, the National Trust, Allen Environmental Archaeology and independent researchers. It will build upon the work undertaken by John Evans and Alasdair Whittle on the region's post-glacial environmental history and Neolithic archaeology, and on that of the *Longstones Project* and *Stonehenge Riverside Project*, while also working in tandem with the Avebury component of the *Stones of Stonehenge Project* led by Mike Parker Pearson.

Even setting aside for one moment the incredible megalithic, earthwork and timber monuments of the Avebury henge, its avenues, numerous long and round barrows, Windmill Hill, Silbury Hill, the Sanctuary and the West Kennet Palisades, the region is remarkable because of the diversity and richness of its Neolithic and Bronze Age archaeology. One can note the presence of conventional settlement-related lithic scatters, flint procurement sites, buried soils/colluvial sequences with *in situ* deposits of artefactual material, potential megalith quarry sites, midden deposits, pit clusters, ceramic-dominated artefact scatters, flat graves, early ard cultivation and riverside depositions. Calcareous soils and colluvial and alluvial sequences within the region provide considerable potential for high-resolution environmental reconstruction, while the regular preservation of animal and human bone allows direct insight into subsistence strategies, burial and depositional practices and, via isotopic analysis, information on diet and lifetime movement. In terms of the questions being asked by the project, the



Excavation at Rough Leaze, 2007. Note the build up of colluvium against the Avebury henge bank and the early Holocene tree-throw pit sealed beneath it

quality of evidence and research potential is here as good as anywhere in southern Britain.

Our lead into the project was provided by experience of previous fieldwork in the region, and a growing awareness of the potential provided by re-analysis of collections held in the Alexander Keiller Museum at Avebury. In 2007, a short season of test-pitting and excavation was undertaken as a student training project in the field known as Rough Leaze immediately to the east of the Avebury henge. This revealed scatters of worked flint that included material of possible late Mesolithic and certain early Neolithic to early Bronze Age date, a series of early Holocene tree-throw pits, and one location with concentrations of both lithics and stake-holes that likely represent the traces of middle/late Neolithic dwellings. The tree-throw pits might normally be written off as of little archaeological significance, yet the hollow formed by one was utilised perhaps as the base for a shelter during the middle Neolithic, while a second had a post-hole cut into the primary fills and an aurochs humerus deposited within it. Mollusca from the tree-throw fills provide important details on vegetation sequences that add to the debate surrounding the character of early Holocene woodland on the chalklands. Immediately south of Rough Leaze, and previously reported in *PAST* 63, augering at the foot of the Avebury henge bank revealed compacted chalk marl surfaces buried under colluvium. Could these be Neolithic house floors similar to those known from Durrington Walls? Further work as part of the *Between the Monuments* project will tell.

Joshua Pollard, Mike Allen, Rosamund Cleal, Charly French, Julie Gardiner, Mark Gillings, Lesley McFadyen, Nick Snashall

HANDS ACROSS THE WATER: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE CROSS-CHANNEL NEOLITHIC

Over a hundred delegates gathered in Bournemouth in May of this year for *Hands Across the Water*, a conference jointly hosted by the Prehistoric Society and Bournemouth University in association with the Neolithic Studies Group and the Société Préhistorique Française.

The theme was cross-Channel interaction in the Neolithic period and the meeting provided an opportunity to hear the presentation of new information from scholars on both sides of the Channel. After a convivial wine reception, when delegates had a chance to chat to colleagues and friends from both sides of la Manche, Prehistoric Society President Dr Alison Sheridan set the scene with a superbly illustrated *tour de force* during which she reviewed four different models for the neolithisation of Britain, all of which were defended throughout the weekend. The first model Alison identified was that of 'indigenous hunter-fisher-foragers as prime movers for change, selectively adopting domesticates and elements from the Continent' (as promoted most vigorously by Julian Thomas); second was the model of colonisers arriving in southeast England and spreading northwards and westwards from there resulting in acculturation by indigenous groups (advocated by Alasdair Whittle *et al.*); third was Collard et *al.*'s model (based on the use of radiocarbon dates as proxies for population size and density) of colonisers arriving in southern England and spreading from there; and last but not least the President's own model of a multi-strand process, with the prime movers for change being small farming groups from different parts of France who arrived in different parts of Britain and Ireland at different times between *c.*4300 and *c.*3800 BC for different reasons and with different outcomes (including acculturation in most cases). We certainly had a lot to think about as we left the venue for the 'conference pub'!

