

What does Education for Sustainability have to do with Archaeology?

“Southampton offers vibrant and varied programmes that draw upon our global perspective and distinctive thematic research areas such as maritime archaeology, human origins, and the politics and value of heritage. ... you will discover different periods and different peoples, expanding your knowledge of humans from their first appearance some two million years ago up to the present day.” (<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/archaeology/undergraduate/index.page?>)

Archaeology seeks to understand the most fundamental cultural and social questions; these are critical to sustainable development. Topic areas of relevance to sustainability already in the Archaeology curriculum include:

- **Understanding other cultures:** the role of the archaeology in expanding understanding of other cultures, beliefs, experiences and foster human empathy; reconnecting humankind and nature.
- **Human interaction with nature:** understanding human interactions with nature; impact of environment on development and vice versa; adapting and adaptability to change.
- **Global perspective:** understanding diverse cultural backgrounds; the role of globalisation in changing human, societal, national interactions; the role of seafaring, travel and discovery in changing societies and culture; human dispersal and global expansion.
- **Inequality:** understanding class structures, social inequality
- **Understanding human emotions:** understanding how humans relate to each other, as individuals, in society.
- **Societal development:** understanding how societies develop; civilisation; domestication and the impact on society; what impacts the rise and fall of societies, nations, empires rise and fall.

Key skills for archaeologists which sustainability teaching cultivates: interdisciplinary working; evidence-based decision-making; debate and reasoning; teamwork; leadership; problem-solving; oral and written communication skills; self-management; time-management; business mind-sets; critical thinking.

Find out more: Contact Julia Kendal (j.kendal@soton.ac.uk) for more information including case studies on teaching sustainability in this area.