

Archaeobotany Working Group Meeting

11 June 2011

Department of Archaeology, The University of Sheffield

Attendees: Alan Hall, Glynis Jones, Mike Charles, Jill Thompson, Alison Crowther, Mike Wallace, Dani de Carle, Angela Vitolo, Alexandra Livarda, Catherine Longford, Gill Campbell, Zoë Hazell, Wendy Carruthers, Lisa Gray, Ellen Simmons, Don O'Meara, Carrie Drew, Julia Meen, Alys Vaughan-Williams, Sharon Cook, Hayley McParland, Laura Strafford

The meeting began at 11 am.

Morning session

Dr Mike Charles delivered a presentation on archaeobotanical findings from Çatal Hoyuk, Turkey.

Wendy Carruthers and Kath Hunter introduced the Midlands Review they are conducting for English Heritage. They request copies of archaeobotanical reports from the Midlands. Resulting from their review they highlighted several issues that they noticed in relation to published archaeobotanical reports/data. One point to consider; if an archaeobotanical report is to be published as part of the archaeological report who determines what is being published? If only a summary is included in the archaeological report then the species list may be unpublished and who is it that makes the archaeobotanical summary, the archaeobotanist or archaeologist? Reports that are published in County Journals can be difficult to access. For comparability between sites, reports need to include mesh and sieve sizes, sample volumes, phasing and dating of samples. If radiocarbon dates are included the lab number needs to be included so the date can be traced.

Creation of an archaeobotanical online report depository was discussed. Majority of those present supported the idea although the technical difficulties were raised. Another concern was that archaeobotanical reports submitted would be independent of the archaeological reports. Alan Hall mentioned that bibliographic details of reports can be recorded online in the EAB, part of the ADS website. One way to avoid copyright issues would be to make the online archive password protected, although the issue remains as to which organisation would host the archive. The cost of datastorage would need to be met. An Archaeobotany Workgroup webpage is being created as part of the English Heritage website.

Catherine Longford presented on web resources for archaeobotany.

Afternoon Session

After lunch, participants examined material in a laboratory session. Dr Mike Charles presented identification criteria for different types of barley rachis.

The day concluded at 3:30pm.

Minutes compiled by Catherine Longford.

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