



# Amplifying the Voices of Student and Early Career Archaeologists

## Conference

## Abstract Booklet

**24th July 2024**  
**3pm - 8pm**





## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The event will run from 3-8pm on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024, as per the following schedule. **Sign up to attend [here](#).**

Time Name		Title
15:00	EC-SIG Committee	Conference Introduction
<b>Session 1: Early Careers in Archaeology and Heritage</b>		
15:05	Jillian Reid	<b>Chair's Introduction</b>
15:10	Ihini Aambreen <i>et al</i>	Young Voices, New Directions: Early Career Professionals' Ideal Scenarios in Archaeology and Heritage
15:30	Tabby Gulliver-Lawrence	The Apprentice – My Experiences Within Commercial Archaeology
15:40	Holly Mephram	Bridging the Past and Present? How Heritage Consultancy Can Engage Across Disciplines and Audiences
15:50	Twishampati Mukherjee	Experimental Archaeology and My Experience Doing It as an Undergraduate Student
16:00	Speakers and Chair	<b>Panel Q&amp;A</b>
16:20	<b>Break</b>	
<b>Session 2: Gender and Identity in the Archaeological Record</b>		
16:30	Leon Cowell	<b>Chair's Introduction</b>
16:35	Kirsty Turnbull	A Womb With a (Re)View: Re-evaluating the Uterus Votive in Central Italy (4th to 1st Century BC)
16:45	Jess Hornby	Time-Slicing Cemeteries: New Method for Understanding Iron Age Identity in Britain Before Rome (400 BC – AD 43)
16:55	Cameron Barnard	How Bronze Age Cretan Burials Represent Minoan Women: An Honours Thesis

<b>17:05</b>	Jenny Carey Mikkelsen	Que(e)rying Bog Body Research: The Bog Beyond the Human
<b>17:15</b>	Jillian Reid	Leaving Her Mark: Seal Matrices and 'Objectifying' Women in Medieval Britain
<b>17:25</b>	Speakers and Chair	<b>Panel Q&amp;A</b>
<b>17:45</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>Session 3: Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities</b>		
<b>17:55</b>	George Ellison	<b>Chair's Introduction</b>
<b>18:00</b>	Conor Murtagh	Satellites on Syria: How Useful Is Satellite Imagery in Surveying Ancient Sites in Warzones?
<b>18:10</b>	Muhammad Ibrahim & Theresa Zischkin	Democratizing Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Knowledge in the Digital Age: A Study of the Free Online Courses Project by SCHG
<b>18:20</b>	Jess Ellison	"Britain's Hidden History?": Lessons in Cultural Nationalism and the Appropriation of Early Medieval Archaeology
<b>18:30</b>	Stefania Luca	Unveiling Solutions from the Past: Environmental Archaeology in Addressing Contemporary Challenges
<b>18:40</b>	Speakers and Chair	<b>Panel Q&amp;A</b>
<b>18:55</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>Session 4: Style and Motifs as Expressions of Identity and Place</b>		
<b>19:05</b>	Federica Cuccato	<b>Chair's Introduction</b>
<b>19:10</b>	Alaa Ababneh	Traditional Clothing in Jordan: Preserving Cultural Identity Through Thawbs and Dishdashahs
<b>19:20</b>	Sarah Botfield	Representations of the Tangible World on Late Neolithic Grooved Ware Ceramics
<b>19:30</b>	Lona Cobb (TBC)	Neanderthal Culture: Analysing Neanderthal Worldviews through their Imagery
<b>19:40</b>	Speakers and Chair	<b>Panel Q&amp;A</b>
<b>19:55</b>	EC-SIG Committee	<b>Conference Thanks</b>
<b>20.00</b>	<b>END</b>	



## SESSION 1: Early Careers in Archaeology and Heritage

**CHAIR: Jillian Reid**

### SESSION ABSTRACTS

15:10-15:30 (20 MINUTES) | IHINI AAMBREEN, GEORGE ELLISON, JESS ELLISON, JESS HORNBY, ANNA ROBSON | CBA YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

#### **YOUNG VOICES, NEW DIRECTIONS: EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS' IDEAL SCENARIOS IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE**

If young people ran the sector for a day, what would it look like? What are the conditions, hopes and anxieties of current early career professionals, and what active strategies do young people propose to help solve these issues? This paper will introduce the aforementioned scenario, using the hypothetical as a springboard to explore current issues within the archaeology and heritage sector, many of which are particularly felt by young professionals entering the field.

Over the past 10 years, governmental policies restricting the development of archaeology and heritage, as well as funding cuts to museum and heritage organisations, have led to many provincial and local museums facing hardships. As a result, heritage and museum organisations often rely on unpaid volunteers in exchange for their skill development, networking opportunities, and career progression. For young people, this route into the sector leaves many excluded. Within commercial archaeology, which is closely tied to the building of infrastructure across the country, a disparity is evident in the availability of archaeological work for Northern versus Southern offices. Additionally, the knock-on effect of policies like the 2021 Planning Bill on commercial archaeology has reduced the number of opportunities available for this new generation of archaeologists.

Firstly, the paper will begin by introducing theories of youth voice(s), explaining the role young people currently have in policy shaping within the sector. Many young people want change; however, we are not one homogeneous group. We have diverse lived experiences, unique skill sets, and face varied barriers to entering the sector. In a formalised framework, we will outline our three strategies for change: Accessibility, Financial Barriers and Opportunity. Using a mixture of case studies, verbatim quotes, and direct anecdotes, each strategy will be introduced with relevant examples of current issues such as university department closures, excessive conference and networking ticket prices, and a lack of disability assistance.

This paper will subsequently outline our version of an 'ideal' early careers sector, exploring ideas such as better early career networking resources, more transparency, and the creation of relationships between university departments and archaeology organisations. A desire for dramatic change within sectors is often either tokenistic or dismissed as too ambitious. However, this paper, utilising real lived experiences and evidence-backed issues, will offer direct solutions to these problems to show that change can be made one step at a time.

