

## ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY: DISCUSSION

(Initials: HQ=Henrietta Quinnell, MT=Myrtle Ternstrom, SB=Shirley Blaylock, JH=John Hedger, KG=Keith Gardner, AW=Ann Westcott, Q=Unknown participant)

JH: *Has the history of the island i.e. past land use affected the vegetation?*

MT: There were fires in Benson's time (mid 1700s) and extensive fires at the North End in 1933. There are nineteenth century records of vegetation, but we need pollination studies.

SB: Obviously depending on the climate the vegetation comes back with the passage of time. The greatest impact of land use is at the South End where farming was prevalent.

JH: *There appears to be something odd about Middle Park?*

SB: Middle Park (Tibbetts area) was ploughed more recently. On the east side previous field boundaries survive; there is evidence that there was cultivation there from the Bronze Age. The North End has a more 'natural' landscape in that there was no medieval cultivation.

KG: Some pollen analysis has been attempted in the Middle Park area and results showed a reversion from grassland to heathland.

KG: *The aceramic Iron Age - was it abandoned completely?*

HQ: The whole of Wales and Ireland did not use pottery through from the late Bronze Age, the Iron Age and through the Roman Period, except for obviously imported traditions. This lack of ceramics was evident to a considerable extent in Devon. Lundy probably reflects the practices in these areas with which it was in contact. However it should be stressed that many communities did not use pottery in the Iron Age, but the lack of artefacts does not mean that sites did not exist e.g. people probably used wooden or stone tools that have not survived.

KG: In the Early Christian Period, there were some imported Mediterranean wares. A sherd has been found in the Brickfields.

HQ: The lack of ceramics in the post-Roman Period is very well established throughout the South West. There is a little local production in Somerset, but indigenous pottery was only made in western Cornwall.

Q: *A layer of clay under the church was mentioned?*

MT: A 14ft bed of clay was discovered under the church when the foundations were dug. We have little information and more geological investigation is needed.

Q: *What were the sea-level changes in the Stone and Bronze Ages? Was the island larger in size than it is now?*

HQ: The study of sea level change is very complex and outside the scope of my expertise. At the end of the Ice Age sea level was lower than it is today,

probably about 100m. Lundy in the prehistoric period was probably broadly similar in extent to what it is today.

*Q: What animals, mammals, were hunted with the early arrow heads found?*

HQ: There is no specific evidence of mammal populations present at that time. Bones do not survive in Lundy's acid soil nor are there middens where limpet shells counteract the effects of acid soil. Hunter-gatherers could have hunted red deer that can reach islands, but there is no evidence of their presence on Lundy. Obviously seals and sea-birds were present at that time and were probably hunted.

*AW: Is it possible to have a good pollen analysis done on the island?*

SB: Pollen samples have been taken during an archaeological survey by English Heritage. Funding is needed and also a radiocarbon dating programme.