

The ARCHAEOLOGIST



The ARCHAEOLOGIST, the IFA's highly regarded news and information journal, includes diverse and interesting coverage of developments in UK and international archaeology as well as news of the latest Institute activities, events and other useful information for front-line archaeology professionals.

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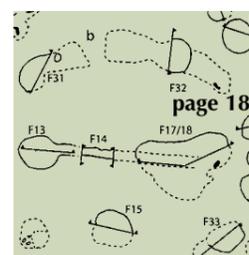
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Prehistoric Britain proved another popular topic for *The Archaeologist*, especially with Scottish colleagues, who have been forthcoming on a range of significant projects. These include a programme of C14 dating that proved that wooden items in the National Museum of Scotland are some of the earliest equipment in Europe, World Heritage Status for spectacular sites on Orkney, and Shetland's vibrant research activity. In England in particular we see some of the fruits of developer-funded archaeology. Richard Bradley sets out a few of the provisional results of his survey of grey literature and how this is changing interpretation of some monument types, compilation of data on lowly field systems reaps unexpected dividends, and routine evaluations in the Midlands come up with more than expected in Northamptonshire and Warwickshire. For English Heritage, new Prehistory tsar Jonathan Last describes how prehistoric archaeology will be promoted, and Matthew Ritchie is able to report on Cadw's successful survey of prehistoric funerary and ritual sites.

Life within IFA has already been busy this year, and



Milling around at Winchester (the building in polythene should have been a new conference facility)

this *TA* brings you news of the recent action on the disciplinary side, our new Diggers' Forum Group, a proposed bursary scheme for workplace trainees, new ways to support and promote Registered Archaeological Organisations, and an introduction to the e-newsletter we now offer IFA members in conjunction with the Society of Antiquaries of London. Our Annual Conference in Winchester was the best attended that we have known for many years and had the added glamour of a ministerial visit in addition to many excellent archaeological presentations. Apart from not being able to use the new conference facilities we expected, one downside of otherwise fine Winchester hospitality was short opening hours in the bar. Next year we are planning on holding the conference at Edinburgh, and Scottish colleagues assure us that such a disaster would never happen there.

Alison Taylor
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Notes to contributors

Themes and deadlines

Summer: Working in historic towns
deadline: **15 June 2005**

Autumn: Working with finds
deadline: **15 September 2005**

Contributions and letter/emails are always welcome. Short articles (c. 1000 words) are preferred. They should be sent as an email attachment, which must include captions and credits for illustrations. The editor will edit and shorten if necessary. Illustrations are very important. These are best supplied as originals or on CD, scanned at a minimum of 500kb. More detailed *Notes for contributors* for each issue are available from the editor.

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From the Chair

David Jennings



Tessa Jowell, Peter Hinton and Paul Light (Principal, University College, Winchester) at the Winchester conference
Photograph: Nick Davis

This year's annual conference at University College Winchester was an excellent show case for the diversity, strength and vitality of IFA and its membership. The conference theme was appropriately focused on working in historic towns, although as you might anticipate, sessions also covered a wide range of other subjects.

Martin Biddle delivered a suitably thought-provoking opening address, sparking debate, and on the second day proceedings were opened by a speech from Tessa Jowell, Minister for Culture, Media and Sport. This latter event represented a significant 'coming-of-age' for the Institute and the sector, demonstrating the incremental and progressive steps that have been taken to move the historic environment and archaeology up the political agenda. The Minister's general message was positive and presaged the release of her essay on the historic and built environment, *Better Places to Live*.

It is fashionable to be cynical regarding the political response to the archaeological sector, however, if this stance is too stringently upheld, we lose our capacity for a genuine dialogue with government that can create the better future for both archaeology and archaeologists.

At the time of writing the outcome of the election is unknown, but the central message is clear – incisive, constructive and persistent engagement by IFA with government is critical to the future of our past. Wherever possible this lobbying needs to be undertaken in conjunction with other heritage bodies; as Tim Howard says (p6), we need to take a leaf out of the book of other professions and speak with a common voice.

Our agenda remain consistent with previous statements of our ten-year plan. However, it is worth re-stating some key issues occupying Council's thoughts. As many will be aware from subscription renewal literature, attracting new membership is a critical to our plans, so again I would ask everyone to assist with recruitment.

We continue to reappraise and amend our procedures: changes are being drawn up to increase the effectiveness of our disciplinary procedure following last year's amendments to the RAO complaints process. In the meantime we continue to regulate standards and investigate lack of compliance both individually and corporately.

The Diggers' Forum is now up and running and needs further active support to assist with our initiatives in relation to pay and conditions, so please get involved. Finally, we remain in constructive dialogue regarding implementation of the Valletta Convention and development of an accreditation scheme for professional practice.

As ever, our vision is cast over a wide horizon – you would expect nothing less given the current state of the profession. Therefore progress seems slow, with our goals constantly distant mirages; but this is unduly negative, and with enthusiasm to slake our thirst we will gradually refine image into reality. So let's stick at it!

David Jennings
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FROM THE FINDS TRAY

IFA Finds Group

The summer meeting, on 'Buildings Archaeology', held jointly with the Buildings Archaeology Group, will be on Thursday 9 June 2005 at Mortimer Wheeler House, LAARC, London. It will be followed, probably in October, with a practical session in York or Leicester. If you have ideas for future meetings (sessions on glass and residues have been suggested) please let us know. As usual the AGM will be slotted in before lunch. Again, the committee will be looking for new members so if you are interested, contact the Hon Secretary. We will be looking for a new Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

Nicola Powell
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Archaeology World Report magazine

This bi-monthly magazine aims to introduce the world of field archaeology to the public and the academic alike. The first three issues include recent archaeology from Antarctica, Rock art in South Africa, Japanese Jomon period sites, and the archaeology of second world war military earthworks in Europe. IFA members can receive the first three editions for £8 (postage and packaging free). We would also like to hear if you would like to contribute or to subscribe.

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Karl-James Langford

Photograph credits

Your Editor allowed the previous *Yearbook* cover illustrations to be reproduced on p 11 of the 2005 *Yearbook and directory* without further acknowledgement, whereas I should have thanked Wessex Archaeology, Archaeoptics Ltd and Hampshire County Museum Service for their excellent images.



Arnos Vale cemetery, Bristol – part of the new list © English Heritage



Illustration by Jo Richards

Iron Age find from Devon

The Portable Antiquities Scheme has recorded this important finds dated to the La Tène period. Shaped like a mushroom, it is a cast copper alloy decorative stud, with 'trumpet voids' decorating the

top surface. Some have remains of red enamel still in place. It will go on display in the Royal Albert Memorial Museum as part of the 'Objects of Desire' exhibition, which will highlight archaeological objects, including treasure, recently acquired by the museum. JD Hill, British Museum, thinks we should look to the Continent for a parallel for this lovely artefact; so more research will be carried out.

Nicola Powell
Finds Liaison Officer, Devon

Yearbook 2005 errata

Tim Francis, IFA Hon Legal Advisor

Tim Francis has now moved to Gaston Whybrew Solicitors, Westwood Park, London Road, Great Horkeley, Colchester, CO6 4BS tel 01206 274153. He is still available to offer free legal advice to IFA members (up to 30 minutes, on archaeological or non-archaeological matters) by phone or personal visit. If further legal action is required discounted rates (10%) will apply

Library of unpublished fieldwork reports

It is widely recognised that archaeological research is hampered by difficult access to fieldwork reports. 'Grey literature' has limited circulation and is often invisible to the research community. This new electronic library delivers a growing number of such reports to researchers. It brings together unpublished reports supplied to the ADS from larger fieldwork archives which may contain additional data, for example the Channel Tunnel Rail Link archive, with others submitted through OASIS. Reports so far available were contributed by AOC Archaeology, Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Geophysical Surveys of Bradford (GSB), Hereford and Worcester County Council, MoLAS, Oxford Archaeology, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services, ULAS and Wessex Archaeology

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<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit/>

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Hague Convention news

A briefing on UK progress towards ratification of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two protocols was held at DCMS in March, organised by the British Red Cross in association with DCMS and FCO. Lord McIntosh re-affirmed the Government's intention to ratify these important treaties, as announced last May, but there would need to be primary legislation. This delay is unfortunate, as UNESCO has organised a first meeting of ratified partners in October and the fact that Britain is not yet a party may affect its ability to influence decisions on institutional matters. However, Britain could still attend as an observer and join in discussions. Other presentations from Chris Whomersley (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Patrick Boylan and Major General (retired) Tony Rogers (University of Cambridge) explained the background to the Convention, benefits of ratification, and practical implications for the armed forces. It was recognised that manuals and education for military personnel are essential, and IFA and other archaeological bodies offered their help when required. They also offered to develop a capacity for immediate response in the event of future conflicts, to help avoid debacles like Iraq. A further meeting to discuss practical implications of ratification is scheduled for later this year.

Meanwhile, it was reported that, at the UN war crimes tribunal at The Hague, a retired Yugoslav senior officer was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for the 1991 Yugoslav army bombardment of the Old Town of Dubrovnik, despite his argument of military necessity.

Registered Archaeological Organisations: *a review*

R

Tim Howard, a practising Barrister since 1981, made the (rather strange) decision that he would like a career in archaeology, and so embarked on the Oxford University Diploma in Professional Archaeology. As part of this course he had a three month placement with IFA, with the remit of assessing the impact of the RAO scheme and how it can be improved and promoted.