**KEYWORDS:** ARCHAEOLOGY SECTOR, EARLY CAREERS, YOUTH VOICE, ACCESSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, FUTURE ARCHAEOLOGY, UNIVERSITIES

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15:30-15:40 (10 MINUTES) | TABBY GULLIVER-LAWRENCE | COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST & UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY ST DAVID'S

### **THE APPRENTICE – MY EXPERIENCES WITHIN COMMERCIAL ARCHAEOLOGY.**

This pre-recorded lecture will detail my experiences so far as an apprentice completing a masters and apprenticeship at the Colchester Archaeological Trust in Essex, England. This MA and apprenticeship are one of several Historic Environment Trail Blazer pathways as created by Historic England. This specific pathway is the 'Archaeological Specialist Level 7' pathway run by the UWTSD and my current employer. Colchester Archaeological Trust is one of the UK's oldest commercial units and holds a unique and steadfast reputation within the commercial sector. It has been responsible for several significant discoveries within Roman archaeology, including the excavation of the UK's only known Roman circus, the Boudiccan Destruction Layer and the Stanway Doctor's Grave.

In my talk I aim to discuss the real-life experiences of being an apprentice in our current climate, highlighting the positives, the negatives and my future steps within the heritage sector. Drawing on personal experiences, I aim to demonstrate how effective management, clear communication and career development can be successful. Given recent developments within organisations such as CifA, the cost of living crisis and the construction industry, I hope to focus on the collaboration between my employer and myself for a successful apprenticeship.

**KEYWORDS:** APPRENTICESHIP, TRAINEE, EARLY CAREERS, JOB EXPERIENCE

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15:40-15:50 (10 MINUTES) | HOLLY MEPHAM | ROYAL HASKONINGDHV

### **BRIDGING THE PAST AND PRESENT? HOW HERITAGE CONSULTANCY CAN ENGAGE ACROSS DISCIPLINES AND AUDIENCES**

By definition, a consultant is an individual who provides expert advice on a specialist subject. This succinct definition is far from incorrect in broadly describing the work of a heritage consultant. As part of the planning process, working as part of a team of consultants from various disciplines, a heritage consultant takes on the role of assessing the risks (in Environmental Impact Assessment terms, this might be impacts and associated effects on heritage assets or, in purer heritage terms, benefit, harm and loss), and offering advice on mitigation measures for heritage and archaeology (be it known or unknown, buried, or above ground) that has the potential to be impacted (or 'changed') by a development.

Given the 'expert in the subject' impression presented by the definition of a consultant and the separate roles of specialists across disciplines adhering to topic-specific legislation, policy

and guidance for their specialism, it is easy to see how consultancy within the planning process may be viewed as a series of separate disciplines working independently within their specialisms, albeit to achieve a shared end goal. This is a view that this paper seeks to challenge.

Through an outline of my own experience starting out as a graduate heritage consultant with Royal HaskoningDHV, this talk will serve as an introduction to heritage consultancy. Through a presentation of case studies, including project examples, this talk will ultimately serve to highlight the wider role and opportunity presented to heritage consultants beyond the standard impression of consultancy. This talk will note how, through the promotion of knowledge sharing and increasing opportunity for understanding (as well as interactions across disciplines) within their work, heritage consultants can influence and support multidisciplinary specialists (as well as vice versa) – including the wider public audience ('stakeholders') of a project – to better support, champion and achieve better outcomes for heritage and archaeology, and the wider environment as a whole.

**KEYWORDS:** HERITAGE CONSULTANCY, CONSULTANCY, ENGAGEMENT, MULTIDISCIPLINARY THINKING, PLANNING PROCESS, PROJECT WORK

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15:50-16:00 (10 MINUTES) TWISHAMPATI MUKHERJEE | VISVA BHARATI UNIVERSITY, INDIA

### **EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND MY EXPERIENCE DOING IT AS AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT**

Experimental Archaeology, in theory is, as we all know, a very scientific process in the broader field of archaeology and is required in order for the interpretation process about our past to be more accurate and thorough. Overall, it is a process where either of the following two approaches are taken by an experimenter:

- 1) Simulation of a historic tactic/ practice/ technique.
- 2) Rebuilding of heritage layouts in order to get data and find out about the historic context of an archaeological site.

Simulating making a piece of pottery or making a stone tool in the modern context can go a long way in terms of interpretation of the past, but the path of such an experiment is not cost-free. An ideal setup of an archaeological experiment is where the accuracy of the natural elements is held accountable to the strongest degree and are closest to being accurate as such to the conditions and environment of the past.

This particular prerequisite can be harder in its modern context as the planet's geographical and the meteorological conditions have changed drastically over the past million years and more. The current state of the planet engages us in much warmer climatic conditions than during the lower Palaeolithic era, for instance, about 500,000 years ago.

Moreover, further requirements call for completely authentic resources from locations that may imitate characteristics of the resources at the archaeological site, for instance. Given how both soil erosion and soil deposition take place in locations over time and change the overall characteristics of the soil in terms of its mineral and elemental compositions, present-

day soil may differ from that of the resource characteristic in a found pottery, for example. This may not be a regular case or even a case that happens once in a while, but it is a possibility.

This paper and its contents are purely based on the author's experiences in studying and attempting experimental fieldwork as an undergraduate student. This will be followed by two short case studies of field works conducted by the author where a few pointers will be discussed about certain shortcomings of why there should be a few basic ground rules that should be followed, even if what is being conducted is a simple archaeological experiment.

