2623_PAST 62_EnlargedPic:PAST 55 9/7/09 13:36 Page 2

The chambered tomb at Bryn Celli Ddu. Photograph by Bob Bewley.

At Erw Wen and Moel Goedog, we saw a number of Bronze Age ring cairns. One of the monuments at Moel Goedog has been excavated, and yielded cremated bone, charcoal and pottery; the inclusion of foreign soil in one cremation deposit suggests that it had been burnt elsewhere and brought here, possibly as a votive offering. These features all lie on a route marked by standing stones that linked together settlements comprising cairns, field systems and roundhouses.

Our last site for the day was the Early Bronze Age cairn circle at Bryn Cader Faner. Upon reaching the cairn it was clear that it held a commanding view of the overall landscape. It was situated on a false crest so that on-lookers from the other side would not have been able to view the cairn. However, from the top the views were outstanding. The cairn also has an interesting recent history. It was used as target practice by the British Army in the Second World War. Luckily, however, the damage caused by these activities seems to have been minimal and the cairn has been restored.

The final day of the tour focused on the north coast and started off with a guided tour by John Ll. Williams to Graiglwyd Neolithic axe outcrop and associated quarry. Here, we saw a small trench excavated by Williams which yielded a Neolithic axe. Williams also showed the students some fine examples of other polished Neolithic stone axes from the local area. We then made our penultimate walk to rendezvous with Francis Lynch who introduced us to the archaeology of the headland of Penmaenmawr. Sites visited included a number of ring cairns and an impressive cairn circle known as the Druid's Circle. This monument has been excavated, and the artefacts unearthed include pottery, bronze, flint and stone. A primary cist containing a cremation was situated in the centre of the circle and a number of secondary cremations were also found. One of the orthostats displayed signs of possible stone sanding and polishing.

The authors, Harry (left) and Jim (right). Photograph by Bob Bewley.

Our final site visit was to the Great Orme Bronze Age copper mines. Several seasons of excavation have taken place here since their discovery in 1967, and these have demonstrated that the oldest part of the mines date to c. 2000 BC. It has also been shown that beach pebbles and worked bone - both found in large quantities in the mines - were used to extract the copper ore.

We were fortunate that the sun shone for the majority of the tour. The students all got on very well and a great deal was learnt from one another; in addition, everyone we met was particularly welcoming and hospitable.

Acknowledgements
Firstly, the authors would like to thank Dr Bob Johnston and Dr Bob Bewley for organising a great weekend and furthermore Frances Lynch, John Ll. Williams and John Roberts, the Snowdonia National Park archaeologist, for their remarkable knowledge and tours of the sites. Secondly, a big thank you goes to the students who participated for their enthusiasm and interest throughout the weekend.

Harry Robson, University of Bradford and Research Assistant, University of York; James Sugrue, University of Bournemouth

2623_PAST 62_EnlargedPic:PAST 55 9/7/09 13:37 Page 3

PAST

NUMBER 62 July 2009

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PREHISTORIC SOCIETY

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

http://www.prehistoricsociety.org/

PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE INDIGENOUS TERRITORY PACAAS NOVOS IN RONDÔNIA, WESTERN BRAZIL

The goal of this project was a preliminary archaeological examination of the indigenous territory Rio Negro Ocaia, inhabited by the Amazonian group known as Pacaas Novos, or Wari' as they call themselves, in the state of Rondônia, western Brazil. This group is now widely known in anthropological works as the best documented case of both endo- and exo-cannibalism thanks to the work of anthropologists Aparecida Vilaça (Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro) and Beth Conklin (Vanderbilt University). The current project was undertaken in collaboration with Aparecida Vilaça as the principal investigator on the FUNAI (Fundação Nacional do Índio)-supported project for redefining the current boundaries of the indigenous territory Pacaas Novos. This was deemed an ideal opportunity to examine the archaeological potential of this region by collecting information about abandoned sites and collecting surface material where available in order to determine potential for future work.

Archaeologically, this territory has remained completely unexplored. Although there has recently been extensive archaeological work in the central and southern areas of the Amazon Basin, the western fringes of Amazonia remain practically untouched archaeologically. Despite previous reluctance to recognize the possibility of significant time depths in the occupation of the Amazon Basin, several recent projects have shown respectable chronological depths for human occupation across this vast territory. Areas known as *terra preta de índio* (Indian black soil) provide records of human habitation in such spots for the past several thousand years. This type of soil is a probable consequence of subsistence intensification in the occupation of particular locales dating to around 450 BC to AD 950. There is a need to expand this work into other areas of the Amazon Basin for which there is presently very little information about human habitation and no firm chronological anchoring. The only archaeological work that treats the region of Rondônia (238,512.8 m^2) in more detail was undertaken by Enrico T. Miller, who collected data on archaeological remains in this Brazilian state back in the 1970s and 1980s for the purpose of his Masters thesis.

The group of Wari' hunters who led us to the abandoned site of Kit; between them lies one of the test pits previously excavated by Maria Dulce Gaspar (photo: D. Borić).

The copy date for PAST 63 is 1 October 2009. 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.

2623_PAST 62_EnlargedPic:PAST 55 9/7/09 13:37 Page 4

We know very little about human habitations and their antiquity in the river valley of the Rio Pacaás Novos, a tributary of the Mamoré river. The river valley is characterized by typical Amazonian *várzea* (floodplain) soils and elevated *terra firme* (non-floodplain) soils that commonly house human settlements across Amazonia. No *terra preta* soils, which characterize areas where one finds traces of human occupation across the rest of the Amazon Basin, are found in this region. Although the sites with *terra preta* soils are considered to be the most fertile and organic-rich lands in the Amazon Basin, soils and human-affected plant communities found at some of the abandoned sites in the studied region (e.g. the site of Kit, see below) indicate very fertile grounds of visibly-altered soils. The lack of sites on *terra preta* soils in this region could perhaps be due either to the different pedological and geomorphological character of this particular area or to differences in the intensity of human occupation in the past. Further, more extensive archaeological work could potentially contribute to solving this important question. In the north, this drainage basin is bordered by the Serra dos Pacaas Novos mountain chain. This area is characterized by features such as waterfalls, caves and rockshelters. Future archaeological work in this region may find well-preserved traces of human habitations, which might be of substantial antiquity, in some of the caves and rockshelters.

A stone axe found lying on the surface along with pottery fragments at the site of Kit (photo: D. Borić).

One of the sites examined in February 2008 is also promising for future archaeological work. The locale is known as Kit ('knife' in the Wari' language; 11° 00' 23" S, 064° 26' 06" W, c. 213 m a.s.l), and preliminary archaeological test trenches have been excavated at the site by Maria Dulce Gaspar (Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro). This site was an important settlement of the Wari' inhabitants of the region. After the contact period, imported diseases wiped out its inhabitants while the remaining population moved to various sites within the current territory of the reservation. Yet, the site features prominently in Wari' mythology and has been recognized as the only stone outcrop in the wider region from which raw material for stone axes was collected in the pre-contact period.

Charcoal found in a test pit at this site provided a radiocarbon date of 2430±70 BP (c. 766 to 397 cal. BC at 95 per cent probability; Beta Lab). This indicates significant prehistoric depths present at this location. The use of stone axes for forest clearance in Amazonia is directly related to the adoption of agriculture. In February 2008, our team revisited the site of Kit to assess logistical aspects of developing a field project that would further examine the antiquity of this important locale. Pottery and stone axes were lying all over the surface of this large site whose fertile soil enables the growth of wild cacao. Surface material was collected and analysed at this and a number of other abandoned sites, providing enough background information for the development of a larger field project in this region, which is the next step in our research agenda.

