

PUBLICATIONS ABOUT THE ISLE OF WIGHT THAT HAVE RECENTLY APPEARED

Wright about Wight: A dialect glossary of the Isle of Wight based on EDD Online

Manfred, M. 2022. *Journal of Linguistic Geography*, **10**: 76-86.

Abstract: Describing specific dialect areas in terms of their lexis is an attractive idea, now that the latest version of the English Dialect Dictionary Online (EDD Online 3.0, 2019) allows for quick and easy lexical retrievals of English dialect words of the Late Modern English period. This paper uses the Isle of Wight (I.W.) as a test case for putting such an idea into practice. The 137 words uniquely attributed in the EDD to I.W. are analysed and interpreted in relation to the 1500-odd words used on I.W. alongside other areas of the UK. The paper informs the reader of the available query modes and discusses their pros and cons, quantifying and mapping the different numbers of isolated words in use on I.W. versus those unique to other English counties. The larger number of words that the Island shared with the counties of the "mainland" will likewise be considered, thus allowing for first steps towards a "dialectometrical" analysis. The findings are related to the historical background of I.W., particularly in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The Carisbrooke Hand: Anglo-Saxon Sculpture and the Hand of God?

Margham, J. & Tomalin, D. 2022 *The Antiquaries Journal*, **102**: 69 - 87.

Abstract: This paper discusses the significance of a fragment of stone sculpture built into the north wall of the churchyard at Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight. The sculpture depicts an open right hand that is larger than life-sized and is probably of late Anglo-Saxon date. The size and character of the sculpture favours a *manus dei* (hand of God), forming the upper element of a large rood assemblage. The authors consider allied sculpture in which such a hand appears on Anglo-Saxon grave markers and in similar low-relief depictions where Christ is figured on the Cross. At Carisbrooke, this architectural sculpture would have formed a significant feature of an Anglo-Saxon minster church that was rebuilt in the early Norman period. The siting of this building and the extent of its parochia is briefly considered. Supplementary material reviews the probable significance of the sculptural use of Quarr stone at Carisbrooke and elsewhere.

A new dromaeosaurid dinosaur from the Wessex Formation (Lower Cretaceous, Barremian) of the Isle of Wight, and implications for European palaeobiogeography

Longrich, N. R., Martill, D. M. & Jacobs, M. L. 2022. *Cretaceous Research* **134**: 105123.

Abstract: The Lower Cretaceous of England has produced a diverse assemblage of dinosaurs, including ornithischians, sauropods, and

theropods. The origins of this assemblage are poorly understood. Here, we describe a new dromaeosaurid, *Vectiraptor greeni* gen. et sp. nov., from the Barremian Wessex Formation of the Isle of Wight. The animal is represented by associated dorsal vertebrae and a partial sacrum. Dorsal vertebrae are short, with pleurocoels, camellate pneumatization, stalked parapophyses and enlarged neural canals. Neural spines are tall, with large ligament scars. Sacral centra lack pleurocoels but have large neural canals and foramina suggesting pneumatization. These characters suggest affinities with Dromaeosauridae and specifically the derived, large-bodied Eudromaeosauria. *Vectiraptor* resembles Early Cretaceous eudromaeosaurs from North America, suggesting a faunal exchange between Europe and North America. The diverse Early Cretaceous dinosaur assemblage found in England and Europe resulted from dispersal from North America, Asia, and West Gondwana, likely involving both land bridges and oceanic dispersal. Europe served as a biotic crossroads in the Early Cretaceous, allowing faunal interchange between land masses.

Thomas Webster's Tulip Alcyonium (Lamellaecylindrica, trace fossil) in the Upper Greensand Formation (Albian) of the Isle of Wight

Knaust, D. 2022. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association* **133** (2): 137-147.

