

Guidelines for referees

Before Farming: the archaeology and anthropology of hunter-gatherers

Scope of the journal

Geographical: both Old World and New World.

Temporal: all periods including the present.

Subject matter: all aspects of hunter-gatherer behaviour and issues related to its interpretation. This can include research on climate, palaeoecology, etc, where it emanates from archaeological research or is directly related to the interpretation of hunter-gatherer behaviour.

Reports on individual sites or peoples should be placed in a regional context to satisfy a wide-ranging audience.

Publication criteria

Having read through the submitted material, before you put a lot of time and effort into a detailed critical commentary please ask yourself the following questions:

- is the work original?
- is it of sufficient quality to warrant publication?

If the answer to either of these is no please return the work stating that this is the case and giving your major reasons for doing so. If the answer to both these questions is yes, proceed with the review and state whether the work should be:

- accepted for publication as it stands
- accepted for publication with minor revisions
- accepted for publication subject to major revisions and re-submission for review.

In all cases we will then need your reasons for the decision. You might wish to consider the following:

- are the illustrations appropriate and sufficient
- are there any omissions, textual or illustrative
- are there any areas of overlap or repetition which should be eliminated
- what if any alterations to the order of the text are necessary
- should any references be added to those already cited
- is there a comparable piece of work in this field which overlaps significantly?

Anonymity

You decide whether you wish your comments to be passed on to the author anonymously or not. If you do not state a preference we will default to anonymity.

Timescale

One of the main reasons for publishing *Before Farming* as an electronic journal is to give researchers a speedy route to publication. If you know that you definitely cannot referee the work within four weeks at the most, please say so at the outset. We will then seek another referee or review our priority for the piece. We will try not to burden you or trespass on your good will by sending too many articles to you if you turn out to be speedy and efficient!
