



Scottish Group Newsletter

April 2014

<http://www.archaeologists.net>

News

Scottish Group Recent Activities

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

- SHED programme management group
- Regular BEFS Historic Environment Working Group meetings.
- Archaeological Archives in Scotland discussion group

The IfA also continues to be involved, through a BEFS taskforce, in the progress of the Scottish Government bill to merge Historic Scotland and RCAHMS.

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

- Scotland's National Marine Plan
- the Review of 'Treasure Trove in Scotland, a Code of Practice'
- the Primary Authority Arrangements relating to the Devolved Regulatory Responsibilities of Local Authorities in Scotland
- Planning Scotland's Seas: Sectoral Marine Plans for Offshore Wind, Wave and Tidal Energy in Scottish Waters
- Draft Scottish Planning Policy: 'Sustainability and Planning'

If there are any consultations, or views on consultations, that you would like IfA to include, then please do get in touch.

The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland

The new strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment has been published by the Scottish Government, entitled *Our Place in Time*. This document sets out the vision for the Historic Environment - *Scotland's historic environment is understood and valued, cared for and protected, enjoyed and enhanced. It is at the heart of a flourishing and sustainable Scotland and will be passed on with pride to benefit future generations* – the principles, strategic priorities and anticipated means of delivery.

The main priority areas divide into:

- Understand – Investigate and Record
- Protect - Care and Protect
- Value – Share and Celebrate

The document can be downloaded from the link below, and on page 2 of the document the IfA welcomes the strategy and are quoted as saying:

"IfA welcomes and strongly supports the publication of an overarching strategy for the protection and promotion of the historic environment in Scotland. The Institute endorses the aim to provide ambition and direction for Scotland's historic environment and recognises the importance of obtaining the sector's 'buy in'."

The development of the strategy was a collaborative exercise by many players in the Scottish heritage world, and so will its implementation be. IfA is already engaged in one of the working groups to that end.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/03/8522/downloads>

IfA and Charter

IfA's Petition for a Royal Charter of Incorporation was considered by the Privy Council at its meeting on 11 February 2014, and Her Majesty the Queen was pleased to sign the Order of Grant.

This huge step forward for the Institute will have a profound impact on the profession and how professional archaeologists are perceived by peers, colleagues, clients and the public. Several formalities need to happen before the new Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) comes into being and the change of name happens, including drawing up the Charter on vellum, signing and the application of the Great Seal. This gives time for IfA to set in train all the processes required to complete this momentous transition.

The decision is a spectacular endorsement of the role of archaeologists. IfA successfully made the case to the Privy Council that archaeology is a clear and distinct discipline working in the public interest and has the necessary components of any professional institute seeking recognition.

At the moment, it is the Institute itself that will be Chartered and not its individual members. This is a significant step forward for archaeology as a profession and is something to celebrate, but is not the end of the process. The Privy Council has made an Order of Grant but the Charter will not come into effect until the Great Seal has been applied to the vellum copy. Then we can take steps to set up the new Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. This will be a new body governed by the new Charter and by-laws, and the current Institute will cease to exist. A date for this will be announced when we are clearer on what the timescales will be. The intervening period gives us an opportunity to ensure as smooth a transition as possible to the new body for our members.

<http://www.archaeologists.net/charter>

Summary of AGM Event

For Whose Benefit? The Future of Planning-Led Archaeology in Scotland

The future of planning-led archaeology in Scotland was explored by a workshop hosted by the IfA in October (prior to the SGIfA AGM). The workshop prompted some really useful discussion – and was a great example of how the IfA enables its members to be heard. The workshop focussed on issues such as public participation, community engagement, research frameworks, archives and publication, adding value to development and the management of quality. After a brief introduction by IfA Chief Executive Peter Hinton, discussion was taken forward by individual groups focusing on public engagement and public participation; archaeology in the market place; and archaeological research in the commercial context.