**KEYWORDS:** EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

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## SESSION 2: Gender and Identity in the Archaeological Record

CHAIR: Leon Cowell

### SESSION ABSTRACTS

16:35-16:45 (10 MINUTES) KIRSTY TURNBULL | UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

#### **A WOMB WITH A (RE)VIEW: RE-EVALUATING THE UTERUS VOTIVE IN CENTRAL ITALY (4TH TO 1ST CENTURY BC)**

This paper presents a re-evaluation of the terracotta womb, an anatomical votive in ritual use in the Etruscan-Latial-Campanian area of Central Italy from 4th-1st century BC. Despite its extreme diversity in styling, which extends significantly beyond the anatomically representational, this object has oft been sidelined in scholarly discussion - relegated to the vague category of 'fertility object'. In this re-evaluation, I hope to bring several components of the uterus votive's stylistic and ritual identity to the forefront - specifically to push back against arguments that have been levelled towards it due to its situation within the wider anatomical votive category.

The central three theories applied towards the uterus votives, which this paper will problematise and revise, are the following. Firstly, that anatomical votives in Italy find unilateral heritage in the forms that originated in Greece, spreading through the lines of Romanization, as presented by DeCazanove (1991). Secondly, that the uterus' eccentric stylings represent a fundamental misunderstanding of gynaecological fact – and should be read as literal representations of contemporary medical knowledge in Italy. Thirdly, that these types of gendered objects are restricted to exclusively female dedicants.

This paper approaches such a re-evaluation through three main routes: addressing the style of the votive, tracking its use in a specific sanctuary, and exploring its gendered associations. First, I provide a typology of the votive's stylings. In doing so I explore how the reductive explanation of 'medical misunderstanding' obscures investigation into the possible meanings behind uteri's multivalent styles and locate the region which presents the most unique examples in Etruria. In my case study at Gravisca, a site with significant Greek presence in its surrounding emporia, and later Roman use, I display that it is only in the Etruscan period of use that these objects appear. Lastly, in my final chapter, I expand the possibilities of identities that must be considered within the demographic of votive dedicants beyond the first-person female category to which it has previously been assumed. Here, I present a crucial separation between the person to whose body the votive refers (in all cases female) and the dedicant, which may – but not must – be the same individual, a distinction not made clear in previous treatments of the votive. This move away from an essentialist definition of dedication does not deny a woman's place in such ritual but does aim to explore the fullest extent of the votive's differentiated use.



This paper therefore aims to rehabilitate the uterus votive from the fringes of the anatomical category in presenting the diverse and complex identity of a unique style of votive object that has strong – and yet under-discussed – roots in Etruscan ritual practice.

**KEYWORDS:** ANATOMICAL VOTIVES; ETRUSCAN ARCHAEOLOGY; HEALING SANCTUARIES; GENDER ARCHAEOLOGY; ETRUSCOROMAN RELIGION; PREGNANCY IN ANTIQUITY

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16:45-16:55 (10 MINUTES) JESS HORNBY | UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL AND AHRC

### **TIME-SLICING CEMETERIES: NEW METHOD FOR UNDERSTANDING IRON AGE IDENTITY IN BRITAIN BEFORE ROME (400 BC - AD 43)**

This is an exciting time for Iron Age studies. On the continent, successful applications of 'time-slicing' methods have isolated ~200-year Early Iron Age socio-political spans (Pope 2022); applied at cemetery-level in Germany, we are starting to understand cemeteries' emergence and population development temporally (Arnold 2012). In Britain, however, the five centuries-long 'Later Iron Age' has resisted segmentation, leaving interpretation to broad-period models, characteristically dominated by 'high status' burials. Resultantly, understandings of society in Iron Age Britain remain reliant on Roman textual sources, leaving public understanding little changed from the mid-twentieth century. Recent radiocarbon dating projects, however, provide new potential for grave-specific analyses of the Yorkshire cemeteries, allowing for better temporal situating within the broad Later Iron Age periodisation.

This AHRC-funded PhD project, beginning in October 2024, will develop a data-driven, contextual methodology for establishing a new understanding of Later Iron Age Britain. The 'time-slice' method, successfully applied in Dutch prehistory and Early Medieval studies (Gerritsen 2003; Lucy 1998), applies new radiocarbon results and object typologies to the Yorkshire cemetery data, to assign each equipped burial a terminus post quem, determining the earliest date an inhumation may have occurred. Plotting the spatial-temporal development of cemeteries allows for the identification of temporal burial trends, isolating evidence for changing identities, thus refining our understanding of pre-Roman Iron Age society.

A successful pilot study identified four use-phases for the Burton Fleming and Rudston cemeteries, with each showing nuanced spatial-temporal variations that reveal more complex burial rites than previously understood, influenced by critical factors such as age and sex (Hornby in prep.). Shared body positioning and brooch placement were also examined, with nuanced spatial-temporal variations and similarities visible across sites. Like Pope and Ralston (2011), this work continued to deconstruct the binary gender=sex principle and assessed the intersectionality of identities, investigating whether individual sites conformed to the wider area's traditions of women being included in high-status identities. Pope and Ralston (2011) found two distinct female identities in East Yorkshire: one associated with jewellery and another with weapons / chariots / pork – the latter strongly associated with older women, reflecting these potential age-based identities.

This doctoral project widens the cemetery dataset, focusing on ~1050 excavated burials from ten cemeteries across East Yorkshire (Burton Fleming, Rudston, Garton Station,

Kirkburn, Wetwang Slack, Wetwang Village, Cowlam, Burnby Lane, Arras, and Danes Graves). Burial-associated object data will focus on chronologically distinctive artefacts compiled via the Grave Goods database and museum catalogues. Known object typologies and radiocarbon dates will be applied to the data to produce a chronological framework for interpretation. ArcGIS mapping will facilitate data visualisation of individual and collection cemetery origins / evolutions / abandonments. The third stage of this project plots the chronologically phased burial data (age, sex/gender, burial rites), and presents the temporal, site-specific and regional trends. Crucially, this data-led approach continues to move beyond projecting modern gendered-categories onto grave goods, instead using multi-variate analyses to reconstruct specifically Iron Age identities from the data.

