

CAL Undergraduate Research Scholarships Scheme 2017
Project Proposal Form

Project Proposer/s:	Paul Garwood
School/Dept:	History and Cultures/Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology
Project Title:	Medway Valley Prehistoric Landscapes Project 2017
Project Summary	
<p>The <i>Medway Valley Prehistoric Landscapes Project</i>, directed by Paul Garwood, aims to establish the chronology, spatial organisation, and social and religious significance of a unique group of Early Neolithic monuments (c.4000–3400 BC) located in the Medway valley in Kent, including some of the earliest surviving built structures in the British Isles. The field project results (2007-13) are especially significant as they cast new light on the development of the first farming communities in Britain. The fieldwork component of the project is now mostly completed, and the project is currently focussing on post-excavation/survey data analysis, synthesis and interpretation.</p> <p>The programme of work in 2017 will focus on analysis and interpretation of the excavation evidence from two key Early Neolithic sites: Kits Coty House megalithic tomb (early 4th millennium BC) and Burham causewayed enclosure (dating to c.3650-3400 BC). The Kits Coty House evidence provides new insights into the development of British megalithic tomb architecture, while the Burham excavation provides new information concerning the form, construction, and use of Early Neolithic enclosures. The project aims in 2017 are: (i) complete stratigraphic analysis of the Kits Coty House artefact assemblage; (ii) complete processing and analysis of the Burham artefact assemblage; (iii) stratigraphic analysis and synthesis of the Burham excavation data; (iv) undertake an in-depth landscape study, collating the evidence for Early Neolithic activity within the project study area.</p>	
What the researcher will do	
<p>The primary roles of the research assistant are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake primary processing and analysis of the artefact assemblages recovered from the Burham causewayed enclosure excavations (2009, 2010) (12 days). 2. Undertake basic stratigraphic analyses of the Burham and Kits Coty House site evidence (5 days). 3. Collect and collate sources of information for Early Neolithic activity within the Medway project study area, prepare summary lists of the evidence, and prepare finds and site location maps (8 days). 	
Skills required by the Scholarship holder	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A highly methodical and systematic approach to practical study, data collection and recording. 2. Good attention to detail and a conscientious approach to following-up data links and reference trails. 3. Capacity for independent research activity. 4. A keen interest in the archaeology of prehistoric monuments. 	
How will your Project benefit the Scholarship holder?	
<p>The research assistant will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Gain valuable experience in key areas of archaeological processing, recording, analysis, and archive preparation, which comprise essential parts of archaeological projects across all research, curatorial and commercial sectors; (ii) Undertake research, including synthesis of previous work, to provide data sets for site and landscape analysis; (iii) Work with the project director, engage with the College's research culture and gain an understanding of future research avenues at undergraduate and postgraduate levels; (iv) Refine and develop personal research, organisational and interpersonal skills. 	
How will the Scholarship benefit your Project?	
<p>Primary artefact processing and data collection and collation activities are extremely time-consuming. The research assistant will make a valuable contribution to the project by undertaking some of this work, and by preparing preliminary analyses and syntheses of site data and relevant cultural landscape evidence within the study area.</p>	