

## The agricultural revolution.

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**Start date** 01 November 2019                      **End date** 03 November 2019

**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge

**Tutor** Professor David Jacques                      **Course code** 1920NRX011

**Director of ISP and LL** Sarah Ormrod

**For further information on this course, please contact** Head of Academic Centre Administration, Zara Kuckelhaus  
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**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biography

**David Jacques** field of research explores the use of the Stonehenge landscape in the Mesolithic period (8500BC-4000BC). Since 2005 he has been the Project Director of an internationally significant Mesolithic archaeological site, one mile from Stonehenge. His team has discovered the oldest occupation site in the Stonehenge area, the likely place where the communities who built the first monuments at Stonehenge lived. These discoveries have contributed significantly to a new understanding of the initial settlement patterns and practices in the Stonehenge landscape. In 2013 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of the Antiquaries (FSA) in recognition of the importance of these discoveries.

In 2010 David Jacques won an Open University Teaching Prize for his work at Vespasian's Camp and the ways he involved that with his students learning. His project at Stonehenge was nominated 'Research Project of the Year 2013' by *Current Archaeology Magazine*, and was runner-up to Leicester University's discovery of Richard III. Under David Jacques's direction, the team's work has also featured on BBC 4's 'Flying Archaeologist' series, regional BBC and ITV output, and has been extensively reported in the press.

As a Fulbright alumnus, David Jacques has worked extensively to improve the education system of the Republic of Georgia, setting up and running a charity which stimulated an investment of \$12 million into the Georgian education system between 2005-8. In 2011, he was chosen as one of two 'Outstanding' British Fulbright Teacher Program alumni of the past 60 years

## Course programme

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### Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 19:00 | Dinner                                      |
| 20:30 | <b>The First farmers? (c.6000-4000 BC).</b> |
| 22:00 | Terrace bar open for informal discussion    |

### Saturday

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 07:30 | Breakfast   |
| 09:00 | <b>The Neolithic revolution at Stonehenge (c.4000-2500 BC).</b>   |
| 10:30 | Coffee  |
| 11:00 | <b>The Making of the Landscape: The Bronze Age (c 2500-800BC)</b> |
| 13:00 | Lunch   |
| 14:00 | Free  |
| 16:00 | Tea   |
| 16:30 | <b>Iron Age uses of Salisbury Plain (c.800BC-43 AD)</b>           |
| 18:00 | Free  |
| 18:30 | Dinner  |
| 20:00 | <b>Enter a few Romans? (AD 43-410)</b>                            |
| 21:30 | Terrace bar open for informal discussion                          |

### Sunday

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 07:30 | Breakfast   |
| 09:00 | <b>Plenary</b>  |
| 10:30 | Coffee  |
| 11:00 | <b>'Farming': when, where and how from the Mesolithic through to the end of the Romano British period</b> |
| 12:45 | Lunch   |

**The course will disperse after lunch**

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## Course syllabus

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### Aims:

1. To offer a broadly chronological survey of Stonehenge and its environs between 7500-2000BC.
2. To enable students to place their own research interests within the broader context of developments in human society/culture since the end of the last Ice Age.
3. To gain understanding of the new evidence for the first humans to occupy the Stonehenge landscape during the Mesolithic period (7500-4000BC) and how that affects our understanding of the later Neolithic and Bronze Age monumentalising of the area.

### Content:

The research work undertaken in and around Blick Mead indicates that a significant gap in our knowledge of the Stonehenge landscape's 'backstory' is in the process of being filled. The course content will provide an opportunity to explore mid to late Mesolithic population increases in the area and likely adaption of various 'domestication' traditions, including proto-farming methods.

The course will also examine the early to mid-Neolithic monumentalisation of the area in relation to pastoral farming – in particular the Coneybury Anomaly, the Cursus, Long Barrows and the first phases of Stonehenge.

We will examine the uses of the landscape in its Bronze and Iron Age phases and examine the development of the defended hillfort sites at during the Iron Age. The course will discuss the 'big questions' about Stonehenge and its landscape in relation to the agricultural revolution: What was it for? And where did the people come from who first used the landscape in the Mesolithic and who later built and used the Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments?

### Presentation of the course:

Class discussion (very important!), practical work, problem solving exercises, and lecture and seminar formats (involving power points).

### As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

1. Assess mid to late Mesolithic and early Neolithic uses of the landscape in relation to the agricultural revolution in the Salisbury landscape.
2. Demonstrate an understanding how the movement of people and ideas in the Stonehenge World Site area across seven millennia between 8500BC- 500BC contributed to the establishment of the area's renowned ceremonial character.
3. Demonstrate their understanding in ways that connects to up to notions of the agricultural revolution in its various phases across time and space in the Stonehenge landscape between c. 6000 BC to 400 AD.

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## Reading and resources list

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Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

| <b>Author</b>                        | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Publisher and date</b> |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Mark Bowden and Sharon Souter, et al | <i>'The Stonehenge Landscape'</i> .  | English Heritage, 2015.   |
| Tim Darvill                          | <i>Stonehenge: The Biography of the Landscape'</i> .                         | Tempus, 2006              |
| David Jacques, et al:                | <i>'Blick Mead: Exploring The First Place in the Stonehenge Landscape'</i> . | Peter Lang 2018           |
| David Field and Dave McOmish.        | <i>'The Making of Prehistoric Wiltshire'</i>                                 | Tempus 2017               |

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 25 October 2019