**KEYWORDS:** IRON AGE, IDENTITY, TYPOLOGY, CHRONOLOGY, METHOD, CEMETERY

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16:55-17:05 (10 MINUTES) CAMERON BARNARD | ACADIA UNIVERSITY, CANADA

### **HOW BRONZE AGE CRETAN BURIALS REPRESENT MINOAN WOMEN: AN HONOURS THESIS**

Scholars have been arguing for decades over whether the Minoan society was matriarchal, as certain characteristics in their iconography may indicate that women held important familial, religious, and social roles, unlike most ancient Mediterranean societies.

Furthermore, most of Minoan society was analysed through their iconography, which seemed to support the presence of a matriarchy. Over the past two decades, there has been an increase in the efforts of archaeological excavations in which burials goods, as well as skeletal remains, are considered to add to the narrative.

An important factor in analysing Minoan society is the influence of its credited “discoverer,” Sir Arthur Evans. His interpretations of the Minoans were largely accepted by contemporary scholars and still permeate modern scholarship today. It’s been argued that the concept of a Minoan matriarchy has not been critically examined since it was pioneered by Evans. Additionally, in the last two decades, there is a growing interest in trying to define the social structure of Minoan society using non-iconographic archaeological evidence. Some archaeologists have turned to funerary contexts to examine how artefact assemblages – especially those relating to occupational tasks – could be associated with skeletal remains. Through this and the estimation of a skeleton’s sex there is a way to link certain material cultures with certain genders. Therefore, it is all the more pertinent to examine the physical evidence available to us to add to our knowledge and understanding of the gender roles within Minoan society and culture, regardless of which conclusion it supports.

My thesis will be focusing on adding to this narrative by looking at Minoan burials – and more specifically, the bones and burial goods therein – to determine if there is an observable correlation between gendered items and the sex of the skeleton. This presentation will be an outline of my honours thesis, which is split into three chapters. Chapter one – and the main focus of my presentation – is an exploration of the scholarship on Minoan women and the archaeology of gender in the Bronze Age Aegean. I will also briefly cover the Minoan cemetery I will be analysing (in chapter two), and how I plan to use the data from that site in my third chapter.

**KEYWORDS:** MINOAN CRETE; BRONZE AGE ARCHAEOLOGY; MEDITERRANEAN ARCHAEOLOGY; MORTUARY ARCHAEOLOGY; BIOARCHAEOLOGY; GENDER ARCHAEOLOGY; PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY; ICONOGRAPHY

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17:05-17:15 (10 MINUTES) JENNY CAREY MIKKELSEN | LUND UNIVERSITY,  
SWEDEN

**QUE(E)RYING BOG BODY RESEARCH: THE BOG BEYOND THE HUMAN**

This current doctoral research explores the largely NW European 'phenomenon' of bog bodies, i.e. preserved human remains from the peatland bog environment – a phenomenon which has both fascinated and horrified. Bog body research has resulted in many binary classifications in the literature, as well as the designation of specific predetermined categories and narratives in its discussion and interpretation. Current research and preliminary investigations suggest that six central narratives are generally perpetuated, with the common narratives usually centring around the idea of an individual being the subject of ritual violence and/or human sacrifice. This work aims to analyse bog body research using theories and methods from a queer theory in tandem with other relevant and complementary theories such as critical feminist posthumanism, more-than-humanism and anthropo(de)centrism, to examine how these current narratives perpetuated in bog body research can be queried, challenged or possibly expanded. The work proposes the possibility of a bog body research that allows for expansion beyond restrictive black/white binaries, through enacting what this work terms 'grey-zone' thinking. In addition to exploring the physical bodies themselves and the narratives assigned to these individuals, the work aims to explore and expand on how queering bog body research could aid in grey-zone thinking in regard to the human-bog relationship through time, as well exploring what a consideration of the bog as a specific archaeological landscape through an anthropo(de)centric lens could look like. This short talk will aim to discuss the current state of the research project as it works towards these aims and objectives!

**KEYWORDS:** BOG BODIES, PEATLAND ARCHAEOLOGY, WETLAND ARCHAEOLOGY, NARRATIVES, QUEER THEORY, POSTHUMANISM, MORE-THAN-HUMANISM

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17:15-17:25 (10 MINUTES) JILLIAN REID | MUSEUM OF LONDON

**LEAVING HER MARK: SEAL MATRICES AND 'OBJECTIFYING' WOMEN IN  
MEDIÉVAL BRITAIN**

Traditionally, medieval women have been relegated to the margins, both within the pages of history and in museums, overshadowed and ignored in favour of male-dominated narratives. This bias inevitably shapes the scholarship that is produced and encourages the public's understanding of the medieval period as a time when women were voiceless, passive participants in the grand narratives of men. Within medieval archaeology, there has been a recent resurgence of interest in gender studies, heralding new gendered critiques of topics including castle spaces and mortuary rituals. At the same time, popular audiences have shown an increased appetite for the lost stories of historic women, yielding an expanding

wave of feminist literature across disciplines. This clear public demand for the illumination of medieval women is compelling, calling us to question how to harness archaeological research to satisfy it.

This paper investigates the lives of medieval women in Britain through the study of seal matrices, utilising an adapted 'object biography' methodology informed by gender studies. The research centres on the seals of Elizabeth Wodhull and Murial Jopis, sourced from the British Museum and the Portable Antiquities Scheme, respectively, to reveal insights into their identities, social roles, and economic activities. Elizabeth Wodhull's 15th-century seal, inscribed with her familial heraldry and marital affiliations, reflects her influence as a landowner and matriarch, underscoring her significant role in managing family estates and her active participation in the local economy. In contrast, Murial Jopis's 13th-century seal, suggestive of her Jewish heritage, offers a rare glimpse into the economic agency of minority women in medieval England.

