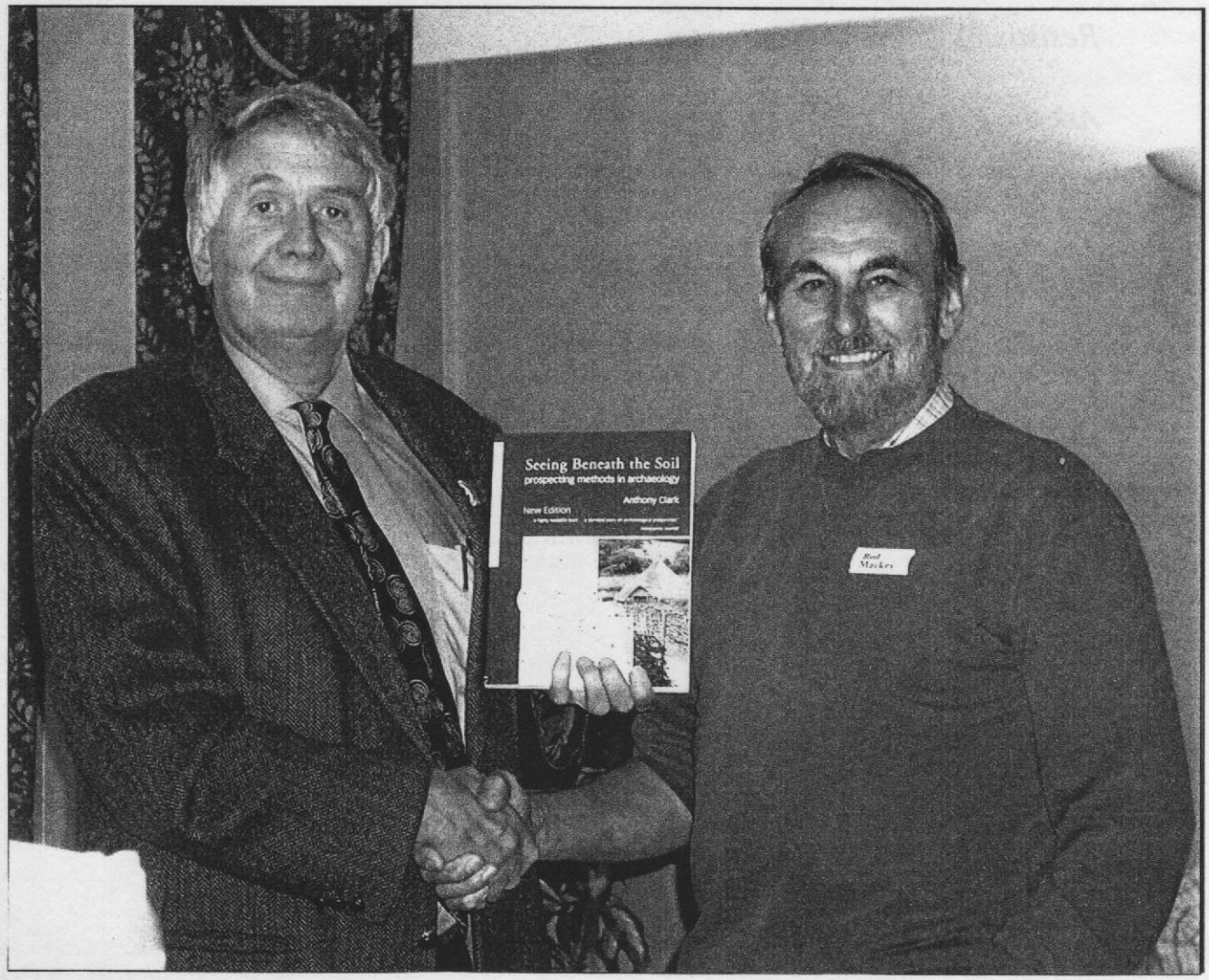
ERAS News

EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY No. 55 SEPTEMBER 2003



Rod Mackey, receiving the award for the best TR Systems resistivity meter survey from Andrew Selkirk at the Council for Independent Archaeology conference at Sheffield.

Resistivity Work • Pollen Diagrams • Orkney • Baynard Castle
Local News • Volunteer Opportunities • Quiz • Odds & Ends • Diary Dates

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ERAS Local News ....

LAPTOP COMPUTER

The grant received by ERAS from the lottery 'Awards for All' scheme has now been spent and we have a laptop computer, for use with the resistivity meter. The machine, a Compaq Nx9010 is up and running, (on Windows XP Prof) and has already increased our enthusiasm! It has a Pentium4, 2.66Ghz processor, 256MB memory, 40GB hard drive, a 15" screen and a waterproof backpack carrying case.

STORAGE - PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

Unfortunately our equipment store in the old British Gas Transport Depot on Clough Road has been broken into recently. The most valuable and useful items- over a dozen good quality, metal reinforced site planks, donated by Guildhouse Consultancy were stolen. Some wheelbarrows and several other smaller items were also taken. The items were stored at our own risk and were not included on the society's insurance as the cost would have been prohibitive. The remainder of the equipment, including site fencing, buckets, bowls, seives shelving, plastic sheeting, small tools etc has now been moved, as it is obviously at risk, and is currently stored in a member's garden, but this is not very satisfactory.

Does anyone have an empty, lockable shed or domestic size garage where we could store our stuff? It would need to be within easy reach of the Hull/Beverley area and accessible occasionally, by arrangement. Valuable items such as the site pump, level, theodolite, computer etc are with individual members, and would not be included.

This is urgent, so please help if you can. Contact Rod Mackey on 01482 866816.

