

# **Collaborative Doctoral Award: Defining the Potential of Ploughzone Lithic Scatters for Interpretation of the Final Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Landscape**

Research area: Archaeological Research

Supports: NHPP 4G2 - Ploughzone Archaeology

## **University Partner**

University of Manchester

## **Project Summary**

This project will provide an assessment of Final Palaeolithic (FP) and Mesolithic (c 13,000-4000 BC) lithic scatters and their landscape context in an area where little is known about landscape use and activity in these periods. The area will be chosen by the student, depending on their interests, or in discussion with the supervisors. It will involve an assessment of regional distributions using GIS, lithic analysis of existing collections, and fieldwork in one or more defined areas to improve understanding of ploughzone assemblages. Better understanding of landscape use in these periods will both improve academic knowledge of the period and assist in the protection and management of lithic scatters.

The aims of the project are to assess the utility of lithic scatter evidence for producing an interpretative account of patterns of landscape use and to develop an understanding of the location and character of LUP and Mesolithic sites that can inform heritage protection initiatives.

The specific objectives are:

1. Based on spatial distributions of known material and understanding of biases, to ascertain the landscape preferences for FP and Mesolithic occupation.
2. By comparison with other types of data, to assess the potential of ploughzone lithic scatters for understanding FP and Mesolithic occupation.
3. To develop a theoretical and methodological framework for characterising the activities represented by lithic scatter data.
4. To understand distributions of activity in the landscape and to better characterise ploughzone assemblages by undertaking survey and remote sensing as appropriate.
5. To compare landscape use in the selected region with existing models for these periods.
6. To enhance representation of these periods in the relevant Historic Environment Record(s).

The project will address English Heritage objectives by developing detailed understanding of ploughzone site characteristics and distributions, and measures for assigning significance. The outcome will be improved protection for ploughzone archaeology through better understanding and profile-raising. The project will also aim to address priorities outlined in relevant research strategies, especially the Regional Research Framework for the study area.

## **Contact Details**

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