On Saturday morning we were addressed by French colleagues who set the scene on their side of the Channel starting with Serge Cassen from the University of Nantes who gave a superb overview of his work on the megaliths of Brittany and beyond. Michel Phillippe then told us of his detailed work in the Canche Estuary directly opposite the 'White Cliffs of Dover' and delighted colleagues by bringing with him a pottery vessel from his excavations which he was hoping someone would identify or draw parallels to. Along with the usual tempting array of books on display for browsing and purchase, this pot was the star attraction in the exhibition room. Several excellent posters were also on display covering topics from house types, ceramic sequences and environmental records.

Other papers on Saturday included Emmanuel Mens, who argued that stone circle and standing stone builders deliberately chose the smooth faces of the rock to face inwards, and Françoise Bostyn who discussed the amazing number of flint mines known from northern France and outlined her recent research on them. The afternoon session reminded us of the vast amount of material culture that survives on both sides of the Channel. We were treated to an overview of carinated bowls in southern Britain by Alistair Barclay, a well-illustrated and thought-provoking paper by Ann and Peter Woodward on the function and patterning of some of the ceramic material and an overview by French colleagues Cyril Marcigny and Emmamuel Ghesquière - ably delivered by Lesley McFadyen - of pottery and artefact series for northern France and the Channel Islands. This was followed by an in-depth look at the environmental work that has been carried out in Ireland as part of the INSTAR Cultivating Societies project. The quality of the results from this work was wonderful to witness. On Saturday evening, there were further convivialities as the launch of the Stone Axe Studies 3 volume by Vin Davis and Mark Edmonds was celebrated - a fitting end to a day of truly brilliant and thought-provoking papers.

On Sunday, we were made to think about the viability of early populations with farming skills by Steve Shennan, followed by a defence of his model of neolithisation by Alisdair Whittle with some good humoured heckling from the sides. A synthesis of recent isotopic work and related radiocarbon dating was then presented by Rick Schulting who also reminded us that the 'water' had not always been separating Britain and France. The theme of islands was addressed by Chris Scarre who presented the work he is carrying out on Herm, one of the Channel Islands, and reminded us of the differing models of island archaeology - are they special places or simply microcosms of the mainlands they are closest to? Fraser Sturt then summarised the recent work that he and Duncan Garrow have been carrying out on Guernsey, and provided a brilliant synopsis of the possibilities for actually getting physically across the Channel following tides and currents. Finally, Tim Darvill rounded up the proceedings by summarising the milestones in British Neolithic studies from the time of Gordon Childe and Stuart Piggott. He suggested that perhaps we are too focussed on the origins of the Neolithic and all that entails and that we should rather be examining further what happens in the various regions at different times.

This was an excellent conference and a real treat for delegates who had equal measures of '*entente cordiale*' and '*vive la difference*!'. A final special word must go to the happy band of student helpers who kept everything running like clockwork. *Magnifique*!

Heather Sebire

ACTIONS IN TIME: AFTER THE BREAKAGE OF POTTERY AND BEFORE THE CONSTRUCTION OF WALLS AT CASTELO VELHO IN THE ALTO DOURO OF PORTUGAL

Castelo Velho is a prehistoric walled enclosure situated in the Alto Douro of Portugal (parish of Freixo de Numão, county of Vila Nova de Foz Côa). The site is located on the spur of a hill, with a spectacular view of the surrounding landscape. The monument comprises a series of subcircular structures and wall footings made out of schist that once had clay superstructures. The main enclosure wall, with multiple entranceways, is elliptical in shape and contains an inner tower. The base of the tower is formed from a large natural outcrop of schist that is interdigitated with stretches of coursed walling. The construction dates from the beginning of the third millennium BC (Middle Chalcolithic) to 1300 BC (Middle Bronze Age). However, this is a very simple and static description of a building project that consists of a series of makings and ummakings, cuttings and blockings, with different durations and scales of change and alteration. Susana Oliveira Jorge (University of Porto) directed the excavation and subsequent post-excavation research. The final results of this work are being prepared for a monograph that is to be published next year in Portuguese and English.