NEXT LECTURE SERIES

The Autumn session always starts on the third Weds of September, with a round-up of work that has been carried out in the region during the year. Unfortunately there a few gaps in this year's programme card as lecturers seem to be getting busier and busier and are failing to confirm their titles and dates. However, there will always be an ERAS lecture on the third Wednesday of every month from September through to April. If it is not on your card and you want to know who the speaker is and what the lecture title is, please ring either Rose Nicholson on 07770 470443 or Helen Fenwick on 01482 466064

NEW PUBLICATION FROM YAS

Many ERAS members were present at the launch of the major new publication *The Archaeology of Yorkshire: an assessment at the beginning of the 21st century.* This 455 page volume, edited by Terry Manby, Stephen Moorhouse and Patrick Ottaway, and published by Yorkshire Archaeological Society arose from the Yorkshire Archaeological Resource Framework Forum (Yarff) conference at Ripon in 1998. The copiously illustrated (b/w) volume presents a period based summary of the current state of archaeology in Yorkshire, with recommendations for future research agendas. There are contributions from Phil Abramson, Peter Addyman, J.J Blackford, Paul Buckland, David Cranstone, G.D. Gaunt, Peter Halkon, Richard Hall, J.B Innes, Marcus Jecock, Alan King, Tim Laurie, Chris Loveluck, Rodney Mackey, Terry Manby, Stephen Moorehouse, Robert Van der Noort, Tony O'Connor, Patrick Ottaway, Cienwen Paynton, Dominic Powlesland, Steve Roskams, Andrew Selkirk, Blaise Vyner and Stuart Wrathmell.

Definitely worth having, the volume is available from YAS, Claremont, 23 Clarendon Rd, Leeds LS2 9NZ (£20 plus postage) or possibly, if it can be arranged, from ERAS meetings.

ROSE NICHOLSON

Our secretary, Rose Nicholson, who used to be at Hull and East Riding Museum, High St, Hull, has now been appointed as an assistant at the N. Lincolnshire Museum, in Scunthorpe. Her work will include accessions, reorganising the collections storage and dealing with the display of the archaeological collection. Congratulations to Rose on obtaining this post. She now lives at Laxton near Goole and we hope she will continue to be ERAS secretary, for some time to come.

STATERS ON DISPLAY

The 21 gold Celtic coins found near Beverley by a local metal detectorist are now on display in Hull & East Riding Museum, High St, Hull.

Kate Dennett

Field Studies - Resistivity Work

ERAS Wins CIA Survey Competition

During the recent Council for Independent Archaeology (CIA) conference at Sheffield, ERAS entered its resistivity survey work in a competition with other independent groups. Rod Mackey talked about the surveys carried out so far and showed the images in a 'Powerpoint' presentation. He included the practice session, when we used the meter alongside Jeremy Webster's survey of possible hengiform monuments near Rudson, our completed survey of the scheduled Medieval site of Hallgarth, near Beverley Minster and the ongoing, and somewhat puzzling site at Newbald, originally thought to be a henge monument. There was much speculation but no positive interpretation of this strange feature, but despite this, we were delighted to walk off with the prize for the best work! So, many thanks to all those who helped with the survey and the preparatory paperwork etc.

Other competitors were Dean Archaeological Group, with a survey in the Forest of Dean, Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Group, using geophysics as an aid to a village survey, Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society looking at several sites around Edinburgh and Tony Clifford working on a Medieval site.

Our Hallgarth survey will be published in the next standard volume of the East Riding Archaeologist, although that may be some while ahead. Meanwhile the report will be sent to English Heritage, the Humber SMR, the York Diocesan Office and the local church staff. A copy will also go to Andrew Selkirk (Current Archaeology magazine) who was very interested in the project.

Developments to the CIA Meter

Improved software has now been produced for the meters and our new laptop enables results to be seen in the field. The developer and producer of the CIA resistivity meter, Bob Randall of TR Systems was at the Sheffield conference and was able to give individual advice to any users who were experiencing difficulties with their surveys. A very useful technical session was organised on the Sunday afternoon, for meter users, when Bob Randall spoke about manipulating data and demonstrated different ways of dealing with problem sites. Bob was very skilled at putting over technical information to the non-specialist and was willing to answer questions at any level. A further dayschool might be arranged in the future if there is a demand.

The meters currently being produced have automatic logging ie. you don't have to press the log button. This makes logging slightly quicker and for a small charge ours can be returned to the maker to be similarly adapted, when Bob has the time to do it.

Current Survey- Enigmatic Feature!

Our current survey, is being carried out on the Yorkshire Wolds, on land belonging to Newbald Lodge Farm, north-east of Newbald where a crop mark showing on aerial photographs appears to indicate a henge monument. However, the feature has turned out to be something of an enigma- a giant ear shaped area of high resistivity, flanked internally and externally by narrower areas of ~~high~~ resistivity. Within this feature there appear to be numerous pits or areas of very low resistivity and overlying the whole, what might seem to be a network of narrow cracks in the chalk. These cracks(?) do not, as far as we can tell so far, extend much beyond the main feature. The east-west striations which can be seen, particularly at the left, on the image on the facing page (providing the photocopying allows them to show) are probably of glacial origin. It is interesting that they do not appear to be present around the dark circular (pit?) area to the top left. This is very noticeable on the original print out.

Various interpretations have been suggested, including- a natural geological feature, perhaps a sink hole in the chalk, which has been utilised as a cattle watering hole, a 'Banjo' enclosure with banks and ditches, a flint mining site, where the high resistance area represents an arc of spoil, a meteorite crater and a SAM missile base!!! Any more, please?

More Volunteers Needed

The work at Newbald will have finished by the time you receive this newsletter, but we will have started a new survey of a crop mark near Walkington and desperately need more voluntees. We have promised to assist Ph.D student Jeremy Webster with this sur-

Field Studies - Resistivity Work

vey of a possible henge monument which appears to have an additional feature to one side. The work is not difficult but a minimum of 4 people are needed at each session- one to operate the meter, one to hold the leads and two to move the strings and tapes in preparation for doing the next grid square. Those of you who have already booked in for a particular day will be hearing by phone, exactly where to meet up. There must be lots more of you out there who would like to get involved so please contact either Kate on 01482 445232 or Rod Mackey on 01482 866816. We will be working both week days and weekends, but any odd day you can spare will be helpful.