Abstract: Large, ramified burrow systems with a thick lamination and bulbous enlargements are common in the Upper Greensand Formation (Albian) of Ventnor, Isle of Wight. From there, these trace fossils were first described by Thomas Webster more than two centuries ago. Although also characteristic outside their area of original description, these structures and Webster's fabulous documentation have fallen into oblivion and only recently were assigned to the ichnogenus *Lamellaecylindrica*. The two included ichnospecies, *L. paradoxica* and *L. ludwigae* reflect different behaviours of their trace maker (possibly a holothurian) in adaption to variations in the sedimentary conditions and current energy. A comparison of the associated ichnofauna with that of the Upper Greensand Formation at Lyme Regis, about 100km to the west, reveals subtle but significant differences in the trace-fossil distribution, ichnodiversity and ichnoabundance, indicating a proximal (lower shoreface to offshore transition) to distal (inner shelf) depositional trend from west to east. Given the total bioturbation of the greater part of this shelf succession, these subtle variations in the ichnofauna provide valuable information for interpretation of the depositional environment and differences in the energy level where primary sedimentary structures are absent.

A large *Eomys antiquus* (Aymard, 1853) (Mammalia, Rodentia) from the early Oligocene sedimentary deposits at Bouldnor Cliff (Isle of Wight, England, UK)

Bosma, A. A., de Bruijn, H. & Wessels, W. 2022. *Palaeobiodiversity and Palaeoenvironments*

Abstract: A collection of approx. 150 isolated cheek teeth of the eomyid rodent *Eomys antiquus* which was obtained from a very thin layer in the Hamstead Member of the Bouldnor Formation at Bouldnor Cliff (Isle of Wight, England, UK) is described. The material is post-Grande Coupure, and earliest Oligocene in age. Comparison is made with, and new data are given on, teeth of *Eomys* from localities of a similar age situated elsewhere in Europe: *Eomys antiquus* from Hoogbutsel (Belgium), and Möhren 13, 19, and 20 (Germany), and *Eomys* aff. *antiquus* from Montalbán 1D (Spain), and Kocayarma (Turkish Thrace, Turkey). Teeth from Bouldnor Cliff and Hoogbutsel (Mammal Paleogene zone 21) are morphologically close to those from Möhren 13 (Mammal Paleogene zone 22), but tend to be larger. Size decrease in the course of time is also suggested by the smaller size of the teeth from Montalbán 1D (Mammal Paleogene zone 23). The morphological differences observed between the English, Belgian, and German material at the one side, and the Spanish and Turkish material at the other, confirm that the species from Montalbán 1D and Kocayarma is a different, although closely related form. The taxonomic history of *Eomys antiquus* is reviewed. The species is the commoner of the two oldest European Eomyidae known. General knowledge on the ecology of the eomyids suggests that, at the time of deposition of the *Eomys*-containing layer in the Hampshire Basin, forest was close by.

A drone service to support the Isle of Wight NHS in the UK

Andy, O. & Thomas, C. 2022. Proceedings of the 14th ITS European Congress, Toulouse, France.

Abstract: With interest in drone delivery growing throughout the world, this study explores the challenges associated with developing a medical drone logistics service to support the National Health Service on the Isle of Wight in the UK. Two separate trials were undertaken to investigate the potential for drone delivery in this area, carrying medical goods and aseptic cancer medicines. The first trial took place using a fixed-wing drone during COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, whilst the second used hybrid fixed-wing vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) drone. Key findings suggested that electric VTOL drones present significant advantages in terms of point-to-point direct servicing, emissions, and time-savings, though range and payload limitations introduce further challenges. Legislation, airspace management, and technology findings were also made, with legacy regulations causing barriers to carriage of medical goods by drone. Future work seeks to understand the costs and benefits of a more sustained service in a medical setting.

The potential socio-economic impacts and ecotourism influences for the reintroduction of the white-tailed eagle on the Isle of Wight

Jagait, M. 2022. Research Project Bournemouth University

Abstract: Reintroduction programs for wild animals into the natural environment have been researched and studied where the findings have illustrated main points of discussion. This research paper attempted to explore the reintroduction program currently underway within the Isle of Wight for the white-tailed eagle. By conducting open-ended qualitative interviews with stakeholders across a wide spectrum of industries, the findings provide useful information into establishing three main views on the reintroduction program. From those participants totally opposed of this reintroduction project, because they feel this places an enormous amount of strain on the current wildlife to those honourably in favour of the reintroduction of this apex predator because this encourages more wildlife knowledge and to those that decided to remain neutral on the subject matter being investigated.

Taphonomy of an Eocene micromammal assemblage in a lake-margin depositional setting elucidates an ancient food web.

