



## Scottish Group Newsletter

July 2010

<http://www.archaeologists.net>

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## News

### Scottish Group Elections 2010

The IfA's Scottish Group are currently organising its 2010 elections. The group currently has vacancies for 4 committee members and is looking for dedicated and hard working individuals who are keen to offer time to support members through training and develop the profile of the work of the IfA in Scotland. Anyone interested should contact [drhodes@nts.org.uk](mailto:drhodes@nts.org.uk)

### IfA Annual Conference 2011

The IfA is currently in the early stages of organising its 2011 Annual Conference and as such is calling all members with ideas for sessions to contact the organisers as soon as possible. The theme of the conference is: *Assessing Significance*. Anyone interested in proposing and chairing a session should contact [alex.llewellyn@archaeologists.net](mailto:alex.llewellyn@archaeologists.net) by no later than **6 August 2010**.

### Training for Sole Traders and Small Archaeological Organisations.

The IfA's Scottish Group is currently putting together a training plan for members and is asking for Small Businesses and Archaeological Sole Traders to contact us to discuss their training needs. Those interested should contact [drhodes@nts.org.uk](mailto:drhodes@nts.org.uk)

### Consultation on Standards and Guidance (S+G) for Desk Based Assessment

The IfA is considering updating the Standards and Guidance for Desk Based Assessments in response to concerns raised by ALGAO that it is no longer fit for purpose. Many of the proposed changes would bring the S&G into closer alignment with PPS5 and its accompanying practice guide. The purpose of this specific consultation with Scottish colleagues is to explore how we can align the S&G more closely with PPS5 whilst ensuring that it is equally applicable and relevant in Scotland. Any questions about the proposal should be sent to [kate.geary@archaeologists.net](mailto:kate.geary@archaeologists.net) by **30 July 2010**

### Consultation on Standards and Guidance for Geophysics

A draft Standards and Guidance for Geophysics has been released for consultation with IfA members and, subject to responses, will be put forward to the 2010

Annual General Meeting for interim adoption. Further information can be found on the IfA website and any questions about the draft should be sent to [kate.geary@archaeologists.net](mailto:kate.geary@archaeologists.net) by **30 July 2010**

### Consultation on Standards and Guidance for Forensic Archaeology

A draft Standards and Guidance for Forensic Archaeology has also been released for consultation with IfA members and, subject to responses, will be put forward to the 2010 Annual General Meeting for interim adoption. Further information can be found on the IfA website and any questions about the draft should be sent to [alex.llewellyn@archaeologists.net](mailto:alex.llewellyn@archaeologists.net) by **30 July 2010**

### Historic Scotland's New Online Data Service

Historic Scotland has just published a new online version of the Scheduled Monuments list. This includes, where available, additional information not previously published, such as the description and importance statements for each monument. It also features improved search facilities. The Historic Scotland Data Services website is a resource that provides information across a variety of sources, including GIS files, which you can download as zipped ESRI shapefiles (all datasets are available to download as a national cover). Datasets include: Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Properties in Care, Designated Wrecks, World Heritage Sites, Historic Landuse Assessment and Conservation Areas.

The website is available at: <http://data.historic-scotland.gov.uk/>

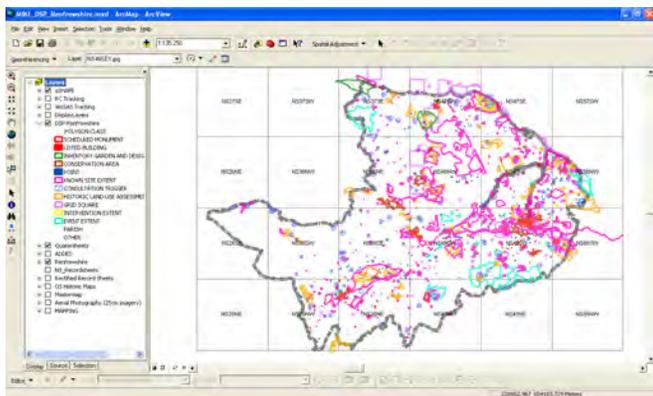
### Call to users of Scottish historic environment digital data: Defining Scotland's Places Pilot: User Testing

Defining Scotland's Places is a one year pilot project, funded by Historic Scotland and hosted by RCAHMS, in partnership with the SMR Forum and ALGAO: Scotland, looking at the provision of polygonised historic environment data in Scotland. Specifically, the project is merging existing datasets and developing polygon shapes to depict the extent of sites and monuments.