These case studies illustrate the diverse experiences of women across different social strata and regions, demonstrating how seals served as tangible expressions of their identities and activities. The research highlights the potential of integrating archaeological and historical sources to construct detailed narratives about medieval women's lives. By focusing on named individuals, this study underscores the presence and contributions of women in the medieval economic and social spheres, advocating for their broader inclusion in historical narratives. The findings illustrate the potential of collections to illuminate the often-overlooked stories of medieval women, challenging the traditional relegation of women to the periphery of historical scholarship.

**KEYWORDS:** MEDIEVAL WOMEN; SEAL MATRICES; OBJECT BIOGRAPHY; GENDER STUDIES; JEWISH HISTORY; THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME; THE BRITISH MUSEUM

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## SESSION 3: Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities

**CHAIR: George Ellison**

### SESSION ABSTRACTS

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18:00-18:10 (10 MINUTES) CONOR MURTAGH | BIRKBECK, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

#### **SATELLITES ON SYRIA. HOW USEFUL IS SATELLITE IMAGERY IN SURVEYING ANCIENT SITES IN WARZONES?**

Have you ever gone on Google Earth and not known what to do on it, and so naturally you go to outside your own house? While it is always thrilling to see your road on your computer screen, you could also be doing archaeology on it!

Syria has been engulfed in a civil war since 2012, and due to this, external archaeologists have been unable to access sites and Syrian archaeologists have become displaced or forced to loot sites rather than careful excavation and documentation of the site. Due to this, archaeologists and researchers have turned to publicly available satellite imagery to find new sites and to monitor known ones, as well as other digital techniques such as using social media or 3D reconstructions.

In 2023, Cold War satellite imagery was released to the public. Using this, over 350 new Roman forts in Syria have been changing the way we thought about the frontiers of the Roman Empire. This exciting new way to find sites, rather than relying on in-person exploration or ancient sources, allows for more precision and eventually will lead to money being saved before excavations can begin. It also allows for security measures to be implemented in war zones before the sites are destroyed.

Similarly, the looting and trafficking of antiquities can also be prevented or opposed using satellite technologies. For example, the extent of looting can be seen clearly in Dura-Europos over time, with an excessive number of dig-holes showing up after Daesh took control of the region.

Whilst it does have its drawbacks, satellite imagery is an effective, and most importantly safe, way to conduct surveys into the current condition of sites in war zones, as well as discovering new ones. This short session will seek to provide an overview of the usefulness of satellite imagery in war zone archaeology, highlighting current usage as well as giving the potential drawbacks.

**KEYWORDS:** SYRIA, DURA-EUROPOS, SATELLITE IMAGING, DIGITAL ARCHAEOLOGY, LOOTING, WAR ZONES, SYRIAN CIVIL WAR, CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION

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18:10-18:20 (10 MINUTES) MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM & THERESA ZISCHKIN | SAVE CULTURAL HERITAGE GROUP (SCHG)

**DEMOCRATIZING CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE DIGITAL AGE: A STUDY OF THE FREE ONLINE COURSES PROJECT BY SCHG**

The Free Online Courses (FOC) is an academic project started by the Save Cultural Heritage Group. The project is a contemporary example of the accessible and inclusive sharing of cultural heritage and archaeological knowledge, simulating ancient public libraries and open forums. This paper outlines the project's inception, growth, and impact to present an innovative view on the representations of the past in ancient and modern times.

The FOC project was launched in 2020, in response to the challenges posed by Covid-19. It aims to provide free quality education far and wide through online means for enthusiasts in archaeology, cultural heritage, and related disciplines. It highlights the innovative method of education to provide quality knowledge through the use of digital tools free of cost at home. In addition, it provides a platform for people, regardless of their experience, for continued professional development, and provides greater confidence in sharing knowledge publicly. This reflects the knowledge dissemination in public in the ancient world, an example of modern interpretation of past educational paradigms.

The technological aspects of virtual education have been the focus of most of the previous studies. However, this paper explores the cultural and historical significance of the Free Online Courses. It highlights that this project of Free Online Courses is deeply rooted in the ancient way of sharing knowledge as a public good despite being contemporary from technological perspectives.

This paper unearths how past practices can guide innovations of the modern world. From the lens of historical continuity, modern educational initiatives can be guided by understanding the ancient principles.

**KEYWORDS:** FREE ONLINE COURSES, ARCHAEOLOGY, CULTURAL HERITAGE, DEIA EDUCATION

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18:20-18:30 (10 MINUTES) JESS ELLISON | UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

**"BRITAIN'S HIDDEN HISTORY"?: LESSONS IN CULTURAL NATIONALISM AND THE APPROPRIATION OF EARLY MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY**

This presentation will interrogate the online forum, "Britain's Hidden History", in order to assess the role that cultural nationalism plays in the articulation and adoption of pseudo-archaeological ideas. Cultural nationalism can be defined here as a strand of nationalism in which the nation is defined by a shared culture, history and language, all features that are used and developed in the early cultivation of a nation's image and ideologies. The online forum, "Britain's Hidden History" (BHH) and its associated social media channels aim to promote the 'true' history of the Britain Isles, with a primary focus on the Migration Period and historicising the legendary figure of King Arthur. The group's ideas are primarily

articulated through the appropriation and subsequent misrepresentation of archaeological sites, objects, and historical sources. The overarching belief of Britain's Hidden History is that Wales was once the cradle of civilisation, and through espousing Welsh-oriented pseudo-archaeology, and adopting an overtly culturally nationalist framework, the group aims to place Wales at the forefront of archaeological and historical research whilst simultaneously freeing the modern Welsh nation from the tyranny of British rule.

For much of the public, their understanding of their shared heritage derives from TV and film, or informal settings such as school trips to museums and castles. The information presented in these contexts is often multiple degrees removed from the original archaeological interpretation of a site and thus presents a challenge for those tasked with transmitting information, as they need to maintain a balance between exciting and engaging narratives, challenging preconceptions, and established archaeological opinion. We should therefore recognise that the communication of archaeology to the wider public will result in varying levels of understanding and will lead to misconceptions. These misconceptions result in, at best, a misinformed understanding of the archaeological significance of a site, object or event, or at worst, as this presentation will explore, pseudo-archaeological discourse, as an individual draws incorrect conclusions and seeks to fill knowledge gaps themselves. These alternative archaeologies, or pseudo-archaeological claims, are likely to be embedded in culturally nationalist frameworks, like the claims and ideas put forward in Britain's Hidden History.