A

His broad conclusions are that it is a worthwhile scheme that needs careful consideration in order to expand membership in curatorial and educational sectors, and more promotion both within and outside the profession. IFA must also demonstrate its will and capacity to enforce standards in order to build confidence, but the main thrust should be encouragement of continual improvements. RAOs should be widely inclusive and should personify the core values of the whole sector.

O

The RAO scheme, since its inception in 1996, has been open to all organisations involved in archaeology, but the accent has been on the commercial sector. Tim has been involved in talks with ALGAO over how IFA can move forward with that organisation, for traditionally curators have resisted application of common standards. However, now local authorities are using IFA standards and RAO registration to improve and maintain the quality of planning-related work, it is crucial that they sign up to the same rules. Local government archaeology services are under pressure and a clear mark of professional standing can only be beneficial, whether in the Council Chamber, the Inquiry room or at the information desk.

So far as the educational world is concerned, IFA is not seeking to regulate teaching, but that does not mean that professional regulation has no relevance,

especially where universities are involved in fieldwork, as John Hunter described in *TA 55*.

With regard to pricing, the RAO committee has fixed annual registration fees for exclusively educational or curatorial organisations at £105 – a timely riposte to those who dismiss the scheme as an IFA money-making exercise. However, there is no such thing as a free launch. Effective administration and policing (which are central to any effective scheme) involve a significant investment in time and money.

Great strides have been taken in overhauling the Complaints Procedure (*TA 55*), introducing clear benchmarks for registration (with a system to prevent 'serial defaulters' from registering) with revised guidance notes. Procedural reform has been allied to a renewed resolve to ensure that IFA does not shirk firm action in appropriate cases. Central to the operation of the Register is the issue of trust which is fundamental to any professional relationship. The Institute must be able to rely upon information given by organisations, and those that provide false information will be removed from the Register.

Everyone agrees on the need for professional integrity, but those who oppose the RAO scheme and IFA membership should ponder the alternatives. If the need for regulation is agreed, but the objection is to the IFA and those who run it, the objectors are missing the point. It is not obligatory for members of a profession to like each other. The bonhomie of the Bar is often superficial but this rarely prevents the profession uniting in pursuit of common interests. Lawyers do not under-cut each other and they consistently speak with one voice in furtherance of professional interests. A fragmented archaeological profession plays into the hands of insincere politicians and unscrupulous developers. Without IFA, securing a fair deal for the profession would be all the harder.

News from IFA

Alison Taylor



Annual Conference 2005

Well over 400 archaeologists were drawn to Winchester to enjoy a conference on the theme 'Working in Historic Towns'. The key note paper by Martin Biddle included a challenge to archaeologists (especially curators) working in a developer-funded world to match the research objectives of earlier work. The speech by Tessa Jowell also created interest, though perhaps not as much controversy as feared. In between there were at least 3 parallel sessions for 3 days, covering issues that included the problems of working on road schemes, how to deal with archaeological archives, results of recent work in our smaller towns, post-medieval burials and (most popular of all), some of the outstanding discoveries of 2004. There will be write-ups of some sessions in the summer issue of *The Archaeologist*, and papers submitted will be published on the IFA website.

SALON-IFA: A free new membership service

The current SALON (Society of Antiquaries of London Online Newsletter) is a popular news service provided by the Society of Antiquaries of London (SAL) and sent to the email boxes of all Fellows (FSAs) who want it, 25 times each year. Edited by Christopher Catling, it covers governmental consultations and new legislation (actual and proposed), news and reviews of conferences, books, discoveries and TV programmes, job vacancies, deaths, issues of controversy within heritage, and other items that either relate to its Fellows or to their interests. The readership extends beyond Fellows to those in government departments, the press and other decision-makers. It is therefore valuable in spreading news, forming opinions, and generally expressing views from the heritage sector.

IFA has now joined SAL in the venture, making the service available to all IFA members who want to receive it, setting out to cover the activities of IFA and its members (in particular its RAOs), and ensuring that our members and the rest of the world know what we are doing. One intention is to gather early news of discoveries by RAOs and give them the right sort of publicity, but publications, conferences, public events etc can all be promoted. The dual purpose therefore is to serve our membership by providing them with information and news, and also by publicising their activities. Stories can be emailed by any IFA member, whether on the circulation list or not. We do hope you will use this e-newsletter to keep each other and the wider world in touch with developments within the archaeological community.

To add yourself to the email distribution, email admin@archaeologists.net. To send news, comments etc, email Chris Catling at mail@dial-house.co.uk. If you don't have a personal account, why not ask your employer or a friend to receive it for your attention?

Website

IFA's website, www.archaeologists.net, re-vamped by CBA last autumn, is now carrying more news and information than ever before, and we want to keep it as data rich as we can manage. We see the site as an important part of IFA's publication programme, hosting many IFA documents and publications (some duplicated in print, some only available digitally) and with useful links to a growing number of other archaeological organisations. If you have news, papers, or other items you are willing to share, send them to alison.taylor@archaeologists.net, and I will try to include them.

The Diggers' Forum

Diggers'

Second Meeting – 19 February 2005

There was excited apprehension prior to this meeting. Having made progress last October it was important to maintain that momentum to establish the basic remit of the Diggers' Forum. To avoid becoming purely London-based we are committed to holding the next meeting outside London and will encourage formation of regional groups.

Healthy and Safety

Some site staff reported avoidable accidents but where stringent H&S had been applied and extra PPE required, this was not always appropriate and actually made the working environment more unpleasant. We will examine the current situation and insist that adequate, but balanced and appropriate, H&S be a priority for all employers.

Training

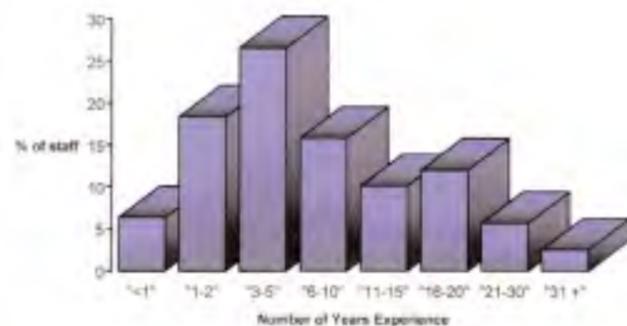
Many units were making the right noises, but failing to deliver. The Diggers' Forum will cooperate with other bodies to ensure that initiatives, such as the one recently announced by IFA, are targeted appropriately.

IFA Council

The Forum will ensure that representation of site staff and finds specialists is increased within IFA Council, a key to genuine improvement in our working lives and the credibility of IFA. Furthermore, we will work with Prospect in support of its proposed National Pay Agreement.

Keep an eye on our page on the IFA website for any more news and information about membership – <http://www.archaeologists.net/diggers>. We hope to see you at the next meeting.

Paul Everill
Secretary, Diggers' Forum



THE INVISIBLE DIGGERS

Research into the reality of Professional Contract Archaeology in the UK

In 2002 I left full-time commercial archaeology to work on a PhD at the University of Southampton. My aim was to document issues within the profession as seen by those at the coalface. I believe this project will illuminate serious issues that need to be addressed. My methods combine 'unstructured' interviews with an online survey and other sociological research tools.

When asked how long they intend to stay within commercial archaeology, 31.85% said they are trying to get out now or in the next year or two, 42% of these being aged 26-30. The impression is that a large number of graduates enter the profession, only to remain until failure to secure promotion or improved pay drives them elsewhere. When asked what they hated most – Pay; Quality of management/staff; bad weather; 'incestuous' relationships; All or none of the above; 19% of the 26-30 year olds planning to leave said quality of management/staff; 29% said Pay and 52% 'All of the above'.

37% believe that a rethink is needed to prevent future crisis, and 35% believe it is already in crisis. However, of the latter group only 21% are currently trying to get out of the profession, which supports the image of a dedicated workforce. 28% of under-30s are IFA members; 16% can't afford to join; 15% feel the IFA isn't relevant to them; 7% would never join, but 31% would consider it. In comparison, 33% of 31-40 year-olds are IFA members and 32% would consider joining.

For a fuller report and the opportunity to contribute opinions and experiences visit www.invisiblediggers.net.

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Archaeological experience within survey respondents. Note the dramatic drop after 5 years.

INCLUSIVE, ACCESSIBLE, ARCHAEOLOGY

Tim Phillips

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA 1995) and its amendment the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (2001) is now in force, with legislation that requires employers and educational institutions to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that 'disabled persons are not placed at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to persons who are not disabled'. Archaeology therefore faces quite a challenge, as *Archaeology Labour Market Intelligence, 2002/03* revealed that just 0.34% of professional archaeologists are disabled as defined by DDA 1995, as are 3% of volunteers.

The problem starts in the universities, so Roberta Gilchrist at Reading has been awarded funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (FDTL5), for developments in teaching and learning concerning Archaeology and Disability in collaboration with the Inclusive Environments Research Group (Reading), and with Bournemouth University. IFA, CBA, English Heritage and Oxford Archaeology are all supporting this project.

The aim is to widen participation by challenging the stereotype of archaeology as a field discipline that excludes disabled participants. The dual issues of disability and transferable skills will be addressed in archaeological fieldwork teaching, but awareness of disability issues throughout the profession must be raised.

I began the survey in collaboration with IFA by a questionnaire to 48 Registered Archaeological Organisations to assess the situation within the commercial sector. Working with specialists in Inclusive Environments (directed by Geoff Cook), we are now analysing and characterising archaeological activities, skills and environments. A range of field activities will be addressed, including excavation and recording, field survey, instrument survey, environmental sampling and processing of artefacts. Through controlled testing and field trials, we will develop a self-assessment tool kit for physical and psychological abilities.



