

- Jacquier, J. 2014. Analyse fonctionnelle des outillages lithiques et interprétations socio-économique du statut des sites tardiglaciaires du Buhot à Calleville (Eure) et de la Fosse à Villiers-Charlemagne (Mayenne). In M. Langlais, N. Naudinot & M. Peresani (eds) *Les sociétés de l'Allerød et du Dryas récent entre Atlantique et Méditerranée, Séance de la Société Préhistorique Française, (Bordeaux, 24–25 mai 2012)*. Mémoire de la société préhistorique française.
- Jacquier, J. & Naudinot, N. in press. Recycling, maintaining and anticipating: the various significance of management strategies at the end of the Pleistocene in Northwestern France. *Quaternary International*.
- Naudinot, N. 2008. Lithic weapon elements in Western France (Brittany and Pays de la Loire) during the late glacial period: a proposed chrono-cultural organization and reduction sequence. In J.-M. Pétillon, M.-H. Dias-Meirinho, P. Cattelain, M. Honegger, C. Normand & N. Valdeyron. Projectile weapon elements from the Upper Palaeolithic to the Neolithic, Proceedings of session C83, XVth UISPP World Congress, Lisbon, September 4–9, 2006. *P@lethnology* 1: 241–268.
- Naudinot, N. 2010. Dynamiques techno-économiques et de peuplement au Tardiglaciaire dans l'Ouest, Doctoral dissertation, University of Rennes 1.
- Naudinot, N. 2013. La fin du Tardiglaciaire dans le Grand-Ouest de la France. *Bulletin de la société préhistorique française* 110: 233–255.
- Naudinot, N. & Jacquier, J. 2014. Socio-economic organization of Final Paleolithic societies: new perspectives from an aggregation site in Western France. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 35: 177–189.
- Valentin, B. 1995. Les groupes humains et leurs traditions au Tardiglaciaire dans le Bassin parisien. Apports de la technologie lithique comparée, Doctoral dissertation, University of Paris 1.
- Valentin, B. 2008. *Jalons pour une paléohistoire des derniers chasseurs, (XIV-VIe millénaire avant J.-C.)*, publications de la Sorbonne, Paris.

A REPORT ON THE 'WILD THINGS 2.0: FURTHER ADVANCES IN PALAEOLITHIC AND MESOLITHIC ARCHAEOLOGY' CONFERENCE 8th–10th JANUARY 2014, DURHAM UNIVERSITY

Between January 8th and 10th, Durham University once again played host to the Where the Wild Things Are conference, this time under the title of Wild Things 2.0 and brought under the umbrella of the larger series of symposia that began with the *Unravelling the Palaeolithic* conference at CAHO (University of Southampton) in 2010. The first Wild Things conference, which took place in March 2012, was a huge success, attracting over 120 delegates from a wide variety of international institutions. Therefore, the stakes were high to keep to this standard of quality. However, the conference organisers did a fantastic job, especially the postgraduate students amongst them, as attested by the exceptionally positive feedback received from attendees.

The conference opened on the 8th with registration followed by a thought-provoking keynote talk from Professor Robin Dennell (University of Sheffield), one of three invited speakers, who posited the concept of naïve faunas and how this may have affected

hominin dispersals in the Palaeolithic (Fig. 1). Afterwards, attendees retired for the drinks reception, where local beer and (not so local) wine was served (Fig. 2). Given the large contingent of postgraduate students, this also provided an excellent arena for networking and a chance for individuals to discuss research amongst their peers in an informal environment. A second chance for such networking was provided by the conference dinner on the Thursday evening.

The conference began in earnest on the morning of the 9th, with the two remaining days delivering a total of 24 research papers and two further keynote speeches. Unfortunately, given the winter season, there were a few absences due to illness, and the organisers and delegates hope that they subsequently made full recoveries. Professor Peter Mitchell (University of Oxford), who was due to give the keynote talk at the end of the second day, was one such speaker. While he was missed, Durham's own Peter Rowley-Conwy stepped in at the last second to provide

a highly amusing but insightful talk. Drawing on parallels with the eighteenth century ‘Age of Wonder’, he outlined how archaeology has entered its own ‘Age of Wonder’, as we make discoveries beyond the imagination of previous years. Peter also took up the challenge of introducing our third keynote speaker, Professor Leendert Louwe Kooijmans (Universiteit Leiden), who presented a detailed and extremely informative account of the history of Mesolithic and Neolithic archaeology in the Netherlands.

Outside of these keynotes, speakers from a variety of UK and European institutions presented the results from exciting new research covering the great range of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology. A number of the papers aimed to cast new light on the interpretation of lithic assemblages, or bring new discoveries to light. Highlights included Stephanie Piper (Durham University), who reported on the first Mesolithic sites found on the Western Isles of Scotland, outlining the use of flint and non-flint raw materials, such as quartz, and the implications this has for understanding how raw material use informs us of Mesolithic adaptations to coastal environments on the Atlantic seaboard. Katie Davenport-Mackey (University of Leicester) spoke to advocate turning from cave

site assemblages to small, discrete lithic scatters so that temporal developments within the stone tool cultures of the British Upper Palaeolithic can be better understood.

