**Early Career Researchers in Archaeology (Inc. networking session)**

**SESSION ORGANISERS**

Colin Forrestal, Chair of CIfA New Generation Special Interest Group and Phil Pollard, Postgraduate Research & Skills Adviser, Historic England

(With thanks to Katy Bell; Kayt Hawkins; Rebecca Enlander; Alistair Galt; Hugh Corley and Kate Geary representing CIfA New Generation, Marine Archaeology, Information Management and Finds Special Interest Groups.)

**SESSION ABSTRACT**

This session is designed to highlight early career researcher’s work in various area of archaeology (including Marine/Maritime, Finds and Heritage Management) and to look at collaborative research being undertaken by early career professionals in the academic, public, commercial and voluntary sectors. Papers may focus on specific sites, methodologies, processes, artefacts or indeed, personal career journeys.

The presentation of papers will be immediately followed by a networking session intended to be an open forum and to provoke discussion on values, benefits and legacies. During this session we will also be displaying posters from a range of early careers professionals highlighting different aspects of work.

**SESSION PROGRAMME**

14:00 – 14:05 **Welcome and Introductions**

Colin Forrestal, CIfA New Generation SIG and Phil Pollard, Historic England

14:05 – 14:20 *My research has gone to pieces! What the destruction of metalwork can tell us about Bronze Age society*

Matthew G. Knight, National Museums Scotland

14:20 – 14:35 *Curating the Tower*

Alfred Hawkins, Assistant Curator, Historic Royal Palaces

14:35 – 14:50 *The Shefton Archive: Enhancing a Collection’s History through Object Biographies*

Daisy-Alys Vaughan, University of Newcastle

14:50 – 15:05 *After Excavation: Maintaining research potential of archaeological bone*

Chloe Pearce, Birkbeck, University of London

15:05 – 15:20 *A few findings from the ‘Beyond the List’ research project, and considerations on disseminating research through the sector*

Claire Smith, University of York

15:20 – 15:30 Q&A

15:30 – 16:00 **BREAK**

16:00 – 16:15 *Deep-Sea archaeology in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Cyprus*

Achilleas Iasonos, University of Oxford

16:15 – 16:30 *Look after your denarii: the benefits of object first aid training for field staff*

Lucie Altenburg, Archaeological Conservator, MOLA

16:30 – 16:45 *Biological methods in archaeology; feature and texture-based measures for dental wear analysis*

Janani Sulakkana Gunasekara, University of Ferrara, Italy

16:45 – 17:00 *One does not simply become…a finds specialist*

Kayt Hawkins, Archaeological Archives and Finds Officer, Surrey County Archaeological Unit

17:00 - 17:30 **Networking Session and Poster Display**

**ABSTRACTS**

14:00 – 14:05 **Welcome and Introductions**

Colin Forrestal, Chair of CIfA New Generation Special Interest Group and Phil Pollard, Postgraduate Research & Skills Adviser, Historic England

14:05 – 14:20 *My research has gone to pieces! What the destruction of metalwork can tell us about Bronze Age society*

Matthew G. Knight, Curator of Prehistory, National Museums Scotland

The deliberate destruction of metalwork is a common phenomenon in the Bronze Age. Traditionally this topic has been approached to try and understand why this has been done. However, by utilising experimental archaeology and understanding how metalwork was broken and damaged, we can begin from a fresh standpoint to better understand the people who were undertaking these actions and ultimately gain insights into what destroying metalwork meant for Bronze Age society

14:20 – 14:35 *Curating the Tower*

Alfred Hawkins, Assistant Curator, Historic Royal Palaces

The paper will discuss the role of archaeological research, including excavation, in informing the maintenance, interpretation and future works at the Tower of London. It will also consider how archaeology informs the scope of Scheduled Monument Consent/Standing Clearance within the context of the Tower being a tier one Archaeological Priority Area, Scheduled Ancient Monument and World Heritage Site.

14:35 – 14:50 *The Shefton Archive: Enhancing a Collection’s History through Object Biographies*

Daisy-Alys Vaughan, University of Newcastle

Professor Brian Shefton, a leading Classical archaeologist, established an internationally significant collection of almost 1,000 Greek artefacts, now displayed in the Great North Museum and seen by 450,000 visitors a year. The collection is unique in having an intact archive, which contains over 100,000 documents detailing Shefton’s collecting and research between 1955 and 2012. This invaluable body of unpublished material provides opportunities to develop new insights into how and why the collection was established and developed. Using the figured vases in the museum collection as a case-study and applying the concept of object biography, this paper will explore the potential of the archive as a lens for interpreting artefacts and re-imagining the collection’s capacity to engage museum audiences with diverse narratives of archaeological collecting. By experimenting with museum re-display and digital object biographies, this collaborative project intends to provoke public discussion of the collection’s history and legacy.