This presentation will explore the factors that lead people towards championing these ideas, and the damage that this does to collective ideas of a shared and personal heritage through a number of case studies from the "Britain's Hidden History" Facebook page. It will also suggest that it is the duty of archaeologists to better articulate their findings to the general public, increase their communication to the public, and make their research more transparent and accessible, all with the goal of continuing to encourage senses of individual and community heritage, whilst also preventing pseudo-archaeological discourse to take hold as it so often does.

**KEYWORDS:** BRITAIN'S HIDDEN HISTORY, EARLY MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY, WALES, WELSH ARCHAEOLOGY, CULTURAL NATIONALISM, PSEUDO-ARCHAEOLOGY, SOCIAL MEDIA

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18:30-18:40 (10 MINUTES) STEFANIA LUCA | UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

### **UNVEILING SOLUTIONS FROM THE PAST: ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN ADDRESSING CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES**

In an era defined by formidable challenges such as food insecurity, climate change, and political instability, interdisciplinary approaches have become imperative for devising effective solutions. Despite its underrepresentation, archaeology offers a valuable tool in combating anthropogenic-driven global change. This essay explores the significance of understanding past environmental changes as a foundation for modelling the future amidst uncertainty. Focusing on land change, food procurement, and anthropogenic-driven climate change, it examines case studies from Anatolia, Scandinavia, and Antarctica to underscore the relevance of environmental archaeology. Environmental archaeology provides insights


into resilient systems and vulnerable ecosystems by investigating land use patterns, agricultural practices, and climate adaptations of past societies. Agent-based modelling and isotopic analyses shed light on the complex interactions between humans and their environment over time.

Moreover, by studying past communities' strategies for food procurement and soil management, valuable lessons emerge for addressing present-day challenges in agriculture and sustainability. The essay also delves into the role of environmental archaeology in understanding the historical context of anthropogenic-driven climate change, offering perspectives on vulnerability and adaptation across diverse communities. Through a nuanced discussion, it emphasises the importance of integrating archaeological insights into contemporary debates, not only for scientific understanding but also for cultural heritage preservation and community engagement. Ultimately, environmental archaeology serves as a bridge between the past and present, offering practical solutions and enriching our understanding of human-environment interactions in the face of global crises.

**KEYWORDS:** ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY, POLICY, CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRICULTURE, AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, LANDSCAPE HERITAGE, AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE

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## SESSION 4: Style and Motifs as Expressions of Identity and Place

**CHAIR: Federica Cuccato**

### SESSION ABSTRACTS

19:10-19:20 (10 MINUTES) ALAA ABABNEH | UNIVERSITAT AUTÒNOMA DE BARCELONA, SPAIN

#### **TRADITIONAL CLOTHING IN JORDAN: PRESERVING CULTURAL IDENTITY THROUGH THAWBS AND DISHDASHAHS**

Jordan's rich cultural heritage is reflected in its traditional clothing, which remains integral to the nation's identity. The thawb, a distinctive dress worn by Jordanian women, is a testament to the country's sartorial traditions. This garment is typically adorned with intricate embroidery, known as tatreez, featuring vibrant red, gold, and green hues. The embroidery style and motifs vary across different regions of Jordan, showcasing the diverse artistic expressions within the country.

Complementing the women's attire, Jordanian men's traditional clothing is characterised by the dishdashah, a long-sleeved, full-length robe. The dishdashah, a practical and adaptable garment, is crafted from lightweight cotton in the summer to aid in heat reflection, while heavier, insulating textiles are utilised during the cooler winter months. This garment, both practical and elegant, has endured as a symbol of Jordanian male identity, preserving the nation's sartorial legacy.

The continued use of traditional clothing in Jordan is a powerful means of preserving cultural identity and heritage. These timeless garments reflect the country's artistic and artisanal prowess and foster pride and belonging among the Jordanian people. As globalisation influences fashion trends, the steadfast adherence to traditional attire in Jordan is a testament to the enduring significance of cultural traditions in shaping national identity. Today, many designers are reviving tatreez in modern design clothes.

**KEYWORDS:** CULTURAL IDENTITY, THAWB, DISHDASHAH, TATREEZ, JORDAN

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19:20-19:30 (10 MINUTES) SARAH BOTFIELD | UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

#### **REPRESENTATIONS OF THE TANGIBLE WORLD ON LATE NEOLITHIC GROOVED WARE CERAMICS**

Grooved Ware has been the subject of much research over the past ninety years, providing valuable insights into a pottery tradition that extended over Britain and Ireland during the third millennium BC. Suggestions that Grooved Ware motifs may have their origins in the passage tomb tradition have been proposed previously, but it may also be that by linking

the motifs employed to the tangible environment of the time it will provide a new dimension of the evidence.

The study area for my doctoral thesis comprises four geographically distinct areas within Britain and Ireland, deliberately selected for their geographical, environmental and archaeological heterogeneity. This may help reduce the degree of bias in interpretation and construct a finely grained understanding of the landscape to categorise Grooved Ware decorative motifs and compare them with physical landscape features. The tangible landscape features considered include rock outcrops, trees and vegetation, rivers and springs, parietal and mobiliary art and the built landscape of the Neolithic.