Surveying at the Silchester Field School (Dept of Archaeology, University of Reading)

Guidelines will be produced to promote good practice, and publications through international journals will address academic and professional audiences in archaeology and disability studies. The archaeological community will be involved through training events, national conferences, newsletters and on the web.

What the project now needs is more stories and case histories from individuals with disabilities, whether they have succeeded in archaeological careers or been forced to give up. I am particularly interested in those who have been disabled during (especially if because of) their career, and what their experience has been. Such disabilities may be something as common as a bad back that stops active fieldwork (just quantifying this will be enlightening for our profession), or may be a perceived disability that in fact enhances other skills. This includes registered disabled and physical or mental disabilities that could impair working (details on our website).

If you have a story to tell I would love to hear from you before the end of June when this phase of the project ends.

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Ancient monuments and archaeological areas: a magistrate's decision

Roger Thomas

In the April 2004 issue of *The Magistrate*, (magistrates' equivalent of TA), Anna Winstanley (barrister, formerly with English Heritage) and Roger Thomas (English Heritage) wrote a piece on Protecting our heritage, explaining the legislation that protects buried sites. The Magistrate invited its readers to study a fictitious ancient monuments offence and to compare the sentence they would give on conviction to the decision by a District Judge. This piece is reproduced by kind permission of *The Magistrate*, with grateful thanks to its Editor.

CASE SCENARIO

When Mr and Mrs Smith purchased a house and land they were aware that part of the land was scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (AMAAA) 1979. The monument consists of the remains of a medieval settlement with ditches and banks. But much of the archaeological importance of the monument derives from buried remains of which no trace is visible above the ground.

When an English Heritage Field Monument Warden (FMW) visited the Smiths, they mentioned that they were planning to landscape some of their land and to construct an ornamental pond. The FMW reminded them of the need to obtain scheduled monument consent (SMC) for any works which affected the scheduled area.

In mid-2002, Mr and Mrs Smith engaged a landscape architect. He considered that the work did not require planning permission, so work started. Apparently at the request of Mr and Mrs Smith, the earthmoving involved was designed to avoid visible features but it did affect a large area of invisible buried remains. There is some evidence that Mr and Mrs Smith had pushed for the work to start quickly, to get the earthmoving done before wet autumn weather.

Shortly afterwards, English Heritage learned that unauthorised works were taking place. An English Heritage inspector visited and observed that damage had already occurred to the buried remains of a medieval building, the foundations of which had been partly removed. The inspector advised Mr and Mrs Smith that a criminal offence was possibly being committed, and that the contractors should be instructed to stop work. Mr and Mrs Smith acceded

to this demand, and subsequently allowed archaeologists onto the site to record the remains which had been exposed.

The inspector interviewed Mr Smith under caution. Mr Smith said he had understood the scheduling only to apply to visible features, and that he did not realise that the area affected by his landscaping was protected or archaeologically sensitive. Mr Smith pleaded guilty in the magistrates' court to an offence under s. 2 of the AMAAA 1979. Mr Smith has one previous conviction (for driving without insurance) dating to 1984.

SENTENCING CONSIDERATIONS

District Judge Stephen Day's response

The first thing to establish when dealing with an unusual offence is the maximum penalty and in this case it is an unlimited fine on conviction on indictment or the statutory maximum, currently £5000, on summary conviction. As it is triable either way (1), there is the option of committing for sentence (2), but as it does not carry imprisonment, not all community penalties are available in either the magistrates' court or the Crown Court. The second task is to analyse the facts of the offence to assess its seriousness before going on to consider the means of the defendant, the timeliness of the plea and other personal factors. The previous conviction is totally irrelevant. Here the relevant factor concerning the offences seems to be that Mr Smith knew in 2001 that scheduled monument consent was needed and had known from the time of purchase of the property that part of the land was scheduled under AMAAA. Mr Smith was not totally cavalier in his approach as the earthmoving works were planned to avoid the visible parts of the monument. However, damage was done and it could have been avoided had Mr Smith checked with English Heritage. Ownership of such a property carries obligations, which the court must reinforce with appropriate sanctions. Mr Smith was at the very least grossly negligent in not taking elementary steps before starting the work and it may be that a court could find he deliberately failed to do so in order to avoid expenditure or unwelcome restrictions.

There are numerous questions, which a court would want answered before passing sentence. Was the damage irreparable? If so, how important is the

site? What would it cost to restore the site? What is Mr Smith's income? At what stage was the guilty plea entered? What benefit, if any, did Mr Smith gain by ignoring the restrictions? Taking account of the fact that Mr Smith stopped the works when required to do so, and assuming that he is comfortably off, my starting point after a prompt guilty plea would be in the region of £2500 plus costs, but the answer to the questions I pose above could dramatically alter that. That figure is reached after the maximum reduction of 50% that may be allowed in either-way cases following a timely guilty plea (3).

Notes

1. 'Triable either way' means that an offence can be tried either in the Magistrates' Court ('summary trial') or in the Crown Court ('on indictment', in front of a judge and jury). The choice usually lies with the defendant.
2. On conviction in a Magistrates' Court, the magistrates can commit the case to the Crown Court for sentencing. The Crown Court has the power to impose heavier sentences, so the magistrates will do this if they consider the offence to be so serious that their own sentencing powers are inadequate.
3. A 'discount' in the sentence may be given if a defendant pleads guilty at an early stage.

Funding and training:

workplace learning bursaries and other IFA initiatives

Kate Geary

Kate joined the staff of IFA in January, with special responsibility for initiatives related to training and standards. Prior to this, after an initial stint as an archaeological assistant at the Snowdonia National Park, she spent ten years as SMR Officer at the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust before moving to Devon County Council in 2003, to work on their SMR. As chair of the IFA Wales group from 1999 to 2003, she was actively involved in development of Welsh research agenda. During her time at GAT, she was Prospect representative for six years and co-leader of the Bangor branch of the Young Archaeologists Club. After less than two months in her new job, this is her first report.

Training is a major issue facing British archaeology and in particular IFA, for it is a means to raise standards and to improve the professional standing of archaeologists. Various TA articles have reported on initiatives by the IFA in partnership with the Archaeology Training Forum, CHNTO and others. This has included developing National Occupations Standards for archaeology (www.chnto.co.uk/development/nos.html), a pilot for online recording of CPD and a manual for coach-mentoring can be found on IFA's website. These are significant achievements in themselves, but also provide the building blocks for development of recognised career structures. My role is to 'implement strategies to develop and promote professional standards for historic environment professionals', and I will be concentrating on training, CPD, accreditation and career development issues in general.

My immediate task is to use a project development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop a bid to fund workplace learning bursaries. If successful, around ten bursaries a year will be available to fund training which addresses identified skills gaps in the archaeological sector. The development project has included extensive consultation and is now moving on to consider in detail how the bursaries will work.

I will also be working on extending the professional short courses available through partner universities and on developing a practice qualification for archaeology, again based on National Occupational Standards. As with any IFA initiative, these developments must reflect the concerns of the membership, so if you would like to comment on the bursaries, the CPD scheme or any other issues relating to training and career development, do get in touch.

Training, professional standards and pay are inextricably linked. Much of IFA's work to improve pay and conditions is dependent on comparisons with other professions regarding qualifications, technical skills and experience. For these comparisons to be valid, we need to be able to document and accredit these skills in a consistent way which is recognised outside the profession. Change is in the air and I am delighted to be joining IFA at this exciting time.

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Kate Geary

Taking down the fences: promoting prehistory at English Heritage

Jonathan Last

As part of recent re-structuring (from 1 April) English Heritage now has Research Policy Heads by a mixture of periods and themes. After just a few days in the job, Jonathan Last outlines his approach as the new Head of Research Policy for Prehistory.

Almost all the sites listed in the 1882 Ancient Monuments Protection Act were prehistoric, partly a reflection of megaliths being less costly to maintain than medieval buildings. Today prehistoric archaeology has moved beyond a focus on upstanding monuments to recognising the significance of buried sites, environmental sequences and whole landscapes. This is reflected in the survey and excavation work undertaken by EH archaeologists and in projects funded by the Historic Environment Enabling Programme and the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund Programme (ALSF). Project aims are often guided by research frameworks, which EH also facilitates; as well as the regional frameworks which cover themes (eg submarine prehistory), landscapes (eg Avebury) and periods.

Increasing public awareness and access to the historic environment are key elements of English Heritage's strategy for the next five years, which focuses on a 'virtuous circle' of understanding, valuing, caring and enjoying. Today, with only a marginal role in the national curriculum, bringing prehistory into the virtuous circle will require better education, publicity and access. Many themes in prehistory resonate with present-day concerns, from long-term histories of environmental change to biographies of individuals like the Amesbury Archer, perhaps the original economic migrant. The challenge is to translate our research into stories that engage and enthuse new audiences.

How can English Heritage help promote prehistory? One way is to treat outreach as an integral element of projects, both those undertaken in house and

those funded through the grants programmes. This includes promoting new discoveries, such as the Palaeolithic engravings at Creswell Crags; enabling community participation, eg the rock art project described by Tertia Barnett (p26); and producing innovative syntheses from grey literature, like that by Dave Yates (p30).

ALSF has enormous significance for early prehistory in particular, where discoveries have always been intimately related to quarrying. New research set to revolutionise Palaeolithic studies, like mapping submerged landscapes in the English Channel, is complemented by projects to promote the period more widely, like the purchase of Boxgrove quarry and the National Ice Age Network (p15).