The **public engagement and public participation** group discussed the current context of contracting unit-led community archaeology in Scotland, considering existing opportunities and obstacles before proposing potential solutions. The general consensus was that we're not doing too badly (with some great examples highlighted), but that we could be doing better. The existing and potential audience was considered, both in terms of active public engagement and simple site tours or open days. It is clear that there is a public appetite for archaeology – but that there is no 'one size fits all' approach to public engagement. It is clearly very important that more local authority archaeology services include conditions that require public engagement where appropriate, so that consideration (and costs) can be written into the project design from the start. Clear strategic policy and guidance in relation to planning-led archaeological public engagement was highlighted as an urgent issue that needs to be addressed. *The IfA have a role in terms of lobbying for such strategic provision – and in providing training for the professional archaeological sector in regards to best practice and standards.*

The **archaeology in the market place** group discussed further means of delivering Southport-

style objectives by the commercial archaeology sector. The important role played by local authority archaeology services was again highlighted, particularly in terms of encouraging developers and setting conditions. The need for national strategic policy and guidance was also highlighted, as was the role of the public sector in setting standards and leading by example (with the comprehensive M74 extension public outreach an exemplar). The existing Scottish Historic Environment Policy was described as invaluable in regards to ensuring public benefit from public money, the SHEP ensuring government organisations were responsive to government historic environment policy. *The IfA have a role in terms of lobbying for such strategic provision – and in supporting local authority archaeology services with standards and benchmarks of best practice.*

The **archaeological research in the commercial context** group recognised the importance of the national Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF) and discussed the importance of regional research frameworks led by the local authority archaeology services. ScARF can be used to justify research work (or better publication) resulting from commercial archaeological work, and can be used to encourage individual CPD. The group recognised the need for local authority archaeology services to take the lead in producing dynamic regional frameworks (with input from stakeholders both national and local) that would help to ‘set the scene’ (promoting archaeology to developers) and prioritise future research work and conservation management. Regional thematic synthesis of current knowledge (including both commercial and academic work) would also help to promote the public and social worth of archaeology. *The IfA have a role in encouraging members and ROs to engage with ScARF (and regional research frameworks).*

Training

SG Courses

Training continues to be very active, and indeed the Group is one of the most active of IfA’s special interest groups.

Our most recent training event took place in Glasgow on 29 March and was fully attended.

This workshop, on Open Source GIS, was taught by Cathy MacIver of Northlight Heritage. Many thanks to Cathy and to Northlight for hosting.

The workshop introduced users to QGIS, an open source, free, multiplatform software allowing the creation, manipulation and analysis of mapping and spatial data. The participants learnt:

- an introduction to GIS basics
- where to find free and open mapping
- how to set up a basic GIS for projects
- how to make their own maps.

We’re always interested to receive feedback from our training events, and to hear ideas for our next events, so do get in touch!

Watch this space for further training events to be held in 2014.

<http://www.archaeologists.net/groups/scottish>

BAJR Guides

David Connolly MIfA, BAJR

To maintain a professional workforce there has to be an ethos of training and skill acquisition. It is true to say that as individuals we can’t be experts in all areas of archaeology, but it is important to have a wide breadth of understanding as this will enable us to work more competently within the discipline.

Although there are many in-depth tomes on most archaeological specialisms, what was lacking was short and to the point material to call upon to gain some insight. Therefore, BAJR Guides were begun a decade ago in order to plug that gap.

These guides are no substitute for more in-depth training courses or specialist seminars; however, understanding the basics provides a head start to any continued learning experience.

BAJR Guides can be divided into 3 main categories:

- Simple guides to specialisms
- Aspects of commercial employment or legislation
- Step-by-step procedural guides

Currently there are 33 BAJR Guides available in pdf format that can be downloaded for free on a

range of subjects from aerial survey to understanding fish remains, procuring a CSCS card or professional site photography. One particularly popular guide is aimed at individuals carrying out their first excavation and unsure as to what to expect.

The more detailed documents examine the requirements for carrying out community excavations and survey, and feature templates for reporting and recording as well as dealing with health and safety issues.

Part of the interest in these guides comes from the open nature and democratisation of the information, and the fact that they are easily accessible to the new starter or community group in the same way that they are available to the professional archaeologist.

BAJR is always on the lookout for practitioners to write 'how to' guides. There is a twofold benefit to this for the writer: the first being seen and read by many thousands of people; and the second, having their name associated with a particular specialism.