During the year, the partnership are running three pilots in Renfrewshire, Midlothian and the northern

isles. The first of these pilots (Renfrewshire) is now ready for testing and the project team are looking for individuals and organisations, used to working with GIS data, who would be interested in providing feedback on the Renfrewshire resource. The invitation is open to anyone who uses historic environment data and we would be interested in hearing from individuals and organisations from across as many sectors as possible.

If you are interested in helping develop this resource and you think you will be able to review the resource between now and the end of January 2011. Please contact either Mike Middleton or Susan Casey at RCAHMS using [dsp@rcahms.gov.uk](mailto:dsp@rcahms.gov.uk) quoting Defining Scotland's Places: user testing.



*The Defining Scotland's Places Pilot for Renfrewshire uses over twenty five different sources of historic environment data to aid in depicting the extent of sites and monuments. © Crown Copyright and database right 2010. All rights reserved. RCAHMS OS Lic. No. 100020548*

### IfA Geophysics Special Interest Group Conference in Edinburgh

In partnership with ALGEO Scotland and the IfA Scottish Group a conference is being held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November in Edinburgh. The conference is focused on projects using Archaeological Geophysical Technologies in Scotland and is open to all professional archaeologists and those interested in its successful application within a Scottish context.

Anyone interested in presenting a paper or attending the conference should contact Peter Barker at: [Peter.Barker@stratascan.co.uk](mailto:Peter.Barker@stratascan.co.uk)

### Wessex Archaeology, Coastal and Marine.

Wessex Archaeology has recently opened an office at the heart of central Edinburgh.

Wessex Archaeology's Coastal and Marine section was set up in 2002, but we have been carrying out projects in inland waters, at the coast and at sea since the mid-1990s.

WA C&M gets involved in all sorts of work – diving, geophysical survey, environmental assessment, geoarchaeological investigations, excavation, coastal walkover surveys, consultancy and so on. If it involves archaeology and water, we can find a way forward.

WA C&M has a dedicated staff of specialist coastal and marine archaeologists, geoarchaeologists and geophysicists. We are a recognised commercial diving contractor. We have comprehensive facilities for processing and interpreting marine geophysical data. As well as operating our own small boat, we can call upon a range of diving and survey vessels to suit all circumstances.



*Coastal Survey, Stoke Saltings 2004*

### RCAHMS Temporary Suspension of Acquisition and Access to Uncatalogued Collections Material

RCAHMS is currently relocating and restructuring its archival storage facilities. The first phase of this work comprises the closure of its outstore in Portobello, and the preparation of the collections held there for transfer to a store in south-west Edinburgh. As Collections staff will be dedicated for the next six months to this relocation RCAHMS are imposing a temporary suspension in accepting any new deposits of archive. This will also necessitate a suspension of access to any uncatalogued material. This suspension began on 1 July 2010 and will continue until 5 January 2011. Public access to the Search Room in Bernard Terrace will be unaffected. Access to catalogued material, visible on the CANMORE database, will be as advertised. However, it is advisable to contact RCAHMS in advance of a visit to ensure that any specific material is available and ready for your arrival. Future suspensions will be necessary to permit subsequent phases in the relocation of RCAHMS stores. Further information and contacts can be found at: [info@rcahms.gov.uk](mailto:info@rcahms.gov.uk)