Others looked to reinterpret older assemblages, with both Lucie Bolton (CAHO, University of Southampton) and Samuel Benghiat (Independent) discussing prepared core technology. Benghiat focused on Garrod’s assemblages from Tabun, using morphometric analysis to also suggest that prepared cores are well established in the Lower Palaeolithic and their use into the Middle Palaeolithic conformed to the functional needs of hafted technology, rather than indicating a stepwise change in cognition. Bolton explored its origins through the analysis of simple prepared cores from British Lower Palaeolithic sites, such as Caddington, Purfleet and Cuxton, suggesting an *in situ* development from the Acheulean indicating complex innovation processes over a single tradition. Helen Drinkall (Durham University) also looked at the site of Caddington, in addition to a suite of other assemblages from the Chilterns and Kent Downs. Using a multi-scalar, landscape approach, she used both viewshed and technotypological analysis to demonstrate how upland sites were areas of preparation and planning, where processing activities occurred,



Figure 1. Attendees prepare to hear Robin Dennell’s opening keynote address. (Image courtesy of James Walker.)



Figure 2. The drinks reception provided an excellent opportunity to network with other researchers from a wide range of institutions and fields. (Image courtesy of James Walker.)

while lowland sites are of a more *ad hoc* nature.

These themes carried into the poster session as well, which further represented the strength of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic research (Fig. 3). Spencer Carter and Paul Preston (Lithoscapes) discussed best practice in lithic analysis in respect of the British Mesolithic and the complex *chaîne opératoires* from White Gill, Westerdale, as well as the evidence for inter-site refitting and raw material acquisition. Christian Hoggard (CAHO) touched on early laminar technology, detailing its occurrence and the complex, inter-site differences that appear between Europe and Africa compared with western Asia. Finally, Josephine Mills (UCL) outlined her research at La Cotte a La Chèvre, where the lithic assemblage has been placed back into its stratigraphic sequence using archived material and contextual records.

Papers discussing lithics truly represent only the tip of the iceberg in terms of what Wild Things 2.0 had to offer, with others discussing new research into Palaeolithic mobiliary and parietal art, Mesolithic mortuary practices, experimental archaeology and Pleistocene and Early Holocene landscape use. The mixture of larger scale projects, complemented by smaller, finely focused offerings from postgraduate students, together provided a strong overview of the research currently taking place within the fields of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology. The presentation

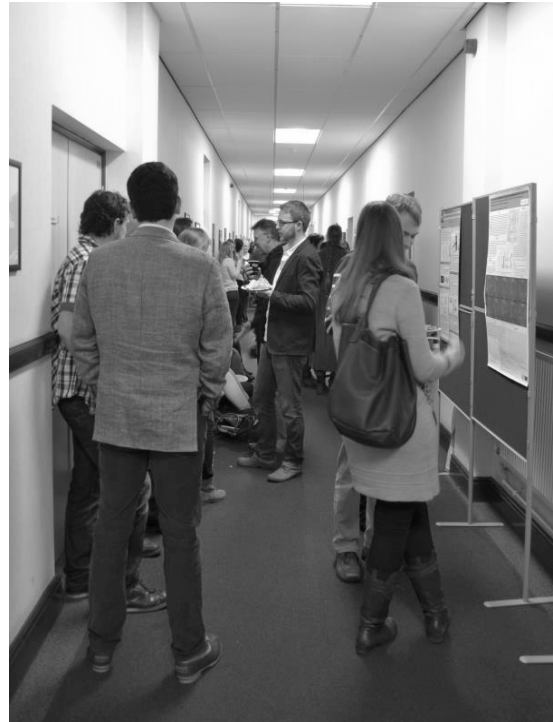


Figure 3. Conference attendees discussing the range of research found within the poster presentations. (Image courtesy of James Walker.)

of new sites and finds underscored the need for new discoveries that allows us to readdress our previous interpretations. In a similar vein, those who have taken it upon themselves to study older sites emphasised how new and innovative approaches can help us to better understand and reinterpret the data we already have to hand. Such an event always brings to the fore what a richly diverse and exciting field this is to work in and the strength of its future was keenly demonstrated, especially by those early career researchers who took part. I, for one, am certainly looking forward to seeing what further developments will be brought forth at the next iteration of this wider seminar series next year.

For those interested in further information about the research presented at Wild Things 2.0, the abstract booklet can still be downloaded from the conference website at www.wildthingsconference.com.

Frederick Foulds
Department of Archaeology
Durham University