Stephen Shennan was born in Liverpool, England, in 1949. He did his BA degree in Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Cambridge and went on to do his PhD there as a student of David Clarke (and contemporary of Ian Hodder). From Cambridge he moved to Southampton to work on a project on prehistoric amber exchange with Colin Renfrew. After two years as a regional field archaeologist he obtained a teaching position at Southampton, specialising in quantitative methods. At Southampton his research was mainly focussed on the beginning of the Bronze Age and in the 1980s he carried out an excavation at a Bronze Age copper production settlement in the Austrian Alps. After moving up through the academic ranks to full Professor at Southampton in 1996 he moved to the Institute of Archaeology, UCL, as Professor of Theoretical Archaeology. Since the late 1980s he had become increasingly interested in applying ideas and methods from the study of biological evolution to understanding cultural stability and change and in 2000 he and a group of colleagues were successful in obtaining funding to set up the Centre for the Evolutionary Analysis of Cultural Behaviour at UCL, of which he became Director; the five year grant has since been renewed for another five years. In 2005 Shennan became Director of the Institute of Archaeology. His publications include *Quantifying Archaeology*, *Early Copper Producers of the Eastern Alps: Excavations at St. Veit-Klinglberg*, and *Genes, Memes and Human History: Darwinian Archaeology and Cultural Evolution*.

“The Archaeology of Cultural Evolution”

This will be a general lecture. It will explain what I mean by cultural evolution, essentially that it is a process best seen as a version of what Darwin called ‘descent with modification, that can be approached by using versions of the principles and methods used to understand biological evolution. It will provide arguments for why this is a productive approach and go on to look at what archaeology can contribute to it as well as to what the approach itself can offer to archaeology. These last points will be illustrated with archaeological examples.