My research into the motifs employed on Grooved Ware has drawn further attention to the specificity of the forms of decoration represented in Orkney and Wessex. The Orcadian Grooved Ware motifs appear redolent of the geological coastscape of Orkney, whilst those in Wessex appear to harness arboreal features found within the landscape composed of mosaic habitats. This brings to mind the stone versus wood dichotomy that has been suggested for the Durrington Walls / Stonehenge landscape, where there appears to be a direct contrast between the timber circles of Durrington Walls and the stone circles of Stonehenge (Parker Pearson and Ramilisonina 1988). The research has also identified unusual motifs occurring at specific sites in Wales and England separated by great distances and has moreover recognised an unusual skeuomorph as yet only recorded on the Grooved Ware from the Ness of Brodgar and Rinyo in Orkney.

**KEYWORDS:** NEOLITHIC. CERAMICS. DECORATIVE MOTIFS. LANDSCAPES. BRITAN AND IRELAND

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19:30-19:40 (10 MINUTES) LONA COBB | UNIVERSITY OF YORK

### **NEANDERTHAL CULTURE: ANALYZING NEANDERTHAL WORLDVIEWS THROUGH THEIR IMAGERY**

Although there has been much research into identifying Neanderthal-authored imagery in the past decade, there has been little research into understanding the culture behind it. Current archaeological research into Neanderthal imagery remains on the cognitive implications of the creation of such art and seems unwilling to delve further as has been done with Homo sapiens Upper Pleistocene art. In order for archaeologists to fully understand the Neanderthal world, it is important to change the ways in which we think about their art.

This paper aims to explore the relationship between Neanderthal imagery and their cultures. The paper reports initial results of the collation and mapping of Neanderthal imagery sites, used to facilitate an analysis of patterning in relation to imagery types, date range, and spatial distribution. The initial results are used to begin to explore the question of Neanderthal cultural choices and perhaps worldviews within the wider research of Pleistocene imagery. This is explored at the general level, considering whether aspects of a unique Neanderthal culture can be seen, but also at a more nuanced level, exploring whether differences between Neanderthal groups are evident across space and time.

Collectively, this approach allows for a continued re-evaluation of Neanderthals and their use of imagery in relation to Sapiens' imagery.

**KEYWORDS:** NEANDERTHAL ART; PLEISTOCENE IMAGERY; TEMPOROSPATIAL PATTERNING; NEANDERTHAL CULTURE; HOMO SAPIENS ART

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## Pre-Recorded Videos

These will be available to view on the CBA's [YouTube Channel](#).

SOPHIE PEARSON | BLUE WILLOW HERITAGE

### **LIVING LIFE UNDER A ROCK: AN ANALYSIS OF THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT OF ROCK-CUT DWELLINGS IN THE UK**

Humanity has been intensely involved in the exploration of caves for millennia. Utilised across the world by almost all recorded cultures, caves have become the subject of a wealth of scholarly discourse, with thematic studies of their use throughout the Palaeolithic dominating academic debates. Comparatively less research has been afforded to archaeological syntheses of rock-cut dwellings and as such, much ambiguity surrounds the ways in which these structures should be managed and protected.

With specific reference to the issues encountered in conserving rock-cut dwellings, this paper endeavours to assess the extent to which natural and anthropogenic disturbances are threatening the condition and significance of these structures. Particular attention will be afforded to Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses (Staffordshire), which will be used as a case study to illustrate the issues encountered and evaluate how they are being managed. Through critical evaluation of a wide breadth of academic research, this paper will demonstrate the significance of adopting an interdisciplinary approach. In doing so, it will highlight the complexities of studying a building type that is little valued and poorly understood.

Ultimately, this paper will conclude that the survival of rock-cut dwellings is dependent on continued research into the procedural methods required for effective conservation as well as the establishment of good codes of working practice. Through the continued study of rock-cut dwellings, this paper hopes to stimulate greater interest in their conservation, emphasising the need for future academic debate.

**KEYWORDS:** CAVE DWELLINGS, CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT, ROCK-CUT DWELLINGS

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GEORGIA SMITH | UNIVERSITY OF YORK

### **A CHILD'S VIEW OF THE PAST: EXPLORING PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY THROUGH THE LENS OF THE AVEBURY PAPERS**

In recent years, archaeology education for young people has been reduced dramatically, notably by the removal of the archaeology A-level in 2016. The reduction of opportunities to study archaeology in formal education has amplified the need for effective and engaging out-of-school resources. Achieving a balance between presenting archaeological information accurately and presenting it in an age-appropriate manner is key to inspire interest in archaeology, and it is needed now more than ever before.

Currently, the Avebury Papers project is in the process of digitising, transcribing, and publishing online the museum's archive, which contains a multitude of media including artefacts, photographs, and written documents dating mostly from the 1934-39 excavations led by Keiller. The team is a collaboration of the University of Bristol, the University of York,

the National Trust, and the Archaeology Data Service, with support from Historic England and English Heritage.

This study explored effective methods of communicating archaeological techniques to children. As part of this, a two-hour session was delivered to a Young Archaeologists' Club branch, and its success was evaluated using survey data from both the children and the group leaders. The session was themed around archaeological diaries and included two activities exploring transcription and creative writing, using resources gathered from the Alexander Keiller Museum archive at Avebury. The study concluded with several key points to consider when designing activities for Young Archaeologists' Club: focus on activities that simulate archaeological methods, consult existing resources, and make evidence clear for leaders who are not archaeologists.

Overall, this research highlights the importance of out-of-school archaeological resources for children, and the responsibility of institutions to use the information they care for to create meaningful and engaging resources. Currently, archaeology within schools is limited to when it fits the National Curriculum, and thus supporting the Young Archaeologists' Club and other extracurricular groups is vital to inspire the young archaeologists of today and to generate a lifelong interest in the field.

**KEYWORDS:** PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY, YOUTH ENGAGEMENT, CHILDREN'S ARCHAEOLOGY, YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS' CLUB, YAC

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CLAIRE EMILY COOK | WAPSI VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGY, INC.