It is a fascinating way of helping to interpret the crop marks of the area and even if they turn out to be geological rather than archaeological, at least you are adding to the general store of knowledge. *K.Dennett*

Newbald Lodge Farm, Sancton Wold,
East Yorks. (SE 9310 3955)
ERAS Resistivity Survey - Aug/Sep 2003 (Grids 1-81)

It makes you wonder, doesn't it -
Did the Listening Bank have its origins in the Neolithic?

Ask the Expert: Pollen Diagrams

By Dr. Jane Bunting

Question

When pollen diagrams appear on screen as part of a lecture, some seem to be far more complex than others. Can you explain how to read some of the more complex ones please?

Pollen diagrams confuse a lot of people - it's a running joke at environmental archaeology conferences that they are a 'secret language' for pollen analysts only! But they are actually pretty straightforward, just very condensed. A single diagram represents the results of a day or more of fieldwork, a fortnight in the pollen preparation laboratory and about 6 months sitting at the microscope! They provide a visual summary of a large amount of data, so being able to read one is very useful. Here I explain the principles of reading the diagram, and in a later 'Ask the Expert' I will go through the basic interpretation of this diagram.

I've chosen to use the example of a summary diagram from a site in north west Scotland to describe here. Badentarbet is a small peat-filled basin mire right on the coast near the village of Achiltibuie, Coigach, which is surrounded by medieval field systems and in an area with a rich variety of prehistoric archaeology.

The first column ① is the depth column, showing depth below the surface of the mire. This core was collected from the centre of the mire, and is 680 cm long.

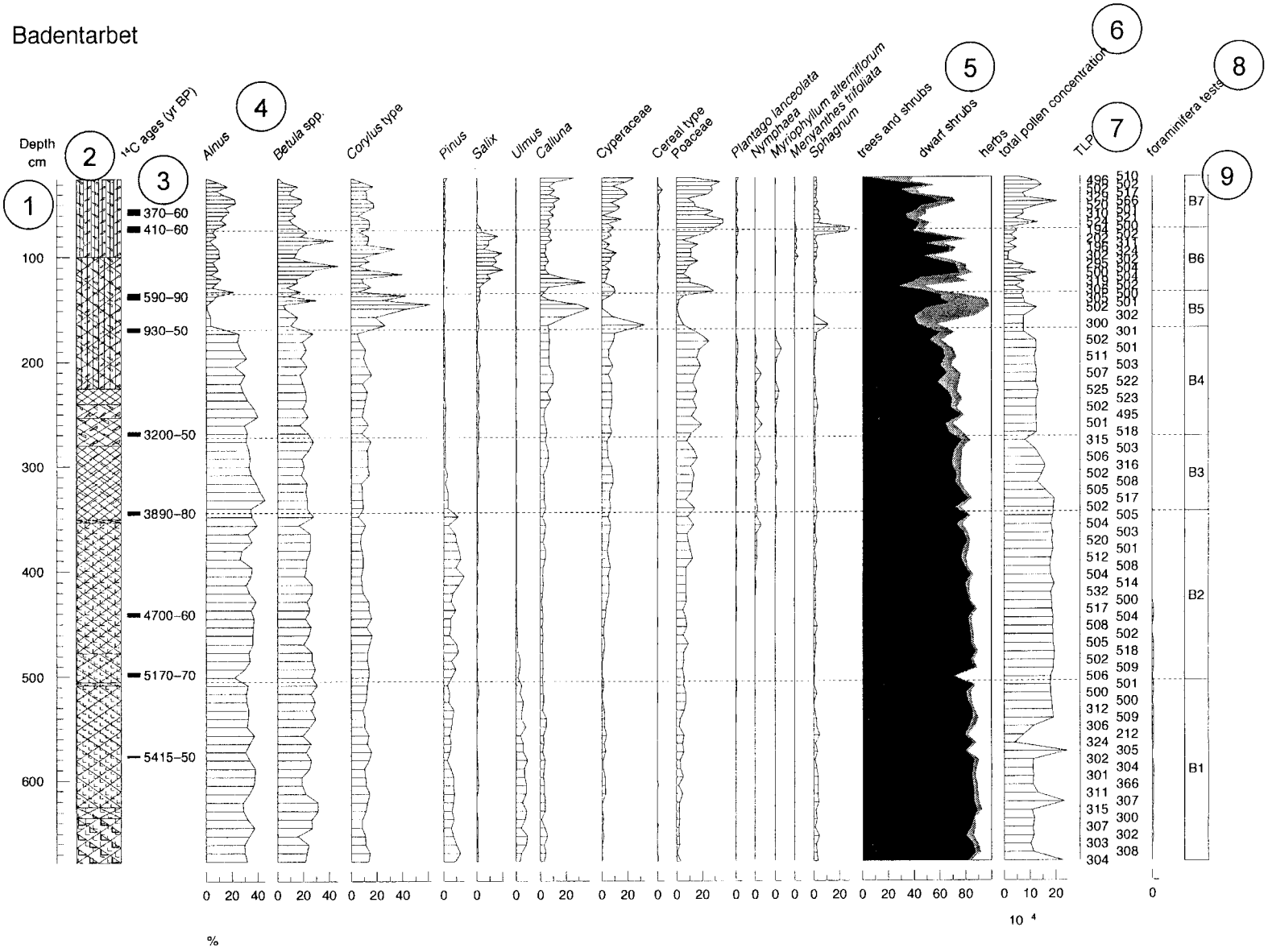
The second column ② shows the sediment stratigraphy, the composition of the different sediment layers encountered in the core. The symbols used look pretty confusing. They show the different components categorised according to the Troels-Smith system, which was developed in the 1950s to allow relatively objective, repeatable and rapid description of field sections. There isn't usually a key because anyone familiar with the system can read off the sediment description quite easily, and in a full publication this would usually be given in a table as well. 'L' symbols represent silt and clay, diamond shading represents very fine organic 'mud' (gyttja), vertical line shading represents sedge peat and the 'wedge' symbols represent different kinds of woody and herbaceous remains. This core (describing it from the bottom to the top, from the oldest sediment to the present-day) consists initially of silty clays with some fine organic content. The organic content increases, and at around 350 cm depth becomes dominant; the sediment above this point is essentially peat, with variations in composition.

