

**WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2011 at 7:00 pm at [DESS](#)**

**SPEAKER:** Dr Emma Tetlow is an archaeologist and a member of the team working on the Qatar National Historic Environment Record, a combined project of the Qatar Museums Authority and the University of Birmingham, UK.

**PRESENTATION:** Environmental Archaeology is Rubbish! A Fishy Tale from Wadi Debayan, North Western Qatar

Previous to the work of the Qatar National Historic Environment Record, the application of environmental archaeology and geoarchaeology to sites in Qatar has been limited. This presentation will outline the principles and techniques of both fields, including the application of analytical techniques such as pollen, macroscopic plant and insect remains, and the importance of radiometric and other methods of dating. The value of geomorphological and sedimentological data to establish sites which would have been favourable for human occupation will also be considered.

Several examples of the how these techniques have been applied in Qatar will also be presented. These include:

- Investigation on the eastern fringes of the Wadi Debayan which has established the presence of an extensive midden deposit containing abundant fishbone consistent with a prolonged phase of human occupation. Radiometric evidence indicates that deposition commenced c. 3510 to 3410 cal BC (cal BP 5460 to 5360) - 3390 to 3340 cal BC (cal BP 5340 to 5290), confining the earliest episodes of deposit formation to the mid Neolithic.
- An extensive program of geoprospection across the terrestrial and intertidal zones at the mouth of the Wadi Debayaan which aimed to establish the wider sedimentary regime. It was also anticipated that this geoprospection may isolate further areas of archaeological interest through the interpretation of these deposits by establishing other areas favourable for exploitation by past human populations.
- On-going palaeoenvironmental analysis which will ultimately provide comment on both regional and more localised environmental change within both Wadi Debayan and north eastern Qatar during the Holocene.

Aspects of this work have recently formed part of a National Geographic documentary about the work and staff of the QNHER.

**SPEAKER BIO:** Emma Tetlow graduated with a degree in Environmental Science from the University of Wolverhampton, completing an M.Phil in Environmental Archaeology and a Ph.D, both from the University of Birmingham. She has worked as an Environmental Specialist and Geoarchaeologist since completing her PhD in 2004, specialising in wetlands with particular emphasis on coastal, intertidal and alluvial environments. She has extensive commercial experience and has worked as both an environmental specialist and excavator. In the UK her work has included sites such as Severn Estuary, Heathrow Terminal 5, Edinburgh's Grassmarket, and as Archaeological Clerk of Works at Clyde Wind Farm, the biggest of its kind in Europe.

Abroad, her work has included Swedish Sami sites in the Arctic Circle, in Bosnia-Herzegovina for ICMP, the successor to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and at the site of Ned Kelly's last stand in Glenrowan, Australia!

During early 2010, Emma became involved in the continued development of the Qatar National Historic Environment Record on behalf of Qatar Museums Authority. She is now based in Qatar as project environmental officer, and her role gives her direct responsibility for all aspects of the environmental programme including project design and evolution, field work, analysis and publication. She also acts in a specialist advisory role to the QMA field team.