

RESEARCH LABORATORY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY
AND THE HISTORY OF ART

TEL. 0865 55211

OXFORD UNIVERSITY

6 KEBLE ROAD
OXFORD
OX1 3QJ

RADIOCARBON ACCELERATOR UNIT

TEL. 0865 5 13296

The Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit will have a number of major themes to its archaeological dating programme, which is now being formulated. One theme which will be seriously considered for its suitability is 'Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic open sites in North-west Europe (c. 25,000 - 8,000 BP)'.

One advantage of the accelerator method is that it will allow the dating of very small samples. Dates from bone based on collagen should be possible from samples of c. 1 gram, and dates on charcoal from samples of a few milligrams. It is important, however, that the method should not be used simply as a verification of the date of materials in poor context. Its full value would be realised through systematic use in stratified sites, to answer specific chronological questions.

I should be interested to hear from archaeologists who have, or are likely to recover, samples which may be relevant to this suggested project, so that the need for it can be assessed more accurately.

J.A.J. Gowlett
Senior Archaeologist,