The third column ③ shows radiocarbon measurements carried out on blocks of sediment cut from the core. The heading of the column indicates that these are 'raw' radiocarbon age estimates, not calibrated ages. The black block next to each value shows the thickness of the sediment slice taken from the core. A ⊗ symbol indicates an age estimate from a single point in the core. This will usually be an accelerator date on a macrofossil (e.g. piece of wood, hazelnut) or on a small lump of sediment (1-5 g), but could also represent a tephra horizon (fine volcanic ash layers from distant volcanic eruption events; UK tephras so far all have an Icelandic origin).

The next series of columns ④ present the data for the different pollen types found. As this is a summary diagram, only 15 plant taxa are presented here; the full diagram for this site has about 80 different taxa.

We use the term 'taxon' (plural 'taxa') rather than 'species' because pollen taxonomy doesn't match up perfectly with plant taxonomy. Pollen is only one small fragment of the plant, and cannot always be identified as precisely as a botanist would name the individual plant. Some taxa produce pollen that can be identified to the species level (e.g. *Plantago lanceolata* - ribwort plantain, *Menyanthes trifoliata* - bogbean). Others can only be identified to the genus (e.g. *Betula*, although we have three native birches, *B. pendula, B. pubescens and B. nana* in Britain). Some can only be identified to the family (e.g. Cyperaceae - sedges) - this can be very frustrating when it's a family with a wide ecological range!

Some groupings don't accord perfectly with the botanical taxonomy of the original plants, for example *Corylus*-type. This name shows that the reference type is the genus *Corylus* (hazel) but the plants that produce this type of pollen grain include members of other genera (in this case *Myrica gale* - sweetgale or bog myrtle). Similarly this diagram


Badentarbet
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
Depth cm
^{14}C ages (yr BP)
370–60
410–60
590–90
930–50
3200–50
3890–80
4700–60
5170–70
5415–50
Alnus
Betula spp.
Corylus type
Pinus
Salix
Ulmus
Calluna
Cyperaceae
Cereal type
Poaceae
Plantago lanceolata
Nymphaea
Myriophyllum alterniflorum
Menyanthes trifoliata
Sphagnum
trees and shrubs
dwarf shrubs
herbs
total pollen concentration
TLP
foraminifera tests
B7
B6
B5
B4
B3
B2
B1
%
10 4

shows Cereal-type, since there are a few wild grass species (e.g. *Glyceria fluitans* - floating sweet-grass) which can produce similar pollen grains. When cereal-type pollen grains are well-preserved, they can be subdivided into different genera, such as *Triticum* (wheat), *Avena* (oats), *Secale* (rye), *Hordeum* (barley) and *Zea* (maize), but this is not always possible.

The data presented for each taxon can be read from bottom to top to see how the proportion of that taxon has changed over time (e.g. looking at the first curve, *Alnus*, we can see that it remains pretty constant at 30-40% for much of the diagram, declines to almost nothing at around 930±50 BP, and then recovers to around 20%, although values continue to fluctuate). Each horizontal line represents a single sample, so reading across the curves horizontally lets you see the total assemblage at a particular point in time.

There are several ways to present these data. I prefer to show the position of each level (horizontal line) and join the ends of these lines to produce a clearer picture of the trend over time. Other people regard this as misleading and just give the horizontal bars, or colour the curves in and don't show the bars at all! Older papers contain even more variations...

Where there is very little pollen of a taxon (e.g. Cereal type) it can be hard to read that curve within a full diagram. Sometimes diagrams add dots to show when the grain is present at less than 1% of the total, or use 'exaggeration curves' which present the same data on the same axis but multiplied by 5 or 10, so that trends are clearer - these are usually shaded grey to make them clearly different from the actual percentage values.

After the data for each individual species has been presented, supplementary information is often then included at the end of the pollen diagram. On the diagram here, I have four additional pieces of data before the final box giving the zone labels ⑨.

The first of these ⑤ is a 'summary plot'. This shows the percentage composition of the base sum (see below) in terms of different 'functional types' of plants. These divisions are given at the top of the curve. In this case, I have separated trees and shrubs (black), dwarf shrubs (heathers and heaths - dark grey shading), and herbs (grasses, tormentil, weeds etc. - white). Because the diagram given here just shows the main plant taxa in area ④, the individual levels won't always add to a total of 100%. The summary plot ⑤ summarises ALL the data, and gives a quick at-a-glance view of the landscape cover trends; here you can see the landscape becoming less wooded through time as the 'trees and shrubs' fraction of the summary diagram decreases.

In column ⑦ I show the base sum for this diagram, in this case, 'TLP' or 'total land pollen'. The 'base sum' can be defined in different ways, and is a very important clue to how reliable a pollen diagram is. This figure is the total number of pollen grains originating from plants that can or must grow on dry land. This does NOT include aquatic plants (e.g. *Nymphaea*, white water-lily), moss spores (e.g. *Sphagnum* - bog-moss) or fern spores (e.g. bracken). Other common *base sums* are 'arboreal pollen' (AP) which means the sum of the pollen from trees only, or 'total land pollen and spores' (TLPS) which includes all pollen grains and spores from plants that can or must grow on dry land (i.e. only excludes aquatics and mosses). Which sum you use depends on assumptions about the behaviour of different pollen taxa, and on which aspects of the landscape are most important to your research project. The *base sum* is used as a basis for working out the percentages shown in the summary plot.⑤

The base sum should be at least 300 to have a reasonable chance of getting a reliable estimate of the actual pollen assemblage within the sediment sample, and where the sediment allows, a minimum of 500 grains is usual. When 'anthropogenic indicator species' or 'anthropochores' (plants which are particularly associated with human activity, usually as weeds) are considered important, then base sums of 1000 or more may be used to ensure that those taxa present at very low proportions of the total can be detected. Where the base sum is less than 300, the interpretation of the results should be much more general. Some pollen analysts are starting to put 'error bars' on their pollen diagrams, showing the 95% confidence limits around each count, which can also be a useful tool.