Dušan Borić, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Cambridge

A 'NEW' NEOLITHIC ENCLOSURE AT ROSSNAREE, BRÚ NA BÓINNE, COUNTY MEATH

Introduction

A dramatic new discovery has come to light during recent ongoing geophysical investigations of lithic scatter sites in the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site in County Meath, Ireland. The Rossnaree enclosure is in a very significant location on the southern bank of the River Boyne in the corner of the river at the western end of the well-known 'Bend of the Boyne'. The site is located on the edge of the first gravel terrace above the river floodplain and is directly opposite, and indeed is overlooked by, the passage tomb complex at Knowth. It is sub-D-shaped and measures at least 100m north-south by 110m east-west, and possibly extends beyond the area of survey. A Neolithic date is suggested for this enclosure on the basis of the associated lithic scatter evidence although its complexity points to activity over a prolonged period.

Background

In the present project, previously mapped lithic scatters combined with topographic and reconnaissance geophysical survey are being used to define areas for targeted follow-up using more detailed geophysical methods. This additional geophysical data, where it exists, represents an important additional strand of information greatly assisting and facilitating more detailed interpretation

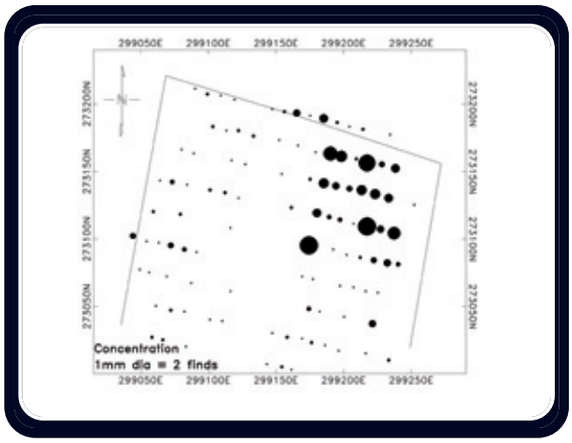
2623_PAST 62_EnlargedPic:PAST 55 9/7/09 13:37 Page 5

Site location in relation to River Boyne, Knowth and Newgrange (Google Earth)

of the activities represented by the lithic scatters. Additionally, it opens up a new dimension to our understanding of settlement and landuse in Brú na Bóinne during prehistory.

The survey was carried out in a field where a substantial well-defined lithic scatter had been collected. The retouched material in this assemblage was broadly indicative of a Neolithic date. Like a number of other scatters recorded in the Brú na Bóinne area, the scatter is focused on a low stony knoll rising approximately 1.5m above the level of the surrounding field surface. The soil in the area of the knoll is significantly darker in appearance compared to that of the rest of the field. Additional finds were recovered from the field surface during the course of the magnetic gradiometry survey and included a porcellanite axe and a possible human tooth indicating a possible funerary element to the activities carried out at this location. Quantities of animal bone were also noted on the surface of the field especially in the area of the knoll.

A reconnaissance magnetic susceptibility and topographic survey on a 10m x 10m grid were carried out over the northern half of the field, completely covering the area of the scatter. Significantly enhanced magnetic susceptibility values were recorded in the area of the lithic scatter and the knoll. This area seems to correspond well with the area of blacker soil mentioned above and may be due to high levels of charcoal that have become incorporated into the ploughsoil. The topographic survey further defined the nature of the knoll and revealed that it is separated from the rest of the field by a natural 'gully'-like depression trending from the northwest towards the southeast, further defining this area.



Lithics distribution

2623_PAST 62_EnlargedPic:PAST 55 9/7/09 13:37 Page 6

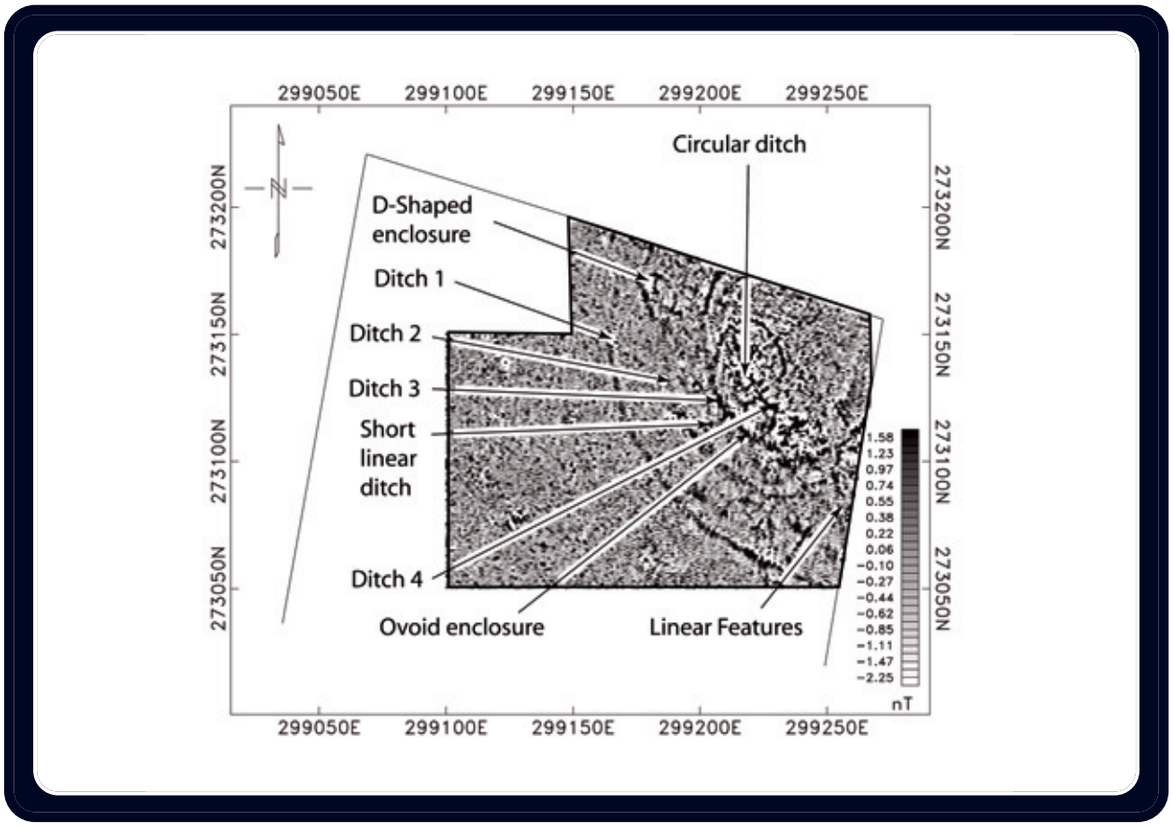
The 2008 geophysical survey

The recent geophysical survey primarily involved magnetic gradiometry covering approximately 2ha of ground along with more limited coverage earth resistance over a 60m x 40m panel, electrical resistance tomography along one 90m long radial transect and ground penetrating radar surveys over six 90m long radial transects. The magnetic gradiometry and earth resistance surveys provide two dimensional data while the electrical resistance tomography and ground penetrating radar provide a 3-D element through depth or sectional information. The magnetic gradiometry revealed a complex series of features the most substantial of which was a set of three or possibly four roughly concentric ditches.

