PROJECT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performing the Past: participant based experimental archaeology as part of research, education and practice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aim: The aim of this research project is to explore the value of experimental engagement within heritage as a tool for the dissemination of archaeological knowledge through research led ‘performances’. Public engagement is central to the archaeological process and this ambitious project seeks to explore the potential of combining public outreach and active, inquiry-led research.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rationale: Experimental archaeology has long been a tool used for both inquiry-led research and public outreach, yet typically the two versions of the discipline are carried out independently of each other. Experimental research is carried out by researchers, disconnected from the general public while experimental outreach is typically less rigorous and focuses on the performance of activities (often as part of re-enactments). We argue that the value of heritage outreach can be significantly improved though the direct participation in full, academically led, co-created citizen science projects.

Methods: This will be achieved through a reflexive programme of experimental archaeology that focuses on early crafts, carried out in partnership with the Hengistbury Head Visitors centre (part of Bournemouth Borough Council). The method is centred on a series of citizen science projects that will explore prehistoric technologies through experimental programmes, carried out in partnership with heritage volunteers, that seek to understand the material processes of the past alongside the performative aspects of ancient industry. The experiment will include research into the selection and transformation of local resources into material goods that were used and traded through the prehistoric port at Hengistbury Head. These experiments will involve direct participation of heritage volunteers and visitors to the site and the process of engagement will be explored and recorded. This dual approach method will allow clear links to be drawn between research, performance and pedagogy in an innovative way.

Outcomes: The outcome of such experiments includes not only a scientific understanding of the technologies themselves but the wider effectiveness of active participation (sometimes termed ‘learning through participation’) in heritage pedagogy. The scientific outcomes will include a greater understanding of the early use, exploitation and transformation of mineral resources in southern Britain and the production processes role within wider Iron Age cross-channel exchange networks. There will be a greater understanding of prehistoric craft, not only the lens of academic inquiry, but its role as an inherently cultural practice.

The research project will work alongside colleagues at Hengistbury Head to plan and deliver the programme of experimental performances. It draws on the strengths and ambitions of both partners in that Hengistbury Head is the ideal locale for heritage engagement and BU has a track record of experimental archaeological research. The ability of such research to explore themes such as technological development, the impact of early industrial processes on the environment, sustainably of technologies and their perception among the general public.

Academic Impact

The academic impact of this project follows two broad categories, archaeological impact and pedagogical impact. The project will have significant impact on our knowledge of prehistoric craft practice at Hengistbury Head. The site is known to have played host to transformative industries producing significant volumes of ceramic and iron. These industries formed the backbone of later prehistoric economy and their proximity to the port of trade means they carried international significance. In understanding the early development of technological processes and their role within early societies it is possible to understand the long term impact of such practices on the development of
Landscapes and the wider environment. This has a clear impact on understanding of long term sustainability through pre-industrial (or even pre-Anthropocene analogues).

The incorporation of research led citizen science projects will have clear impact on research pedagogical practices and will improve our understanding of the effectiveness of 'learning through participation'. The impact will be drawn from the wider study of how participation in performative research assists in delivering heritage knowledge.

It therefore has impacts for archaeological theory and practice, as well as having impact in the area of academic outreach. Joint papers by the project team in appropriate international peer-reviewed journals would therefore follow.

### Societal Impact

This research programme is specifically designed to carry societal impact. In partnership with Hengistbury Head Visitors Centre the project will work directly with the general public though direct participation experiments.

Hengistbury Head Visitor centre has ~150,000 visitors to its permanent and temporary exhibitions annually. The proposed work builds on feedback (2017-18) from the public, which values the archaeology collections, and calls for more interaction with it and face to face contact with specialists and practitioners.

The societal impact of this project will include a legacy of a large number of trained volunteers (assistant curators), resources and repeatable activities and events. The citizen science projects will support the ambition of ACE museum accreditation for the Visitor Centre and establish the centre as a recognised scientific study centre for archaeology.

The project aims to create a dynamic flow of information back and forth between the academic team and the public with a major legacy of interactive exhibits, resources and repeatable activities with an emphasis on training volunteers as learning guides and assistant curators to maintain and enhance the collection into the 21st century.

### Training Opportunities

The PGR will receive training in experimental technologies, heritage outreach and materials analysis by Dr Pitman. Further training in SEM and ICP analysis will be provided through the Laboratory and Technical Team with support of Prof. Welham/Dr Pitman.

The student will work closely with the partners at Hengistbury Head ensuring they gain substantive experiential training in the public understanding of science, the creation of museum displays, the creation of public facing content, and related activities.

We will expect the student to fully engage with the Doctoral College Research Skills Training, and Personal Development Programme as appropriate and depending on their background/experience.

### SUPERVISORY TEAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Supervisor</th>
<th>Dr Derek Pitman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional Supervisors</td>
<td>Professor Kate Welham</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recent publications by supervisors relevant to this project**


Doonan, R., Hanks, B., Zdanovich, D., Kupriyanova, E., Pitman, D., Batanina, N.
and Johnson, J., (2014) Metals, society, and economy in the Late Prehistoric Eurasian Steppe. Archaeometallurgy in Global Perspective: Methods and Syntheses. 755-784. - an example of the importance of understanding ancient crafts

**INFORMAL ENQUIRIES**

dpitman@bournemouth.ac.uk

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The PhD Studentships are open to UK, EU and International students. Candidates for a PhD Studentship should demonstrate outstanding qualities and be motivated to complete a PhD in 4 years and must demonstrate:

- outstanding academic potential as measured by either a 1st class honours degree or a Master's degree with distinction or equivalent Grade Point Average (GPA)
- an IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 minimum (with a minimum 6.0 in each component) for candidates for whom English is not their first language which must be evidence at application

In addition to satisfying minimum entry criteria, BU will look closely at the qualities, skills and background of each candidate and what they can bring to their chosen research project in order to ensure successful completion.

Applicants will be asked to submit an online application form and a proposal (c. 1500 words) outlining their understanding of the project for which they are applying, the approach they would envisage taking and what qualities they will bring to the research community.

Please note:
- Current BU Doctoral students are not eligible to apply for a Studentship
- Current MRes/MPhil students can apply, subject to satisfactory completion of their Research Degree prior to being able to take up the award
- PhD Studentships cannot be used to support BU staff to complete doctoral programmes

**Additional Eligibility**

**HOW TO APPLY**

Please complete the online application form by **12/05/2019**. Further information on the application process can be found at: [www.bournemouth.ac.uk/studentships](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/studentships)