backhoe at Piano di Pecore di Colliano, Salerno, southern Italy (44°44'N, 15°22'E). The trenching site is in a little intermontane basin, where a pond recurrently formed because of partial damming of the seasonal stream by faulting activity. Here, the sedimentary suite is faulted and warped by five quakes (including that of 1980), which were comparable in terms of vertical throw and deformation pattern. Chronological data for pre-1980 events, coupled with detailed stratigraphic analysis, yielded a slip rate of 0.4 mm/yr and a recurrence rate of 1700 yr.

RADIOCARBON RESULTS FOR THE BRITISH BEAKERS

JANET AMBERS1, SHERIDAN BOWMAN1, ALEX GIBSON2 and IAN KINNES3

The beginning of the Bronze Age in the British Isles has traditionally been marked by the appearance, in the archaeological record, of Beaker assemblages, mainly characterized by the Beaker pottery form, itself. Ceramic typologies based on this style, undoubtedly continental in origin, have been used both for relative dating and as evidence of the social and economic developments of the period.

Systematic radiocarbon dating has been attempted for the continental European Beaker material (Lanting, Mook & van der Waals 1973), but no such program has been carried out on British material. An examination of the existing radiocarbon results for the British Beakers showed many to be flawed in some way, particularly in the use of materials, such as mature wood, where there is no a priori reason for assuming a direct relationship between sample death and context. An attempt has been made at the British Museum to test the validity of archaeologically derived chronologies for the Beaker pottery of the British Isles. This involved analysis of a group of carefully selected human bone from Beaker burials, where there is a known direct association between ceramic usage and the cessation of carbon exchange. Twenty such samples have been identified and measured. The results presented here, combined with the 15 previously produced, supposedly reliable determinations, show no relationship between pottery style and calendar date of deposition.

REFERENCE


1Department of Scientific Research, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG England
2Fron Farmhouse, Montgomeryshire, Powys, England
3Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG England

14C ACTIVITY AND 3He CONTENT IN INTERSTITIAL WATERS FROM CORAL REEF: EVIDENCE FOR THE ENDO-UPWELLING CONCEPT

CHANTAL ANDRIÉ1, MICHEL FONTUGNE2, MAURICE ARNOLD2 and FRANCIS ROUGERIE3

In the central desert region of the tropical ocean, atolls constitute oases. The classical model of atoll functioning, based on horizontal exchanges between lagoon and oligotrophic oceanic surface water, is unable to balance nutrient budgets to account for high organic production. The geothermal endo-upwelling concept (Rougerie & Wauthy 1986) is based on a vertical ascent of deep-and rich-nutrient oceanic water, driven by geothermal heat flow through the atoll internal

1LODYC/ORSTOM Université P&M Curie, F 75230 Paris Cedex 05, France
2Centre ORSTOM de Tahiti, Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia
3Centre des Faibles Radioactivités, CNRS, F 911918 Gif sur Yvette Cedex, France