### The Council for British Archaeology release new report into Community Archaeology

The report has been developed assessing the current state of 'community archaeology', and more broadly, voluntary action in archaeology, in the UK. The research presented within the report has been conducted through questionnaire survey and qualitative interviews with a sample of participants and practitioners. The research aims and objectives included identifying the different outcomes of community archaeology and the current support and training, as well as gaps in that support, that are currently available for the voluntary sector in archaeology. Further details can be found at: [www.britarch.ac.uk](http://www.britarch.ac.uk)

## Project Roundups

### **Ceramic Views of Scotland and Northern England (Richard Jones, Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow)**

Breaking across barriers of specialisms was one of the main themes of the two-day meeting at Glasgow University at the start of July entitled *Ceramic views of Scotland and northern England from the Neolithic to the 20<sup>th</sup> century: issues of method, practice and theory* (<http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/archaeology/newslinks/ceramicviews/>).

Attended by a wide spectrum of people dealing with ceramics, both ancient and modern, this meeting was a unique opportunity to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue and greater coordination in ceramic study in northern Britain, as well as to raise the profile of this branch of artefact study.

Topics ranged chronologically from Hebridean crogan pottery, post-Medieval pottery, Scottish and Northumbrian medieval pottery, Viking pottery on Shetland, Roman to early prehistoric pottery. Specialised ceramics - metallurgical and industrial - also featured, as did quantification, examining the social significance of ceramics issues and the role of experimental work. The full range of scientific techniques was represented; radiocarbon, luminescence and rehydroxylation featured among the dating methods. The potential for interplay between organic residue and fabric analyses was explored. Among the topics that came up in discussion was the need to review the guidelines on the curation and retention of pottery and to extend the accessibility of science-based data.

### **Excavations on Edinburgh Castle Esplanade (Ian Suddaby, CFA Archaeology Ltd)**

Part of the late medieval outer defences of Edinburgh Castle were discovered by CFA earlier this year. CFA were conducting a watching brief as part of an extensive programme of works on Edinburgh Castle

Esplanade associated with the upgrading of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo stands. Although the castle's 16th-century defences were shown on a 1647 plan by Gordon of Rothiemay, their exact location was unknown as they had been buried when the Parade Ground (now the Esplanade) was constructed in 1753.

The excavated remains consisted of a wall and part of a massively-built artillery bastion known as the Spur, both apparently overlying a shallow ditch, which may be the ditch shown on the 1647 plan. Designed by Italian engineers, the Spur was deliberately demolished in 1650.

The Spur was built of yellow sandstone with a rubble core and ashlar facing stones over a deep rock-cut foundation trench. The northern wall face survived to a height of c.1m. A slight change in alignment between courses suggested more than one phase of building.

Although the tip of the Spur was not exposed, sufficient of this extremely important late medieval fortification was recorded to allow its characterization and integration with the existing documentary records relating to its construction, use, and abandonment.

The work was funded by the Edinburgh Military Tattoo Company and was overseen by Historic Scotland.



*Aerial view of the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade excavation*

### **New Centre for Digital Documentation and Visualization (CDDV) established**

The CDDV is a new commercial partnership between Historic Scotland and Glasgow School of Art's Digital Design Studio - using state-of-the-art laser scanning technology and 3D visualization software to digitally record heritage sites around the globe, and enable virtual access. The Centre grew from the Scottish Ten, a project to digitally document Scotland's five World Heritage Sites and five international World Heritage

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Sites launched in 2009. The Centre will deliver the Scottish Ten project for the Scottish Government but will also undertake commercial projects to generate income for both organizations and further research and development in the field.

The Minister for Culture and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop said: "The launch of CDDV is an exciting achievement by two public sector bodies that have come together to share their expertise and knowledge. The work puts Scotland clearly at the forefront of using this technology to record and manage our heritage. We have already used these techniques to record the world-famous Rosslyn Chapel. A very thorough 3D record of the building was developed, providing practical information for the conservation project, as well as demonstrating the potential for education and interpretation".