Between summary and base sum, I have presented a curve of total pollen concentration values ⑥. This

shows an estimate of the total number of pollen grains in 1 cubic centimetre of sediment - notice that at the bottom of the curve a multiplier of 10^4 is shown! The concentrations in this core are generally on the order of 100 000 grains per cubic centimetre. Peat bogs typically have values of 50 000 grains per cubic centimetre; lake sediments often have concentrations of 500 000 grains per cubic centimetre or more.

However, 'on site' archaeological contexts such as old soil surfaces preserved beneath a wall or floor, an occupation layer (e.g. threshing floor, hearth area) or cooking residues often have much lower pollen concentrations. There are various reasons for this, including less-than-ideal conditions for preserving the pollen over time, and relatively short periods of exposure to pollen deposition in the first place, so the initial assemblage will be less concentrated anyway. A grave floor is only open to airborne pollen for a few days, perhaps with a single deposition of a flowering plant, then sealed again, whereas an 'off-site' context like a peat bog surface is exposed to near-continuous pollen deposition over hundreds and thousands of years; each sample in the Badentarbet diagram represents at least 5 years of pollen deposition.

Some research exists which suggests that once the concentration drops below 3-5000 grains per cubic centimetre, the sample is very unlikely to be representative of the original assemblage which the pollen analyst wants to measure in order to reconstruct cultural activity or the local environment.

Non-pollen data can also be shown on pollen diagrams. This includes charcoal curves, loss-on-ignition data (the amount of organic material in the sediment), and non-pollen microfossils. The final curve on this summary diagram ⑧ shows the presence of single celled organisms called foraminifera. These organisms produce coiled shells, 'tests', rather like minute rams-horn snails (about 100 microns across - that means you could fit ten of them end to end in a 1mm division on a ruler), and are only present in saline or brackish water. Since the Badentarbet site is almost at sea-level today, foraminfera tests were looked for on the slides prepared for pollen analysis in order to see whether the site had ever contained brackish or salt water rather than the current fresh water ecosystem - the presence of foraminifera tests in the lowest 2-3m suggests that this was the case.

Finally, pollen diagrams are usually sub-divided into zones or 'time slices'. ⑨ shows the zone labels, and the zones are marked across the diagram by dashed lines. This makes reading and interpreting a pollen diagram a lot easier. Zones are conventionally numbered from the bottom up, so zone 1 is the oldest recorded. They are defined on the basis of the main pollen types, and group together samples with similar characteristics. This definition can be done entirely by eye, or can be helped along by various statistical methods.

Some diagrams contain sub-zones (e.g. Zones B5, B6 and B7 were initially labelled B5a, B5b and B5c as they all represented the very variable upper part of the sequence, but as more samples were added, we decided they should each be a zone in their own right). A zone should be defined on several samples; at least 4 is a good guideline. Any one sample might be incorrect, because of contamination, laboratory error or an anther or pollen-laden insect having fallen at that point when the sediment was being laid down, but if a trend is seen over several samples it is considered to be reliable enough to define a zone or sub-zone.

Although this and the previous 'Ask the Expert' are perhaps a little more detailed than we normally produce in ERAS news, we think they make good reference material. Jane Bunting will be doing two more articles in future newsletters, dealing with further interpretation of pollen diagrams.

Archaeology and Oatcakes in Orkney

Nineteen ERAS members flew to Orkney in early July for a week of intensive archaeology and eating. The archaeology was carefully planned and the eating- well that just happened! We were staying at Papdale, a schools hall of residence during the first week of the Orkney school holidays. When organising the trip, I had thought I should book at least one evening meal out at a restaurant in case the food at the hostel was somewhat institutional. However, I couldn't have been more wrong.

Breakfasts could only be described as magnificent. There was a wonderful array of specialities, such as kippers, salmon, mackerel, herring, oatcakes, white pudding and black pudding, as well as all the usual bacon, egg, mushrooms, beans etc one might expect for breakfast. Included in the price, we also had our own mini coffee/tea bar, where we could help ourselves at any time of day or night to hot drinks, Orkney fudge, fruitcake and local cheese, oaty-crunch and other scrummy treats. Evening meals were equally as good and their mocha cream log dessert- well- *heavenly* might be a good word!

So, back to the boring old archaeology. That was pretty good too. The weather was amazingly kind to us and so we were able to fulfil the fairly hectic schedule, without having to don sweaters or waterproofs. In fact it was so warm and sunny, we were able to laze about on the beaches in between visiting sites and one of our number even went snorkelling when the intensity of the archaeology became too much to bear.

I had arranged for the Orkney archaeologist, Julie Gibson to meet us at the two sites which probably needed the most explanation, Barnhouse and Minehow. Barnhouse, close to the well-known Stones of Stenness and to Maes Howe is a relatively recently excavated site which is about to be fully published. It is a late Neolithic village, close to Loch Harray and possibly associated with the building of ritual sites nearby. Architecturally, there appear to be many parallels between the buildings at Barnhouse and the major ritual monuments of Maeshowe and Stenness. However, Barnhouse is quite different from other known settlements of this period, such as Skara Brae. Fifteen buildings have been excavated at Barnhouse, but the settlement may in fact be much more extensive.

