

Community Archaeology Study Days 2007



An Introduction to Environmental Archaeology and the Study of Archaeological Bone

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Environmental archaeology presents a whole range of new information to those studying human societies. Through the analysis of such things as soils, pollen, plants and animal remains, environmental archaeology provides us with such information as what past humans ate and what the weather may have been like. It tells us how the landscape may have looked and



how people interacted with it. This form of study allows us to learn in much more detail what daily life might have been like in the past. Environmental archaeology is an increasingly important focus of study in this time of climate change, because it gives us clues as to how people adapted to different environments over time.

Back by popular demand, Charlie Dean spoke to a dozen of us about this important subject. The day was a mix of presentations and practical sessions. Charlie started



with an introduction of what environmental archaeology is all about. We then had a practical session about sorting samples, appropriately called 'Finding a needle in a haystack'. After lunch, we learned about what

archaeological bone can tell us about animal and human interaction in different environments. The next practical session involved looking at and handling bone to supplement the previous discussion. It was a fascinating way to end this very informative and interesting day!