

**BIRKBECK University of London
FACULTY OF CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Academic Year	2006-2007
Course Code	FFAR015U ACP
Subject Area	Archaeology
Course Title	After the Excavation: Archaeology from Processing to
Publication	
Award	Post-Diploma in Archaeological Studies
Centre	Faculty of Continuing Education
Class Venue	Avenue House, 15-17 East End Road, Finchley
First Meeting	Wednesday, 20 September 2005
Time	6.30-8.30pm
Term Dates	20 September - 6 December 2006 10 January - 28 March 2007
Course Taught By	Jacqui Pearce, BA FSA

Entry Requirements

Post-Diploma courses are offered in subjects of specialist archaeological interest, usually involving the acquisition of practical skills or intensive study. The courses are intended primarily for students who have completed their Certificate or Diploma studies, but are also open to others who hold an appropriate or alternative qualification or who have relevant archaeological experience and wish to further archaeological skills.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Teaching will involve lectures, practical training and handling sessions, group discussion and planning, leading to the preparation of reports for publication.

Aims and Outcomes

Excavation is only the beginning of the process of archaeological investigation. One of the chief aims of the course is to provide tuition for non-professional archaeologists and local archaeological societies in post-excavation recording and analysis through the re-examination of the written and material archives of unpublished excavations. This will include ongoing work on the excavations carried out in Hendon in 1973–74 by the Hendon and District Archaeological Society (HADAS) at Church Terrace. The whole range of post-excavation procedures from basic finds processing to publication and archive deposition will be covered. The course will include lectures by specialists in various fields, such as ceramics, clay pipes, glass, building materials and animal bones and will cover all periods from prehistoric to post-medieval. Direct participation by class members will be essential to the sorting, identification, recording and analysis of each

category of finds. Students are encouraged to work with local societies in their locality and bring along archive material from excavations for study. The provision of a methodology for handling such material is a major emphasis of the course, with a view to creating detailed computerised databases. Instruction will be given in methods of interrogating the data and interpreting their significance for the sites in question. Independent study of and work on the finds and other aspects of the chosen sites in small groups outside class is encouraged. Group discussion and reporting back as work proceeds will be important means of formulating strategies for writing up the results of analysis. The ultimate outcome of the course will be publication of reports on individual sites and/or aspects of the finds under the joint authorship of class members, to which end tuition will be given in the construction, writing and illustration of archaeological reports, covering the minimum standards required by the profession. Instruction will be given on storage of the excavated materials and written records in accordance with current archive standards.

Coursework and Assessment

Coursework will be aimed principally at producing reports for publication. This will include individual reports on the various categories of finds recovered, on the various selected excavations and the interpretation of their stratigraphic sequences, documentary research, illustration (plans, sections and finds, through line drawings and photographs), and discussion of the significance of individual sites in their local and regional context. Students are encouraged to complete and submit a portfolio of work during the course for assessment. This forms an essential part of the learning process and of work leading to the final publication. One to four pieces of written work from 500 words or more each may be submitted by the end of each term, totaling about 4000 words by the end of the second term. Assessed work could include a detailed journal of work carried out from week to week, accompanied by personal reflection on the topics covered, book reviews, reports on aspects of research undertaken, oral presentations and case studies. Further written work and illustrations carried out by individual class members may be used in the publication even though not specifically required for assessment.

Course Evaluation

Students will be asked to complete a Student Evaluation form at the end of the course.

Course Content

- setting goals
- minimum standards of recording and analysis leading to publication
- finds processing, including washing, marking, storage and basic recording of bulk and registered finds
- environmental sampling and processing
- the recording and analysis of finds and environmental remains, by means of hands-on experience, accompanied by lectures and supervised by specialists:
- glass
- worked flint
- clay tobacco pipes
- pottery (Roman to post-medieval)
- building materials

- animal bones
- Half-day sessions in the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre, studying and recording finds
- the writing of specialist reports
- illustration and photography (pottery and other finds)
- layout of illustrations for publication
- research into various artefact types (highlighting important sources to inform further work)
- the writing and presentation of archaeological reports
- documentary research, including the use of historic records, maps etc
- comparison of different kinds of report (*eg* integrated, synthetic, specialist etc)
- interpreting the data
- the use of tables, histograms, pie charts and other graphic presentations of data
- the use of computers in analysing data and generating tables etc from a database
- editing, publishing conventions, the use of references and bibliographies