Ditch 1 has a radius of approximately 110m and while the signature is strong for most of its length, it is weaker and almost disappears at its northern end. The northern edge of the field (north edge of survey) lies within 3m of a distinct break in slope separating the field surface from the level of the river floodplain. It would thus seem that this is close to the original terminus of the ditch although indications from the recent LiDAR survey commissioned by Meath County Council and the Heritage Council in partnership with the Discovery Programme suggests that there are low banks running at right angles down the face of this slope some of which may be associated with the enclosure. The line of Ditch 1 is not completely curvilinear as there are slight 'kinks' at intervals, perhaps indicating that segments of the ditch were initially dug separately and later joined. The line of this ditch continues beyond the area of the survey in the southeast corner and continues into the adjacent field to the east.

Ditch 2 has a broader magnetic signature in places and appears to be cut or joined to by other features. Ditch 3 has a sharper curve and is very distinct over much of its course. Ditches 2 and 3 appear to follow the topography of the site and maintain a clear focus on the knoll. The response of Ditch 4 (if indeed it is a ditch) is intermittent in nature as it is cut and obscured by a number of other features. At the eastern end, this feature may continue as a section of linear walling running south-southwest-north-northeast.

Other features in the data include a series of linear features at the southeast side of the survey area. The easternmost of these features intersects the eastern field boundary (east edge of survey area) between Ditches 1 and 2 and runs in a north-northwest direction and possibly continues to intersect with the northern field boundary (north edge of survey area). The nature of the magnetic signature changes along its length: the southern section may be a ditch and the northern section may be a wall. There is a small D-shaped ditched enclosure *c.* 18m x 11m overlying Ditch 2 at its northern end. There is a short linear section of ditch connecting Ditches 2 and 3 on the



Magnetic gradiometry plot

2623_PAST 62_EnlargedPic:PAST 55 9/7/09 13:37 Page 7

southwest side with a possible gap in its centre. There is a large ovoid enclosure focused on the knoll and measuring c. 45m x 30m. The southwest side of this enclosure is contiguous with Ditch 3 and there is also a possible entrance gap on this side. This small enclosure intersects Ditch 4. Within this enclosure, there are a number of features including a short linear ditch running northeast-southwest which cuts Ditch 4, and a possible ditched circular feature 8m in diameter.

The earth resistance survey was located on the top of the knoll and examined Ditches 2, 3 and 4. The survey broadly complemented the magnetic gradiometer survey identifying and clarifying some of the features outlined above. An additional feature identified was a possible rectangular platform-like area measuring c. 22m x 13m and orientated west-southwest-east-southeast which was located over Ditch 3.

Conclusion

No similar site is currently known within the Brú na Bóinne area, and assuming a possible Neolithic date for the site, there are no exact parallels for this site elsewhere in Ireland. Initial possibilities include Donegore Hill and Lyle's Hill, County Antrim, but the site partially excavated at Thornhill, County Derry, may be a better comparison, especially in terms of its landscape setting. Work on processing the electrical resistance tomography and ground penetrating radar data is ongoing and may reveal further significant detail. Completion of the geophysical survey to establish the full extent of the site, and further more detailed geophysical survey followed by excavation, would help to confirm the date of the site and understand the nature of the activities represented by the lithics and these features.

The discovery of this site clearly demonstrates the continuing importance of surface collection survey as a large-scale prospection technique. It is clear that a multi-technique approach with scope for flexibility in the design of the field methodology whereby investigations can be tailored to specific field conditions is the approach that is most likely to produce the best results, even in landscapes where it is assumed that intensive agriculture has destroyed much archaeological evidence.

Acknowledgements

This work was generously funded by a Heritage Council Archaeology Grant. Access to the LiDAR image was courtesy of Meath County Council and the Heritage Council. Special thanks to the landowner, Aisling Law.

Conor Brady, Dundalk Institute of Technology (email conor.brady@dkit.ie); Kevin Barton, Landscape & Geophysical Services (email kevin.barton@lgs.ie)

CONFERENCES

From Volcanoes to Vineyards: Living with Dynamic Landscapes

Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon, 18-21 October 2009

This year's meeting of the Geological Society of America will include sessions on geoarchaeology; thermoluminescent, optically stimulated luminescent, and ESR dating methods; and Holocene alluvial records, among others. Abstract deadline 11 August; registration deadline 14 September.
For further information see
http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2009/

Transformations or Continuities? Understanding Britain from 1600-1400 BC

British Museum, London, 26 October 2009

Recent decades have seen the Early-Middle Bronze Age transition in Britain (c. 1600-1400 BC) characterised as a major period of change. However, with the partial exceptions of areas such as Wessex, there has been relatively little research actually concentrating on the crucial centuries in question. This conference will therefore examine the extent to which the period 1600-1400 BC can be understood as a period of transformation for the communities living throughout Britain. For further details concerning speakers and registration (cost £10), email broberts@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Mesolithic and Neolithic Cultures of Eastern Europe: Interaction and Chronology

St.Petersburg, 23-25 November 2009

The Institute for the Material Culture History is glad to invite all interested scholars to attend this conference to mark the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Professor Nina N. Gurina (1909-1990), an outstanding explorer of the Stone Age in the arctic and forest zones of Eastern Europe. English translations of the conference papers will be provided, although the organizing committee cannot cover accommodation fees or travelling expenses. For further information, please contact Dr. Sergey A. Vasil'ev, Head, Paleolithic Department, Institute for the Material Culture History, 18 Dvortsovaia emb., 191186 St.Petersburg, Russia; tel (812) 3121484; fax. (812) 5716271;
e-mail: sergevas@AV2791.spb.edu

2623_PAST 62_EnlargedPic:PAST 55 9/7/09 13:37 Page 8

THE SOLENT BASIN AND WEST SUSSEX RAISED BEACHES FIELD MEETING OF THE QUATERNARY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION & PREHISTORIC SOCIETY

Introduction

The annual Quaternary Research Association (QRA) field meeting for 2009 - held jointly with the Prehistoric Society (PS) - took place from the 4-8 April and was based at the University of Southampton. It was organised and led by Rebecca Briant (Birkbeck College), Martin Bates (University of Wales Lampeter), Robert Hosfield (University of Reading) and Francis Wenban-Smith (University of Southampton). The meeting examined the Quaternary of the Solent Basin and the West Sussex raised beaches, focusing on the Palaeolithic archaeology and geology of the region.

Saturday 4 April

On the Saturday evening, the 40 or so participants met to register and collect their QRA field guides (the first colour edition) in the Junior Common Room of Highfield Hall, University of Southampton. The introductory evening talk, given by Becky Briant, Ceri James (British Geological Survey), Martin Bates, Robert Hosfield and Francis Wenban-Smith, set the background scene for investigations into the Solent river system and the West Sussex coastal plain, and laid out the broad plan for the days ahead.

Sunday 5 April

Our first site visit was Warblington, Hampshire, where Martin Bates discussed work conducted as part of the Aggregates Levy-funded project *Palaeolithic Archaeology of the Sussex/Hampshire Coastal Corridor* (PASHCC). At Selsey, West Street, Martin Bates once again stepped up to discuss the historical and recent investigations focused on the West Street Channel, Selsey foreshore, followed by a leisurely lunch on the beach. The group then travelled to the National Trust reserve at Slindon Park where Mark Roberts and Matthew Pope, both from the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, met the group to discuss the archaeological and sedimentary records from Boxgrove (visited next) and the National Trust reserve at Slindon. Roberts and Pope had opened five sections as part of a QRA outreach programme, and for the QRA/PS visit to the site, and one of these sections produced two bifaces knapped on beach pebbles (atypical in the Boxgrove context). On arriving at the Boxgrove quarry site Q1/B, Roberts explained about the excellent site management and preservation that was currently being conducted and allowed the group access to a number of sections and artefacts from the original excavations.