The Scottish Ten project was announced at Mount Rushmore on July 4 2009 by then Culture Minister Michael Russell MSP. The five Scottish World Heritage Sites are The Heart of Neolithic Orkney, The Antonine Wall, The Old and New Towns of Edinburgh, New Lanark and St Kilda. To watch footage of the team scanning Mount Rushmore visit [www.youtube.com/historicscotlandtv](http://www.youtube.com/historicscotlandtv)



*Culture Minister Fiona Hyslop with representatives from the Centre for Digital Documentation and Visualization (CDDV)*

### **New Scottish Community Archaeology Booklet**

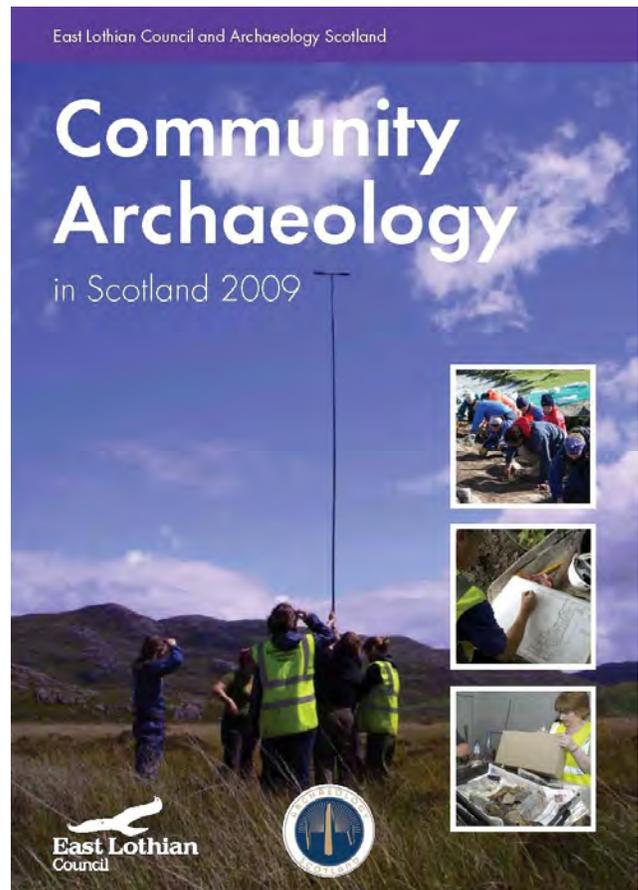
Following on from the highly successful community archaeology conference that was held in May 2009, a booklet has been produced showcasing just some of the different types of community archaeology projects, which are happening across Scotland today.

The main purpose of this booklet is to promote and celebrate the wealth and diversity of Scottish community archaeology initiatives and this booklet is crammed full of examples of archaeology projects from

all over the country in addition to supporting articles by national heritage organisations.

The first of its kind, this booklet clearly demonstrates the amount of progress that has been made in community archaeology over the last ten years and hopefully, will go some way in paying tribute to the hundreds of volunteers who give up their own time to investigate and celebrate their own local heritage.

To get a copy of the booklet please contact [heritage@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:heritage@eastlothian.gov.uk), 01620 827408 or write to Cultural Services, 9-11 Lodge Street, Haddington, East Lothian, EH41 3HA referencing 'Community Archaeology Booklet'. Booklets are priced at £3. Cheques should be made out to East Lothian Council. If you would prefer to pay by card please include a daytime contact telephone number so a member of staff can contact you to organise this.