Study skills

In the course of the two terms, class members will be instructed and helped in the following:

- current standards of archive storage
- basic finds processing
- handling and identifying different common types of excavated finds (pottery, building material, animal bone, clay pipes, glass)
- methods of recording, analysing and interpreting data
- the use and interrogation of computerised databases; cultivating research skills
- the basics of archaeological finds illustration
- accepted forms of referencing and the use of written sources
- planning the final publication and the coursework involved in doing so
- the development of writing skills aimed at archaeological publication

Reading List

This reading list offers a number of helpful basic references. You do not have to read them all! Most, if not all, of the items listed here should be in the book box. If you find difficulty in getting hold of any items you want to read, please let me know.

Atkinson, D. & Oswald, A. 1969, 'London Clay Tobacco Pipes', *J. British Archaeol. Assoc.* 32.

Ayto, E. A. 1994 *Clay tobacco pipes*, Shire Album 37

Baker, J. and Brothwell, D. 1980 *Animal Diseases in Archaeology*. Academic Press, London

Barker, P. 1982 *Techniques of archaeological excavation*, Batsford

Black, J 2001, *British tin-glazed earthenware*, Shire Album 390

Brewer, J (ed) 1994, *Consumption and the world of goods*, Routledge

Brunskill, R W 1992, *Traditional buildings of Britain*, Gollancz

- Charleston, R. J. 1984, *English Glass and the Glass Used in England circa 400-1940*, London.
- Cumberpatch, C and Blinkhorn, P 1997, *Not so much a pot, more a way of life*, Oxbow Monograph
- Davis, S.J.M. 1987 *The archaeology of animals*. Batsford, London
- Deetz, J. 1996, *In Small Things Forgotten. An Archaeology of Early American Life*, (expanded and revised edition), New York: Anchor Books.
- Draper, J. 1984, *Post-Medieval Pottery 1650-1800*, Princes Risborough: Shire.
- Griffiths, N, Jenner, A and Wilson, C 1991, *Drawing archaeological finds: a handbook*, revised edn. (Institute of Archaeology, University College, London
- Haslam, J 1978, *Medieval pottery in Britain*, Shire
- Harris, E 1989 *Principles of archaeological stratigraphy*
- Hillson, S, 1992 *Mammal bones and teeth. An introductory guide to methods of identification*. Institute of Archaeology, London
- Hinton, P (ed), 1988 *Excavations in Southwark 1973-76, Lambeth 1973-79*, London Middlesex Archaeol Soc/Surrey Archaeol Soc Joint Pub 3
- van Lemmen, H 1998, *Delftware tiles*, Shire Album 179
- Lyman, R, L, 1994 *Vertebrate taphonomy*. Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology
- McCarthy, M and Brooks, C 1988, *Medieval pottery in Britain AD900-1600*, Leicester
- Morris, R K 2000, *The archaeology of buildings*, Tempus
- MPRG, 1998 *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms*, MPRG Occ Pap 1, Over Wallop
- Noel Hume, I. 1969, *A guide to the artifacts of colonial America*, New York.
- Orton, C, 2000 *Sampling in archaeology*, CUP
- Orton, C. R. and Pearce, J. E. 1984, 'The pottery', 34-68 in A. Thompson, F. Grew and J. Schofield (eds) 'Excavations at Aldgate 1974', *Post-medieval Archaeol* 18, 1-148.
- Orton, C, Tyers, P and Vince, A 1993 *Pottery in Archaeology*, CUP
- Oswald, A 1975 *Clay tobacco pipes for the archaeologist*, BAR 14
- Pearce, J 1992, *Border wares. Post-medieval pottery in London 1500-1700 vol. 1*, HMSO

- Reitz, E, J, and Wing E, S, 1999 *Zooarchaeology*. Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology
- Schmid, E. 1972 *Atlas of animal bones. For Prehistorians, Archaeologists and Quaternary Geologists*. Elsevier, London
- Slowikowski, A, Nenck, B and Pearce, J 2001 *Minimum standards for the recording, analysis and publication of medieval pottery*, MPRG Spec Pap 2
- Wilmott, H 2002, *Early post-medieval vessel glass in England c 1500–1670*, CBA Research Report
- Wilson, B, Grigson, C, and Payne, S, (eds)1982 *Ageing and Sexing animal bones from archaeological sites*. BAR British Series 109