

13 MODELLING PREHISTORIC LANDSCAPES IN THE LOWER THAMES VALLEY (LONDON, UK): A CASE STUDY FOR PREDICTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL POTENTIAL

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Keywords: Prehistoric, landscapes, modelling

Presentation Preference: Oral

Several years of geoarchaeological investigation on the floodplain of the River Thames, arising from archaeological mitigation of construction impacts, have resulted in a database of over 3000 stratigraphic records for the Isle of Dogs and Greenwich Peninsula areas of London. This dataset has been used to develop a high-resolution spatial and temporal model of the prehistoric floodplain landscape, providing an opportunity to assess the potential of such a model as a predictive tool for identifying evidence of human activity and for locating thick sequences of palaeoenvironmental potential.

The models have revealed a number of topographic features of interest in this area of the River Thames floodplain, including gravel highs and Late Devensian/early Holocene channels which would have been significant components of the landscape during the prehistoric period. The models demonstrate that in general, greater thicknesses of alluvium are recorded in areas of lower gravel topography as might be expected, but that peat thickness shows a less predictable relationship with the underlying gravel topography. The distribution of the known prehistoric archaeology (for example, wooden trackways and platforms) suggests that such sites have thus far only been recorded in areas of gravel 'highs' (generally above -1m OD), and that many of the sites are recorded where the peat is either relatively thin (<1m) or absent; however, the depth of the sequences here (in places up to 10m) may have impacted on the identification of such sites.

The model highlights the importance of larger-scale deposit models in areas subject to intensive redevelopment, and demonstrates that such models can be a useful tool for identifying areas of both palaeoenvironmental and archaeological potential, and for archaeological heritage management in floodplain environments.

14 PALAEOGEOGRAPHICAL TIME SERIES MAPS OF THE PLEISTOCENE AND HOLOCENE LOWLAND LANDSCAPES IN AND AROUND THE NORTH SEA.

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Keywords: Palaeogeography, Landscape Archaeology

Presentation Preference: Oral

Palaeogeographical time series maps provide powerful text figures that narrate the chronological story of landscape change in prehistoric and historic times in a quite accessible way. They inspire and communicate the broad idea of developments quickly, no matter how the maps are produced (essentially by hand, computer aided, model output visual) and are intended (as sketch, as a possible scenario, as the utter truth on past landscape reality).

If palaeogeographical maps are produced more formally, are digitally generated from source data and carry information that allows to track back to evidence and interpretive decisions, the map series become even more powerful. It makes the map series direct summaries of geological, geomorphological and archaeological data, that are pre-organized for time-sliced spatial analysis that just simply uses the map, and are equally prepared for validation and improvement of the landscape reconstruction that the series visualises.

The formal digital approach is what we pioneered in the Rhine-Meuse delta since 1998, what we have expanded to the Netherlands and surroundings, onshore and offshore since 2011, and of which we will present various results in archaeological usage context at this conference.

339 CREATING NEW SCENARIOS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY: NEARCHING FACTORY RELOADED

Theme: 1. Twenty-five Years after Maastricht: Archaeology and Europe's future

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Keywords: NEARCH, sustainability, social innovation

Presentation Preference: Session with a key note speaker with contributions from discussants and discussion

Speaker: Felipe Criado-Boado

The NEARCHing Factory Session "Creating new scenarios for Archaeology: Nearching Factory reloaded" at the EAA Conference will be based on NEARCHing Factory outcomes. Outcomes from two and a half days of work, learning and ideas exchange, by heritage professionals from all around Europe.

NEARCHing Factory purpose is, taking into account the difficult situation of the archaeological sector, to re-think the practice of archaeological activity (i.e. archaeological as a way of life and of making a living) to build, in collaboration with others, a process for the creation of new scenarios that can help to sustain the activity. It will be reached through the different "thinking together" plenary sessions and especially through the work done in the different working groups, focused on ten different topics relevant for archaeology (Digital Capabilities for Sustainability; Participative Heritage Management; Professional Regulations and Codes: Sustaining the Archaeological Profession; Arts and New Heritages; Archaeology of the Present; Heritage value(s); Social Innovation and Archaeology; Archaeology, Spatial Planning and Economic Development; Archaeology and School & Archaeology for Long-Life Learning; and Archaeologies of/for Future).

The purpose of the NEARCHing Factory Session is, therefore, apart from presenting these outcomes to a broader audience of heritage professionals and getting their feedback, to continue the work started at NEARCHing Factory, to continue re-thinking the practice of archaeological activity, to have a deep discussion about it, with the aim of getting some consensual agreements to sustain continuous development of the archaeological profession and foster new sort of practices as part of this.