



Scottish Group Newsletter

December 2010

<http://www.archaeologists.net>

News

Scottish Group IfA AGM 2010

The Scottish Group of the IfA held its AGM at Edinburgh University on the 15th October. The outgoing Chair Ellen McAdam presided over the meeting at which Treasurer Kirsty Dingwall offered the Groups finances for approval (duly given) and Secretary Daniel Rhodes outlined the makeup of the committee for the year ahead. The committee currently comprises Daniel Rhodes (National Trust for Scotland), Kirsty Dingwall and Mark Roberts (Headland Archaeology Ltd), Candice Hatherley (Historic Scotland), Mel Johnson (CFA Archaeology Ltd), Mary Peteranna (Freelance Archaeologist), Kenneth Aitchison (Landward Research Ltd), Phil Richardson (Archaeology Scotland) and Peter Hinton (Institute for Archaeologists).

As her final act as chair Ellen thanked the committee for its sustained efforts over the year and presented the Groups new 5 Year Plan, highlighting its commitment to provide training and professional support to IfA members in Scotland. She finished by calling for a development in administrative support for the Group and its commitment to lobbying the IfA's Reading office for a permanent member of staff for Scottish Affairs.

Attendees of the meeting were then presented with a series of short talks around the theme of 'Creating Opportunity'. Taryn Nixon (Museum of London Archaeology) outlined the goals and aspirations of the 'Southport Group' in response to PPS5. Kirsty Owen (Historic Scotland) talked about the grant aided research generated through Historic Scotland's Properties in Care Division. Robin Turner (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland) shared his thoughts on sustaining the archaeological profession in Scotland through partnerships. Finally, Simon Gilmour (Built Environment Forum Scotland) discussed the potential impact of the Historic Environment (Amendment) Scotland Bill.

Following the meeting the committee voted to co-opt Daniel Rhodes as Chairman for the year ahead.

IfA Bursaries Launched

Applications are invited for IfA/ HLF Workplace Learning Bursary funded placements in various areas of archaeological practice. The HLF's Workplace

Learning Bursaries scheme is in its final year, with a further 8 training posts being offered through the IfA with the following host organisations, and in the following areas of archaeological practice:

- the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, in information management;
- AOC Archaeology (Edinburgh), in public archaeology;
- Archaeology South East, in Roman pottery;
- the University of Durham, in environmental archaeology;
- the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, in aerial reconnaissance;
- Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, in outreach and education in archaeology (Welsh language required);
- Northumberland National Park Authority, in Heritage at Risk management; and
- Surrey County Council, in development led archaeology.

All posts have a start date in early March. Salaries will vary between the posts, depending on host organisation. Salaries are upwards of £15,054 (PlfA level) and £17,534 (AlfA level) for a 12 month fixed term contract or pro rata for 6 months.

Closing dates for the return of completed applications vary according to the post. The earliest closing date is **20 December 2010**. Details are provided on the IfA website:

<http://www.archaeologists.net/learning/hlfbursaries>.

For information about the scheme or the application process please contact Andrea Bradley: andrea.bradley@archaeologists.net

Historic Scotland Launch new Online Heritage Resource

Historic Scotland has launched a new web app which provides more information on a map than ever before. HAGGIS, the Heritage Asset Group GIS, allows listed buildings, marine wrecks, conservation areas, gardens and designed landscapes, scheduled monuments and world heritage sites to be viewed through modern or old maps and aerial photography. Each of these sites is pinpointed by a graphic on the maps, which has further information attached to it.

Corporate Geographical Information Co-Ordinator James Steel said: "Historic Scotland has made excellent progress in web-based mapping over the past six months and we are the first public body in Scotland to offer online spatial editing."

The HAGGIS system is accessed through web browsers instead of the software previously installed on staff computers, meaning the public can also use it to access information about Scotland's heritage. It is also the first time that the designation information, old Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photography has been made available to all Historic Scotland staff.

Donald Coutts, the Listing and GIS Officer outlined how sharing this resource out with the agency would help to continually improve the quality of information it could provide. He said: "Already we have been contacted by local authorities and members of the public to tell us more about buildings than we have on the site."

The next stage of development will see the site become 'live', which will allow people to edit information directly on the page itself.

To view go to: <http://sedsh13.sedsh.gov.uk/haggis/>

The Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill

The Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill is progressing through the Scottish Parliament. The general principles of the Bill were debated in early November and detailed amendments are to be considered in mid December. During the stage 1 debate, the general principles of Bill were approved, however there was a recognition that there are wider legislative issues beyond the tight focus of the Bill that still need to be addressed in the future. The importance of local expertise was also picked up during the stage 1 debate. BEFS continues to pursue two amendments; one designed to secure a legislative context for the Scottish Historic Environment Policy which implies a duty of care for heritage assets under the ownership of government agencies. The other seeks a statutory basis for planning authorities to have access to appropriate historic environment information and expertise. The final debate is due to take place in

late January 2011. For further information please contact Jo Robertson, Historic Environment Officer, BEFS, 0131 220 6241 jrobertson@befs.org.uk.