The properties on Pitt-Rivers' original schedule remain key assets of which more could be made. The best known, of course, is Stonehenge. In the 1880s the landowner resisted the attempts of the government inspector to raise stones and install policemen, though a fence was not long coming. Today the aim is to remove fences, along with the roads and other modern clutter. Although focusing on one site risks obscuring the diversity of our prehistoric heritage, the improved experience of Stonehenge will offer tremendous opportunities to convey the appeal of prehistory to new audiences. As well as opening up the landscape we also need to open people's imaginations.

(For details of recent EH-funded projects, see: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/admisremote/ACOnline/HOME.asp>)

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The Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Project in Wales

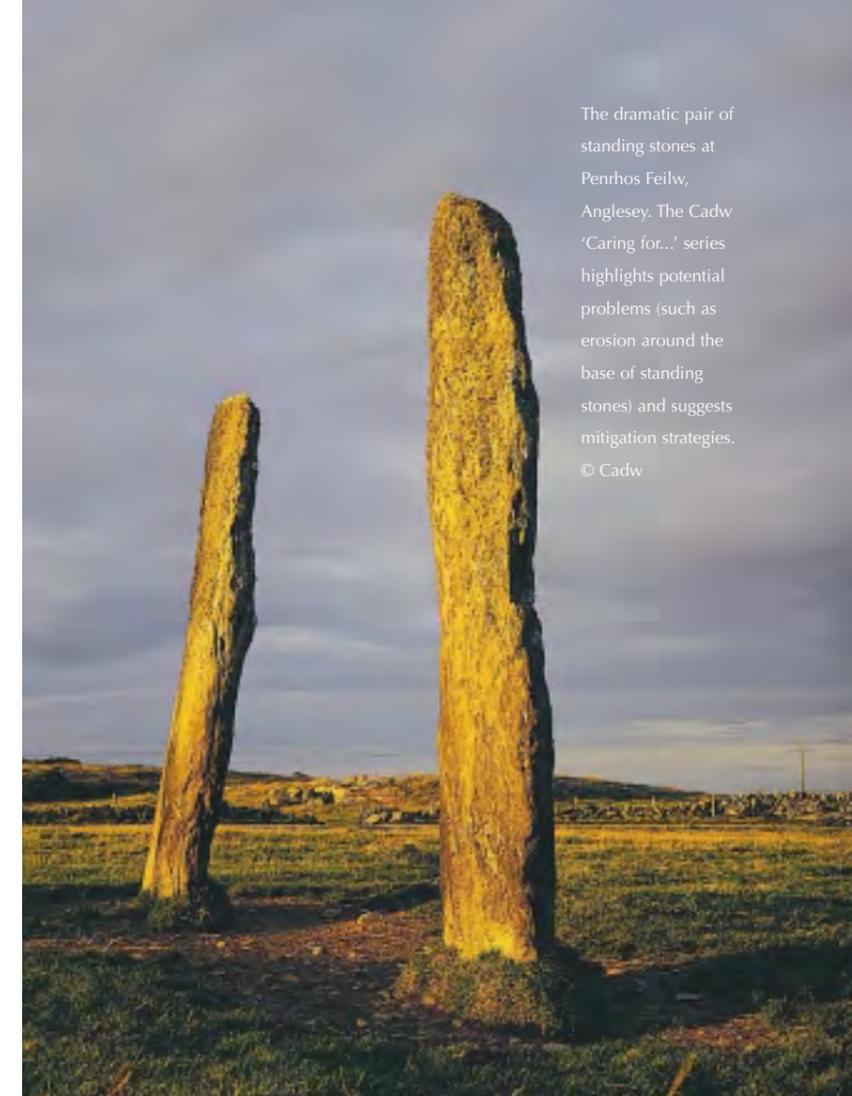
Matthew Ritchie

For the last five years Cadw has been funding the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts to record and evaluate all prehistoric funerary and ritual sites in Wales, one of a series of thematic pan-Wales surveys designed to assess the condition of the known archaeological resource through fieldwork. The results will improve HERs and the Welsh NMR and will feed into management initiatives (eg agri-environment schemes) and statutory protection. A similar survey of deserted rural settlements will be published as a CBA monograph, while other projects include Roman vici and road systems and prehistoric defended enclosures.

Initial challenges included formulating a common survey methodology and reaching a consensus on terminology. Regular meetings between Cadw, Trust project officers and RCAHMW ensure common standards and easy integration. Interrogating HERs and constructing a complete dataset (eg for stone circles) should now be simple. Approximately 7000 sites will have been visited and recorded, with completion due in 2006. Site recording is accompanied by management recommendations where appropriate and follow-up scheduling will extend into 2007. Environmental advice and analysis is provided by the University of Wales, Lampeter.

Information has been disseminated through various media. Short notes are included annually within *Archaeology in Wales* (published by CBA Cymru), with longer discussions in local journals. A booklet, *Caring for Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Monuments*, aims to educate and enthuse the public (particularly owners and occupiers of monuments) and describes appropriate conservation and management measures.

Further avenues for outreach include the education sector. Consultation demonstrated a demand for wallcharts on regional and/or typological themes which have a wide range of target age groups and potential uses – and are cheap, can be widely distributed and can link to the dynamic websites of the Trusts. It is expected that other community based initiatives will be developed.



The dramatic pair of standing stones at Penrhos Feilw, Anglesey. The Cadw 'Caring for...' series highlights potential problems (such as erosion around the base of standing stones) and suggests mitigation strategies.
© Cadw

Further Cadw-funded subprojects will arise from the Survey, both typological record enhancement and individual site conservation schemes. One has already occurred: rescue excavation and consolidation of a burial cairn in the Brecon Beacons, where accelerated erosion was caused by visitor numbers. Brecon Beacons National Park and Cambria Archaeology (Dyfed Archaeological Trust) undertook to record and consolidate sensitive areas

Many new sites have indeed been identified during fieldwork, and this records-based descriptive survey is geared towards comprehensive enhancement of HERs, providing a description of the archaeological resource in the form of a standardised 'snapshot in time'.

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Palaeoenvironment, the historic environment and wildlife conservation

Elizabeth Pearson

It is not always obvious

that wildlife conservation and protection of the prehistoric heritage are co-dependent, but in lowlands areas, the most diverse information comes from peat bogs, relict waterchannels and alluvial deposits, and river floodplains, features attractive to environmental archaeologist, wildlife conservationists and local communities alike. Destruction of such sites, for example as part of a flood alleviation scheme, may result from their invisibility on both the HER and databases held by environmental agencies. Better collaboration therefore is essential.

The 'environment' within 'historic environment' has received much attention in areas like the Severn Estuary, Somerset Levels, East Anglian Fens and the Humber wetlands where a particular type of landscape is obvious. The West Midlands has so far benefited little from such research, but in Worcestershire there has been a concerted effort to bring palaeoenvironmental work into the core of archaeology, and look to the future for management of the resource and research.

At Wellington Quarry, near Hereford, understanding changing environments has been an important part of the archaeology, and through this alluvial landscape a picture of late Palaeolithic environment to medieval agriculture is emerging. Here peat and alluvial deposits are consistently sampled, but in locations where human activity has not been demonstrated, this type of work does still fall through the net at the planning stage. In Worcestershire alone there are miles of floodplain containing a network of abandoned channels. It is clear that this should be reflected in the Historic Environment Record in order to flag up the requirement for environmental work.

Even small peat bogs have their uses. Many are affected by flood alleviation or wetland restoration schemes which can have both good and damaging effects. Recently, such schemes have affected peat deposits of Mesolithic date at Droitwich, and of Neolithic date in the Vale of Evesham. Archaeologists, wildlife conservationists, locals and planners alike may have an interest, but all may be unaware of its existence.

Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service is therefore working on an enhancement of the HER. The first phase is an index of all environmental remains already recorded, plus key assemblages. It is hoped that a GIS layer will be added which predicts where deposits of potential exist.

Ideally the Historic Environment, Biological and Geological centres should co-ordinate their work and engage with academic institutions to develop research. The first steps are underway, but much work is still to be done.

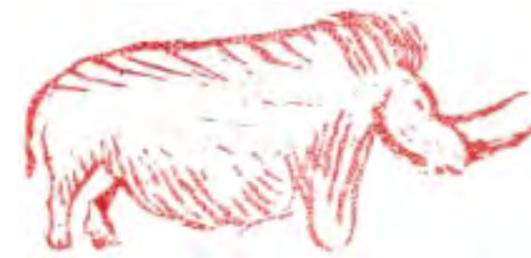
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James Greig sampling for pollen at Wellington Quarry (Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service)

WELCOME TO THE ICE AGE: *the National Ice Age Network*

Jenni Chambers



National Ice Age Network logo. © NIAN 2005

Sands and gravels that provide a wealth of information about Holocene archaeology are remnants of Ice Age rivers and the meltwaters of retreating glaciers, and contain many clues about the lives and environments of the earliest inhabitants of Britain. The National Ice Age Network is an Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) funded initiative seeking to strengthen contacts between archaeologists, geologists, Quaternary scientists and other specialists, quarry companies and the public, to create an inclusive and supportive network of those interested in the Ice Age.

While *in situ* preservation is sometimes found, eg at Boxgrove, Sussex and Lynford, Norfolk, it is more common to find secondary context evidence that is durable enough to have survived dynamic depositional regimes, such as stone tools (particularly Acheulean handaxes) and large fauna. Such assemblages dominate the British Lower and Middle Palaeolithic record and demonstrate the importance of monitoring extraction sites. Monitoring also allows us to identify fine-grained deposits within gravel sequences, which can preserve environmental data such as molluscs, beetles, plant remains and microvertebrates. Finds such as the Whitemoor Haye rhino provide an easy means with which to grab the public's imagination, but without good relationships between quarry staff and archaeologists such discoveries would not be possible. Of equal value are the day-to-day tasks of recording sections, field walking in pits, checking reject heaps and environmental sampling.