14:50 – 15:05 *After Excavation: Maintaining research potential of archaeological bone*

Chloe Pearce, Birkbeck, University of London

Archaeological bone accounts for around 10% of the English Heritage collection. This includes both valuable worked objects and bulk finds. Most of this material is housed in archaeological stores across the country, however the most the significant objects are on display. While in storage archaeological bone undergoes continual degradation when exposed to the ambient environment. This mechanism is accelerated when bones are exhibited in low RH environments, often selected to ensure the stability of archaeological metal objects. With interest in animal remains increasing and as more sophisticated analytical techniques become available the depth of information at stake is growing. To better understand this relationship and minimise future damage research is being carried out into optimising their storage environment regarding relative humidity. This will be achieved by profiling the English Heritage exhibited collection and scrutinising the relationship between bone preservation and the storage environment using bulk finds. Various analysis methods will characterise bone on the nano-scale and in terms of mechanical properties.

15:05 – 15:20 *A few findings from the ‘Beyond the List’ research project, and considerations on disseminating research through the sector*

Claire Smith, University of York

Probing views on heritage protection lists – including the National Heritage List for England, conservation areas, local lists and Historic Environment records – has identified best practice for their use, practical steps for their improvement, and the main challenges faced by heritage professionals. This presentation shares some of the early findings from the ‘Beyond the List’ collaborative PhD, undertaken with Historic England and the University of York. To gain the most from this research, it is vital that an appropriate plan is made for the dissemination of the findings. The research has the potential to influence future strategies for the creation and use of heritage lists and to impact working practices in the heritage sector. This presentation will also consider how early career researchers can utilise collaboration with the sector to best share their research with interested audiences with the aim of gaining fruitful, meaningful impact from their projects.

15:20 – 15:30 Questions and Answers

15:35 – 16:00 **BREAK**

16:00 – 16:15 *Deep-Sea archaeology in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Cyprus*

Achilleas Iasonos, University of Oxford

It is a known fact that conducting deep-sea surveys beyond Territorial waters, for investigating Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) is in a sense, unfeasible, too expensive and rather inconvenient. Due to these constraints, maritime archaeology research has largely been focusing in more ‘convenient’ and ‘accessible’ waters such as the Territorial Seas. This is unfortunate when considering that UCH finds, in areas such as the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), or even beyond such as ‘The Area’, either remain unexplored, or are under threat by illegal salvagers and other commercial-sector companies. Regardless, though, in this study it is my intention to argue that is possible to conduct research, and hence disclose new and unpublished information regarding UCH sites in the deep-seas, by taking advantage of datasets which were already produced by the oil and gas industry. An approach which evidently has not been exploited to its full extent yet

16:15 – 16:30 *Look after your denarii: the benefits of object first aid training for field staff*

Lucie Altenburg, Archaeological Conservator, MOLA

This presentation aims to highlight the importance of communicating and collaborating with archaeologists to pack and process finds in a way that ensures their preservation until they can be treated by a conservator. This can be done by delivering training, toolbox talks directly on the site and providing continued support and advice throughout the excavation.

The first part would cover the reasons why it is important for archaeologists to be trained in identifying materials and how to pack them. Then how does MOLA promote the link between conservation and the rest of the staff, and how do we make ourselves more visible. Finally, I would like to share my experience training and collaborating with the archaeologists working at St James’ burial by Euston Station.

16:30 – 16:45 *Biological methods in archaeology; feature and texture-based measures for dental wear analysis*

Janani Sulakkana Gunasekara, University of Ferrara, Italy

This paper will discuss research in bio-archaeological methods based on the dental wear analysis of ancient Etruscan population from Spina, from a site called valle trebba in Italy, which looked at direct comparisons of feature and texture-based measures on human dental wear. Selected teeth were independently analysed in two main different methods and multivariate analysis together to find any relationship between two measures. All teeth were identified and sorted according to tooth type, side and the location, then, non-metric methods such as: occlusal attrition stages (based on diagrams of Murphy which was reprinted by Smith), Scott’s attrition scoring system for molar teeth involving a quadrant system (4 - 40), dental direction type and wear level based on Grimound were used to analyse dental wear rates. Moldings and castings were then made and created teeth textures were examined using lighting microscope with different magnifications. Finally, statistical analysis was applied to correlate feature and texture measures and identify the possibility of reconstructing dietary, behavioural habitats and pathology of ancient population.

16:45 – 17:00 *One does not simply become…a finds specialist*

Kayt Hawkins, Archaeological Archives and Finds Officer, Surrey County Archaeological Unit

How do early career professionals move from university based finds research or commercial fieldwork into more specialist areas of employment? Focusing on finds specialisms, this paper will look at defining what it means to be a finds specialist, explore different ways of working and the routes available to those wishing to develop a career in this field.

17:00 - 17:30 **Networking session and Poster Display**

The networking session will allow time for Q&A with the second tranche of speakers, and also for more informal discussion and debate on the themes of the conference and how they specifically apply to early careers. It will also provide opportunity to formally present the posters contributed by early careers researchers that will be on display.