Monday 6 April

Monday saw the group heading over to the Isle of Wight for the day. At Priory Bay, Francis Wenban-Smith led the discussions on the prolific artefact-bearing gravel deposits at the cliff top that have produced both abraded and fresh assemblages, the former perhaps pre-Anglian, the latter now OSL-dated to MIS 10-9. After a pause for lunch, the group went onto the second site visit of the day at Watcombe Bottom, near Ventnor, where Richard Preece (University of Cambridge) led the discussion regarding the Holocene deposits found there (one of the last places in Britain where the Allerød soil can be observed in an open section). The final site visit on the Isle of Wight was located at St George's Down (a Bardon Vectis quarry), where Peter Hopson and Andrew Farrant, both of the British Geological Survey (BGS), spoke of the ongoing work of the BGS to remap the Isle of Wight's geology at the 1:10 000 scale highlighting a number of interesting features which may have directly influenced the Solent's course.

The dorsal face of a rare beach pebble handaxe found by Matthew Pope at Slindon moments before the group arrived. Photograph courtesy of David Underhill, scale courtesy of Laura Basell.

Tuesday 7 April

The first site visit of the day was to Barton-on-Sea, to view a cliff section of sands and gravels commonly referred to as the Old Milton Gravel. Becky Briant led the group discussion regarding the site, explaining the importance of the site to the western Solent terrace sequence, and elaborated on dating work conducted by the PASHCC project. The second site visit was to Lepe Country Park (a SSSI), where one section had been opened up by Martin Bates. At this first section, supplementary guides (forming part of the QRA outreach programme at Lepe) detailed the context of the Solent River as a whole, and then more specifically the sequence present at Lepe Country Park in relation to work conducted during the PASHCC project. The final site visit was to Badminston Farm Quarry to view the gravels present

2623_PAST 62_EnlargedPic:PAST 55 9/7/09 13:37 Page 9

there known as the Tom's Down Gravel. Becky Briant led the group in the discussion of the recent PASHCC project work carried out on the site, especially in relation to the OSL dating which suggests that the Tom's Down Gravel was deposited between MIS 9-8.

Wednesday 8 April
The final day of the field meeting moved into the realm of the Holocene. Michael Grant (Wessex Archaeology) and Keith Barber (University of Southampton) led a very interesting and informative field trip. The first stop of the morning was to a site called Cranes Moor situated within the New Forest, one of the largest mire systems in southern England. Along the way, the group explored a very interesting section showing the presence of a podsol unusually near the surface, saw basking adders and Rob Hosfield found a Neolithic/Early Bronze Age scraper (any form of Neolithic evidence from the New Forest is exceptionally scarce). Michael Grant led the discussion at Cranes Moor, an important site as it provides one of the few stratigraphically complete profiles covering the early to mid-Holocene. Richard Preece spoke up to thank the organizers of the field meeting, applauding how well the meeting had been run. Preece also thanked the contributors and editors of the field guide and the discussion leaders at each site. A special mention was made in regard to Keith Barber's retirement. The group then went on to have lunch in Lyndhurst. The final site visit for both the day and the field meeting was to Mark Ash Wood where the group called upon two moors, Church Moor and Barrow Moor, which span the majority of the Holocene. Grant explained that based on the evidence from these moors, it is thought that woodland had been present within this part of the New Forest continuously since the beginning of the early Holocene.

Concluding remarks
All in all, the QRA/PS field meeting was a tremendous success, with informative discussion and friendly debate encountered at each site visited. This meeting has certainly highlighted that there is still a huge amount of work to be done concerning the Solent Basin, especially with regard to defining the stratigraphy of the Solent terraces. The field guide accompanying the meeting offers an excellent grounding in the current state of academic research in this area, and an excellent point of reference in directing future research. Particular thanks once again go to the organisers and the participants for creating such a well rounded and stimulating field meeting.

James Cole, PhD Research Student, British Academy Centenary Research Project Lucy to Language: The Archaeology of the Social Brain & Centre for the Archaeology of Human Origins, Archaeology, Avenue Campus, University of Southampton SO17 1BF

MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2009-2010

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 contact information and booking forms as applicable, as soon as they become available. Booking forms will also be included in later editions of *PAST*.

We are planning some special events to mark our 75th anniversary in 2010, a programme for which will be sent out with the next edition of *PAST*, but please keep checking the website. If you would like to be kept updated by email, please contact Tessa Machling on prehistoric@ucl.ac.uk (see front page).

Wed 21 Oct 5pm	**Lecture** **Venue:** Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London	**The 9th Sara Champion Memorial Lecture: 'Fancy Objects in the British Iron Age: Why Decorate?'** by Dr. Jody Joy (British Museum) (free to members, £3 on the door for non-members)
Sat 6 Feb	**Day conference** **Venue:** Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London	**The Bronze Age in the Thames Valley** Following on from last year's very successful meeting on the Neolithic, this day conference will explore themes and landscape of the Thames Valley in the Bronze Age, based on the results of recent major programmes of fieldwork and analysis.
Wed 24 Feb TBC	**Lecture** **Venue:** London	**'Introduction to the Moundbuilders'** by Pete Topping A special lecture to introduce the subject of the 2010 Study Tour (see below), open to all, whether coming on the tour or not.

Sat 27 Feb	**Day conference** **Venue:** Durham University	**The Creation of 'Homes' in the Earliest Farming Period in Eurasia** *Joint Prehistoric Society/Durham University* The conference aims to set the agenda for studies in the emergence of agriculture, providing a social context for recent innovative bioarchaeological research by linking the idea of sedentism and 'homes' to the creation of houses, as well as notions of place, dwelling, land, boundaries, families, and belonging.
Fri 26-Sun 28 March	**Weekend study tour** **Venue:** Dublin	**5th Student Study Tour - Ireland's East Coast** Led by Dr. Graeme Warren, UCD
Sat 17-Sun 18 Apr TBC	**Weekend conference** **Venue:** Bournemouth University	**The Wessex Culture - Revolution or Evolution?** *Joint Prehistoric Society/Bournemouth University* The conference will consider the significance of changes in burial practice in southern Britain in the 2nd millennium BC, when cremation replaced inhumation and new types of artefacts and barrows appeared. Were these an 'evolution' of the Beaker phenomenon or a 'revolution' based on Continental influences?
Sat 8 May	**Day Conference and Europa Lecture** **Venue:** Cardiff	**Europa Lecture** by Prof. Pierre Petrequin (CNRS) There will be a fee for the conference but the Europa Lecture will be free to members.
Fri 14-Sun 16 May	**Weekend Study Tour** **Venue:** Dillington House, Ilminster	**Prehistoric Landcapes - Real or Imagined?** Lectures on Friday and Saturday followed by a field trip on Sunday. For details please contact Wayne Bennett, Dillington House, Ilminster TA19 7DZ. Tel: 01460 52427, email: dillington@somerset.gov.uk
Thu 17 June-Sat 3 July TBC	**Overseas study tour** **Venue:** American Mid-West	**Moundbuilders Tour** Another trip to the USA, following the successful 2007 tour to the South-West. For more information contact Pete Topping (pete.topping@english-heritage.org.uk) or Dave McOmish.
July-August TBC	**Weekend study tour** **Venue:** Cotswolds	**'Budget' study tour** Led by Dr. Alex Lang

In the planning stages:

Lectures:
- Joint lecture with the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland - Prof. Rüdiger Krause (University of Frankfurt) will speak on Fürstensitze
- Joint lecture with Cambridge Antiquarian Society
- Joint lecture with the Devon Archaeological Society (venue: Exeter)
- Joint lecture with Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Society (Sat 9 Jan)
- Joint lecture with Sussex Archaeological Society

Conferences:
- Climate Change in Prehistory
- Rethinking the Late Iron Age
- Launching the English Heritage Research Strategy for Prehistory
- Recent Investigations in the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site

Study Tours (for 2011):
- Cornwall
- Monmouth and the Gwent Levels

Plus a series of 75th anniversary events in 2010!