The National Ice Age Network (NIAN) currently operates from the University of Birmingham and Royal Holloway (University of London), with further centres planned at Leicester and Southampton. These regional centres will act as hubs for seminars, public lectures, artefact handling sessions, and 'Life in the Ice Age' weekends.

One key objective is to assess the Pleistocene potential of quarries and ensure aggregate extraction sites with potential for Ice Age sediments and remains are actively monitored. This Herculean task needs help from other field archaeologists, so here comes the sales pitch... many of you already



spend much of your time in or around quarries and so are ideally placed to assess their Pleistocene potential. The National Ice Age Network would like to help. We offer specialist advice on Pleistocene deposits, Palaeolithic archaeology, and the like, providing an 'Ice Age infrastructure' of knowledge and assistance.

We'll be contacting units directly in the coming months, but in the meantime please check out the Network's website at www.iceage.org.uk, email us with any questions or comments at info@iceage.org.uk and if we can be of any assistance just let us know.

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Ice Age woolly rhino, found by quarry worker Ray Davies at Whitemoor Haye (Staffordshire). © Birmingham Archaeology

The Heart of Neolithic Orkney: World Heritage Site research agenda

Sally Foster

The archaeology of Orkney is a research field of quite exceptional richness, by international as well as national standards. It is well served by this refreshing appraisal.

Colin Renfrew

Recent geophysical survey and trial excavation have produced evidence for dense prehistoric activity around the individual components of the WHS, including a Neolithic settlement between the henges at Ring of Brodgar and Stones of Stenness (Crown copyright courtesy of Historic Scotland).

The Heart of Neolithic Orkney was inscribed by UNESCO in 1999, its title applying to six discrete sites in West Mainland, Orkney, in the care of the Scottish Ministers through Historic Scotland.

These include the

- chambered tomb of Maeshowe
- stone circle and henge at Stones of Stenness and nearby stone settings known as the Watch Stone and the Barnhouse Stone
- stone circle, henge, adjacent standing stone and burial mounds at the Ring of Brodgar
- settlement of Skara Brae

ICOMOS guidelines for World Heritage Sites (WHS) recommend there should be mechanisms to devise, promote and co-ordinate research programmes in the area, an important task that has been carried out in Orkney with the contribution of many people and organisations, steered by Jane Downes of Orkney College University of the Highlands and Islands.

This is the first research agenda for a WHS in Scotland and the most up-to-date overview of Orcadian archaeology. The aim is to improve understanding of Neolithic Orkney whilst attempting to cross period boundaries. The approach is to consider how people have engaged with the world about them through time, identifying gaps in present knowledge.

Specific aims are to

- define the scope of extant and desirable research in and around the WHS
- identify gaps in knowledge
- outline the potential of the area to answer research questions
- encourage inter-disciplinary research into a broad spectrum of topics within the WHS and its wider context
- encourage research which will contribute to preservation, conservation, management and interpretation issues
- encourage research with wider methodological and/or theoretical applications.

The Agenda falls into seven parts

Part 1 Agenda setting Background to the Site, context, purpose and methodology of research agenda.

Part 2 Resource assessment Period-based assessment of the history of research in Orkney and summary of the current state of knowledge, highlighting gaps.

Part 3 Research themes Adopting an approach that cuts across period boundaries, ideas for future research are discussed under two strands: artefacts, monuments and cultural identity; formation and utilisation of the landscape.

Part 4 Techniques Specialists describe what will work best in Orkney and what merits more attention.

Part 5 Research strategy Each research theme is subdivided into more specific fields, and sample research topics are identified. Specific research projects, with an indication of how these might be prioritised, are incorporated.

Part 6 Appendices Supplementary information, including a summary of investigations at the WHS monuments, and archaeological fieldwork undertaken in Orkney 1945-2003.

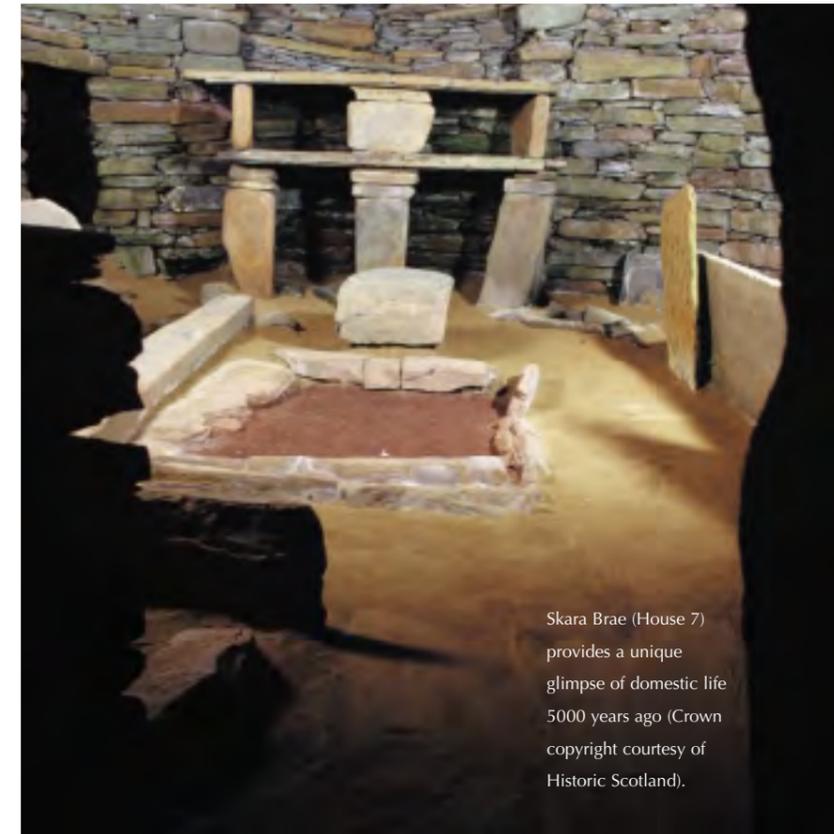
Part 7 Extended bibliography.

This project was grant-aided by Historic Scotland, Orkney Islands Council and Orkney Heritage Society, with support from Orkney College UHI.

While stocks last, a free copy of this report can be requested from
hs.conservation.bureau@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Tel 0131 668 8638

TCRE, Historic Scotland, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH, or can be downloaded from
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/orkneyresearch.

Sally M Foster
Senior Inspector of Ancient Monuments
Historic Scotland



Skara Brae (House 7) provides a unique glimpse of domestic life 5000 years ago (Crown copyright courtesy of Historic Scotland).



This is cutting edge research. I predict that it will be used quite widely, far beyond Orkney, as a model of how such issues should be tackled. Colin Renfrew

Visitors at Maeshowe: research will help us to better interpret and present the monuments and their surrounding landscape, informing the work of the newly established WHS Ranger Service (© Sally Foster).

Going grey: prehistory and the potential of grey literature

Richard Bradley

During a recent project to look at new evidence for prehistoric archaeology deriving from developer-funded archaeology, Richard Bradley and Tim Phillips visited all the English SMRs, the Welsh Archaeological Trusts, National Monuments Record of Scotland and many of the commercial archaeology firms in Ireland. Richard talked to unit directors and field officers and Tim made copies of selected extracts from all relevant reports – the so-called ‘grey’ literature. Richard is preparing an account of British and Irish prehistory which makes use of this wealth of crucial but barely digested data. After a pilot study funded by English Heritage, their work has been supported by a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Board.

It is obvious that accounts of prehistoric archaeology are severely biased by the distribution of published fieldwork. That is being redressed by the results of contract archaeology. For example, we

can now see that Neolithic cursuses developed in Scotland before many were built in England. On the other hand, some of the traditions that began during the Neolithic continued much longer in the north, and also in Ireland where stone circles were still being built during the Late Bronze Age.

More settlements, different burials

Early Neolithic settlements are now being found quite plentifully overall, with many examples in Ireland and some in Scotland, though in England their remains are more ephemeral. In Northern Britain, a number of timber halls are recognised as dating to this period. Fieldwork in most regions is also identifying Neolithic burials which are not associated with the usual forms of monument. Burial in single graves, however, may have been a short lived phenomenon, and this particular way of treating the dead seems to have been reintroduced during the Beaker period. Again the evidence of monuments alone is quite deceptive, and modern excavation of large stripped areas is providing more evidence of Beaker flat graves. The distribution of Early Bronze Age burials shows fewer biases outside Wessex than before, with rich examples occurring now in areas such as Kent, the English Midlands, north-east Scotland and the east coast of Ireland. Some were associated with mounds, but others were in flat cemeteries.

Unexpected patterns, changing field systems

During the Middle and Late Bronze Age, the increasing scale of fieldwork means that features that were often studied in isolation, such as burnt mounds, hoards and urnfields, are now being found together and associated with settlement sites. Unexpected patterns can be recognised when we look at the data as a whole. For example, there are links between the areas known for Late Bronze Age ringworks, field systems and finds of metalwork from rivers, and there may be close parallels

between some of the developments along the east coast of England and that of Ireland. In both countries there has been an increase in discoveries of Late Bronze Age settlements, and in lowland England it seems as if coaxial field systems were a feature of the Middle and Late Bronze Age landscapes and then went out of use during the Early Iron Age. Few examples were then created until the late pre-Roman period, and in between these phases other kinds of land boundaries, such as pit alignments, were apparently more important.

