



MA Palaeolithic  
Archaeology and  
Human Origins

# MA Palaeolithic Archaeology and Human Origins

The study of Palaeolithic archaeology and human origins is truly global and interdisciplinary, covering nearly every continent and encompassing a wide variety of approaches. Human evolution, ethnoarchaeology, evolutionary psychology, climate change, technology, population dispersals and social interactions all combine to formulate the key questions of our discipline. Many of the species in the human lineage were technologically-sophisticated, while others were behaviourally-complex. How did these species live their lives, and why, ultimately, did they die out? What made them so different from us, and what can they tell us about ourselves today?

At Southampton, you will engage with those questions through a variety of teaching and learning techniques, including both practical and theoretical approaches to the study of human origins. These include fieldtrips to key sites (within the UK and abroad), the technological and experimental analysis of Palaeolithic technology, the study of the historical development of the discipline and future avenues for research. You will be based in the John Wymer Laboratory, with access to our extensive library and artefact collections.

As a student of Human Origins at Southampton you will automatically become a member of the Centre for the Archaeology of Human Origins (CAHO). The Centre is internationally recognised as a leader in the field of Palaeolithic material culture studies and the analysis of human dispersals. CAHO supports research into a variety of Palaeolithic and Human Origins related topics at PhD and post-doctoral levels, and you will have the opportunity to contribute to our online journal, *Human Origins*.

For more information, [www.southampton.ac.uk/archaeology](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/archaeology)

## Typical core modules:

The Contexts for Human Origins Research

The Analysis and Interpretation of Stone Tools

Dissertation

## Typical optional modules:

Introduction to Human Skeletal Studies

Bones in Context: Human-Animal Interaction

Interpreting Archaeological Art

Social Archaeologies

Archaeology Under Water

Mapping with Geographical Information Systems

Modern replica in bottle glass of a Lower Palaeolithic handaxe from Boxgrove.