



Barbarians Prehistory

from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age

Hilary term 2023, Fridays, 4–5pm

Lectures will be given in the Institute Lecture Room & on Teams

Week 2: 27 January. Dr Susan Greaney, University of Exeter

[Persistence in Time and Place: the Dorchester Neolithic Monument Complex](#)

A variety of major Neolithic monuments were constructed at Dorchester, Dorset, over a period of 2000 years, creating a rich ceremonial landscape. This talk will present the results of recent research into these monuments, including a major new programme of radiocarbon dating, demonstrating the new chronology for this complex of sites. The implications of this for our understanding of changes in Neolithic people's beliefs, burial practices and rituals will be explored, as well as insights into fundamental questions about the start of the Bronze Age. The wider phenomenon of monument complexes will also be explored.

Week 4: 10 February. Dr Thomas Huet, University of Oxford

[Warrior Stelae from Southwest Iberia: A Landmark of Atlantic Exchanges In The Late Bronze Age](#)

The Late Bronze Age 'Warrior Stelae' of southwestern Iberia, with more than 140 decorated stelae, constitute one of the most striking examples of European iconography. Representing human figures, swords, V-notched shields, war chariots, etc., they were inspired by the Eastern Mediterranean but they also show striking correspondences with Atlantic overseas regions, such as Scandinavian rock art. These correspondences are supported by the characterization of raw materials (copper, amber) and the distribution of similar artefacts in the Britain, Ireland, and France. The high degree of standardization of representations indicates an extension of the elites' long-distance maritime networks.

Week 5: 17 February. Dr Jonathon Tabor, Cambridge Archaeology Unit

[Cattle and Enclosures – The Middle Bronze Age of East Anglia “Beyond the Fens”](#)

The East Anglian Fens have, for many years, dominated Bronze Age studies in the east of England. However, over the last decade a growing number of important developer-funded excavations have provided new evidence for Middle Bronze Age settlement, economy and land use across the region's 'uplands', going some way to redressing this geographical bias. This talk will detail the CAU's excavation of a major Middle Bronze Age enclosure at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, before considering its wider context and the impact of this new evidence on our understanding of the Middle Bronze Age of the East Anglia.

Week 7: 03 March. Dr Nicola Arthur, University College London

[Hidden Depths: New Insights into the Archaeological Human Remains from the River Thames](#)

Hundreds of human skeletal remains, predominantly isolated crania, have been recovered from the London reaches of the River Thames over the last two centuries or so. Interpreting the presence of these remains has long posed a problem for archaeologists, and previous debates have focused on whether the majority reflect later prehistoric ritual deposition practices or the action of fluvial processes. This talk will explore how a large programme of research, which includes new radiocarbon dates, osteological analysis, and stable isotope ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{15}\text{N}$, $\delta^{34}\text{S}$) analysis, is revealing novel insights into the assemblage and its deposition.

Follow link to the Teams Meeting by clicking Lecturer's name