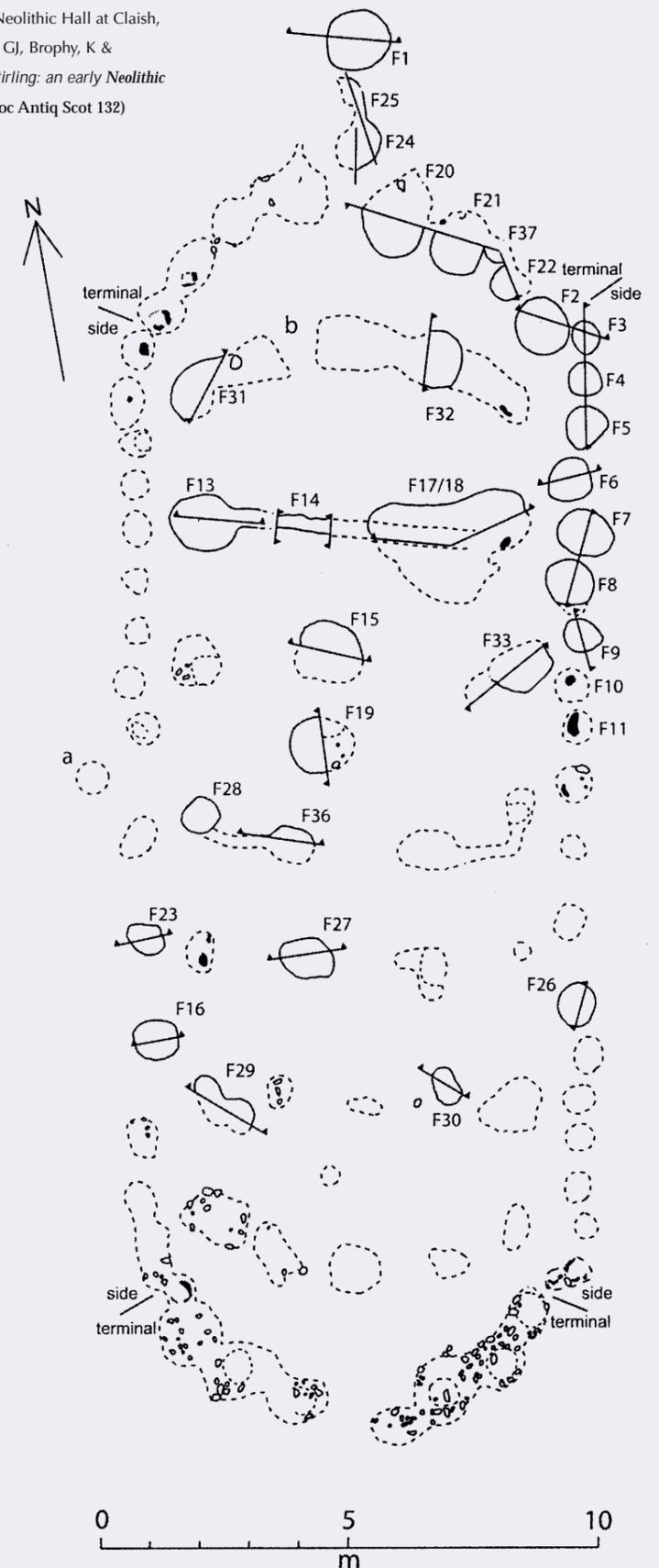
The Iron Age and regionality

In fact less is known about the Iron Age than is generally believed for, like Ireland, large parts of Britain were aceramic. The use of storage pits for human burials has been discussed in recent years, but it is actually a regional phenomenon which occurs on both sides of the English Channel. Hill forts, too, may be an impressive but peripheral phenomenon compared with the rich open settlements of eastern England. Recent work is showing that some of the largest forts in Ireland were actually built during the Bronze Age and the same may be true in Scotland. The geography of prehistoric settlement is changing radically.

Data from a decade of developer-funded work is set to revolutionise the study of prehistory, and there is no doubt that the same will apply to later periods, too. We can now prove that good and useful work is being done: the challenge now is to make it more readily accessible to ensure that it is put to good use.

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Excavation plan of the early Neolithic Hall at Claish, Stirling (published in Barclay, GJ, Brophy, K & Macgregor, G 2002 *Claish, Stirling: an early Neolithic structure in its context*, Proc Soc Antiq Scot 132)



NEW IRON AGE FINDS FROM WARWICKSHIRE

Stuart Palmer

Excavations by Warwickshire Museum Archaeology Projects Group in advance of a new traffic island at Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire have revealed an Iron Age settlement with unusual, possibly religious, features.



Dump of oven fragments: the integral plate is in the foreground (photo Warwickshire Museum)



A penannular ditch with an eastern entrance had been re-dug as many as six times, on each occasion encircling a larger area and gradually being terraced into the side of the knoll, until it enclosed an area 20m in diameter. A large tree within the enclosed area may have been the focus of this structure. The central area contained pits and postholes cut through the Iron Age land surface. Two roundhouses were apparently constructed in the local mass-wall tradition of turf-built walls. Close by were large deep storage pits that had ended their useful lives as rubbish dumps, some with evidence for episodes of feasting.

One pit contained a near complete example of a highly unusual clay oven, deliberately dumped and directly associated with a saddle quern and an iron 'involute' brooch. The oven has an integral plate or shelf, which has a large central aperture and an outer ring of small air holes. Comparable fragmentary examples have been found at Danebury and Gussage All Saints. Pottery from the site suggests it was occupied between the middle and late Iron Age. Both saddle and rotary quern stones were recovered. There were also flint tools and waste flakes, a single sherd of Neolithic Impressed ware and one Bronze Age sherd from earlier landuse.

Although many of the features excavated are consistent with those on other sites in Warwickshire, some are atypical. Warwickshire sites generally produce rather impoverished assemblages indicative of low-level material wealth. Was this site a residence of a community with unusual status, or a sacred spot?

Stuart Palmer
Warwickshire Museum Archaeology Projects Group

Iron Age pottery and prehistoric flint tools (photo Warwickshire Museum)

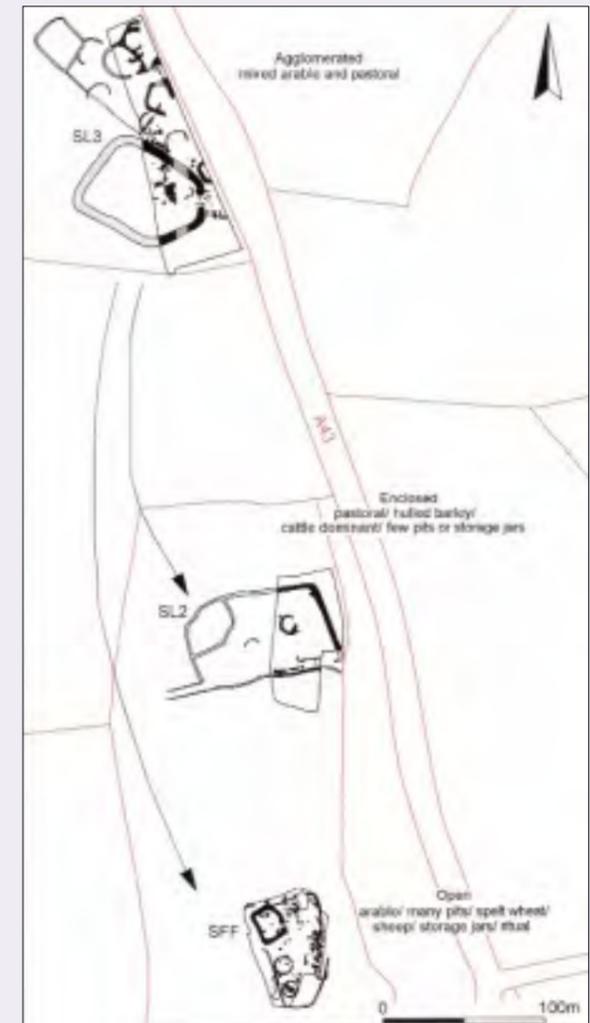
Three Iron Age farms in Northamptonshire, or is it one?

Andy Mudd

It has become a truism that archaeologists now study landscapes rather than sites, and perhaps in the Iron Age this change of emphasis has moved furthest. Opportunities for excavation ahead of large scale developments has given us an appreciation of just how crowded the landscape had become by this time. One example is the A43 road scheme between Towcester (Northamptonshire) and the M40 in Oxfordshire.

Three quite separate middle Iron Age sites turned up in a space of 500m within the road corridor south of Towcester. Each had a different form, and possibly they were elements of the same settlement, each with distinct social and economic orientations. Silverstone Fields Farm had two roundhouses, many storage pits and a small ditched enclosure, apparently encircled by a fence. This contrasted with Silverstone 2, 150m down the slope, which was a large enclosure with just one house within the excavated area, and few pits. Silverstone 3 was an agglomerated settlement of unenclosed houses and small enclosures, not bounded overall. The site included a deep-ditched enclosure similar to Northamptonshire 'defended enclosures' of this period.

