

# Is there a British Chalcolithic?

## People, Place and Polity in the later Third Millennium BC

### Friday 18th - Sunday 20th April 2008



*School of Conservation Sciences, Bournemouth University, Bournemouth, Dorset*  
*A major international conference organised by the Prehistoric Society and Bournemouth*

*University Centre for Archaeology, Anthropology and Heritage*

This conference will address the concept of the Chalcolithic in British archaeology. Our continental colleagues have long used the term to augment their three-age system. Why has the term not been adopted so universally in Britain and Ireland? Is it relevant to our islands? Or is it a misnomer?

The conference will discuss the British Chalcolithic in terms of society and culture and to compare this with our European parallels. Questions to address might be: why don't we use the term 'Chalcolithic' in the UK? Is there a distinctive Chalcolithic 'package' incorporating more than just a bunch of objects, i.e. cultural traits, social organisation and monumentality? Or is it just a question of semantics? This conference is intended to be about people, and social context, seeing the bigger picture than individual sites or objects.

The speakers will define and characterise artefacts assemblages, cultural identities and monumental activity and examine the presence, character or absence of a distinct Chalcolithic in British and Irish prehistory. Is the Chalcolithic synonymous with the Beaker phase? What is the Chalcolithic period, and what characteristics define it? (available).

Further details and on-line registration can be found below. You can also contact us by email at [cconferences@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:cconferences@bournemouth.ac.uk)

#### **Schedule of Events**

##### **Friday 18th April**

1730 Registration and wine reception

1830 Keynote Introduction: Dr Ben Roberts, British Museum: *To what extent can we refer to a British Chalcolithic?*

1930 Retire to conference bar

##### **Saturday 19th April**

0900 Registration

1000 Welcome by Professor Timothy Darvill, Bournemouth University

1010 Introduction, Dr Mike Allen, Prehistoric Society

##### **Session 1: What is the British Chalcolithic?**

1025 Alison Sheridan: *A Rumsfeld Reality Check: what we know, what we don't know and what we don't know we don't know*

1105 Tea/coffee

1130 Ian Shepherd: *Searching in the North*

1200 Jo Bruck and Neil Carlin: *Searching for the Chalcolithic: continuity and change in the Irish Final Neolithic/Early Bronze Age*

1230 Discussion

1300 Lunch

### **Session 2: European context for a 'Chalcolithic' in Britain and Ireland**

1400 Martin Bartelheim: *Sense and non-sense of the term 'Chalcolithic'*

1430 Marc van der Linden: *The importance of being insular: British Isles in the context of continental north-western Europe during the 3rd millennium BC*

1500 Volker Heyd: *Chalcolithisation of North-Western Europe? A perspective from the continent...*

1530 Tea/coffee

1600 William O'Brien: *Metal supply and social relations in the Irish Chalcolithic*

1630 Discussion

1715 Retire to conference bar

### **Sunday 20th April**

0900 Registration

### **Session 3: Social contexts**

0930 Harry Fokkens: *Ideal ancestors? Beaker problems as seen from the Lower Rhine*

1000 Ros Cleal and Josh Pollard: *Material culture and monumentality*

1030 Ann Woodward: *Grave goods; materials craftsmanship and social function*

1100 Tea/coffee

### **Session 4: People and place**

1130 Paul Garwood: *The present dead: the making of past and future landscapes in the British 'Chalcolithic'*

1200 Mandy Jay: *The Beaker Isotope Project: the evidence for diet, environment and economy from organic skeletal analyses*

1230 Discussion

1300 Lunch

### **Session 5: Society, Settlement and Monuments**

1400 Mike Parker Pearson: *The Chalcolithic at Durrington Walls*

1430 Frances Healy: *Chronology, corpses, copper and lithics*

1500 Stuart Needham: *Magnetic monuments meet mysterious metal – the British Chalcolithic: clash of cultures or meeting of minds?*

1530 Discussion

1600 Anticipated close of conference

### **Other information**

- Tea and coffee will be provided on Saturday and Sunday.
- Lunch is not provided: food and drink are available at various outlets close to the conference venue.
- All cancellations are non-refundable.
- Car-parking is available at the NCP car park (£3.00 per day) opposite the conference venue.
- Accommodation is not included and should be booked independently. Information regarding local accommodation is available from the conference web site (see below) or from the [Bournemouth Tourist Centre](http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk) ☒ (Tel: 08450-511701 ; email: [info@bournemouth.gov.uk](mailto:info@bournemouth.gov.uk))
- There is a page of information relating to accommodation needs which can be found [here](#).

### **How to book**

Please register online using the form by Friday 4th April 2008 :

<http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/conservation/conferences/chalcolithic/>

Booking enquiries should be made to Marie Dunning on 01202-965160 or via [csconferences@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:csconferences@bournemouth.ac.uk). Confirmation of your booking will be sent to you by email or by post where no email address is given.