A normal guide will be around 10 pages long, with a standard BAJR cover with all copyright retained by the author. However, the principal is always open and free access and many guides need to be updated periodically as new techniques or new legislation appears. The creation of a BAJR Guide could be seen by the writer as much as by the reader as part of their CPD requirements of IfA membership.

Currently two more are in production regarding writing articles and press releases, and a general guide to current dating techniques.

The coming decades will see good quality training as the next issue to be tackled by our profession, and the BAJR Guides are helping to make inroads into that area.

The full range of BAJR Guides can be found here:
<http://www.bajr.org/BAJRRead/BAJRGuides.asp>

If anyone would like to provide a new guide, then please get in touch to discuss the requirements. info@bajr.org

Members' News

Science in Scottish Archaeology

Rebecca Jones, Richard Jones, Karen Milek & Jeff Sanders (Historic Scotland, Glasgow University, Aberdeen University & Society of Antiquaries of Scotland)

The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF) was formally launched in early 2013. Since that time, there have been a number of activities building on the research questions and visions identified in the various Panel reports.

<http://www.scottishheritagehub.com/>

The Science panel of ScARF set out an exciting vision for science in Scottish archaeology. The ambition is for archaeological science in Scotland to be a world-leader, achieved through partnership and collaboration, and building on existing strengths and expertise. The vision outlines the need to increase scientific research capacity in Scotland, create a network of specialists willing to work together, and hold workshops addressing 'hot-spot' areas of archaeological science. We are now working collaboratively on steps towards realising this vision.

<http://www.scottishheritagehub.com/content/scarf-science-panel-report>

The co-Chairs of the ScARF Science Panel (Dr Richard Jones & Dr Karen Milek of Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities respectively) are working with the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (who led the ScARF initiative) and Historic Scotland on ways to develop the network of archaeological specialists. The first phase is the creation of a Directory of Archaeological Scientists which is currently being developed by Landward Research Ltd. This will provide a virtual network of archaeological scientists and aims to improve communication between scientists and field practitioners, resulting in better integration of scientific techniques. The online portal, to be hosted on the ScARF website, will comprise a directory of scientists able to work on Scottish materials (identifying their areas of specialist expertise) and will have the potential to add resources for possible use by archaeological scientists working on Scottish materials. SGIfA members with relevant research interests and expertise are encouraged to contact Landward Research Ltd:

enquiries@landward.eu. The project is overseen by an Advisory Board, comprising specialists from different archaeological science areas across Scotland, many of whom contributed to the Science Panel report.

Other activity is focusing on aspects of archaeological science in need of further attention, often in terms of profile-raising or addressing skills gaps. For example, Dr Richard Jones recently organised a workshop on lithics research, focusing on science-based techniques and methodologies. The event, arranged around talks, demonstrations and discussion groups, was attended by archaeologists and scientists from commercial units, universities and museums. It had the aims of encouraging more science-based analysis of lithic artefacts, telling us more about how they were used and where they were sourced. The workshop also looked at the role of experimental work and methodological issues such as recovery and sampling. A second workshop, potentially in Autumn 2014, will probably look at an aspect of Environmental Science.

Creating the directory and hosting targeted workshops are the first steps in helping us, as a sector, identify what resources are required to ensure Scottish archaeological science achieves the rich potential set out through ScARF.

UK Rescue Dig of the Year

Peter Yeoman, Historic Scotland

Historic Scotland and EASE Archaeology were delighted to be awarded 'UK Rescue Dig of the Year' for the Links of Noltland archaeology/conservation project, announced at the Current Archaeology magazine Awards in London on 28 February. Our Richard Strachan was there to collect the award.

Links of Noltland is a Property in Care and a Scheduled Monument owned by HS on the Orkney island of Westray. It comprises a unique grouping of Neolithic and Bronze Age settlements and their field systems dating from around 2000-1000 BC – a more extensive and long-lived site from the time of Skara Brae. Around 2000, it was recognised that the protective dune system was collapsing at an alarming rate due to increased storminess related to climate change. Annual recording of condition was commissioned, which led to the

commencement of a major programme of rescue excavations at Noltland in 2005.