Finds and environmental samples show subtle differences suggesting different economic emphases. Spelt wheat was the predominant cereal at



Three middle Iron Age sites lying in the path of the new road. Areas outside the road corridor have been plotted from geophysical surveys. © Northamptonshire Archaeology

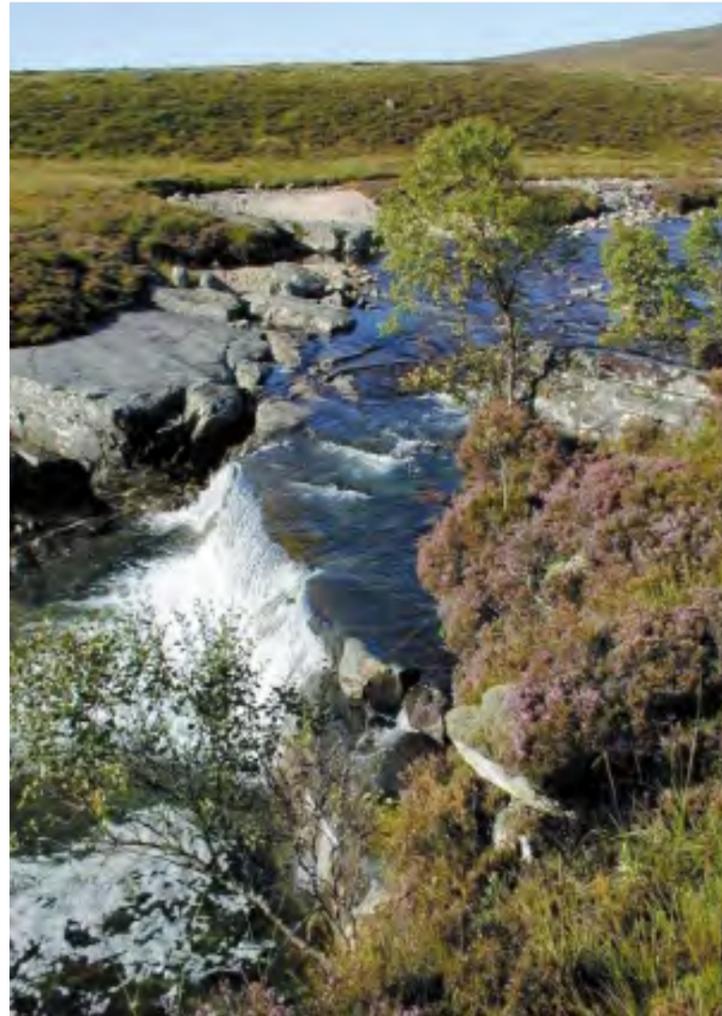
Silverstone Fields Farm, where there was evidence of grain processing, whereas barley was more common at Silverstone 2. This may be related to use of barley as fodder, indicating a greater pastoral component. Here the preponderance of cattle contrasted with the dominance of sheep at Silverstone Fields Farm. Were sheep linked to arable cultivation in the sort of symbiotic relationship suggested for some Wessex sites? Silverstone 3 showed an intermediate position and there are suggestions the site started earlier and split into its arable and pastoral components later on.

Human remains were found at Silverstone Fields Farm. These comprised five infants buried at intervals within the ditch of the small enclosure. Ritual events of this nature may have served as a means of social integration for these sites and the surrounding area.

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Silverstone Fields Farm – work in progress © Northamptonshire Archaeology

The Chest of Dee, high in the Cairngorm Mountains: the newly discovered mesolithic site lies nearby. (Photograph: NTS)



A VERY SPECIAL PLACE: EARLY PREHISTORY IN THE DEE VALLEY, NORTHEAST SCOTLAND

Shannon Fraser

The River Dee rises in the heart of the Cairngorms, meandering through its broad valley for some 130km before flowing into the North Sea. Peppered with medieval strongholds, the valley is famous for its salmon, its light soils and its oak-woods, from which cathedral roofs and great sailing vessels were built. But the importance of the Dee stretches much further back. Recent discoveries on land held by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) are confirming that the earliest prehistory of Deeside really is rather special.

MESOLITHIC IN THE MOUNTAINS

Mesolithic sites have often been found along the Dee, from a shell midden at its mouth to a lithic scatter 60km upstream. Occupation/activity sites cluster on the gravel terraces, but this pattern is probably due more to the difficulties of identifying sites under the peat than to the seasonal and social cycles in early prehistory. It is only very recently that occupation in mountainous areas has been recognised, an unexpected result of a historic landscape project established by the NTS at Ben Lawers, in central Scotland. And in 2003, close to the headwaters of the Dee, a scatter of worked flint and quartz was discovered as the result of footpath repair works on the NTS's Mar Lodge Estate.

PRESERVATION UNDER PEAT

Sample assemblages of lithics from the riverside and from pockets in the riverbank where the site (or sites) is eroding out from under the peat has shown that the artefacts are largely *in situ*, and that tool making, use and repair all occurred here. A paucity of flint cores and primary flakes suggests initial knapping was taking place elsewhere. Much of the flint is burnt, and charcoal is eroding out of the riverbank, a hint of remains of human activity preserved beneath the peat.

An early prehistoric human presence among the mountain passes of the Cairngorms is extremely exciting, offering much greater understanding of the complex relationships between human communities and their multiple landscapes – landscapes physical and symbolic, of geography, time, distance, social

and intellectual endeavour. Located in such a challenging landscape, the site allows us to rethink concepts such as remoteness, peripherality and mobility.

BUILDINGS OF THE FOURTH MILLENNIUM BC

Recent investigations on the Crathes Castle Estate in lower Deeside shed light on changing lifeways in the late fifth/early fourth millennium BC. In 1976, aerial photography revealed extensive cropmarks on river terraces, including a pit alignment and a rectangular structure with rounded ends, some 9m by 20m. Although sitting directly across the river from the Early Neolithic timber building of similar scale at Balbridie, the Crathes structure was more aligned with subrectangular cropmarks thought to be early medieval. NTS trial excavations in 2004 have transformed the picture, revealing that the building (of Deeside oak) burned down between 3650 and 3950 cal BC, and that the pit alignment dates to the same period.

CROPMARK REASSESSMENT

The implications are considerable: the proximity of two such rare buildings and another major contemporary monument presents an unparalleled opportunity to explore new frameworks for living as they develop in northeastern Scotland. Similarly, the need to reassess our assumptions of what Early Historic and Early Neolithic cropmarks actually look like is now pressing. Further exploration of the cropmark complex at Crathes may shed light on the relationship between massive timber buildings and more ephemeral features associated with Early Neolithic Scotland.

DECORATIVE BIRCHWOOD AND GRAINS OF WHEAT

Material evidence from the Crathes building is of high quality: fragments of carbonised turned birch wood, some with carved decoration, are an incredibly rare survival which complements the fine ceramic assemblage. The cereals recovered include bread wheat – extremely unusual in the Scottish Neolithic but paralleled at Balbridie – and a grain of spelt, which until now has not been recognised in Scotland before the first millennium BC. One grain does not make a community supping bowls of *zuppa di farro*, but it strengthens the argument that what is happening at these large structures is something out of the ordinary.

Footpath works undertaken by the NTS: the lithic scatter, sealed under peat, was discovered during this type of operation. (Photograph: NTS)



Thanks are due to Historic Scotland, Aberdeenshire Council and the Prehistoric Society, who have variously helped NTS to fund these research projects.

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Iron Age buildings, burials and metal-working at Knowe of Skea Ness, Orkney

Hazel Moore and Graeme Wilson

An Iron Age combined funerary and metalworking complex being excavated by EASE Archaeology at the Knowe of Skea, an eroding site on the Island of Westray in Orkney, offers the rare potential to investigate both funerary practice and the demographics of an Iron Age population.

■ The eroding sea

The Knowe of Skea is a large mound on the highest point of a small tidal islet at the end of the Berst Ness promontory, a prominent feature in the landscape. Smaller mounds on the promontory are thought to be earlier prehistoric funerary monuments. The site lies exposed to the Atlantic Ocean and is being eroded by the sea; during stormy winter weather it is frequently inundated, and archaeological deposits containing pottery, shell and bone are visible in sea-cut exposures.

■ Masonry building

The earliest building so far identified is at the centre of the mound. In its earliest form, it was subrectangular, with free-standing drystone walls of exceptionally fine masonry. There are currently no absolute dates available for its inception and very few artefacts were recovered from the earliest phases. It seems unlikely that this building was used for settlement either at this or any later period. It was in use over a long period of time and slowly evolved in size and shape before going out of use at some time after the seventh or eighth centuries AD.

Over its lifetime, this building was repaired and altered on numerous occasions. The original free standing walls appear to have been somewhat unstable and were thickened with extra skins of masonry added outside on at least three occasions. This created a more monumental facade, which in its final form would have appeared like a substantial round house or broch, especially when viewed from afar.



Burial at Skea Ness, under excavation. Photograph: EASE Archaeology

■ Passage added

With the final skin of walling, an unusual passage-type feature was constructed, leading from the exterior of the building into a small chamber within the thickness of the wall. It did not give access into the interior of the building. This passage was very narrow and steep and would have been difficult to move along, suggesting it was not in regular use and was possibly of a symbolic or specialised nature.

■ Poverty of artefacts

The interior of the building was also modified; the original subrectangular plan was altered to oval, and subdivided by compartments lining the walls and surrounding a central floor area which contained a large hearth. The range of artefacts recovered from inside the building was extremely limited, comprising no more than a few sherds of pottery and worked bone objects, including a composite double sided comb, a spindle whorl, two bone pins and a weaving sword with carved decoration, even though preservation conditions were good. The lack of items such as quern stones and the very low numbers of stone tools stand in stark contrast to the usually rich and prolific nature of Orcadian settlement sites.

