

# A Field Guide to Georarbology



Professor A. Hylands



*Image 1.*  
View of technical  
equipment after instal-  
lation at site.

“Deep in the underland of a place lies echoes of what once was. They lie in waiting, tucked in the cracks of millenia old geology, in the clumps of soil, in the clods of mud, in the rocky wake of the past.”

From “A Report on geo-arbology”,  
Dr. Kasia Nawartek, 1968.



*Image 2.*  
Connections 12 and  
13 with the tree.

Geo-Arbology is a unique field of study, primarily developed during the 1970s. It involves gathering data hidden in the earth and trees, extracting it in ways that can reveal unique histories of what took place at a given site. The following is a report of a particular case study, including journal entries and photography as events unfolded. It took place in rural Sussex, on June 6th, 1978.

TEMPORAL DIAL SETTINGS GRID	
Setting	Estimated land memory timeframe (years)
1	10
2	20-30
3	50-100
4	100-500
5	500-1000
6	1000-1800
7	2500- 1900
8	2000-5000
9	5000- 20,000

*Image 3.*  
Temporal settings  
table. (Manual for  
Geo-Arbology and  
Technical information,  
Volume 1, 1972)

06.06.1978, 09:27.

Arrival at site. Beginning the process of wiring to tree for study.

Recording 1:

06.06.1978, 09:53

Beginning of recording process. No sounds reported.

06.06.1978, 10:14

Intermittent sounds lasting between 5 seconds and 7 minutes of crumpling material, almost like crushed leaves. There are light hums and murmurs in the background, perhaps due to technological interference, unclear.

Temporal dial is adjusted to 7.

06.06.1978, 10:16

Faint sounds of footsteps emerging.

06.06.1978, 10:19

Sounds of footsteps growing louder, seems to the sound of footsteps on a hard dry surface.

06.06.1978, 10:23

Footsteps seem to be layering ontop of eachother, with other footstep sounds emerging, then fading out sporadically.

06.06.1978, 10:28

Footstep sounds continues to follow this pattern. There are many footsteps that can be heard now, possibly over a hundred, coming in waves, over the top of each other

06.06.1978, 10:34

Footsteps seem to become clearer, it sounds like they are from hard boots. Distant conversation emerges softly. An indistinguishable language, but human.

*Image 4.*

Photograph of pathway leading to site.



Slowly, the spider moves across, climbing down against the bark, to where moss clings like a carpet, sloping its way astride supple roots to the floor bed. It climbs over twigs, scattered. Each leg quickly and inquisitively moving forward. Its path is winding, not so direct but urgent, over a leaf, before it waits steadfast, as a gentle gust quivers the leaf slightly. It stands in place and the spider resumes on. Into the imprint of a footprint, moving easier and faster against where the soil has been compacted flat. Then up and onward, out via the heels edge.



*Image 5.*  
Adjusting the  
temporal dial on the  
device.

06.06.1978, 10:35

Footstep sounds stop abruptly, an echoing call is heard from beyond. Perhaps an instructiun. When the foot-steps stop there is a noticeable unified clang of metal. This seems to disrupt the connection, and static over-comes much of the noise.

06.06.1978, 10:37

Static grows then fades in between the footsteps and bashes of metal.



*Image 6.*  
Roman coins found  
in nearby Silbury  
Fort. (East sussex  
library archives).



*Image 7.*  
Close up of tree next  
on walk to site.

06.06.1978, 10:40

Slowly clarity resumes, and what can be heard is some kind of quiet conversation. Language unknown, possibly latin but some words are audible. I will recall some of what I could hear:

"Miror... qua sevitia in cacumin illus cole lateat"  
It is hard to decipher exactly what is being said.

One word is notably used often repeated throughout:

"Porro".

06.06.1978, 10:43

The conversation ends. In place comes quiet crunching sounds possibly food.

06.06.1978, 10:44

Footsteps and metal resume. They are initially joined by a loud cheer. Which forces the recording to muffle.

06.06.1978, 10:45

Footstep sounds fade out, beginning to be replaced by distant murmuring, faint conversations seem to be heard but unclear.

06.06.1978, 10:46

Distant murmuring continues, then behind to fade.

06.06.1978, 10:47

Footstep noises grow louder.

06.06.1978, 10:49

Interference begins to fade in.

06.06.1978, 10:54

Interference grows too loud, indistinguishable noise.

06.06.1978, 10:55

Recording concluded.

"Porro" (latin):  
Meaning onwards or forwards.



*Image 8.*  
Close up of path on  
way to site.



*Image 9.*  
Footprint in a  
Roman tile found at  
Fishbourne Roman  
Palace, West Sussex,  
UK



*Image 10.*  
Image result when  
recorded data is  
converted through  
a visualisation  
software.



*Image 11.*  
Tree on walk to site

Moss was reclaiming at the foot of a trunk. The tiny filaments, furry with impermanence, watching and waiting. They greet the spiders, ants, woodlouse, beetles, squirrels, the ground, soil, mushrooms when they fruit in autumn. They provide a warmth for passersby to rest on. A comfort, as neck might perfectly contour against the stretching limb of a root, curving its way from the ground. Many have rested here. Those tiny green ponds always drew smiles from those that came by, as they kissed the heel of a neck or blushing surface of cheek. It was not so sad for the moss, when they left and coldness resumed in place of the warm shape they embossed. The moss knew more would come back. They always did.

Recording 4:

06.06.1978, 14:25  
Beggining of recording

06.06.1978, 14:26  
Temporal dial adjusted to 9

06.06.1978, 14:27  
No distinct sounds heard for many minutes. Inaudible rustling.

06.06.1978, 14:28  
Minor adjustments to wire placements to attempt to improve connections.

06.06.1978, 14:29  
Sound seems to improve. Static fades in and out but inbetween the rustling of a tree can be heard.

06.06.1978, 14:32  
Rustling intensifies, great gusts of winds pull on leaves, the creaking of the tree can be heard cracking loud through the recording.

06.06.1978, 14:35  
Quiet.

06.06.1978, 14:36  
Then quite distinctly, I begin to hear the panting of an animal, some kind of mammal perhaps.

06.06.1978, 14:37  
This panting was loud at first but, dies down as if it has caught its breath.

06.06.1978, 14:38  
Quiet breathing of the mammal, it is at rest here. Or was.

06.06.1978, 14:38  
Then quickly there is a thump.





*Image 12.*

A selection of the sheep metacarpals (front foot bones) and metatarsals (back foot bones) found. Archeological remains found in East Sussex. Estimation 5000 years old. (British Library)

06.06.1978, 14:39

A loud shriek from a different animal follows the thump, something else is broken, maybe a bone or branch.

06.06.1978, 14:41

The breathing is replaced with wet chewing sounds. Something is torn, then chewed. Heavier breathing.

06.06.1978, 14:42

This continues for many minutes, before stopping and silence resumes.

06.06.1978, 14:47

Gentle tapping comes in place. Clicking and tapping, sporadically. Like an insect moving over a hard surface.

06.06.1978, 14:50

Many of these noises combine overlapping one another, something is attracting them to this place.

06.06.1978, 14:55

This intense activity continues for a moment then slowly fades out.

06.06.1978, 14:57

The wind picks up again. It is quite, but fades in and out, more gently now. I sit with this noise for many moments.

06.06.1978, 15:13

Recording concluded.



*Image 13.*  
4,000-year-old Oak Capricorn beetles at the Natural History Museum © Trustees of the Natural History Museum/PA. They eat through a dead carcass in minutes.

*Image 14.*  
Wiring connections with tree at site.