*Front cover of the new Scottish Community Archaeology booklet*

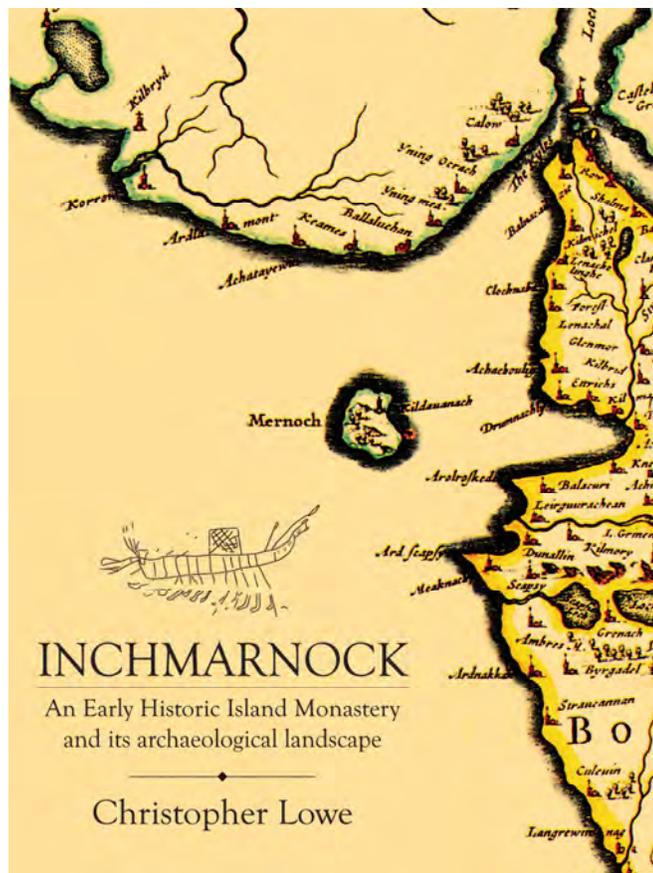
### **Archaeology of Inchmarnock Research Project Short-Listed for British Archaeology 2010 Award**

On the back of its recent success with winning the construction industry award for Site Preparation & Services (Specialists Awards 2010), Headland's work

on the recently published Inchmarnock Research Project has been short-listed at the 2010 British Archaeology Awards in the category of 'Best Archaeological Project'. The project, directed by Dr Chris Lowe, was undertaken over the period 1999 – 2006 and published in 2008 in the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Monograph series. The results of the project – involving a programme of survey and excavation of multiple sites throughout the island – provide an insight into what life was like in a small island monastery off the west coast of Scotland in the last quarter of the first millennium; meanwhile, its large assemblage of inscribed slate provides clues to its status and its cultural connections.

For further details of the 2010 British Archaeology Awards: [www.britarch.ac.uk/awards](http://www.britarch.ac.uk/awards) - the British Archaeological Awards Ceremony will take place at the British Museum on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Copies of the Inchmarnock monograph are available from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, price £30 (£25 to Fellows): [www.socantscot.org/publications](http://www.socantscot.org/publications)



*Archaeology of Inchmarnock Research Project Short-Listed for British Archaeology 2010 Award*

## Events

### Historic Scotland Opens up Links of Notland Dig for New Season

You are invited to visit the archaeological excavations at the Links of Noltland on Westray – one of the most significant digs in the country and a finalist in the British Archaeology Awards.

The site is where the Orkney Venus – the earliest depiction of a human face found in the UK, also known as the Westray Wife – was discovered last year. The day will begin with a tour of the dig and a brief history of the site before interviews will be available.

Recent finds, including cattle skulls set into the foundations of a building, indicate that the people who lived there were farmers. Richard Strachan, Historic Scotland Chief Archaeologist, will be available for interview alongside the dig team from EASE Archaeology. To follow the dig visit [www.westrayheritage.co.uk](http://www.westrayheritage.co.uk)

**Date:** Monday June 28 2010

**Time:** 12 noon

**Place:** Links of Noltland Dig, Pierowall, Westray

The Orkney Venus is currently on display at the Westray Heritage Centre, close to the dig site.

The Orkney ferry leaves Kirkwall at 9.40am, arriving in Westray at 11.05am. A return sailing leaves Westray at 5.55pm, arriving in Kirkwall at 7.20pm.

