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Ian Lawson is a lecturer at the School of Geography, University of Leeds. He is a Quaternary palaeoecologist with a particular focus on pollen analysis. With a background working on lake sediment records of climatic and environmental change in the Mediterranean, he has also worked on the palaeoecology of the Faroes and Iceland since 2001. One current research project aims to apply semi-automated pollen analysis to Icelandic lake sediments in order to determine the spatial and temporal pattern of deforestation in Myvatnssveit, northern Iceland, in collaboration with colleagues from Massey University, New Zealand. He is a co-investigator on a NERC-funded project working on peat deposits in Amazonian Peru, and has recently helped to secure £36,000 of funding for a Worldwide Universities Network focusing on ecosystem vulnerability in the Arctic.