2011 saw a major revue of the strategy coupled with the addition of a programme of dune stabilisation carried out by HS Conservation Group. The excavations are now nearing completion, while the dune management will continue for some time.

Throughout, HS have worked in close cooperation with the Westray community, which has seen economic benefits from the project in terms of increased heritage tourism. The discovery of the 'Westray wife' figurine was covered world-wide, representing around £1m equivalence in advertising/recognition for HS. In 2011, HS's Richard Strachan worked closely with the Westray Heritage Trust and the island school to enable them to develop their own booklet and exhibition at their heritage centre, focussed on the Noltland project, with artefacts lent by HS Collections. The figurine is the oldest human representation in the UK, and the site/project is of European significance in terms of advancing our understanding of the lives of the early farmers.

Over the last few years, Richard Strachan has worked tirelessly to ensure the proper completion of this project. This award recognises Richard's excellence in managing the project strategy, as well as the high quality of the excavations led by Hazel Moore and Graeme Wilson of EASE Archaeology.

Dr Matthew Symonds, editor of Current Archaeology, said: "The Links of Noltland project saw off competition from some of the most exciting recent archaeological digs in the UK to emerge as the favourite in the prestigious 'Rescue Dig of the Year' category of the Current Archaeology Awards. Voted for entirely by members of the public, the result recognises the powerful glimpse that the dig provides of everyday life in the Orkney archipelago during the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Remarkable discoveries from the site include tiny enigmatic figurines, most famously the 'Westray Wife', Neolithic house walls standing close to their original height, and strange prehistoric 'compositions'. This mixture of the familiar and the enigmatic makes prehistoric home life seem both tangible and impossibly distant. Congratulations to everyone involved in the project."

Tay Landscape Partnership

Sophie Nicol, PKHT



The Tay Landscape Partnership (TayLP), headed by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT), was formed to work with local communities to improve walking and cycling access, conserve historic sites and wildlife and share the history, stories, countryside and traditional skills of the area. This £2.6 million project funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, Perth and Kinross Council, The Gannochy Trust, The Robertson Trust, The Cross Trust and Esmee Fairbairn extends 250km² stretching from Newburgh to Forteviot, Perth to Dundee and it is hoped that residents and visitors alike will reconnect with the natural, built and cultural heritage.

Focussed on both the historic and natural environment the partnership will undertake 29 projects from historic orchards to hedgerows, beekeeping to traditional boat building. The most significant archaeology project will be the excavation of one of Tayside's greatest seats of Iron Age power - Moredun Top, plus a smaller hillfort on a lower site on the hill. Just a single piece of jet, a treasured part of the collection at Perth Museum and Gallery, has ever been removed from the site which has had almost no archaeological study. It is hoped that the TayLP, led with expertise from PKHT, will help unravel this site's story with three seasons of community excavation starting in 2015.

The TayLP also aims to tell the remarkable story of the birth of the early medieval Scottish nation and the import role that Forteviot had with conservation of the Pictish Invermay Cross and its display in Forteviot Church. A replica of the stone will be carved and displayed in this important ancient landscape.

In the Carse of Gowrie, north of the Tay, a substantial number of significant historical structures survive which demonstrate the local tradition of mass clay walls or mud-wall. The full extent of these vernacular buildings has never

been fully explored and the TayLP will help promote, repair and provide training opportunities to them.



© George Logan

An Early Settler project will look to evidence early life around the Tay by asking local communities and interest groups to help fieldwalk and carry out inter-tidal surveys.

Work in Abernethy aims to enhance and promote the unique historic character of this village through focussing on key historic features in the village and its environs: the nearby Roman remains; the facades of the buildings within the Conservation Area; the community run museum and churchyard. Kinfauns Churchyard and Aisle, a Scheduled Monument, also requires urgent consolidation and will be repaired through the scheme.

Alongside traditional building skills training the partnership will fund 22 bursaries for young people and one full time apprentice. Resources will also be created for teachers as well as outdoor learning opportunities for up to 5000 school students.

For more information on the projects and for opportunities to get involved go to taylp.org.