THE EUROPA DAY CONFERENCE 2009 -THE PLEASURE OF FINDING THINGS OUT: SEARCHING FOR THE MESOLITHIC

On Saturday 30 May, Professor Peter Woodman, Emeritus Professor of Archaeology, University College Cork, was presented with the Prehistoric Society's prestigious Europa Prize in the Tempest Anderson Hall, York Museum. The Europa Prize is presented to individuals in recognition of a substantial contribution to the study of prehistory.

2623_PAST 62_EnlargedPic:PAST 55 9/7/09 13:37 Page 11

This year's recipient, Professor Woodman, retired in 2006 after twenty three years as Professor of Archaeology at UCC, during which his research and publications had a major influence on our understanding of the Mesolithic in northwest Europe. A precursor to the meeting took place the previous day with the Mesolithic PhD forum 'Gathering Our Thoughts'. This took place in the King's Manor, University of York, and featured presentations by PhD students on various aspects of their research. The forum was well attended and it is very encouraging to see the diversity and depth of research currently being undertaken on the Mesolithic period at PhD level.

The Europa conference began when, upon invitation from Clive Ruggles, the audience paid tribute in a minute's silence to the memory of the late Ian Shepherd, whose support and encouragement have been instrumental in many Society initiatives. Following this, Mike Allen announced the launch of the new Prehistoric Society Research Papers series. The first of these volumes, *From Bann Flakes to Bushmills: papers in honour of Professor Peter Woodman*, was presented to a very surprised Professor Woodman by Sinéad McCartan, Nicky Milner and Caroline Wickham-Jones, volume editors along with Nyree Finlay. The editors deserve great credit for the depth and quality of the publication and moreover for managing to keep it a secret from Professor Woodman!

The Europa 2009 speakers, left to right: Hein Bjerck, Roger Jacobi, Doug Price, Alison Sheridan, Peter Woodman, Caroline Wickham-Jones, Rick Schulting and Alan Saville (chair)

The conference consisted of seven papers from various invited specialists. Although the chronological focus of these was the Mesolithic period in various regions, some lectures covered other topics such as late Pleistocene faunal assemblages and the transition to agriculture. Rather fittingly, the range of lecture topics went some way towards reflecting Professor Woodman's contributions to our understandings of prehistory both within and beyond the Mesolithic period.

The first lecture, entitled 'Dwelling sites, logistics and social groups: on the structural relations in the wake of boats in the Scandinavian Early Holocene', was delivered by Hein Bjerck of the Museum of Natural History and Archaeology, NTNU, Trondheim, Norway. Hein's focus in this lecture was the early Holocene of the fiord seascapes of coastal Scandinavia. The lecture explored the role of boat technologies in the creation of sites in these areas arguing that the boat, as a site itself, had a central structuring role in society, acting as the focus for the movement of materials and the social unit. The archaeological evidence presented was illuminated with ethnographic parallels from the Yamana people of Tierra Del Fuego. The second lecture of the day, 'Moving in and getting settled: the post-glacial colonisation of Scotland', was presented by Caroline Wickham-Jones of the Department of Archaeology, University of Aberdeen. While acknowledging the great strides made in understanding the Scottish Mesolithic in recent decades, Caroline focused on some of the challenges facing the development of further knowledge of the period. Key challenges highlighted were the need to figure out the late glacial archaeology of Scotland, to integrate archaeological and geomorphological information and to better understand Scotland's place with the context of Doggerland.

After coffee, Roger Jacobi of the British Museum and the Ancient Human Occupation of Britain Project presented his paper, entitled 'England and Wales: the lateglacial return of humans and animals'. Roger's focus was the presentation and contextualisation of data arising from the re-dating of faunal material from a number of lateglacial sites in England and Wales such as Gough's Cave, King Arthur's Cave and Creswell Crags. This work has created tightly modelled date ranges for the occupation of these sites in the lateglacial period and provides an important baseline for future work.

After lunch, Rick Schulting of the Department of Archaeology, University of Oxford, delivered his lecture, 'A local place for local people: stable isotope evidence for regionality in the Mesolithic of Atlantic Europe'. This paper explored the stable isotope values of human remains from a number of countries in Atlantic Europe attempting to create Mesolithic regionalities beyond the broad scale of those normally identified through material culture studies. The results of this isotope work, whilst suggesting exciting avenues for future research, also demonstrate some key challenges in how best to integrate diverse data sets for the Mesolithic period. Next, Alison Sheridan of the National Museums of Scotland presented her paper, entitled 'La vache qui ne rit pas: Irish Neolithic beginnings and the Ferriter's Cove conundrum'. Alison examined the Ferriter's Cove Late Mesolithic faunal remains

2623_PAST 62_EnlargedPic:PAST 55 9/7/09 13:37 Page 12

within the context of the Neolithisation of Ireland and Britain. She argued for a Breton source for this Neolithisation and demonstrated some of the key dating issues with regard to the Ferriter's Cove faunal material. The final paper of the day before the Europa lecture, delivered by Doug Price of UW-Madison and the University of Aberdeen, was entitled 'The Mesolithic-Neolithic transition seen from southern Scandinavia'. Doug examined the transition to agriculture in this key area with a crucial focus on dating issues. The presentation finished with a selection of photos looking at Peter Woodman's life in archaeology and beyond, including his first excavation, and proved a fantastic end to the invited lectures portion of the day.

The Europa Day incorporated the Society's AGM, during which Harry Fokkens (left) received the Bagueley award for 2008 from the President for his co-authored paper with Yvonne Achtercamp and Maikel Kuijpers, **Bracers or Bracelets? About the Functionality and Meaning of Bell Beaker Wrist-guards**

Professor Woodman's Europa lecture, entitled 'The pleasure of finding things out: living with the Irish Mesolithic for fifty years', examined a number of aspects of the Irish Mesolithic, from the development of Irish Mesolithic studies to the current state of knowledge and future challenges. The lecture provided a timely reminder of the diverse range of archaeological data there are to investigate the Mesolithic period. Essentially the lecture, and indeed the Europa conference as a whole, provided an excellent snapshot of much that has been achieved in Mesolithic studies in recent decades and indeed of the challenges and possibilities in moving understandings forward.

Emmett O'Keeffe, Ad Astra Research Scholar, School of Archaeology, University College Dublin

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 2009 are as follows: £35 ordinary members; £25 retired with *PPS*; £17.50 student members; £12.50 retired without *PPS*; and £50 for institutional members. Joint membership for any of the above (not including institutional membership) is £5.