**MOSAIC HUMANITY? AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE INFLUENCE OF NEANDERTHAL MATERIAL CULTURES ON MID-UPPER PALEOLITHIC AND UPPER PALEOLITHIC MODERN HUMAN CULTURES IN EUROPE AND SURROUNDING NARRATIVES**

During the Middle Palaeolithic and the Mid-Upper Palaeolithic transition, *H. sapiens* began expanding into Europe. However, they were not colonising uninhabited landscapes, as *H. neanderthalensis* had sparsely populated the continent for millennia without encountering our lineage of hominins. Intentionally or otherwise, the narrative that modern humans were more intelligent, more technologically advanced, and more fit overall permeates the modern conception of Neanderthals. While many factors led to the Neanderthals' extinction and replacement, lack of intelligence, ingenuity, and culture did not. This paper will be an exploratory into possible Neanderthal influences on incoming anatomically modern humans which would demonstrate cultural transmission between the two species. Due to the incredibly small number of Neanderthals inhabiting Europe as modern humans migrated into the continent, possible evidence in support of bidirectional acculturation is scant. Nevertheless, examining existing categories of cultural and technological evidence from both groups of humans in Middle through Upper Palaeolithic Europe will provide a more accurate assessment of the intraspecies dynamics of this contentious period in the human story. Grotte Mandrin Cave is a site in France which is exceedingly rare amongst documented European Mid-Upper Palaeolithic sites, as it preserved alternating layers of Neanderthal/AMH occupation from the Mid-Upper Palaeolithic transition that will be examined for possible evidence of acculturation between species. A thorough analysis including possible evidence,

theory, and likelihood will advocate for further research on the unique interspecies dynamics that resulted in sociocultural developments which helped shape the evolution of the intangible but central 'human' aspect of our species' story.

**KEYWORDS:** LATE MIDDLE PALEOLITHIC, MID-UPPER PALEOLITHIC TRANSITION, ACCULTURATION, NEANDERTHALS, AND EUROPEAN PREHISTORY

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MONA JAMADI | ISFAHAN UNIVERSITY OF ART, ISFAHAN, IRAN  
**A SCHOOL FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Cultural heritage has always been vulnerable throughout history, and there is unanimous agreement on the need for its protection. In this regard, raising people's awareness stands out as a critical element in understanding and preserving cultural heritage. Acknowledged as the most crucial audience in cultural heritage conservation knowledge, children – as integral members of society – exert significant influence on family members. Strengthening the interaction between children and cultural heritage complexes can foster a meaningful correlation between the historical and contemporary civilisation of the region.

I defended my master's thesis on the topic of recognising cultural heritage among children. After that, in 2015, I established a non-governmental institution called Maan School in Iran, which consists of a team specialised in the fields of archaeology, conservation and restoration of historical buildings and textures, child psychology, educational sciences and dramatic literature. They design activities and games utilising modern educational techniques and communication methods with children, relying on scientific theories such as William Glasser's choice theory and Howard Gardner's model of multiple intelligences.

At 'Maan School', the main focus is on designing game-based workshops that centre on collaborative and interactive activities. We have provided an opportunity for children to visit collections of cultural heritage such as archaeological sites for play and exploration; we aim to encourage them to innovate using their creativity and cognitive abilities while also forming lasting memories. Through this approach, children are prompted to seek answers to their questions, embarking on a journey to discover the correct solutions. Each step they take in this process contributes to the creation of a new, indelible image within their quality world, thereby nurturing a deeper appreciation for heritage preservation.

This hands-on, experiential learning not only fosters a sense of connection to their cultural legacy but also aids in the development of problem-solving skills and thinking. In this way, children will be eager to interact with cultural heritage and treat it respectfully.

**KEYWORDS:** PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY; CHILDREN; INTERACTIVE EDUCATION; SCIENTIFIC THEORIES OF EDUCATION; THEORIES OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

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ANNABEL COUNSELL | SHOWTOWN: THE MUSEUM OF FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT  
**THROWING IT OUT THERE: HOW TO FIND AN AUDIENCE FOR  
UNDERWATER MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGY**

Annabel Counsell is a postgraduate museum professional with a background in historical research, museum studies, and artefact analysis. Having previously studied at Oxford

Brookes University and Durham University, Annabel's key interests within the field of Museum Studies are exhibition design, audience evaluation and fostering connections between societies and their local heritage. Annabel has recently started her first job as a heritage professional at Showtown: The Museum of Fun and Entertainment, Blackpool.

This abstract introduces a thought-provoking talk that delves into the intricacies of audience evaluation within the context of a museum exhibition centred around water rituals and river archaeology. In today's rapidly evolving museum archaeology landscape, effective audience evaluation has become paramount to ensure the creation of engaging and impactful exhibitions. To resonate deeply with its wide target audience and achieve its educational goals, robust audience evaluation techniques are indispensable. This talk will explore various strategies and methodologies that museums can employ to assess visitor engagement, learning outcomes, and overall exhibition experience. By employing a mix of quantitative and qualitative approaches, such as surveys, visitor observations, and focus groups, museum professionals can gain valuable insights into visitors' perceptions, preferences, and comprehension of the exhibition's local historical content.

The exhibition 'Throwing It Out There: The Archaeology of Ritual, Rivers and Rubbish' features archaeological objects from the Bronze Age, Saxon, and Medieval periods, uncovered from County Durham rivers by metal detectorists and underwater divers. Displayed at Durham's Museum of Archaeology between June and November 2023, it provided a unique opportunity for visitors to engage with tangible artefacts and delve into the region's rich history.

Through this talk, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of audience evaluation in shaping successful museum exhibitions and a comprehension of how underwater archaeology can be used to enrich a visitors museum experience.

**KEYWORDS:** MUSEUMS, HERITAGE, ARTEFACT, ARCHAEOLOGY, UNDERWATER, RITUAL, BRONZE AGE, MEDIEVAL, SAXON, HOARDS, DIVERS, AUDIENCE EVALUATION, EXHIBITION DESIGN, PRIMARY RESEARCH, DATA COLLECTION, SOCIAL HISTORY, RIVERS AND COUNTY DURHAM.

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