Holyrood North Archaeological Excavations

Stuart Mitchell AlfA, CFA Archaeology Ltd

CFA Archaeology Ltd have now completed a programme of archaeological excavations which began in May 2013 and continued until mid-February this year. The work has uncovered a

wide range of significant remains which will shed a great deal of light on the history of the area.

The site occupies what were the backlands of the south-west corner of the historic burgh of Canongate; the burgh got its name from the Canons of Holyrood Abbey, which was established in 1128. The backlands typically formed areas to the rear of the houses which would have been used as gardens and for industrial purposes. Later, the area was occupied by the Edinburgh & Leith Brewery.

After the demolished remains of the brewery were recorded and removed from the site, the archaeologists found a wide variety of structures and objects, providing detailed evidence for the activities which went on in these burgh backlands from the medieval period. The most important discoveries were the medieval burgh boundary and evidence of the industrial activities being carried out here (specifically tanning).

A key aim of the excavation was to establish the location of the Canongate burgh's boundary ditch. The excavation identified five large ditches which ran parallel to Holyrood Road. The ditches had been dug successively, with soil deposition showing that as one ditch filled up with effluent, another would be dug nearby. A large soil bank was also noted, running on the same alignment as the ditches. It is likely that this represents a different manifestation of the same burgh boundary. The presence and location of the ditches coincides with current knowledge regarding historic Canongate.

Industrial activities were represented by the presence of tanneries. These typically survived as deep pits dug into the clay. Some were formed by building stone walls within a single large pit to create multiple cells. Five barrel-lined pits were also discovered, immediately adjacent to each other. These were fitted with timber bases and had barrel hoops to support the sides. All were filled with material including leather, lime, hair, horn cores and other animal bones, things which are associated with tanning. As tanning is a toxic process, the tanneries are located both a suitable distance from, and downhill from, human habitation, and are also close to the road which leads from the 'Cowgate', named for its cattle markets

Several wells were discovered on the site. Some were sealed by later garden soil deposits which

date them as being late medieval, while others are associated with the former brewery. Significant finds from the wells include bronze pins and coins of different dates, while a later well yielded an intact Youngers of Edinburgh firkin!

Small garden plot walls were also found, forming the outlines of long narrow gardens or 'burgage plots' to the rear of the houses, which is typical of the medieval period. Find such as clay pipes, pottery and glass give a glimpse into the daily lives of the people who lived here.

Medieval and post-medieval Discoveries from Cambuskenneth Abbey

Warren Bailie MifA, GUARD Archaeology Ltd

Following GUARD Archaeology's collaboration with the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology Glasgow University (CBAGU) and local volunteers in investigating Cambuskenneth Abbey in 2012, we are pleased to report some post-excavation results of the work. The work was funded by the Tread Right Foundation.

The archaeology project brought archaeologists, historians, metal detectorists, geophysicists and even a local poet, Elizabeth Rimmer, together with members of the local community to reveal evidence from the Scottish Wars of independence and later periods of conflict in and around the abbey and its environs. A key objective of the project was to engage members of the local community in the project; the professional archaeologists from GUARD Archaeology provided training in a range of archaeological techniques to members of the public and local school groups.

The Abbey was founded by David I in around 1140, and was originally known as the Abbey of St Mary of Stirling. However, from at least 1201 onwards it was referred to as the Abbey of St Mary of Cambuskenneth (on the basis of Papal Bulls from Innocent III). The place name means the 'creek' or 'field of Kenneth', and is traditionally associated with a battle between the Scots under Kenneth and the Picts - this tradition underpins the location's position at the heart of the idea of Scottish identity.

The Abbey is one of the few places specifically mentioned in the near contemporary accounts of

the Battle of Bannockburn. It was here that Robert the Bruce kept his army's baggage prior to the Battle of Bannockburn, though it is possible that this was also where supplies related to the on-going siege of Stirling Castle by the Scots were stored (it was to relieve the siege that Edward II brought his army to Bannockburn).

The Abbey was later the location for a series of important parliaments during the rule of Robert I. The first of these, in November 1314, saw Robert disinherit all the nobles holding lands in Scotland who were not present at the parliament; this included the sons of those who had died fighting for Edward II at Bannockburn, while any who were not present were judged to have declared themselves as Edward's subjects rather than Robert's.