STOP PRESS

Unfortunately neither of the two above mentioned amendments were agreed at Stage 2 on the 15th December. However, a last minute intervention by the Convenor, based on an IHBC amendment has agreed that the Bill now contains provision for local planning authorities to carry out preventative works on listed buildings to prevent degradation and have greater authority to recovery expenses incurred through such works.

Celebrating Scotland's Battlefields

Historic Scotland has issued a list of Scotland's important battlefields, to be known as 'The Inventory of Historic Battlefields'. The first phase of the Inventory contains 17 battlefields considered to be of national importance for the contribution they make to Scotland's archaeology and history. They include the most significant and iconic battlefields and provide information to aid their protection, management, interpretation and promotion.

The Inventory is designed to help local planning authorities and other public bodies who will have to take the battlefields into account if they make any decisions about the landscape that might affect them. The aim is to manage change within battlefields in a sustainable way, taking their historical and archaeological significance into account, and to realise the positive contributions that battlefields can make to our environment.

From the 13th December until February 11th 2011, everyone in Scotland will have the opportunity to comment on these proposals via the Historic Scotland website, by post or telephone. In addition, people living within the area of the battlefields will receive a leaflet in the next few weeks informing them of the proposals.

Fiona Hyslop, Minister for Culture and External Affairs said: "Many legendary battles took place in Scotland and the famous figures who fought in them, such as Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn and Bonnie Prince Charlie at Culloden are known around the world. The Inventory of Historic Battlefields will help increase general awareness of historic battlefields throughout Scotland and the contribution they make to understanding our history and landscape.

Enquiries and responses can be made by email to;

hs.battlefieldsconsultation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk;

by telephone to 0131 668 8716 or by post to HS Inspectorate, Central Admin Team, Room 2.31, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH.

Project Roundups

Headless Romans in Musselburgh

CFA Archaeology Ltd have been carrying out an archaeological excavation in advance of the construction of a new Primary Care Centre at the former Brunton Wireworks, Musselburgh. The excavation has produced some of the most exciting Roman finds from Scotland in recent years, and some unexpected Iron Age and Mesolithic discoveries too.

The excavation site lies to the east of the new Tesco, with Inveresk Roman Fort lying on a terrace above. In close proximity to the fort lies a *vicus* or civilian settlement. A number of excavations over the years have provided us with information on this settlement and its associated field systems; the excavations at the Musselburgh Primary Care Centre have added considerably to this knowledge.

Five principal phases of activity have been recorded:

- A Mesolithic lithic scatter, apparently deposited into a water channel or boggy area.
- Three Iron Age pit graves, one of which contained two individuals, plus one double burial within a substantial stone cist.
- A possible Roman cemetery, with both cremations and inhumations. Several of the skeletons were buried with their skulls decapitated - the first Roman remains of this type to have been uncovered in Scotland. Decapitation appears to have happened after their death. A horse burial was also found.
- A cobble stone foundation with a clay capping. This is thought to be the rampart base for possibly a Roman fortlet, of which three sides were found. This overlay some of the Iron Age pit burials and was cut through by the later field system. A rectangular posthole defined structure was found inside this rampart feature.
- An extensive system of ditches was recorded overlying all of the other features and in places cutting through them. This field system is typical of the Roman period and finds parallels in other excavations around Inveresk. They relate to agricultural activities going on around the fort and *vicus*.

The work is funded by NHS Lothian and has been carried out with the assistance of the main contractors Dawn Construction.



A decapitated Roman burial under excavation.

Souterrains, Cists and Symbol Stones

Anyone driving along the A9 between Perth and Stirling may be familiar with the standing stone close to the road, just before Auchterarder, which is thought to be prehistoric in date and has a Pictish image of a goose on it. Few may know that it lies immediately adjacent to a cropmark site, which was thought to be the enclosure of an Iron Age settlement. An opportunity recently came up for Headland Archaeology to test this interpretation, along with an area to the east of the standing stone.

The enclosure itself was not substantial and contained only a scatter of features which could be said to specifically relate to settlement. However, the enclosure was merely the tip of the iceberg. Two long cist burials were revealed lying around 35m to the east of the standing stone. Excavations of long cist burials in such close proximity to standing stones of Pictish date are rare. One of these had fragments of a cover slab partially surviving - hopes were high on its discovery that skeletal remains might survive as a result and sure enough, excavation of the cist revealed a relatively complete skeleton. The second cist contained no skeletal material; however, the remains of a log coffin may have been present, in the form of organic traces in the base of the cut.