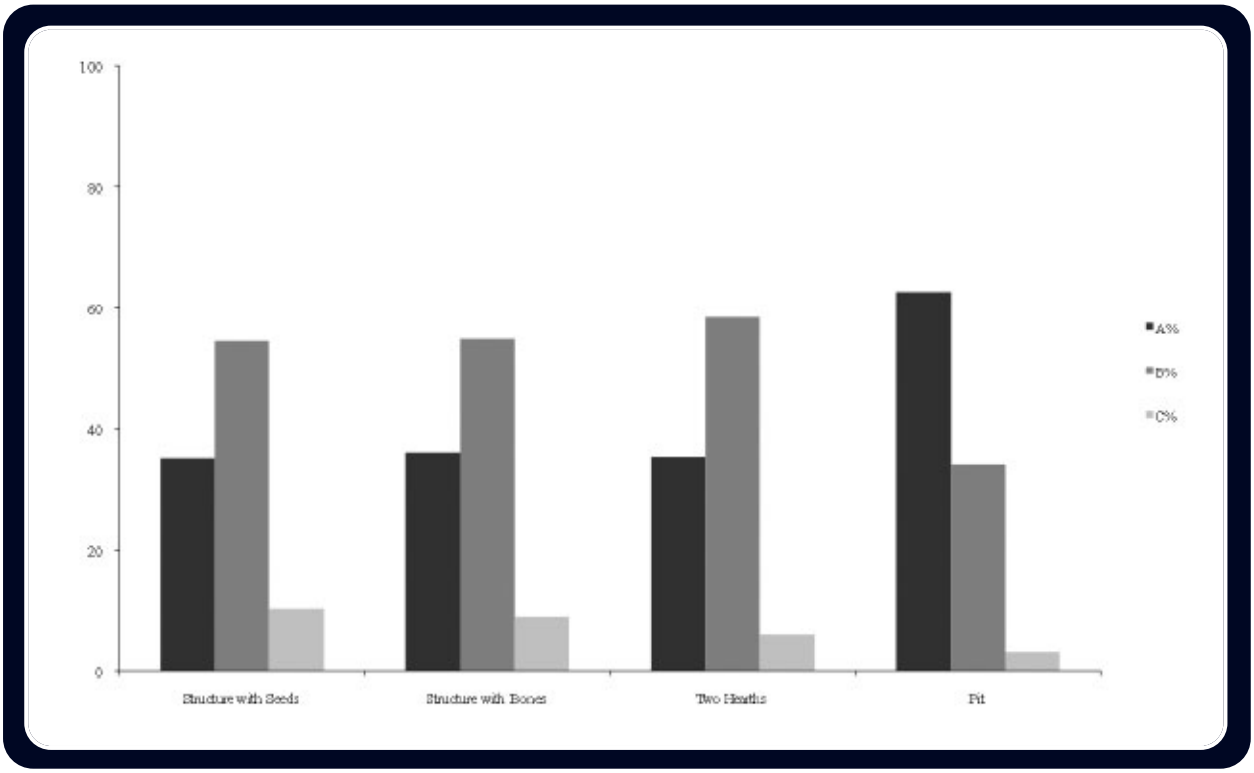
There is an interesting history of ideas associated with this type of site in Portugal. Traditionally, an enclosure like this is defined by its walls as a 'fortified settlement', and attention drawn to its 'bastions' and 'barbicans' and central tower or 'citadel'. These kinds of site are found throughout the Iberian Peninsula

Aerial photograph of the walled enclosure of Castelo Velho

and southern France, with the most famous in Portugal located in the Estremadura (e.g. Vila Nova de São Pedro, Zambujal and Leceia). S. O. Jorge has pointed out that despite intensive programmes of excavation at many sites, the evidence is usually taken to support a colonial model, with enclosure walls interpreted as 'fortifications' (see her paper in *Journal of Iberian Archaeology*, 1999). However, she argues that this theory is circular, unverifiable beyond itself. Interestingly, in Britain, Alasdair Whittle and Robert Chapman have also shown interest in an alternative take.

In a series of articles (many of which are published in English and available online: see http://architectures.home.sapo.pt), S. O. Jorge has deconstructed the totalising argument for fortified settlements and looked in detail at the practices that were carried out at the site of Castelo Velho. She has suggested that there were ritual activities and structured depositional practices including a ritual structure with human bone, and she argues that it is more effective to think of the site as a monumental enclosure or, since fragments of walling seem to continue down the hill slope and are not bound to the promontory, as a monumentalised hill.

