

## Pests of Society

AEA Spring one-day conference  
Saturday 21 April 2018  
University of Birmingham

First call for papers!

Organised by: David Smith (University of Birmingham),  
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Supported by the Association for Environmental Archaeology (AEA)

Encountering evidence of infestations and damage caused by pests, both invertebrate and vertebrate, to material from archaeological and other historic environment contexts is common, yet it is less-commonly studied in its own right. Insect pests in particular are an understudied aspect of environmental archaeology, even though they have a clear potential to severely damage timbers and food products, thereby potentially reducing the lifespans of buildings and the viability of stored products.

This AEA spring conference will present a one-day series of papers which will document both modern and archaeological examples of pests, from a range of situations, such as historic buildings, museum collections, and archaeological materials (including maritime), the damage they cause and the implications of their actions.

The day conference will be followed by a day school on 22 April 2018 (led jointly by the *Charcoal and Wood Work Group* and the *Archaeobotanical Work Group*) where methods and approaches to identifying pests and the types of damage they cause will be explored.

Conference sessions and themes:

### 1) Pests of food production and storage

From field to store: this session will cover synanthropic pest infestations/damage to crops and food supplies (including livestock) caused, for example, by insects and rodents.

### 2) Pests in buildings and structural timbers

This session will deal with evidence of pest damage in archaeological (including maritime) contexts (wood, charcoal) and in standing buildings. The damage could be contemporaneous or post-depositional, or provide evidence for reuse of old timbers.

### 3) Pests in Collections

This session will report on infestations of museum reference collections, and also of fixtures, fittings and decor in historic properties (eg textiles).

### 4) Pests in the wider environment/landscape

This can include evidence of pestilence in humans as well as plants eg Dutch elm disease.

Please email abstract submissions for presentations and posters to:

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Deadline: 16 December 2017