The metal-detecting survey covered an area of 17 hectares across the fields to the south and west of Cambuskenneth Abbey. There were a total of 1044 finds retained; these included 36 coins, one of which was provisionally identified as a silver Henry III coin (1251-1272) and another was identified as an Edward I/II coin that was minted in London during the late thirteenth or early fourteenth century. Either of these coins, but especially the Edward I/II coin, could have been in circulation and feasibly lost around the time of the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, perhaps from booty taken from the defeated English army.



*Edward I/II coin, dating to 13/14th century.
© GUARD Archaeology Ltd*

In addition 44 musket balls, dating to the seventeenth/eighteenth centuries, some of which were distorted or partial, were recovered during the survey. Dr Iain Banks and Dr Tony

Pollard of the CBAGU had observed before the survey that the stonework of the northern and western walls of the Abbey Tower carry the distinctive scars created by the impact of musket balls. These are concentrated around the windows and similar patterning is visible at Stirling Castle and Linlithgow Palace. Was this target practice or was the tower caught in cross fire? The musket balls are most likely to date from 1650-51, either skirmishing relating to Cromwell trying to get past Leslie at Stirling after the Battle of Dunbar, or part of the assault on Stirling by Monck in August 1651. The musket balls varied in size from small shot of 5mm diameter to larger shot of approximately 15mm. CBAGU also noted that some musket balls had tapered sprues which suggests they were attached to powder bags. This would have enabled reloading from horseback, suggesting they were from cavalry or dragoons which could also be indicative of a seventeenth date.

Two possible cannon shot were also found, as were 22 buttons and 3 buckles, yet to be dated. Some of these items, like the Henry III and Edward I/II coins, could well have been dropped by soldiers involved in the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314.



Volunteers breaking ground in the shadow of the abbey tower. © GUARD Archaeology Ltd

As well as a metal detecting survey, a geophysical survey and the excavation of targeted test trenches over geophysical anomalies was undertaken. This revealed artefacts of potential medieval date, including a piece of carved stone detail, floor tile fragments and pottery which may be contemporary with the Abbey's twelfth and thirteenth century beginnings. Investigations also uncovered foundations of the watergate that once stood on

the banks of the Forth, a means of the Abbey controlling access from the River at this point. It is not certain when the watergate was constructed but it was depicted in ruins on an etching by John Slezer dated 1693.

Connecting with the Clyde: how the ScARF Marine and Maritime panel recommendation of undertaking a 'Source to Sea' programme is being developed by RCAHMS

Dr Alex Hale MIfA, RCAHMS

In 2012 the ScARF Marine and Maritime panel published their report with an overarching recommendation for future research to take a 'holistic view of the marine and maritime historic environment, from inland lakes that feed freshwater river routes, to tidal estuaries and out to the open sea' (<http://tinyurl.com/c5d7txv>). This ambitious aspiration was reviewed during discussions within RCAHMS, eventually resulting in the River Clyde system being chosen as the focus for a major study of human interaction with the river through time. Over the course of the past year a scoping study, which aimed to engage broadly across the sector in Scotland and beyond, gathered people's thoughts on research topics and ideas. These have been distilled into three broad themes each with underlying research strands:



Theme 1 – Connecting with the past

Strands: *Dynamic landscapes, Settlement, Sustenance, Economy and Industry, Connect or Disconnect and the Wider World.*

The aims of projects within this theme should be to demonstrate both continuity and change – past, present and potentially future.



Theme 2 – Personal connections

Strands: *Emotions, Fun, Inspiration, Spiritual and Perceptual.*

The aims of all projects in this theme should be to explore the individuals and groups of people who have connected with and currently connect to the river.



Theme 3 – Connecting with the future

Strands: *Future, Power and Politics.*

Projects within this theme should aim to deliver impact and outcomes that contribute towards our potential future connections with the river.

The scoping study identified a series of potential positive impacts, ranging from knowledge creation across and beyond the historic environment sector, to developing multi- and inter-disciplinary learning methods that link specialists with community groups to develop knowledge exchange partnerships. Given the range of potential impacts, funding sources may be both varied and on a range of scales, to suit the project types, but the programme as a whole will be underpinned by RCAHMS and its successor body, Historic Environment Scotland.