During the life of the settlement, most of the small houses had been rebuilt on several occasions on the same spot, each time orientated in a slightly different direction. Archaeologists are not quite sure why this change of orientation was made- possibly because of wear and tear on a threshhold or to give a fresh and solid base for the stone beds and cupboards or perhaps just because of superstition. The largest building on the site, house no. 2, which seemed to serve as a focal point for the other houses, was in use throughout the period of settlement and would have become the oldest building in the village. It had six regular recesses formed by corner buttresses and two very large hearths which might suggest large-scale cooking.

One of the buildings looked very similar to a small modern 'semi', with a shared entrance way and opposing rooms. It certainly gave one a sense of connection with its prehistoric occupants. Another building, tentatively named 'the meeting house', was set within a massive (1.5m thick) roughly circular enclosing wall, with a small entrance to the south-east. The building has been dated to later than the other buildings of the settlement. It had a 7m x 7m inner floor area with a large central hearth and a stone 'dresser' like structure to the rear. Around the building, but within the massive enclosure wall, was a clay platform or courtyard with a number of hearths and pits. It would seem that whatever activity took place in the central area, it was somehow separate from the surrounding area. The entrance faced north-west, the direction of the setting mid-summer sun, and had a porchway. To one side there was small guard house or kennel-like structure.

Julie Gibson said that tests on residues found in and on pottery from within some of the houses would seem to suggest the possibility that certain rooms may have been used for the preparation or consumption of dairy produce only. This could be associated with religious beliefs or could simply be a straightforward practical division. Further work on this aspect might enable archaeologists to say whether the separation of meat and dairy produce is significant or whether it is simply a coincidence. The full report is awaited with great interest.

Julie also gave us a great insight into Minehowe, where the chance to walk around the adjacent area gave us a much greater understanding of the landscape and features. Most of us ventured down the steep steps of the shaft, into the lower gallery, and some even went back for a second visit later. We also visited many of the more well-known sites, including Skara Brae, Maes Howe, Minehowe, Tomb of the Eagles, Ring of Brodgar, Broch of Gurness and the Brough of Birsay, where new work on the causeway has made access much less slippery, though also less attractive. On the island of Rousay, we did the Westness Walk, and saw the wonderfully conserved Midhowe chambered cairn, Midhowe Broch, Taversoe Tuick and lots more.

It was a super week, although it must be said that nothing in Orkney is cheap. Some of us had brought back frozen quarters of North Ronaldsay lamb, the breed which feeds only on seaweed on the seashore and has a distinctive and strong flavour. (it was actually very cheap- probably because the locals don't seem to like it). We were somewhat dismayed to be told on arrival at the airport for the return flight that our aeroplane was probably not going to be able to land due to fog. Although we could take the chance and wait, air traffic control and the airport staff did not think it was going to clear and advised that we could be stuck in Orkney for several more days. We took their advice and took advantage of BA's offer to bus us down to the ferry at St Margaret's Hope, across to John O'Groats and then on, via Inverness to Aberdeen to pick up an evening flight back to Manchester. We were given a free meal on the ferry and a plentiful packed lunch on the coach, but it was a long way to travel by bus, even though the coastal scenery was impressive.

It was all a bit hot and sweaty and I did worry, enroute, about the frozen lamb! Baggage check-in staff at Aberdeen gave me a funny look when I told them what was in the brown cardboard boxes we checked in, but by then we were so late for the flight that they waved us on regardless. The lamb must have been well packed because it was still frozen solid when I got home at about midnight. *K.Dennett*

The whole group outside Papdale Hall of Residence, in Kirkwall, Orkney, July 2003

A Brief History of Baynard Castle, Cottingham

The following article was sent in by member Rachael Whitbread, who lives in Hallgate, Cottingham, very close to the site of Baynard Castle. Rachael is currently studying for A levels and hoping to go on to University, to do a degree in History and Ancient History.

A little known private lane leads off the west end of Hallgate, in Cottingham, and twists out of sight. Few people know that, at the end of this lane is located what is probably Cottingham's oldest house and the site of a medieval castle whose foundations may date back to before the Norman Conquest. This is the site of Baynard Castle, Cottingham's best kept secret and the scene of a local historical mystery.

The actual date of the building of Baynard Castle is still unknown, but it was definitely in existence by 1170. Gamel, son of Osbert, the Anglo-Saxon Lord of Cottingham in the years prior to the Norman invasion, probably located his hall on this site, and was then succeeded by Hugh fitz Baldric who crossed the channel with William I in 1066. Fitz Baldric strengthened the fortification by constructing around it, a ditch and a mound with a palisade. Norman lords were not apt to be popular in Saxon communities, and fitz Baldric took no chances. By 1170 the hall's defensive system was well-developed; it included an outer moat, a large mound and a high wooden palisade that each added a layer of protection to the buildings at the core.

In 1200, the manor of Cottingham was owned by William de Stuteville, who on 23rd April that year, obtained a license from King John to fortify a house in Cottingham. De Stuteville, not being a man to take chances, had probably already commenced this work several years previously. The following year, as King John was travelling from Lincoln to York, he was entertained by William in the manor house. So at York, on 1st March 1201, John granted 'let it be known that we give and concede to William de Estuteville license to enclose and fortify his houses of Cottingham and Buttercrambe, forbidding that anyone disturb him upon this'. So William gained permission to fully fortify his 'house' or hall at Cottingham, although again fortifications of a sort were already in place. Even though Baynard Castle is still known by that name today, it is probable that it was in fact a fortified manor house rather than a castle. It is relevant to note that Cottingham's central street is known as Hallgate, not Castlegate.

