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Archaeology today

Fresh evidence is emerging across the world of a seam of plastic formed during the Anthropocene.

Teams of archaeologists working independently in various parts of the world are finding what professor Abi Soboluka of the Jean Piaget University of Luanda, Angola calls “a global seam of plastic.” Evidence for this global phenomenon has come to light during the last few years as archaeologists working across the world have been finding plastic shards appearing in the same level.

Professor Soboluka who is co-ordinating the evidence being unearthed describes it as “a ground-breaking discovery that will completely change our knowledge of the era now known as the Anthropocene.”

It will be some time before many of the finds are catalogued and interpreted as the sheer volume and variety of artefacts is almost overwhelming. Already scientists are acknowledging that this is powerful evidence of human influence that resulted in the great extinctions of the twenty-first century.



A sample of the finds from Britain currently on display in Salford, Manchester.
CREDIT: Jane Fairhurst