There are several studies that consider in detail how material culture and architecture relate to one another at Castelo Velho (e.g. S. O. Jorge *et al.* in *Portugalia*, 1998; and the 2003 Masters dissertations by Lídia Baptista, Sérgio Gomes and Maria de Lurdes Oliveira of the University of Porto). Their research is at the scale of materials, and investigates the detail and dynamic of deposition in the past. These authors have demonstrated that the processes by which things were assembled together also carried with them an architectural quality. For the last two years, I have been studying the fragmentation of the pottery from the site, and how this relates to the excavated contexts in time. My focus is on the pre- and post-breakage histories of the pottery: what happened to the pottery prior to deposition. This gets at other kinds of practice, other times, and it takes us into other spaces. So this is a study of something before walls, and something before the moment of deposition. It is inspired by the research of two pottery specialists who work on British prehistoric material: Mark Knight (see Garrow *et al.* in *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, 2005) and Matthew Brudenell (see Brudenell and Cooper in *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*, 2008).



Distribution of small (A), medium (B) and large (C) sherds across four main contexts

There were no complete vessels recovered from Castelo Velho, and this is important. From an investigation of the overall percentage of small, medium and large sherds in each pottery assemblage, it is evident that medium-sized sherds dominated several of the excavated contexts. In the graph shown here, the first three contexts produced a consistently larger proportion of medium-sized sherds, and this, along with the homogenous character of the pottery and the greater number of refits, suggests an immediacy to their deposition, but not a direct relationship.

From the feature with human bone (identified by S. O. Jorge as a ritual structure), the assemblage included fineware bowls with fingernail decoration, coarseware vessels with applied bosses and punctate decoration, and possibly a higher percentage of sherds with a burnished finish (this included light fluting or even grooved decoration). Perhaps this assemblage included less 'familiar' forms. However, the predominant sherds were plain body pieces and the assemblage included multiple refits. 18-20 vessels were recognisable from within the assemblage. Several refitting sherds were recovered from outside of the structure, and these connections across the site were made during the use of the structure because the feature was sealed with a stone capping soon after it had been used.

Rather than thinking in traditional terms about a structure and its subsequent use, instead I use my pottery work to turn things around and think about the building project as a series of activities that emerge out of the rhythm and tempo of occupation. This is where the large proportion of medium-sized sherds, and the non-complete nature of the vessels, really comes into play because there was no evidence for a direct connection between breakage and deposition; there is a crucial absence of large-sized pieces and near-complete refits. There was a substantial proportion of small sherds with weathered and abraded edges that are evidence for

Close-up detail of the deposit of human bone

The stone structure containing the deposit of human bone (H)

other practices post-breakage and pre-deposition, but these did not dominate the assemblage. People were living in and around broken things before they entered this structure, prior to deposition, but this was not a simple matter of residuality: the relationship was more direct than that. Instead, it is the tempo of occupation, the daily practice of living with things (many in a broken state), which created the conditions for the structure with human bone. Maybe it is precisely because activities were produced out of occupation that the feature was constructed in a part-open shape, and this may be why refitting pieces of pottery could be identified at the larger scale of the site. The analysis of the patterns of fragmentation of pottery demonstrated that occupation, the playing out of time, was a part of the building project.

This may seem a little strange compared to the way in which we normally conceptualise a building project, be it one in the past or present. However, as an example of a different take on the making of things, the Italian architect Aldo Rossi took polaroid photographs his whole life. The polaroid was important because it captured instantaneous bits and pieces of life, but it was the practice that was important to him, not any one polaroid. Rossi took and collected such images, over and over again, and this took time: these were actions in time. What is important to us, as prehistorians, is that his creative process *depended* on that accumulation, and living amongst the fragments of that accumulation. That is why he talked about his architecture as things that had already been seen. It was a creativity that reverberated between memory and invention, and was not simply located in an idea and an object.

These are exciting times in the history of ideas of prehistoric walled enclosures. And this work continues with the research of Ana Vale (University of Porto), who is working on the fragmentation of the pottery from the nearby site of Castanheiro do Vento.