Vasileiadou, K., Hooker, J, J. & Collinson, M. E. 2022. *Palaeontologia Electronica*, 25(2):a16.

Abstract: The taphonomy of the micromammalian assemblage from an unusually widespread lake-margin depositional context in the early Priabonian How Ledge Limestone, Totland Bay Member, Headon Hill Formation, Isle of Wight, UK, was studied in order to understand its method of accumulation, the trophic interrelationships between species and families, and their spatial relationships in the palaeoenvironment. The fossil remains studied consist of mainly dissociated bones and teeth, belonging to 28 species, which show selective anatomical representation and characteristic types of damage (fragmentation, etching, puncture marks), which are documented quantitatively. Predation and scavenging were important factors in the accumulation of the assemblage, with little sub-aerial weathering. The main predators are identified as the mammals *Paramiacis* sp. and *Amphiperatherium* species B, both present as fossils and themselves also preyed, plus two possible owls not represented in the fauna. Scavenging is attributed to the predators, plus glirids, possibly nyctitheres and insects. The accumulation of remains in the lake environment is interpreted to result from seasonal retreat and advance of the lake margin, with minimal hydraulic transport. Comparison is made with a previous study of a similar micromammalian assemblage in the younger Priabonian Osborne Member, whose depositional environment is a floodplain pond. The similarities and differences are assessed in the context of a similar assemblage, although with a different dominant mammalian predator. Low post-mortem transport in each case is shown to have resulted in the preservation of an assemblage, which closely reflects the original community with some of its key trophic interactions.

Karst in the Chalk of the Isle of Wight

Maurice, L., Mathewson, E. & Farrant, A.R. 2022. BGS karst report series: C9. Karst in the Chalk of the Isle of Wight. Nottingham: British Geological Survey, 44pp.

Summary: Dolines and dissolution pipes appear to be less common on the Isle of Wight than in some other areas of the Chalk, but dissolution pipes can be observed in Chalk coastal cliffs, and in excavated pits inland. Two stream sinks are recorded on the Isle of Wight. Springs occur in the Chalk at the boundaries with the overlying Palaeogene deposits, and underlying Upper Greensand Formation; and springs in the Upper Greensand Formation also discharge water from the Chalk where there is connectivity between the two aquifers. There are little data on spring discharge, and discharges are likely to have been substantially reduced by groundwater abstraction, but large springs appear to be rare. Caves are exposed in the Chalk coastal cliffs, and appear to have a predominantly marine origin, but there is evidence of some karstic development in some of these caves. Smaller conduits have been observed in inland quarries. Transmissivity data for the Chalk of the Isle of Wight are limited, with two sites where higher transmissivity indicates well-connected solutional networks, but other sites indicating lower transmissivity than on the mainland. Coliforms have been occasionally detected in groundwater suggesting a rapid flow component. Further work is needed to assess the extent of karstic conduit development in the Chalk of the Isle of Wight, which could include coastal surveys of conduits, consideration of karstic indicators at abstraction boreholes, investigations of spring discharges, and tracer tests.

30 years of Dormouse Monitoring

Ian White, I., Al-Fulaij, N. & Bower, L. Oral presentation ARPHA Conference

Abstract: The People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) owns a private woodland on the Isle of Wight (IoW) that is managed predominantly for woodland bats, Red Squirrels and Hazel Dormice. Dormice are considered to be widespread across the Island in suitable habitat. The IoW is different from the mainland as it has no wild deer species. PTES has been monitoring dormice in its woodland since 1992, when nest boxes were first put up by Paul Bright. However, in spite of appropriate woodland management for dormice at the reserve, dormouse numbers there appear to be declining. This raised the question: "Is the apparent decline in dormice recorded in nest boxes, real or perceived?" If the decline was real, it may be necessary to reconsider management advice that we give for dormice. If the decline was perceived, then it may be necessary to reconsider advice that we give for monitoring dormice. The first challenge was to identify what the woodland may have looked like 30 years ago and identify why high numbers of dormice were recorded. We could then apply the known woodland management that was done in the intervening years, to determine why dormouse nest box occupancy changed by varying amounts in different parts of the wood. We were able to check some of our ideas using data from footprint tunnels and this work is ongoing in 2022. This talk will discuss woodland state, woodland management and dormouse nest box occupancy in a dormouse hotspot in southern England.