For more information contact Lesley Brown

**Contact:** Lesley Brown, Historic Scotland Communications Officer

[lesley.brown@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.brown@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

### 'Engaging the Recent Past'

3-5 September 2010

University of Glasgow

In engaging with the recent past we explore the nature of our own society and we are confronted with questions about the role of archaeology in the contemporary world. This three-day *Society for Post-medieval Archaeology* conference will explore the ethics, politics and practice of archaeology, with a focus on the theory and practice of community archaeology and public archaeology in relation to the material past of the last five centuries. Papers will consider case studies from Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland.

The conference themes include:

- the politics, ethics and practice of archaeology in public and community contexts;
- community engagement in rural areas and the representation of the rural past in museums;
- research, policy and public engagement in the archaeology of human remains and burial;

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- urban and industrial communities past and present;
- the present-day resonance of battlefield and conflict archaeology.

Conference fees:

SPMA members: £45.00 (full)/£30.00 (student/young person).

Non-members: £75.00 (full)/£45.00 (student/young person).

Non-members who join the Society when booking for the conference will be eligible for the members' conference rates.

Full details available at: [www.spma.org.uk/events.php](http://www.spma.org.uk/events.php) or contact: Chris Dalgligh [c.dalgligh@archaeology.gla.ac.uk](mailto:c.dalgligh@archaeology.gla.ac.uk)

### You are invited to BEFS CONGRESS: Special Places – Special Relationships

Thursday 2nd September 2010, The Roxburghe Hotel, 38 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh

The congress will explore the relationship between people and place by showcasing projects and initiatives with plenty of community participation. We will draw linkages between what is happening on the ground and the Government's national outcome for sustainable places.

- To be addressed by Fiona Hyslop, Minister for Culture and External Affairs
- Key note addresses from Ruth Parsons, Chief Executive, Historic Scotland and Sandy Robinson, Principal Architect, Directorate of the Built Environment
- Market place and “project soapbox” showcasing projects and initiatives
- Drinks reception

A programme and further information about the Congress is attached. Up-to-date information will also be available on BEFS website [www.befs.org.uk](http://www.befs.org.uk).

Participation fee: £45

Reduced rate: £20

The reduced rate is applicable to organisations which are members/subscribers of BEFS, as well as members of a member/subscriber. A list of BEFS members and subscribers is available on BEFS website.

To book your place at the Congress, please go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6HCM6QT>. Last day for booking is 12 Aug.

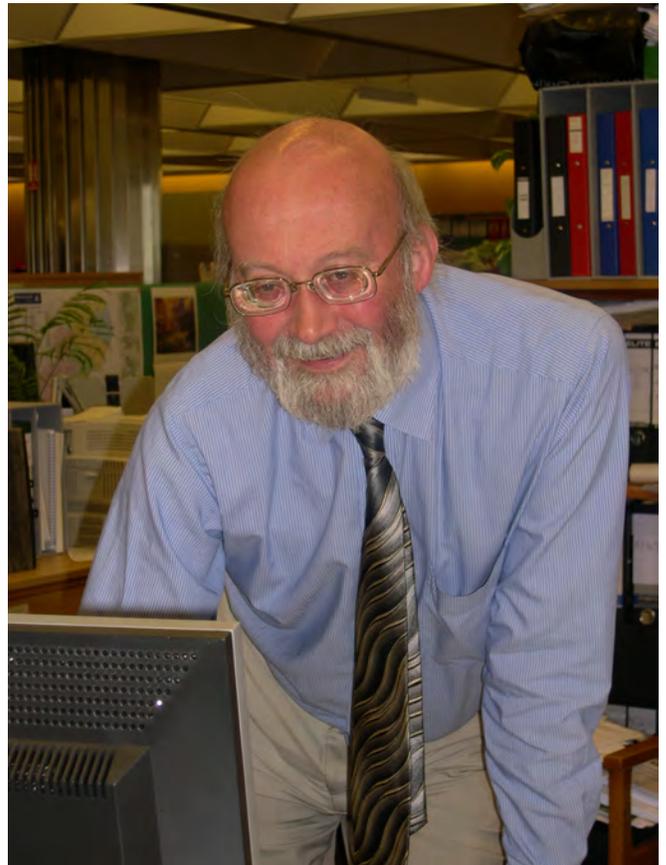
If you are interested in sharing your experiences and promoting your project or initiative at the market place, or if you have any further questions, please contact BEFS office: 0131 220 6241, [info@befs.org.uk](mailto:info@befs.org.uk).