The real stars of the site were the two souterrains which were found in the vicinity of the enclosure. Both were completely unexpected, and upon discovery were presumed to have been badly plough damaged and potentially only a couple of feet deep. Test slots through one of the passages indicated that it was well over a metre deep, with rich environmental deposits in the base. Cleaning of the other structure revealed that there was still at least one

lintel in place over the passage. The two structures were far from fragmentary, and given their condition it was agreed that the better preserved of the two (the one with the lintel) was not excavated further and it will be backfilled and preserved for the future. The other souterrain was excavated down to the base, and initial indications are that they contained large amounts of seeds or grain.

The fieldwork on this site has only just been completed and there will undoubtedly be further revelations in the coming months as a result of such unexpected discoveries. This will have significant implications for our knowledge of Pictish burials in the early Christian period, and of souterrains and their uses. We would like to thank I & H Brown for their co-operation and Oliver Lewis of HS and Sarah Winlow of PKHT for their advice and support throughout the project.

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Cist burial near Auchterarder.

Michael Russell MSP launches the latest publication by RCAHMS.

Lying among the sea lochs of southern Argyll, near the centre of the ancient seaways that once connected Scotland to Ireland and beyond, the Isle of Bute is a treasure trove of thousands of years of archaeological remains. With earliest occupation by hunter gatherers

estimated at around 9,000BC, the island's landscape features a wealth of over 500 monuments ranging from standing stones, chambered tombs and forts, to monasteries, castles and industrial cotton mills. Drawing on the results of a groundbreaking community participation survey carried out by RCAHMS with the Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme, authors Alex Hale and George Geddes take readers on a fascinating journey through the diverse layers of Bute's past. With detailed maps, plans and photographs providing the most comprehensive ever guide to the island's sites of interest, 'The Archaeological Landscape of Bute' offers an unparalleled insight into one of Scotland's inspiring historical environments.

See www.rcahms.gov.uk for more information.



RCAHMS new publication: The Archaeological Landscape of Bute.

Events

IfA Annual Conference and Training Event

Understanding Significance the key to assessing, managing and explaining the historic environment: University of Reading, 13 - 15 April 2011.

The conference will offer a stream of topical lectures updating delegates on current issues, policy and best practice, and new techniques and developments in the profession. They will focus on

understanding significance as the key to assessing, managing and explaining the historic environment. In parallel there are practical training workshops developing skills and understanding in a range of subjects and new techniques.

This event provides an excellent CPD opportunity. The sessions and workshops are relevant to all those involved in the historic environment from those entering the profession who wish to learn essential skills and to develop their knowledge of up-to-date policy and practice issues, those who already have a successful careers and are looking to update their knowledge and enhance their skills, those concerned about the future who wish to learn new skills, and those with a keen interest in the historic environment who want to hear about the latest discoveries and partnership working between the profession and the voluntary sector.

Sessions and workshops will include

- **CPD logs, PDPs and training plans** - *Kate Geary, Institute for Archaeologists and Kenneth Aitchison, Landward Research Ltd*
- **Characterisation - where next?** - *Emma Hancocks and Adam Mindykowski, Worcestershire County Council*
- **Southport Group: towards a revitalisation of professional practice** - *Taryn Nixon, Museum of London Archaeology and Chair of the Southport Group*
- **Assessing the significance of iron objects and production remains** - *Evelyne Godfrey*
- **The planning jigsaw: how does it all fit together?** - *Tim Howard, Institute for Archaeologists*
- **Understanding and protection: the application of significance in the Historic Environment and the National Heritage Protection Plan** - *Paul Stamper, Edmund Lee and Charlotte Winter, English Heritage*
- **Assessing significance underwater: just piles of old rocks, geophysical anomalies and shifting sands?** - *Paul Sharman, Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology and Caroline Wickham-Jones, University of Aberdeen*
- **Essential writing skills for archaeologists** - *Alison Taylor, Institute for Archaeologists*
- **Self employment and business start-ups** - *Tariq Mian, Towergate Risk Solutions*
- **Aren't we all in this together? The importance of partnership working** - *Susan Casey, RCAHMS and Jeff Sanders, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*
- **Assessing significance for planning applications: preparing PPS5 - compliant reports for local authorities** - *Duncan*

McCallum, English Heritage and Sandy Kidd, Buckinghamshire County Council

- **New research possibilities for old finds** - *Andrew Jones, IfA Finds Group and Ian Panter, Principal Conservator, York Archaeological Trust*
- **Training: promoting best practice** - *Archaeology Training Forum*
- **Widening the audience for community archaeology: the significance of PPS5** - *Austin Ainsworth*
- **Highlights in British archaeology** - *David Jennings, Oxford Archaeology*
- **Visualisation in archaeology** - *Garry Gibbons*

For further information about how to book, details about the sessions and workshops, and a detailed timetable for the event please see our website at www.archaeologists.net/conferences

Discounts on bookings apply until 21 March 2011.

For more information on the IfA's Scottish Group or to make a contribution to forthcoming additions of the Newsletter please see our website at:

<http://www.archaeologists.net>
or email: drhodes@nts.org.uk