To what extent William altered, improved or rebuilt the original Norman stronghold is not known. Recent stonework recovered from the existing mound suggests that the building contained ornately embossed stonework and possibly glass at some point during its existence. Both these pieces of evidence suggest a substantial building on this site. It is known that the defences of the castle at their maximum extent covered approximately 21 acres. The first defence was an outer ditch, 25 yards (22.86m) broad, followed by a massive rampart, again 25 yards broad at its base, and in 1813 still over 36 feet (10.97m) high. This was surmounted by a palisade or wall. Within the outer ditch and rampart was an area of almost 11 acres. Inside this was a further ditch 30 yards (27.43m) wide and 11 feet (3.35m) deep, crossed by a bridge with, no doubt, a protective tower. Behind this inner ditch, a hill, 2.5 acres in extent, rose about 18 feet (5.49m) above the water level of the ditch. The dwelling itself, according to Daniel Field in 1863 was 75 yards (68.58m) square. These figures, quoted from A H Stamp's 'Last of the Cottingham Essays', suggest a very impressive and regionally important strategic base in Cottingham throughout the Medieval period. The real mystery is, why was this fortified manor house so well protected and heavily fortified? Was it just a symbol of the owners' considerable wealth, or did it hold more strategic importance than has previously been believed?

Much of the substantial building work at the Castle was carried out on the orders of Thomas Wake, styled 'kinsman of the king, in the 1320s. This hive of activity was no doubt a result of King Edward's supposed visit to the Castle over the Christmas of 1298, when he was a guest of Joan Wake, the owner at that time. No doubt the grant to crenellate was also given in response to the Scottish invasions which had sacked Bridlington in 1315, and which in 1322 has almost reached Beverley.

Despite its apparent importance, the demise of Baynard Castle was swift. On the death of Thomas

Wake in 1349, his estate at Cottingham was described as a 'ruinous capital messuage' (dwelling) (quote taken from A H Stamp's 'Last of the Cottingham Essays'). The reasons for the Castle's sudden demise are not known. It is most likely however, that the estate in general declined in the early fourteenth century as a result of floods from the River Humber, and also from the effects of the Black Death, rife at the time, that may have claimed the life of the Castle's last resident owner, Thomas Wake.

When the Black Prince was lord of the manor of Cottingham, fish were still being obtained from the moat in 1364. It is not clear whether the fortified manor house itself was still maintained in the late fourteenth century but, after this time there is no mention in any known document of even a ruinous building on the Castle site. When the Earl of Kent died in 1408, the record of his estate in Cottingham mentioned only 'the site of the manor', and this became part of Cottingham Powis when the manor was divided among the Earl of Kent's heirs.

There is a strong element of mystery surrounding Baynard Castle, much of which remains unsolved to this day. In the first instance, the origin of the name is not known. 'Baynard' may possibly be a corruption of 'Barnard'. The estate has strong links with Barnard Castle in County Durham. In 1487 both were assigned to the same manor to defend the north against a Scottish invasion. Several sites known as 'Bayard' have existed and do exist around the country, for example in Dartmouth, Devon and along the bank of the River Thames near the Tower of London. However, no obvious links between any of these sites and Cottingham has so far been found.

Little is known about the external appearance of Baynard Castle. Although much is known of manor houses in general, of this period, no extensive survey work or excavation has ever been carried out on the Cottingham site. Who knows what lies beneath the earth of the now much-reduced hill?

Whatever glories Baynard Castle may, or may not have held or still hold, all that remains to reflect upon is a low mound and a few shallow ditches, mementos of the Castle's, and Cottingham's great heritage.

Sources;

Stamp, A.H, 1993, *Last of the Cottingham Essays*, Cottingham Local History Society.
The Saxon Chronicle, 1823 edition
Bulmer, 1892, *History and Directory of East Yorkshire*,
Hinde, Thomas (Ed) 1999, *The Doomsday Book* Coombe Books

QUICK QUIZ

In which country are the following sites?
1. Navan, Devenish Island, Mount Sandel.
2. Axum, Hadar, Lalibela.
3. Giza, Heliopolis, Memphis
4. Kaupang, Oseberg, Varjaren
5. Hen Domen, Margam, Paviland
6. Nazca, Tambo Colorado, Chan Chan

I would like to renew my ERAS membership from Jan 1st 2004
(If you joined between Sept and Dec 2003, your payment will include 2004)

Name(s).....Address

.....

I enclose a cheque payable to ERAS for £..... (£5 ***fulltime** student, £15 ordinary member, £20 family)

Send to the treasurer, Lesley Jackson, 24 St Stephens Close Willerby , E.Yorks. HU10 6DG

* Students please give institution, course and year.....

.....

Odds & Ends

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Ph.D student, Jeremy Webster who carried out a resistivity survey at Rudston last year is hoping to survey a crop mark, thought to be a henge, near Walkington. He will be working from Tues 16th September - Monday 22 September and is very keen to have volunteers to help. ERAS will be doing the same area (plus a bit extra) but we are starting slightly earlier ie Saturday 13th September. If you would like to help, (either Jeremy or ERAS) for a half or full day, please ring Kate on 01482 445232 or Rod Mackey on 01482 866816. No experience is necessary and the meter is very easy to use. We should be able to park cars within the field itself, which is easily accessible from the road.

E. YORKSHIRE COAST AND FORESHORE

With the season of high winds and storms approaching, please remember that it is always useful for members to keep an eye on the low eroding cliffs of S. Holderness. Features such as pits and ditches are often exposed as the cliffs erode away and these are usually visible fairly high up ie only about a metre below the current ground surface. If you see anything interesting, don't hesitate to tell someone about it and if in doubt just ring one of the committe members for advice.

On the Humber foreshore, over the years, many archaeological features, including weapons, human and animal burials, boats, fishtraps, trackways etc have been found by casual walkers. Although you should be aware of rising tides and deep soft mud, it is very useful for members to keep an eye on the foreshore and report back if they see anything which might be significant.