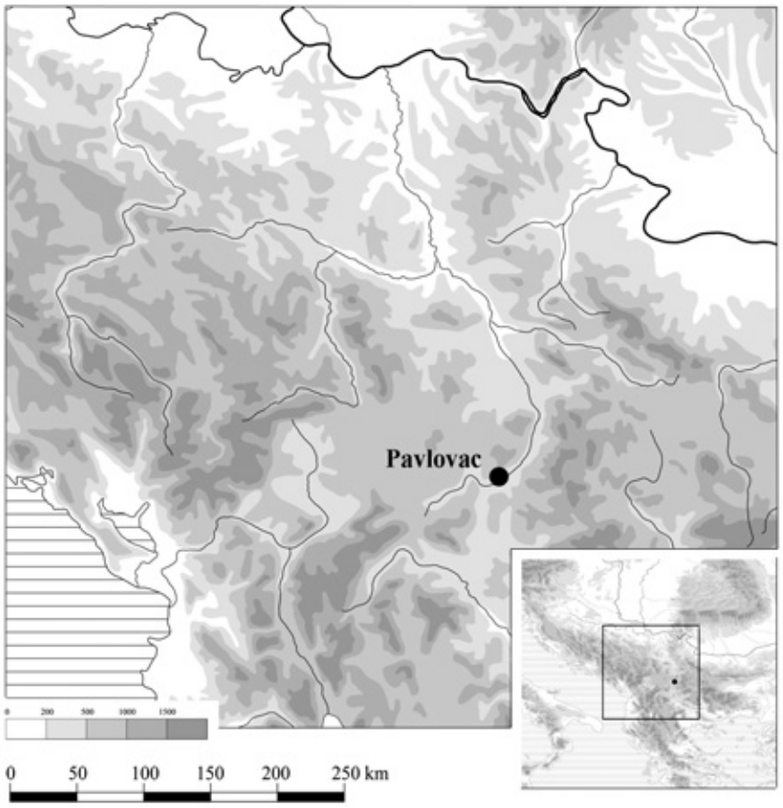
If you are in any doubt about the status of your subscription, please contact our administrator Tessa Machling at the address below, or by email at prehistoric@ucl.ac.uk. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Prehistoric Society' and sent to: The Prehistoric Society, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34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

TWO REALISTIC NEOLITHIC PORTRAITS FROM THE CENTRAL BALKANS

In the Late Neolithic, the Vinča culture encompassed a vast area from south Hungary up to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, including Serbia. The Vinča culture is renowned for its finely glazed pottery and anthropomorphic figurines of a very unusual and unnatural appearance. Most of the figurines have a bird-face or sketchily modelled head with simplified features. Some of them, however, are very realistic with precisely modelled facial details. These figurines are found in the southern part of the Vinča region, namely in Kosovo and particularly within the southern part of the Južna Morava basin. In most cases, only the heads of the figurines are preserved and that is the reason why the accepted typology and chronology for Neolithic figurines is based only on figurine head finds. These figurines are among the earliest realistic terracotta portraits in Europe.

Of the many figurine heads from this area, the portraits from the Gumnište site in Pavlovac, presented in this article, were chosen because they portray realistic human features and emotions. Pavlovac is a small village on the bank of the South Morava river, 8km south of Vranje, in southeastern Serbia. The site is well known as a multilayer Neolithic settlement containing material from the Middle Neolithic to the beginning of the Early

2623_PAST 62_EnlargedPic:PAST 55 9/7/09 13:37 Page 13



made by A. Bulatovic and M. Milinkovic

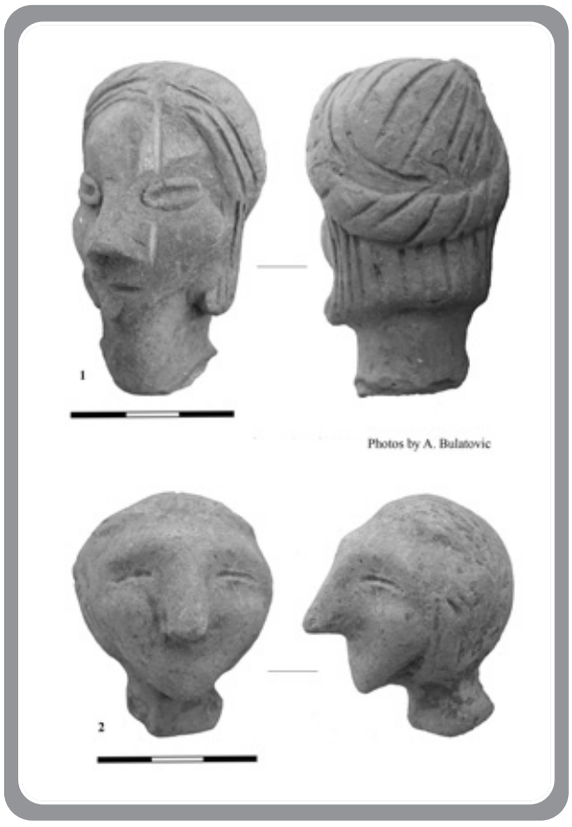
Map. 1

Aeneolithic. The figurines are in the private collection of Dragoljub Janković, owner of the estate where the site is located, who found the heads on the surface of the site while cultivating the soil. The first head is made of sand-tempered clay. It is elongated in form and has a pointed chin. Both cheeks and cheekbones are accentuated and the nose, with its pointed end, is proportionally formed with regard to the head. The eyes are slanted with coffee-bean shaped eyelids. The right side of the mouth is slightly damaged. The page-like hairstyle is modelled with horizontally incised lines above the forehead and vertically incised lines on the temples. There is a moulded band ornamented with oblique incised lines around the forehead. This may represent a long plait. The head is made of baked clay of a grey-brown colour with a polished surface. The height of the head is 6.1cm and its width is 3.2cm.

The second anthropomorphic figurine head is also made of sand-tempered clay. The head is globular in shape with a thin neck of circular cross-section. The nose is enlarged and has a pointed end. The cheekbones are accentuated. The mouth is not shown and the eyes are represented by two narrow crescent-shaped lines which give the face a smiling expression. The chin is pointed and conspicuous like the famous 'masked' figurine heads from Vinča. The page-like hairstyle is modelled with incised lines. There is a parting of the hair in the middle of the head and a moulded band ornamented by oblique lines above the forehead, the ends of which disappear on the temples. The head is a reddish-brown colour with a semi-polished surface. The head is 4.4cm high and 3.4cm wide.

Judging from similar figurines from contemporary sites in neighbouring areas, those two figurines belong to the youngest layer of the Gumnište site. The figurines illustrate the climax of the artistic skills of the Vinča epoch in southeastern Serbia. This was a period of prosperity and developed socio-economic life and was also the time when the settlement in Pavlovac was at its largest. Many scholars in the region assign this period to the Gradac phase of the Vinča culture and date it to the middle of the fifth millennium BC. According to copper finds from sites of the period in east and south Serbia (such as Belovode near Petrovac and Pločnik near Niš), one can assume that the population that lived in the settlement in Pavlovac also used copper tools.

2623_PAST 62_EnlargedPic:PAST 55 9/7/09 13:37 Page 14



At the end of the Gradac phase, new settlers entered the region probably under pressure from foreign populations coming from the north. That population brought along pottery of a completely different stylistic and typological character as well as anthropomorphic figurines of an unnatural and stylized appearance. This period announced the end of the Neolithic era and the beginning of the Aeneolithic age in the central Balkans.

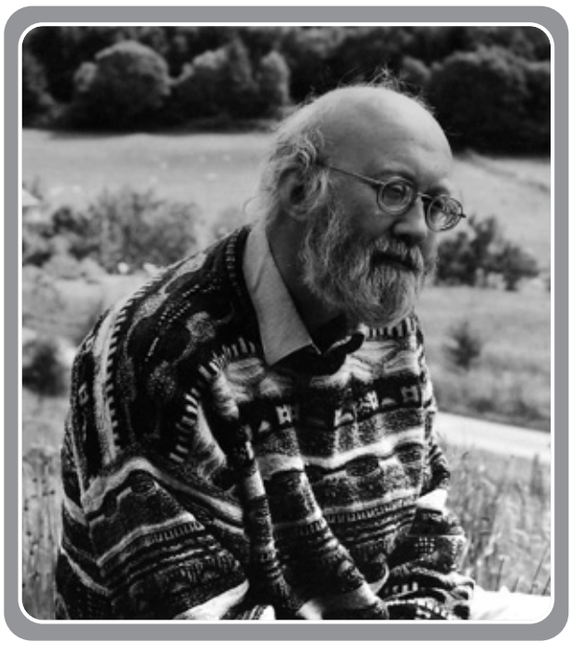
Dr Aleksandar Bulatovič, Junior Researcher, Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia; email aleksandarbulatovic@neobee.net

IAN ALEXANDER GEORGE SHEPHERD 1951–2009

Members of the Society will be greatly saddened to hear of the death on 15 May of Ian Shepherd, doyen of local authority archaeologists in Scotland, unrivalled authority on the archaeology and architecture of northeast Scotland and internationally respected Bronze Age specialist.

Born in Forres in Moray, Ian attended school in Edinburgh before going on to Edinburgh University where he initially read Scottish history before changing tack to study prehistoric archaeology under Professor Stuart Piggott. His 1973 MA dissertation on the V-perforated buttons of Britain and Ireland showed him to be an exceptionally talented student, and marked the beginning of a lifelong interest in Bronze Age archaeology; an updated version of that ground-breaking dissertation will soon be published in the Society's *Proceedings*.

Shortly after graduating, in 1975, Ian was appointed as Archaeologist for the newly-formed Grampian Regional Council - the first such post-holder in Scotland. There, virtually from scratch, he effectively and enthusiastically set about the development of all the components of a local authority archaeological service for northeast Scotland. He was eventually Principal Archaeologist, managing a small team of archaeologists located within Aberdeenshire Council but also overseeing cultural heritage matters for the neighbouring local authority areas of Angus and Moray.



Photpgraph courtesy of Lekky Shepherd

His important work inside the planning system and the Council was complemented by numerous other activities - by programmes of aerial survey, by extra-mural and other lecturing, by fieldwork and excavation (principally at the technically challenging site of Sculptor's Cave, Covesea, on the Moray coast) and by the production of a huge range of literature ranging from leaflets and guide-books to specialist studies (particularly on Beakers and Bronze Age jet artefacts). Two of his regional surveys have been republished: *Aberdeen and North-East Scotland* (1996) and *Aberdeenshire: Donside and Strathbogie* (2006). Both are quiet triumphs, like the unshowy buildings he so admired as an architectural historian.

Many archaeologists benefited from the support and advice he was able to bring to their projects in the region, notably Professor Richard Bradley in the

2623_PAST 62_EnlargedPic:PAST 55 9/7/09 13:37 Page 15

course of his recent work on recumbent stone circles and at Broomend of Crichie henge. Ian also contributed tirelessly and significantly to a diverse series of cultural heritage initiatives in the northeast, ranging from Archaeolink Prehistory Park to the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses.

He believed passionately in the importance of Scotland's archaeology, playing a central role in leaving it in a much healthier state than in the 1970s. He was instrumental in developing networks for local authority archaeologists, and was first chair (to 1993) of the Association of Regional and Islands Archaeologists, now ALGAO Scotland.

Ian also had a long and distinguished history of involvement with the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, in particular serving as Chair of its North-East Section during the 1980s, as Editor of its Proceedings from 1983-90, and as a Vice-President from 1995 to 1998. From 1999 until only a few months before his death, he was Convenor of its Research Committee. In this capacity he was co-organiser and subsequently co-editor of the proceedings of the highly successful international conference *Scotland in Ancient Europe*, a major review of the country's Neolithic and Earlier Bronze Age record which explored Scotland's place in a wider continental context.

That awareness of Scotland's place in a European setting was reinforced by Ian's enthusiastic membership of the Bronze Age Studies Group, and he acted as its Secretary for many years. Through the contacts and friendships forged through the medium of the group, Ian was able to promote the prehistoric archaeology of Scotland to an international audience and conversely was able to apply the insights gained from its annual meetings to his own research - for example, a memorable visit to the archaeologically rich cave system at Han in the Belgian Ardennes did much to inform his interpretation of the Sculptor's Cave.

Apart from four seasons of excavation on the Beaker settlement at Rosinish in the Outer Hebrides, Ian spent his entire professional life in the northeast of Scotland. In a very real sense, then, the places that are his monuments are blended into this heartland of Scotland, whose field archaeology, historic buildings and landscapes he knew intimately and to which he was devoted. His knowledge of the prehistory, history and personalities of the region was encyclopaedic, but this was a knowledge lightly borne and readily shared. In sum, Ian's loss, at the age of only 58, is a great blow to Scotland's archaeology and architectural history - and far beyond its borders, to the many friends and colleagues across Europe who enjoyed his friendship, good humour and good sense.

He is survived by his mother, his wife Lekky, and their daughters Bryony and Sunniva.

Trevor Cowie and Ian Ralston

CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE CARWYNNEN QUOIT, CAMBORNE, CORNWALL

A Cornish charity, the Sustainable Trust, has recently acquired 5 acres of farmland on the edge of Camborne with the help of Heritage Lottery funding. On this land sits the collapsed remains of Carwynnen Quoit. Carwynnen is one of Cornwall's lesser known Neolithic monuments, belonging to a distinctive regional tradition of impressive portal dolmens in southwestern Britain - the oldest upstanding archaeology in the region. The largest Cornish concentration lies high on moorland in West Penwith and includes sites such as Zennor Quoit, Chun Quoit and Mulfra Quoit.

Caerywnnen Quoit, Camborne, erect in the mid 1930s (© Croft Andrew archive, English Heritage)

Known also the Giant's Grave as well as the Devil's Frying Pan, Carwynnen has an interesting history. It was first noted by the Welsh antiquarian Edward Lhuyd on his travels in Cornwall around 1700. Early sketch plans of the site were later penned by the Cornish antiquarian William Borlase in 1769 and these showed a massive capstone supported by three major uprights which formed an open chamber, very similar to Lanyon Quoit in Madron. At that time, the monument stood in rough ground. The quoit or cromlech is recorded as having collapsed around 1840 and was then re-erected by the wife of landowner Edward Pendarves who converted the surrounding landscape into parkland leaving the monument standing in open ground within the Pendarves estate. The site is said to have collapsed again during the mid 1960s - felled by a local earth tremor! It has since lain as a pile of large stones in a field. The site lies at the head of a secluded valley today surrounded by bluebell woods.

2623_PAST 62_EnlargedPic:PAST 55 9/7/09 13:37 Page 16

Close by is the majestic Copper Hill with large interesting boulders strewn across its lower slopes overlooked by the remains of a prehistoric settlement (including roundhouses and fields) which now lies in an overgrown croft on the upper slopes of the hill. There are a number of old quarries in the immediate area, and these may have provided a possible source for the stones. Within the woods, a standing stone has recently been identified.

