

***Long-distance travel and trade in the Bronze Age: the Wessex connection***  
*Professor Anthony Harding (University of Exeter)*

70 years ago, Stuart Piggott set the scene for a Wessex Culture with many connections to Brittany, Central Europe and Greece; later work has reinforced our appreciation of those long-distance links. But it is one thing to note similarities in artefact form, and quite another to understand the context in which they occurred.

In this paper I shall review recent developments in our knowledge of long-distance trade and travel in Bronze Age Europe. As well as considering specific types of evidence (eg, amber, in the light of the Bernstorf find, or the increasing number of Cypriot daggers found in Europe), I shall consider the arguments put forward for a Bronze Age world that was intimately linked through connections brought about by travellers and traders, and the possible 'world system' that this could indicate.