

CENNI BIOGRAFICI



ALEX BROWN

Alex Brown is an environmental archaeologist with a research interest in the relationship between past ecological and cultural change, with a particular focus on medieval Europe and wetland/coastal landscapes. He is a specialist in palynological analysis, and is currently the lead post-doctoral research associate on the Ecology of Crusading Project with responsibility for coordinating the palaeobotanical aspects of research.

Alex graduated in 2000 with a degree in archaeology from the University of Reading and went on to study for an MSc in Geoarchaeology in 2001, also at Reading, before undertaking a PhD at the same institution. His doctoral research focused on the evidence for human environmental impact and land-use within the prehistoric coastal-wetland landscapes of the Severn Estuary (southwest Britain) during the transition from hunter-gathering to farming. Following his PhD, Alex taught environmental archaeology at the University of Reading and continued research in coastal-wetland archaeology.

The temporal range of Alex's research expanded soon after completing his PhD to include the medieval period, with projects on medieval woodland history and the study of a series of exceptionally well-preserved medieval fishtraps in the Severn Estuary. Alex became involved with research in the Baltic in 2008 and has become a core member of the Ecology of Crusading team and the wider research network. Alex's research forms a key element of the Ecology of Crusading Project. His research focuses on investigating the evidence for changes in vegetation and land-use across the Baltic occurring as a direct consequence of the crusades and the process of colonisation and economic expansion that followed the conquest of former tribal lands. He has undertaken a significant amount of fieldwork across the Baltic and Central Europe and is an experienced and accomplished field archaeologist. Alex has also taught on medieval environmental archaeology at universities in Hungary (CEU, Budapest), Poland (Torun), Lithuania (Klaipeda) and Latvia (University of Latvia, Riga).

Alex has published extensively on environmental archaeology, including recent publications related to the Ecology of Crusading Project including the *Journal of Archaeological Sciences* (Brown and Pluskowski 2011, *J. Arch Sci* 38, 1957-1966), *Antiquity* (Pluskowski et al 2011, *Antiq.* 85; Pluskowski et al 2014, *Antiq* in press) and the *European Journal of Archaeology* (Pluskowski et al in press). Alex also co-wrote a chapter on the environmental context of the crusades as part of Aleks Pluskowski's book on the *Archaeology of the Prussian Crusades*, is co-editor of a recent volume on *Frontier Societies and Environmental Change in northeast Europe* (Pluskowski, Brown Stančikaite, M. and Daugnora) and has co-published several interim reports and contributed to conference proceedings detailing the results of research in the Baltic.