### ‘A LAD O’PAIRTS’

A day conference will be held in memory of Ian Shepherd to celebrate the wide contribution he made to Scottish Archaeology.

It will be held at the Kings College Conference Centre, Aberdeen University on Saturday 1 December 2010, 10am – 5pm. Speakers will include: Gordon Barclay, David Clarke, Trevor Cowie, Dave Cowley, Kevin Edwards, Shannon Fraser, Bruce Glendinning, Charles McKean, Charlie Murray, Ian Ralston, Alison Sheridan, Carol Swanson and Neil Wilkin

Ticket £10, includes light lunch and contribution to Brain Research Trust and are available from Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service Tel: 01224 664726 or e-mail: [archaeology@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)



*Ian Shepherd*

### Surviving the Piece: Public Access, Conservation and Military Heritage

A seminar organised by ALGAO: UK at the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, University of Glasgow is to be held on Thursday 30th September - Friday 1st October 2010 at Culloden, Inverness.

The seminar will explore on-site interpretation, public access and education facilities. As well as the use of sites for community involvement and as a focus of commemoration.

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Further details can be found by contacting John Lawson: [john.lawson@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:john.lawson@edinburgh.gov.uk) or Natasha Ferguson: [n.ferguson@archaeology.gla.ac.uk](mailto:n.ferguson@archaeology.gla.ac.uk)

### Scottish Archaeology Month 2010: Scotland's Biggest Archaeology Festival

Scottish Archaeology Month (SAM) is one of Archaeology Scotland's best-loved initiatives. Every autumn SAM enables thousands of people gain access to, and learn about, the history and archaeology of Scotland through SAM's national programme of free events.

SAM would not be possible without the involvement of the volunteers who carry out these walks, talks, exhibitions, workshops and open days. SAM events are organised by professional and community archaeologists from commercial excavation units, local authorities, museums, local archaeological and historical groups and even some keen individuals. We are constantly seeking to expand the programme of events that are on offer to the public (and schools as part of a separate schools' programme), and would like to encourage more individuals, groups and organisations to host events as part of this year's SAM.

A growing number of organisations are seeing SAM as a way of focussing their outreach programmes and promoting their work at a national level. Contributing an event to the SAM programme is a great way of raising awareness of archaeology in your area; highlighting the work your organisation does throughout the year and attracting participation in, and appreciation of, local archaeology projects.

Events should be free and related to Scottish archaeology and should take place between late August and early October. It can even be an event which your group is organising as part of its regular programme. With our new SAM Online events listings we can take new events throughout the summer so it's not too late to contribute!

If you are interested and want to know how to get involved, please contact Dr Mags McCartney at Archaeology Scotland on [m.mccartney@archaeologyscotland.org.uk](mailto:m.mccartney@archaeologyscotland.org.uk) or phone 0845 872 3333. Other details are available at [www.scottisharchaeologymonth.org.uk](http://www.scottisharchaeologymonth.org.uk)

Scottish Archaeology Month is co-ordinated by Archaeology Scotland with the support of Historic Scotland. Along with Doors Open Days, SAM constitutes Scotland's contribution to European Heritage Days.



*The Holyrood Park Archaeology Day  
©Historic Scotland*

## Correction

Further to the article on the Ingleston Motte Excavation in the last issue of the Newsletter, the directors of the site would like to point out that this excavation is not open to the public, unless by arrangement.

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**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](mailto:drhodes@nts.org.uk)