The themes and strands form the focus of the current development phase, with the aim of identifying a series of specific projects. The projects will aim to deliver a body of legacy

outputs which could take several forms, such as: a web presence that enables participants to create content through mapping their connections with the Clyde system; a book on *Clyde connections: pasts, presents and futures*; the development of policy guidance through research papers that span both the historic environment and natural environment strategies; and the creation of a travelling exhibition, which can move from source to sea down the Clyde system. Finally, the programme will be able to work with creative artists, designers and digital professionals to demonstrate how human-river connections influence our lives, over time and into the future.

It is recognised that the proposals outlined above will go beyond the traditional scope and expertise of RCAHMS and Historic Scotland alone, and it is acknowledged that even Historic Environment Scotland (HES), the new Scottish historic environment NDPB, will only be undertaking activities within its competence, such as survey, recording, collecting, enabling, training and informing. For other disciplines and areas of study, from recording oral history and traditions to investigating social attitudes to the river, we will work with other experts to co-ordinate activities to ensure that they are collaborative, mutually beneficial and deliver transformative research outputs and outcomes.

The Source to Sea programme will run for around 5 years, with preliminary work commencing in the summer of 2014. So far, external enthusiasm has been strong for such a programme and the current development phase will build upon this enthusiasm to define a series of projects, which Scotland's historic environment community can organise and deliver. This approach, through gradual beginnings and building momentum, will ultimately address issues of the ever-changing environmental, social and economic climate of Scotland, ensuring that the adventurous programme is relevant, resilient to change and adaptable.

If you would like further information about the programme please contact:
alex.hale@rcahms.gov.uk

or read the report online at
<http://tinyurl.com/c5d7txv>.

A 'new' lithic raw material from Moray

Torben Bjarke Ballin

LITHIC RESEARCH and Honorary Research Fellow, University of Bradford

In connection with the examination, cataloguing, and analysis of early prehistoric lithic assemblages from Dr Fraser Hunter's (National Museums Scotland) Clarkly Hill and Birnie excavations, Moray, I also examined and catalogued thousands of lithic artefacts in the county's two main museums, Elgin Museum and the Falconer Museum in Forres. As expected, the vast majority of the lithic finds from Moray turned out to be local brown flint, with small amounts being local quartz or quartzite.

However, an additional raw material was also present, in the excavated assemblages as well as in the museum collections. It was difficult to identify this material immediately, as much of the lithic material had been exposed to 'sand-blasting', that is, abrasion by exposure to Aeolian activity in the region's dunes or adjacent areas. Consequently, these finds were initially defined as 'either flint, quartz or chalcedony', due to varying degrees of similarity with these three raw materials. It was not until the analyst had examined large, fresh geological samples of this material in Elgin Museum that the raw material's identity became apparent.

Although very small abraded artefacts in this material may be difficult to identify, slightly larger pieces are easy to recognize due to the raw material's characteristic spots, bands and 'brecciated' appearance (see for example Fig. 3).

Basically, this prehistorically exploited raw material is Stotfield silcrete, which used to be referred to as Stotfield chert. Below, Stotfield silcrete is briefly characterized and the spatial and temporal distribution of archaeological specimens is touched upon. The purpose of this small note is simply to make colleagues aware of the presence of this raw material in our archaeological collections, with the consequences this may have on discussions of local raw material procurement and exchange.



1) Silcrete microblade core CAT 82 from Clarkly Hill, Moray



3) Silcrete blade SF 8580 from Birnie, Moray (ventral view)

The appearance of Stotfield silcrete

When most heavily sand-blasted, small artefacts in this raw material are almost undefinable as to whether they are flint, quartz or chalcedony. Slightly larger pieces have a more obvious chalcedonic lustre, and fresh break facets of natural nodules frequently have an appearance like very fine-grained quartz. Hollows are commonly filled with quartz crystals, like those encountered in the central hollows of chalcedony and agate nodules ('geodes' or 'druses'). In many cases, Stotfield silcrete appears brecciated, with notable swirling banding around the material's various component bits. This banding is in many cases reminiscent of the banding characterizing agate. Some pieces display obvious purple colours, probably indicating the presence of fluorite.



