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Anthropogenic landscapes? Modelling the role of hunter-gatherers in interglacial ecosystems in Europe

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Anthropogenic Landscapes? - Propositions

1. Hunter-gatherer vegetation burning and the anthropogenic impact on megafauna through hunting played an important role in shaping European ecosystems.
2. Ethnographic and archaeological evidence, together with the results of this study, suggest that Last Interglacial Neanderthals and Mesolithic humans may have had comparable impacts on landscapes.
3. Combining a genetic algorithm with agent-based modelling enables effective exploration of various ecosystem change scenarios.
4. Future research could address gaps in archaeological and palaeoecological records by extending this study's approach across different periods and continents.
5. The archaeological record is inherently incomplete, making multi-evidence, multi-scalar, and multi-method approaches essential for addressing existing gaps.
6. Investigating the long-term human effects on landscapes contributes to contemporary conservation efforts and land management strategies for a sustainable future.
7. A sharp distinction between "natural" and "human-modified" landscapes oversimplifies the continuous and complex history of human-environment interactions.
8. The usefulness of models is not in their realism and accuracy, but in their ability to clarify assumptions and test plausible scenarios.
9. Genuine collaboration requires more than combining disciplines; it demands shared methodologies, datasets, language, long-term knowledge networks, and open exchange of ideas.
10. Early-career researchers have always faced the most academic job insecurity, yet they are the foundation of scientific progress.
11. A reviewer's enthusiasm for a paper is often proportional to the number of corrections they suggest.
12. Research impact and quality should not only be measured by citations or grants, but also by whether the general public, including friends and family, understands what you do and why it matters.