Lesley K. McFadyen, University of Porto (funded by the Foundation of Science and Technology, Portugal)

THE ROCK ART OF THE VALLTORTA GORGE: FIGURING THE LANDSCAPE

In August 2010, thanks to a Prehistoric Society research grant, I spent some days in the Valltorta gorge in Valencia, visiting its rock art sites. The aim of my visit was to acquire first-hand knowledge of the sites in the area in order to analyse the distribution of motifs along the canyon. Twenty-two rock art sites have so far been published over a 6km-long stretch of the gorge. Their dating is still a matter of fierce debate, with some favouring a Mesolithic and a majority a Neolithic chronology. In recent years, a relative chronology of Spanish Levantine anthropomorphic motifs has been proposed. Six types have been established: an earlier Centelles type substituted at a later date by four intermediary types, the Tolls, Civil, Mas d'en Josep and Cingle types, and a final phase characterised by the presence of linear human motifs. The classification provides a chronological framework for a similar typology devised almost a century ago which comprises the following classes of motif: 'pachypod' (roughly Centelles), 'nematomorphic' (Linear) and 'cestosomatic' (the remaining types). Unfortunately, at present it seems impossible to correlate chronologically human and animal types, although it is known that at one site at least (Cavalls), there is evidence of an earlier period in which animal as well as some schematic motifs were rendered before the first anthropomorphs made an appearance.

View of a section of the Valltorta gorge from the hills above (photo by author).

It is remarkable to observe that in the whole of the gorge most anthropomorphs represent adults. Women are distinctive mainly because of the presence of breasts and/or skirts and because they are never running or even walking and never hold hunting gear. In contrast, there is a complete correspondence between anthropomorphs with a penis and hunting gear. The body proportions of sexed men are clearly different to those of women. Using this difference as a basis, one can infer that hunters represent men and, given the importance of this theme, that the great majority of figures represented in Valltorta are male. Interestingly, a study of the gender of the anthropomorphic motifs indicates that most women are of Centelles style and therefore belong to the earliest phases of Valltorta rock art. Most female representations seem to be located in the southeast half of the gorge, a location that, as we will see, is repeated in other types of figures.

Hunting scene. Cavalls site, as ideally reconstructed in 1919

The animal species represented at Valltorta are not dissimilar to those found elsewhere in the Levantine rock art area. Deer are the most frequent animal depicted, followed by goats and cattle. For these three species, although the whole body is usually depicted, on some occasions synecdoches are used - a part, the head, represents the whole. In contrast, other species such as wild boar, insects and birds are rare. Regarding the latter, a similar distinction to that observed in the case of female representations can be made: whereas birds or insects are depicted as crosses in the northwest area, in the southeast they are represented as arrows. This distinction between the two halves of the gorge is reinforced by looking again at anthropomorphs. The presence of the Tolls type only in the northwestern half of the gorge and of the Cingle type only in the southeast half may indicate that artists were not able to paint all over the area, but may have been restricted with respect to where they could undertake their work.

Several conclusions result from plotting human and animal motifs onto a map of the Valltorta gorge. The presence/absence of anthropomorphs indicates that the same portions of the gorge were decorated over time, for there are types representing the three major periods in all parts of the gorge. Yet, not all sites had the same relevance; the number of types in each site indicates that the gorge was an uneven space with some sites heavily inscribed and others less so. This is not the first time that this has been noted. Cruz Berrocal already observed this, but included the Covetes del Puntal among the most profusely decorated sites in the gorge, which does not seem to be the case. From published literature and my own observations, I would propose that there are three sites in which memories were repeatedly inscribed

Entrance to the Cavalls site (photo by author).

throughout time: Saltadora, Cavalls and Civil. They contain anthropomorphs of all (Cavalls) or many (Saltadora and Civil) styles. Moreover, these three sites were those chosen to depict the highest number of motifs and scenes. Interestingly, the location of these three mega-rock art sites was non-random: memories were inscribed at the entrance, in the middle and at the exit of the Valltorta gorge. Cavalls is the key rock art site in Valltorta. It is located in the centre of the gorge, it has more human types represented in it than any other site, it displays the most spectacular hunting scene, as well as unique motifs such as a baby deer and, remarkably, has the most amazing entrance through a stunning cut in the rock.

There are many other issues observed in the art of Valltorta that are currently work-in-progress and will be the focus of a future research paper.

Acknowledgements
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