2) Silcrete blade SF 2415 from Birnie, Moray (dorsal view)

The distribution of archaeological pieces

The identification of the raw material of 15 pieces from Clarkly Hill as being local Stotfield silcrete is interesting, but the use of this resource is possibly not diagnostic – a microblade core from Clarkly Hill is in silcrete (Fig. 1), but one barbed-and-tanged arrowhead from the Falconer Museum in Forres is also in silcrete, indicating that this material may have been exploited from the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic and into the Early Bronze Age. Further research may reveal whether it was used in the Mesolithic period or from the Early Neolithic period onwards.

At Birnie, 44 pieces were identified as silcrete, including two regular blades (Figs 2-3). The blade in particular (Fig. 3) has an obvious brecciated appearance, seemingly being 'glued' together by bits, and with the cement being either quartz or chalcedony.

Although Birnie is c.30km from the shores of the Moray Firth, with its exposed outcrops of Stotfield silcrete (Lossiemouth), the Birnie settlers clearly valued this resource enough to carry nodules of silcrete across the landscape. Silcrete artefacts have also been collected from the Elgin area, near Lossiemouth, as well as from Culbin Sands, c.40-50km west of Lossiemouth, and these artefacts now form parts of the collections of the Elgin and Falconer Museums. However, although the best Stotfield silcrete clearly allows controlled flaking, its internal structure is not as homogeneous as that of flint, and one would not expect it to have been exchanged across extensive distances. This, however, needs to be tested by future research.

I hope to be able to return to Moray during 2014, to have a closer look at the coastal exposures, as well as relevant geological strata in the area's now mostly abandoned sandstone quarries.

A final word....

Before the Units

David J Breeze

On 5 January 1977, I took over responsibility within the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments for the management of rescue archaeology and the Central Excavation Unit, the brain child of Roy Ritchie, and which came into being that day. Government spending on rescue archaeology in Scotland had been incredibly low, in 1970 one or two thousand a year. The revolution which was rescue archaeology had made few inroads in Scotland, apart from in towns. The lack of action north of the Border led to bad publicity in the national newspapers as well as the archaeological press. But that was to change.

Indeed, change had already started. In the mid 70s the Ancient Monuments Board for Scotland pressed for the establishment of 3 posts to undertake surveys in Scotland. Kenneth Steer, then Secretary of RCAHMS, stated firmly that if these posts involve survey they should be established in the national survey body, and they were. The 3 archaeologists became the Field Survey Team and set out to create a rapid survey of the whole country.

The Ancient Monuments Board was influential in another way: it established an archaeological advisory committee. One of its members was Grant Simpson of Aberdeen University and his contribution to Scottish archaeology was enormous. Almost single-handedly, he established the unit in Aberdeen and the Grampian Regional Archaeologist post as well as an appointment within his own university.

The third national archaeological body was the Burgh Survey, recently established in Glasgow University with the intention of creating a brief report on the archaeological potential of each medieval burgh in Scotland.

In the Inspectorate, we still had limited resources, but they were growing: by 1980 our budget was £600,000. We were faced with a

plethora of threats, from coastal erosion, from forestry which was expanding rapidly, and in towns. There were few Council archaeologists, only Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities had departments of archaeology, so we decided to continue the trend and establish new organisations at national level. The Scottish Urban Archaeology Unit was created, based in Perth. John Hume was instrumental in forming the Industrial Archaeology Survey. By 1980, we had a Central Excavation Unit concentrating on rural threats, an urban unit, a field survey team operating in the countryside and an industrial survey; at least at the national level we felt that we had created a framework which embraced the whole country.

These bodies, of course, were only part of the structure of Scottish archaeology of the 1980s. Universities undertook coastal surveys and provided much-needed specialist support, for example, and we negotiated a contract for radio-carbon dates. We also addressed publication, encouraging the publication of earlier excavations as well as ensuring prompt publication by the CEU. In 1989/90, the CEU went independent and a different story started.

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