The sorry state of Caerwynnen Quoit today (© Ann Preston-Jones)

Measured plans and elevations of Carywnnen Quoit were undertaken by W. C. Lukis and W. C. Borlase (a relative of the William Borlase who recorded the site in 1769) when they visited the site in August 1879, and a number of photographs were taken in the early decades of the twentieth century by amateur and professional photographers, including the Gibson brothers of Penzance. Alongside detailed and anecdotal descriptions made by other observers in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, these will be invaluable sources of information to help inform the Sustainable Trust's plan to re-erect the stones.

The Sustainable Trust is currently fund-raising so that their long-term plans for the re-erection of the monument and the creation of an open recreation and education space can be realised. Their plans include a full archaeological study including geophysical surveys and excavation as well as an oral history project collating more recent local memories and stories. This multi-stranded project will be the first full scientific study of a Neolithic funerary monument in the county and promises to have great potential for increasing our understanding of these very ancient sites as well as posing some interesting creative challenges. The project will be a partnership of the Sustainable Trust with English Heritage, the Cornwall Archaeological Society, the Cornwall Heritage Trust, Historic Environment, Cornwall Council and other local interest groups.
For more information on the project contact www.sustrust.co.uk.

Jacky Nowakowski, Ann Preston-Jones, Pip Richards
Historic Environment, English Heritage, the Sustainable Trust, Cornwall

NEW MONOGRAPH SERIES LAUNCHED: *THE PREHISTORIC SOCIETY RESEARCH PAPERS*

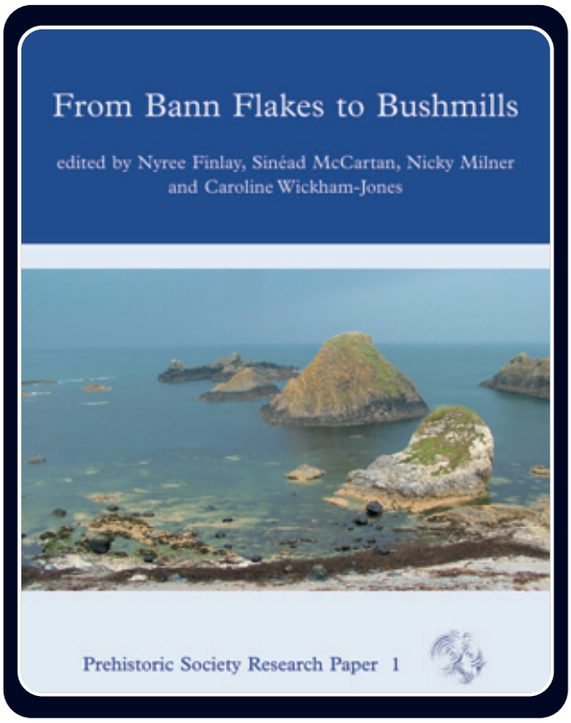
As reported previously, the Society has been working on designing, developing and launching a new peer-reviewed monograph series to complement its respected *Proceedings*. The Research Papers will contain collections of papers on major themes, reports on key landscapes and new examinations of important aspects of prehistory. They will present the fruits of the best of prehistoric research, complementing the *Proceedings* by allowing broader treatment of key research areas. They will be peer-reviewed and indexed to maintain the high academic standards of the Society.

After three years of research and development by the Series Editors, Mike Allen and David McOmish, the series was launched on 30 May 2009 at the Society's Europa day conference, when the first book, a festshrift, was presented to Peter Woodman. It will be followed by two more this year (currently in press) and one next year. Cost has been carefully considered, and through subvention from the Society and in collaboration with our publishing partner, Oxbow Books, the first three volumes are published with a cover price of £35, and offered to Society members at a 25% discount.

The series
From Bann Flakes to Bushmills: papers in honour of Professor Peter Woodman
Research Paper 1; edited by Nyree Finlay, Sinéad McCartan, Nicky Milner & Caroline Wickham-Jones
Price £35 (25% discount to Prehistoric Society members)
224 pages, 94 b/w illustrations, 19 tables

This festschrift in celebration of Peter Woodman's contribution to archaeology contains a series of 21 significant papers largely, but not exclusively, on Mesolithic studies in Ireland, Britain and northwest Europe. These reflect the range and breadth of Peter's own interests and the international esteem in which his work is held. Part 1 presents papers which deal with antiquarians and the material they collected. Part 2 is concerned with fieldwork projects, predominantly focusing on the Mesolithic period. Part 3 presents papers on the theme of people and animals, particularly the topic of the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition from different angles.

2623_PAST 62_EnlargedPic:PAST 55 9/7/09 13:37 Page 17



In press
Land and People: papers in memory of John G. Evans
Research Paper 2; edited by Michael J. Allen, Niall Sharples & Terry O'Connor
Price £35 (25% discount to Prehistoric Society members) - pre-publication offer to end of June £25; publication 3-5 September 2009
240 pages, 99 b/w illustrations, 13 tables

Materialitas: working stone, carving identity
Research Paper 3; edited by Blaze O'Connor, Gabriel Cooney & John Chapman
Price £35 (25% discount to Prehistoric Society members) – pre-publication offer to end of June £25; publication Nov 2009
208 pages, 93 b/w illustrations, 8 pages of colour illustrations

Forthcoming title
The British Chalcolithic: people, place and polity in the later third millennium BC
Research Paper 4; edited by Michael J. Allen, Julie Gardiner, Alison Sheridan & David McOmish
Due 2010

Bann Flakes can be ordered with the form in this edition of *PAST*. Other volumes can be ordered using downloadable forms on our website (www.prehistoricsociety.org) or via Oxbow Books (www.oxbowbooks.com).

Mike Allen, Series Editor

THE PREHISTORIC SOCIETY STUDENT STUDY TOUR TO NORTH WALES, 24-26 APRIL 2009

The first Prehistoric Society student study tour to North Wales took place this April and offered participants a chance to visit an area of rich archaeological interest and to meet like-minded students.

Our first day took in sites on the island of Anglesey, including a number of impressive chambered tombs. These included the site at Barclodiad y Gawres, meaning 'the giantess's apronful'. This is the largest Neolithic tomb in Wales and its mound covers a cruciform-shaped inner burial chamber. The entrance to the tomb was via a long, narrow, stone-lined passage which led to a central ceremonial area opening onto three separate burial chambers, all originally covered by large capstones. Five stones within the interior of the tomb are decorated with incised zigzags, lozenges, chevrons and spirals. Upon excavation, two cremated male burials were found in one chamber and within the central area there was evidence of a fire used to cook what seems to have been a stew consisting of wrasse, eel, frog, toad, grass-snake, mouse, shrew and hare.

Later that day, we visited Bryn Celli Ddu, where two phases of ceremonial activity have been identified. The first involved the construction of a henge with ditch and stone circle dating to around 3000 BC; the second was the building of a chambered tomb approached by a passage and covered by a mound. The entrance to the tomb was flanked by large portal stones and the chamber comprised upright stone slabs which supported two giant capstones. Unusually, a single rounded pillar is located inside the chamber itself. The mound covering the tomb was edged with 14 kerbstones set within the ditch of the earlier henge. The forecourt around the entrance seems to have provided a focus for ritual. It was excavated in 1928 and produced quartz pebbles and hearths as well as an ox burial.

The following day, we visited sites in Merioneth. At Dyffryn Ardudwy, we met with our wonderfully enthusiastic guide for the day, Frances Lynch. Dyffryn Ardudwy is a Neolithic chambered tomb comprising a multi-phased cairn that originally covered two portal dolmens (one of which Bob Bewley had great fun climbing in and out of!). Like many of the other chambered tombs we visited, its positioning on the slope of a hill gave it fantastic views over the landscape. Interestingly, however, the entrances faced upslope in the opposite direction.