THE SEDGEFORD PROJECT

The Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project is a ongoing community based scheme, run totally by volunteers. The project, in Norfolk, is self-funding, relying on the income generated by training courses. Accommodation is provided for volunteers, of whom there are many. Sedgeford has been described as something of a huge family of archaeologists! If you are interested, see Current Archaeoloogy No. 171 or visit the site at www.sharp.org.uk

NEW AGE ROCK ART!

It turns out, rather sadly, that a large piece of carved rock found on the beach in Norfolk by the nephews and nieces of ERAS member Enid Waudby, and featured in a previous ERAS newsletter, was in fact modern. However, the right thing was done in asking archaeologists at Norwich Museum to check it out, as it was certainly not immediately apparent to them that it was modern. Several articles subsequently appeared in the press, including a picture of the New Age sculptor himself!

A NEW ARCHAEOLOGY MAGAZINE

Andrew Selkirk, founder and former editor of Current Archaeology is launching a new magazine this month, entitled Current World Archaeology. It is aimed at a different and rather more glossy market than Current Archaeology. You can send for a free introductory copy by picking up a leaflet from ERAS meetings although we might have some free copies for distribution at meetings, depending on the timing of the print run.

PROFESSIONAL SHORT COURSES

The Deparment of Archaeology, York University are running several short courses, including the following- Lime week, 29 Sept-2 Oct, The study and conservation of stone, 3-6 Nov, The study and conservation of timber, 17-20 Nov, The study and conservation of earth and plasterwork, 24-27 Nov, The study and conservation of historic interiors, 19-22 Jan, bricks, terracotta and tiles, 26-29 Jan. Full list and further details from Judy Cavens, Dept. of Archaeology, King's Manor, York. 01904 433901, email jc48@york.ac.uk

ERAS LECTURE AND STUDY MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, all ERAS lecture meetings start at 7.30pm in Room S1 of the Wilberforce Building, Hull University, Cottingham Rd, Hull. Meetings are free for members but visitors pay £1. Field Study Meetings are open to anybody and you don't have to make any commitment. They are usually held at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month, in the upstairs room at the Quaker 'Friends Meeting House' Percy St. (just off Albion St.) in the city centre. We don't aim to put on presentations at these meetings. They are just a follow-up to fieldwork and a meeting point for anyone who wants to find out about getting involved in fieldwork or who wants to have any 'finds' identified.

Quiz Answers: 1. N.Ireland, 2. Ethiopia, 3. Egypt, 4. Norway, 5. Wales, 6. Peru

Dates for your Diary

Wed 17 Sept **ERAS Reports Meeting.** The first of the Autumn lecture series. Wilberforce Building, room S1, Hull University. 7.30pm. A round-up of work in the region.

Sat 13 Sept Start of resistivity survey, Walkington, see previous page

Sun 21 Sept Past, Present and Future Redundant Churches- A full day YAS walking tour of York with Peter Addyman. Booking essential. YAS Members £10, non-members £12, £5/£6 7-16 year olds. (No dogs) Bookings with cheque (to YAS) to Janet Senior, YAS 23 Clarendon Rd, Leeds LS2 9NZ

Wed 1 Oct **ERAS Field Studies Meeting**

Sat 11 Oct N.Yorks Local History Day. 9.30am, Golden Lion Hotel, High St, Northallerton, £15 incl buffet lunch. The persecution of Catholics, 1580-1625, N. Yorkshire Quakers, 1728-1779, Conservative gentry women 1918-1951, Whitby: tourism and urban renewal. Enquiries /bookings see below.

Wed 15 Oct **ERAS Lecture.** Gateway to Death or Ghost Village: re-assessing Sutton Common. Dr. Henry Chapman.

Sat 18 Oct N.Yorks Family History Day. 9.30am, Golden Lion Hotel, High St, Northallerton, £15 incl. lunch.Family history resources on the Internet, Whitby seafaring families, Resources at the County Records Office, Epitaphs,stories and legends, Toilet arrangements over the ages. Enquiries/bookings see below.

Sat 25 Oct YAS/CBA. N.Yorks Roman Archaeology Day. 9.30am, Golden Lion Hotel, High St, Northallerton. £15 incl. buffet lunch. Speakers- Rick Jones, Pete Wilson, Peter Cardwell, Ian Roberts, David Macleod, Richard Bridgestock, Hilary Cool, Eric Branse-Instone. Cheques payable to Northallerton & District Local History Soc. to John Sheehan, 4 Arden Mews, Northallerton. DL6 1EN (enq. 01609 771878)

Sat 25 Oct Local History Bookfair, Memorial Hall, Beverley, 10.00am - 4.0pm

Events at Beverley Library, 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. **Booking essential** , phone 01482 392755 for details

Mon 27 Oct Prof. Jennings, Lecture- Chapters in the History of Yorkshire Farming
Tues 28 Oct Prof. David Palliser, Guided Walk- Medieval and Tudor Beverley, 2pm
Wed 29 Oct Pat Elliott, Guided Walk- Saturday Market, 2pm
Thur 30 Oct John Whittle, Lecture- Yorkshire's Magnificent Dales
Fri 31 Oct Dr David Neave, Lecture- Twentieth Century East Riding

Wed 5 Nov **ERAS Field Studies Meeting**

Thur 6 Nov Hull & ER Historical Assoc. Lecture by Prof. Martin Carver. Sutton Hoo Royal Burials in Historical Context and the Concept of Kingship. 7.30pm the Danish Church, Osbourne St. Hull (city centre)

Sat 15 Nov Putting Artefacts and People in Context. A YAS/CBA day-school on scientific techniques and prehistory at the Dept. of Archaeological Sciences, Bradford University. Details- Jenny Moore, 19 Storrs Hall Rd, Walkley Bank, Sheffield. email jenny.m@virgin.net

Wed 19 Nov **ERAS Lecture. (title to be arranged)**

Wed 3 Dec **ERAS Field Studies Meeting**

Wed 17 Dec **ERAS Lecture** Tunnelling to the Past: excavations in Blanket Row, Hull. Peter Cardwell of Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA)