

newsletter

From the committee Warren Baillie MCIfA, GUARD Archaeology Ltd



The Scottish Group CIfA committee decided earlier this year that it would be good to put out a short piece from one member of the committee in each Newsletter, each covering a range of topics. As current Treasurer of the committee, it is now my turn.

I have been a member of the [now] Chartered Institute since 2012 and was previously a member of the IAI in Ireland before moving to Scotland in 2011. When I applied for the position at GUARD Archaeology Limited in 2011, the application clearly stated that the successful candidate would be a member of the (then) IfA or equivalent. The IAI membership, I suppose, is seen as equivalent. On securing the position, I was encouraged and

supported by my employers to join the IfA. I could see the value in our archaeological team having the guidance of the IfA as a benchmark for all of us to work towards achieving. I applied for MIfA membership, having accrued most of my experience in Ireland on some major infrastructural projects such as roads, pipelines, wind-farms, large-scale housing developments and quite a few lucrative (archaeologically speaking of course!) prehistoric sites.

The IfA application form offered an opportunity for me to reflect on some of my strengths and more importantly any weaknesses that I could build upon. I will be honest, I was nervous at being knocked back and so I put a CD with some notable excavation reports I had done, a list of my excavation licences north and south of the Irish border, and other possibly unnecessary detail on my career to date, all into a bulging envelope and awaited the verdict... and I got my MIfA membership. So, if you are considering applying, see it as a positive step and a means to reflect on where you are now, and what you need to do to further your career in the future.

In 2013 I saw an opportunity to play a more active role in the Institute; a ballot for new members on the Scottish Group committee in 2013. I got enough votes and here I am writing about it two and a bit years on as the Treasurer of the committee. I am very grateful to my current employer who is very supportive of my Scottish Group CIfA work and it would not be possible to sit on the committee without this assistance. My employers, like me, see the value in being directly involved in CIfA's work and in being a CIfA Registered Organisation to maintain and raise standards in archaeology, across the UK and beyond. Joining the committee has also provided an insight into what goes on behind the scenes: the question I am most often asked is: what does CIfA do? Well, I can tell you that the members of the committee and the Chartered Institute as a

December 2015

whole work very hard behind the scenes to arrange quality CPD training events, to showcase recent findings, are consulted on upcoming policies and planning guidance, and much much more... The Scottish Group in particular is one of the leading ClfA Groups in the UK in terms of training provision.

I often say this to some of my early career archaeologist colleagues; do you know you can become a member of the Scottish Group for only £10? Most are surprised and wonder why they were not aware. SGClfA membership will get you a copy of the newsletters and you will receive information and discounts on upcoming CPD training events. So why not give that special archaeologist in your life a gift that will make their little face light up this Christmas morning!

Merry Christmas from the ClfA Scottish Group!

Scottish Group recent activities

Members of the Scottish Group represent ClfA on a number of other panels and groups, including:

- SHED programme management group
- Regular Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS) Historic Environment Working Group meetings
- Archaeological Archives in Scotland discussion group
- Historic Environment Bill stakeholder workshops.

Part of the Group's work is to assist ClfA's main office in Reading in responding to historic environment consultations relevant to Scotland and Scottish members. ClfA recently responded to consultations on (amongst others):

August

Industrial Heritage Strategy for Scotland.

September

Draft Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Note - Gardens and Designed Landscapes.

Draft Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Note - Historic Battlefields.

November

Draft Standard for Pottery Analysis in Archaeology

Draft Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Note - World Heritage Sites.

December

Scottish Planning Review (full consultation response to be available on ClfA website shortly).

Full consultation responses can be found at: www.archaeologists.net/advocacy/consultations/2015

Current consultations

BEFS: Scotland Performs (Deadline 18 December 2015)

Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS) are conducting a survey on the National Performance Indicator for the historic environment.

The review of the National Performance Framework, Scotland Performs, is taking place providing an opportunity to recommend changes so that it better represents the key priorities set out in the Historic Environment Strategy 'Our Place in Time'.

The current National Performance Indicator for the historic environment is "Improve the condition of Scotland's historic sites" and the indicator measure is "The percentage of category A listed buildings on the Buildings at Risk Register." Previous work undertaken by BEFS has revealed a desire by some members of the heritage sector to change this.

BEFS are therefore seeking views on the existing National Performance Indicator and measures for the historic environment and inviting suggestions if you think it should be changed.

The survey can be found here:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/ScotlandPerforms

And via the BEFS website here:

www.befs.org.uk/news/173/50/Scotland-Performs

Historic Environment Scotland Corporate Plan Consultation (Deadline 8 February 2016)

A public consultation on the draft Historic Environment Scotland Corporate Plan 2016-2019 has

been launched. Historic Environment Scotland is a new public body and will play a leading role in delivering Scotland's Historic Environment Strategy, *Our Place in Time*, in collaboration with others working in the historic environment sector. In 2016 Historic Environment Scotland will publish its first Corporate Plan which will set out its vision, strategic outcomes and objectives, as well as the values that will guide its activities over the next three years.

In advance of producing the final version of the plan, HES want to hear your views on the consultation draft and the impact of HES stated outcomes and objectives.

The 5 key strategic themes are:

- Lead: Fulfilling a leading and enabling role in the historic environment sector
- Understand: Increasing knowledge and understanding of the historic environment through investigation, research and recording activities
- Protect: Enhancing protection of the historic environment through regulation, conservation, collection and investment activities
- Value: Promoting the value of the historic environment through education, learning, outreach and skill-sharing activities
- Perform: Creating a high performing organisation that is well equipped to meet day-to-day and future challenges, to improve the way we work and the quality of service we provide

The Plan also sets out Historic Environment Scotland's Vision - that Scotland's heritage is understood, shared and enjoyed with pride by everyone - as well as their mission and values. Their ambition is to encourage wider engagement, participation in and enjoyment of the historic environment.

Go to:

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/hesconsult to find out how to respond to this consultation.

Future thinking on carved stones in Scotland: a Research Framework

Dr Sally Foster MCIfA, University of Stirling

Your input is invited to the final stage of development of the above, which is part of the next stage of ScARF. The **Research Framework** is building

on the outcomes of four workshops that took place in 2015, organised by Dr Sally Foster (University of Stirling) and Dr Katherine Forsyth (University of Glasgow), funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh and Historic Scotland.

For a report of progress and your opportunity to contribute, please see:

www.stir.ac.uk/cehp/projects/futurethinkingoncarvedstonesinscotland/rseworkshop4/

Training

!!Hold the Date – Monday 22 February 2016 The Use of Drones in Archaeology!!

A joint training workshop with ALGAO Scotland on the use of drones in archaeology, covering legal & consent aspects as well as case studies on imaging and the information that can be extracted beyond just the pretty pictures. To be held at the McDonald Rooms, Edinburgh, 10am - 4pm.

CIfA Scottish Group AGM and training event, King's Knott, Stirling

Matt Ritchie MCIfA, Forestry Commission Scotland, Dr Graeme Cavers MCIfA, AOC Archaeology Group, Dr Murray Cook MCIfA, Stirling Council

The King's Park surrounds Stirling Castle in Scotland and dates from the 12th century. It was a royal pleasure ground where the medieval royal court enjoyed jousting, hawking and hunting alongside extensive gardens, orchards and farms. The garden earthworks known as 'the King's Knot' were probably laid out in advance of Charles I's 'homecoming' for his Scottish coronation, which eventually took place in 1633. These elaborate gardens, one of the best examples in Scotland, represent the final major phase of royal investment in Stirling before attention focused on London.

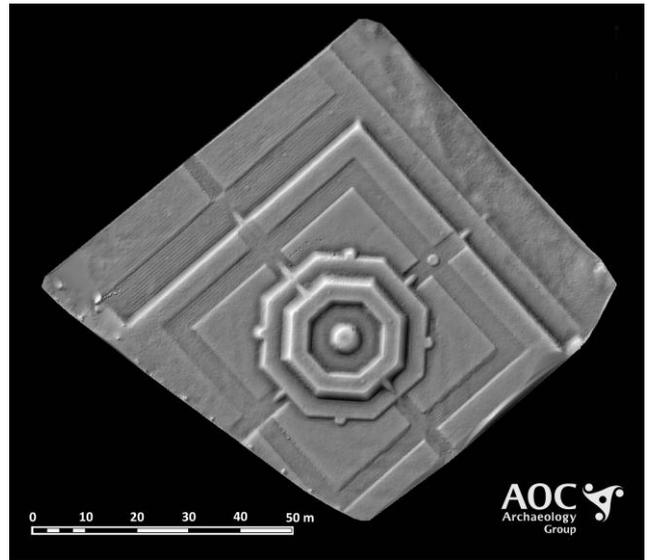
In 1625 William Watts was despatched from London to be '*maister gairdiner to his Majestie at the Castell of Stirling*'. Watts was soon engaged in '*plating and contryveing his Majesties new orchard and garden*'. The King's Knot comprises an octagonal, stepped grass-covered mound rising to over 3m in height. It fell into neglect after Charles I's return to England –

until Queen Victoria ordered its restoration following her visit in 1842.

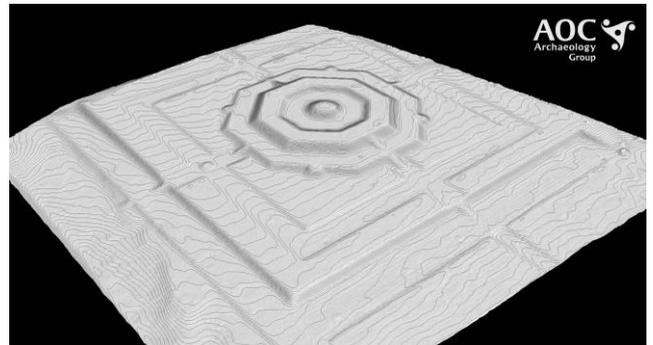


Students and early career professionals learn archaeological survey techniques (copyright Matt Ritchie)

A recent skills-sharing workshop by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists used the earthwork to demonstrate archaeological measured survey techniques to an audience of students and early-career professionals. This hill shaded terrain model (derived from terrestrial laser scanning by AOC Archaeology) captures the beautiful regular geometry of the site – the first time this important site has been surveyed in such detail.



King's Knot local relief terrain models (copyright AOC Archaeology)



King's Knot 3D contour view (copyright AOC Archaeology)

News

Launch of Historic Environment Scotland

Dr Melanie Johnson MCIfA, CFA Archaeology Ltd

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is the new lead public body for the country's historic environment, established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment, which came into effect on 1 October 2015. Created by the Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014, it brings together Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS). Historic Environment Scotland is a Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) and also has charitable status; as an NDPB it is led by a Board appointed by Scottish Ministers and will have a dedicated sponsor team which represents its interests in the Scottish Government.

HES continues to have an important role as a regulator and as the statutory adviser to Scottish Ministers, but will now carry out decision making functions in their own name, rather than on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

Within the overarching name, you will continue to see existing brands such as Canmore, Scran, NCAP, and the Historic Scotland brand at properties, and there will be no change to the services provided. The current websites will remain in place until the new website is launched in 2016, along with new branding for the organisation. Current funding for existing projects will be unaffected and access to the RCAHMS search room is unchanged.

HES is responsible for the management of over 300 properties of national importance, or “properties in care”, under a formal Scheme of Delegation from Scottish Ministers. They are also responsible for the internationally significant collections transferred from RCAHMS including over five million drawings, photographs, negatives and manuscripts and over 20 million aerial images of locations around the world. They retain a significant role as a grant provider, and will continue to invest grants of approximately £14 million a year to national and local organisations, supporting building repairs, ancient monuments, archaeological excavations and surveys, the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme, and the voluntary sector. Their conservation specialists will continue to provide guidance and technical research into the built environment, along with programmes for training and skills development. HES will also continue to survey and record Scotland’s historic environment, with an outreach programme providing educational activities and resources for learners of all ages to discover and explore our historic environment, and for communities and individuals to be actively engaged with their heritage. HES will lead on the delivery of Scotland’s first strategy for the historic environment, Our Place in Time (www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/03/8522).

HES are currently developing a Corporate Plan to cover the period 2016-19, and the consultation is now open (see above).

Some of the changes you will see are a new Heritage Management Portal, which will host the decisions made by HES regarding scheduling, listing and scheduled monument consent. This new

transparency brings Historic Environment Scotland in line with planning authorities in Scotland who already publish decisions to their planning portals. There is also a new right of appeal to challenge HES decisions regarding scheduling, listing and scheduled monument consent, so new procedures are in place to allow appeals to Scottish Ministers.

The portal can be found here

<http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/hes/web/f?p=PORTAL:HOME:::::>

You can keep up-to-date with the latest news on our new organisation on these pages:

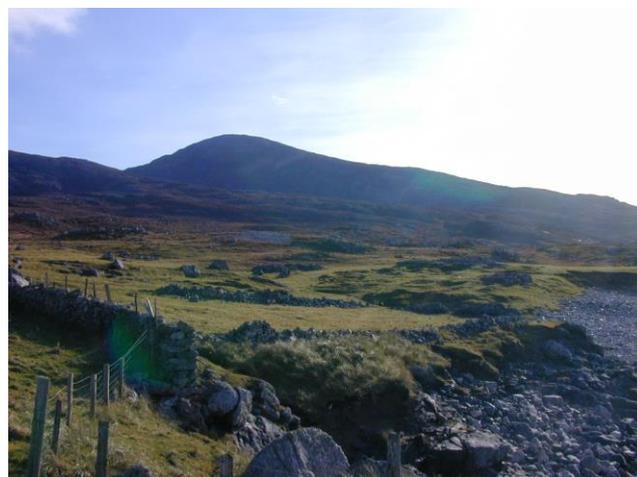
www.rcahms.gov.uk/rcahms-and-historic-scotland

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/about/historicenvironmentscotland.htm

Members’ news

Mysterious excavations at Mealista (Mealastadh), Isle of Lewis

Dr Mary MacLeod Rivett MCIfA, University of the Highlands and Islands.



Probably every professional archaeologist who’s worked in the field for more than a decade has a slightly guilty conscience about one or another excavation that has somehow not been published! It may be big or small; sometimes it’s just a site that was unproductive, or that you had to drop after a year, hoping all the while to get back to it. We’ve all been there.

Sometime, we think in the second half of the 1970s, or the very early 1980s, an archaeological team came to the Isle of Lewis to carry out some excavations at the beautiful, and important, multi-period settlement of Mealastadh (NGR NA 991 241). Then, the form of the name that was used was the English, Mealista. This township, cleared of its occupants to make way for a sheep farm in the 19th century, is located at the end of the road down the western coast of the Outer Hebridean island. It's now part of the common grazings of the adjacent township of Breanais (Brenish), but in the Middle Ages it was the location of a nunnery, resulting in the local place name of 'Taigh nan Cailleachan Dubha', or 'the house of the black old women'. Stray finds suggest that the little, semi-circular area of sandy arable ground, surrounded by hills, was occupied from the Neolithic onwards. Recent work on the Norse period Lewis chessmen, by David Caldwell and Mark Hall, has raised the possibility that their original find place might have been here.

The Western Isles Archaeologist, and the University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology Institute would dearly like to know who carried out that excavation, and what became of the archive from it. We don't even know whether the team came from the UK, let alone whether they were Scottish, though we believe they were a university team. We think that the excavation pre-dated the archaeological campaigns of the University of Edinburgh in Lewis, but we may be wrong. There's no trace of the project in either the National Monuments Record of Scotland or the local Historic Environment Record; all that remains is local oral tradition!

Did you direct the project? Or were you a volunteer or supervisor on it? Which university was it? And what might have happened to the records and finds? Any information, rumours or suggestions will be very gratefully received either by the Western Isles Archaeologist at Kevin.Murphy@cne-siar.gov.uk or Dr Mary MacLeod Rivett, UHI archaeology lecturer, at Mary.MacLeod@uhi.ac.uk

Other news

Unfolding Argyll's Archaeological Story

Biddy Simpson MCIfA, Past-Tracks Heritage and Walking

A highly successful two day symposium entitled 'Unfolding Argyll's Archaeological Story: Research Framework Symposium' was recently held in Kilmartin to begin the process of establishing an archaeological research framework for Argyll.

The three main aims of the symposium were

- 1) To identify and further understand the current base knowledge for the area's archaeological and historical past
- 2) To identify where gaps exist in our current knowledge base and how we should fill those gaps in order to have a more comprehensive understanding of the past
- 3) To identify what future resources and partnerships are required in order to fully unfold Argyll's story for professional audiences, local communities and visitors to the county.

Eminent research specialists, together with representatives from local history societies and heritage groups, attended and participated in the symposium. The symposium was organised by Kilmartin Museum and supported by Historic Scotland, Museums Galleries Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council and ScARF.

The papers were written in advance of the symposium and are still available online for a short time at www.kilmartin.org/symposium.html

Please note, however, that these papers were written for the purpose of the symposium only and that they are not for citation. The notes from the symposium will be available shortly on both the Kilmartin Museum and ScARF websites.

ScARF Update: A ScARF Christmas Wrap up!

Emma O’Riordan, ScARF



The last ClfA newsletter mentioned that the ScARF project at the Society of Antiquaries was being reinvigorated so here’s a summary of what we’ve been doing since August.

We received 97 responses to our user survey, which ran from late July to early November. You can download the report from the ScARF website at (www.scottishheritagehub.com/content/scarf-user-survey-2015). If you don’t have time to read the whole thing, the headline results are that 96% of respondents would recommend ScARF to others and that 86% of respondents trust the archaeological information “completely” or “a lot”. Hooray!

It’s been lovely to be part of some new and emerging research frameworks including the ongoing archaeological work at Cramond, Future Thinking on Scotland’s Carved Stones and the Archaeology of Argyll with Kilmartin Museum (see above). Much of the ScARF focus in the future will be on encouraging use of the resource by as wide a range of people as possible and to this end we’ve been trying to involve students in coming along to conferences and workshops. We sponsored some students to go along and take notes at the Kilmartin and Cramond conferences and these will help to form the basis of those frameworks as well as add new archaeological information to ScARF itself.

If you want to keep in touch with what ScARF is doing, there is now a dedicated monthly e-newsletter for ScARF, which you can sign up to at <http://eepurl.com/bCFibT>.

Of particular interest to readers of this newsletter might be that the ScARF paper proposal for the ClfA conference in April 2016 has been accepted, provisionally entitled “ScARF: Knitting together

Scotland’s Archaeological Research Framework”. The paper will be part of the session *The archaeological resource in context; national approaches in a changing climate* – ScARF will look forward to seeing any ClfA newsletter readers there!

21 years of Planning-led Archaeology in Scotland Booklet

Peter Hinton MClfA, Chief Executive, ClfA

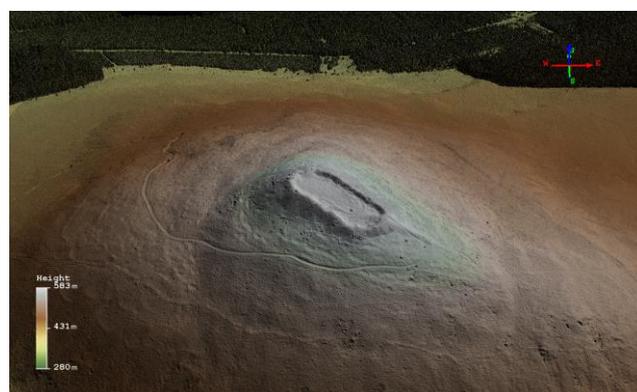
An updated offprint from *The Archaeologist* on 21 years of planning-led archaeology in Scotland has now been sent out to chairs and members of all Scottish planning committees. The short booklet describes some of the exciting new knowledge about Scotland’s past that developer-funded archaeology has brought us. It is hoped that authorities will find the booklet rewarding, and a helpful reminder of how an archaeological service can help communities take pride in the character, identity and distinctive past of their area, and help them to deliver sustainable economic development in their area. We know that many authorities will have difficult decisions to make, and we want them to be informed about and inspired by what their archaeology service provides.

The booklet can be found at

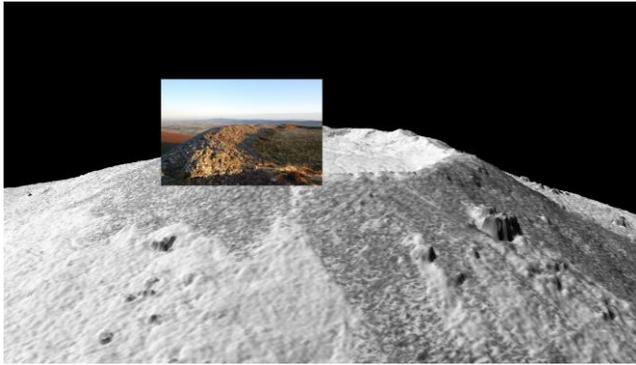
www.archaeologists.net/advocacy/protectingservices

...and finally for a little bit of fun Spot the site competition

In the August edition of the newsletter, could you ‘spot the site’ in the super high res LiDAR terrain model?



Tap o’ Noth ALS TM 2015 (copyright FCS, Aberdeenshire Council and University of Aberdeen)



Tap o' Noth 2009 and ALS 2015 (copyright Matt Ritchie)

A partnership between Forestry Commission Scotland, the University of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council enabled the high resolution aerial laser scan of the important Pictish forts of the Mither Tap and Tap o' Noth in Aberdeenshire. The resulting terrain models allow the detailed study and visualisation of the forts in their wider landscape. This hill-shaded view is from the Digital Surface Model of Tap o' Noth (NJ 484 293), captured at 25 points per m². The fort measures about 85m in length within a massive spread rubble rampart.

Membership of the Scottish Group is free for ClfA members, and is £10 per year for non-ClfA members. Please feel free to circulate this newsletter and we would ask you to encourage your friends/colleagues to join the group.

For more information on ClfA's Scottish Group please see our website, where you can download copies of meeting minutes and past newsletters, and keep up-to-date with the work of the group and training courses:

www.archaeologists.net/groups/scottish

You can also keep in touch with us via the Scottish Group's Facebook page, where information about events and the work of the group is publicised. Search for 'Scottish Group of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' and 'like' us.

www.facebook.com/pages/Scottish-Group-of-the-Institute-for-Archaeologists

Newsletters are published 3-4 times a year and contributions from members are welcome. To make a contribution to forthcoming editions of the Newsletter please email:
biddysimpson@yahoo.co.uk



The ClfA Scottish Group wishes you all a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2016!