■ Burials within walls

Outwith the central building, excavation on the northern slopes of the mound has revealed a complex sequence of buildings and burials, including incorporation of articulated human remains into the fabric of buildings during construction. The deposits here postdate construction of the central monumental building.

Well over a hundred burials have been uncovered at the Knowe of Skea, approximately 60% of them neonates or children. Two adult burials have so far been radiocarbon dated: one providing a date range of between cal AD130-410, the second between cal AD30 and 240. Samples have been collected for both isotope and DNA analysis and it is hoped there will be funding to undertake a full suite of forensic investigations.

The burials had been interred successively within rubble overlying earlier buildings, and sealed by later buildings. With each new interment, some of the preceding burials had been disturbed. One of the earliest had been placed within a stone cist and was well preserved, but no sign of any kind of setting has been found with other burials. Most of the bodies had been placed on one side with the legs flexed towards the chest.

■ Animal burials

Some animal burials have also been recovered. One in particular, of a cow, was immediately beneath the foundations of one small building. This was divided into two cells, the largest of which contained a central hearth, and it was here that evidence of metalworking waste and a pin mould were found.

Work on the site was a result of a survey of coastal erosion, was commissioned by Orkney Archaeological Trust and funded by Historic Scotland and Orkney Islands Council.

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Building divided into cells, one with evidence of metalworking. Photograph: EASE Archaeology



Prehistoric rock art at its most impressive. Conditions for seeing it are not always good, and many sites are difficult to get to. The project is exploring new ways of capturing and presenting the engravings and their physical setting in order to raise awareness and appreciation.
Photograph: Tertia Barnett

A community approach to prehistoric rock art

Tertia Barnett

Although several thousand engraved panels of prehistoric rock art have been documented, principally in northern England, Scotland and Ireland, research and public awareness are still limited compared with other parts of the world. We have no clear understanding of its original purpose, negligible educational material and limited guidance on how it should be treated. More significantly, we lack an archive on which to base our research and to inform conservation and management programmes. This has serious implications for the growing numbers of sites threatened by neglect or bad practice.

The Rock Art Pilot Project (RAPP) commissioned by English Heritage in 1999 stated that urgent action was needed. The Rock Art Management, Access, Study, and Education Strategy (RAMASES) was developed, with six interrelated strands: recording; global context; conservation and management; investigations; access initiatives. Five themes running through each strand are knowledge creation; public participation; partnerships; widening access; global relevance.

National rock art archive

Recording all engravings and establishing a comprehensive archive is essential for future programmes. However, systematic recording and monitoring of thousands of scattered sites demands substantial manpower and expertise, so Northumberland and Durham County Councils have enrolled the local community to help. The project, funded by English Heritage, will run until September 2006. The volunteers will use a standardised methodology which will be entirely non-intrusive, and a specially designed database, the foundations of a new national rock art archive that will be accessible via an interactive website. This will provide a fantastic resource for research, conservation, management and education, and will raise awareness of British rock art at home and abroad.

Core fieldworkers from the community

The response from the local community has been overwhelming. Fifty volunteers were selected as core fieldworkers, with a further 40 for data entry, archive sorting, publicity, education and awareness-

raising. Five fieldwork teams have been operating autonomously in Northumberland and Co Durham since January 2005, the first few months a trial period during which survey and recording techniques, equipment, the communication strategy and data quality were monitored and refined. These core fieldworkers will play key roles throughout the project and will pass on training to new recruits and visiting groups.

Capture in 3D

New approaches to data capture, conservation and interpretation of rock art are being explored. In particular we are experimenting with 3D techniques such as laser scanning, remote sensing and photogrammetry, a unique opportunity to apply state-of-the-art technology to a neglected area where physical context and 3dimensionality are crucial. Later on local people will organise exhibitions, demonstrations and interactive events to engage a wider audience.

At the end of the project, we will produce recommendations for future rock art programmes across other regions, recommendations which will have been partly shaped by a cross section of the local community. This involvement will enrich both the process and the outcome and provide a sustainable framework for the future of British rock art.

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(left) English Heritage surveyors train volunteers in landscape survey techniques in Northumberland.
Photograph: Tertia Barnett

(far left) The volunteers have remained enthusiastic throughout the training and fieldwork programmes despite the weather.
Photograph: Tertia Barnett

Pictish engraving of a bear © Shetland Amenity Trust



Shetland's prehistory has long been overshadowed Orkney, which is easier to get to and where sites are monumental in character. But, as the last ten years have demonstrated, lack of modern farming in a rural landscape, where upland sheep subsidies starts at sea level, means Shetland's prehistoric archaeology is second to none. Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age landscapes can be traced for miles across the scattald (hill grazings) interspersed with unexcavated visible houses and field boundaries.

In recent years Shetland Amenity Trust has set the agenda for change and facilitated new research. This has been carried out by EASE (Environmental and Archaeological Services, Edinburgh) and the University of Bradford, with valuable input from other academic institutions, (Stirling, Oxford, Aberdeen, Glasgow).

Improving soils in prehistory

Excellent survival makes Shetland the obvious place to unravel prehistoric agriculture. The University of Stirling has demonstrated how soil management was a vital component of Shetland's prehistoric economy. Plaggen soils were first located in Bronze Age South Nesting, and subsequent work has taken the study of land management through soil improvement both backwards and forwards in time. This work is still in progress.

Burnt mounds

Another focus of study has been burnt mounds. These are generally visible as mounds of 1 metre or more, comprising fist sized, heated shattered stone arranged in a crescent around a central trough of stone slabs. EASE has excavated two: Tangwick, North Mainland and Cruester, Bressay. Both mounds overlay industrial looking cells which contained pottery. These underlying structures had previously been hinted at in excavations of the 1970s at the Ness of Sound, Lerwick and Griesta, Tingwall and during work by Bradford University at Trowie Loch, Nesting. The pottery appears to be high quality tableware, and includes a cauldron with a bossed rim and another with skeuomorphic seams. Your average Bronze Age pottery it is not. Now we can see the Bronze Age landscapes furnished with houses and fields, we know that the burnt mounds are not where people are living, but are perhaps where they bathed, feasted or engaged in something smelly (eg tanning).

Coastal erosion is a major threat to Shetland's prehistory. Bayanne, Yell was one such site. Excavation by EASE has demonstrated the full sequence of evolution of architectural forms, from Late Neolithic to the Middle Iron Age, with abundant stone tools, worked bone and middens. The middens had specialised purposes: the abundant steatite was dumped in one place, shell and bone in another.

Brochs and smithies

At Burland, Trondra, an ancillary building to a broch (situated on an offshore holm) was a dedicated smithy used for both smelting and casting. Added to recent evidence emerging from Old Scatness, a good case can now be made for the brochs controlling metal work. Shetland's mineral wealth may have been its greatest asset in prehistory.

Shetland's Flagship Project has been Old Scatness, an innovative partnership between Shetland Amenity Trust and the University of Bradford. Commenced in 1995 to examine a broch in its economic and environmental setting, it has surpassed our wildest imaginings. The broch is

surrounded by a village in which the average building still survives 2m high. The sequence of buildings has been the subject of an integrated dating programme (C14, archaeomagnetic and optically stimulated luminescence and stratigraphic information). This vast suite of dates has given us an absolute chronology for the Iron Age/Pictish periods through to the coming of the Vikings. It has enabled us to make sense of the pierced and aisled roundhouse tradition of the Western Isles' wheelhouses and how it relates to the later wheelhouse tradition (c. 650AD) identified by Hamilton at nearby Jarlshof (in Shetland we have no Romans, so prehistory lasts until around AD850).

Wealth and exotica

A sieving programme is picking up small fragments of artefacts and exotica. Evidence of wealth runs from the broch period to the Late Iron Age. Metal working includes pins and brooches in copper alloy and silver; beef cattle have been butchered with heavy iron cleavers yet to be found in the archaeological record. A Pictish bear carving is an accomplished piece of art.

Not only has the archaeology been outstanding but public understanding and ownership of the work has been important. Hence we are facing the challenge of consolidating the excavated site. At many sites reinterpretation is complicated by problems of understanding what is original, so we not only record the buildings as found, but every intervention, right down to every pinning we insert, and our work is entirely reversible.

Christian babies

New light was shed on early Christianity when Glasgow University excavated at St Ninians Isle, primarily to discover what was left after excavations in the 1950s. Immediately south of the long cist were burials of five babies aligned east/west, with a Christian cross at their heads. Each was overlaid by a small empty cist. Perhaps newly converted Shetlanders were hedging their bets.

With projects on the drawing board and research agenda constantly evolving, Shetland's archaeology is coming of age.

I'd like to thank Hazel Moore, EASE and Steve Dockrill, University of Bradford for mulling these thoughts over with me.

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Wheelhouse at Old Scatness prior to consolidation © Shetland Amenity Trust



Dominic Echlin of Elliott and Company conservation engineers assessing the consolidation plans © Shetland Amenity Trust

BRONZE AGE LOWLAND FIELD SYSTEMS in Southern England

Dave Yates

As Richard Bradley describes on page 18, the advent of developer funded projects, especially those involving large area excavation, has changed our understanding of many aspects of prehistoric Britain. One outstanding example is the major phase of economic expansion that occurred in Southern England during the second and early first millennium BC, accompanied by a fundamental shift in regional power and wealth towards the eastern lowlands. Until recently we were largely ignorant of the farming practices associated with these dramatic changes, but now archaeologists have cut innumerable ditch sections, planned and projected miles of boundaries and bagged countless bulk samples tackling the largest form of monumental construction in prehistoric Britain: Bronze Age field systems.

LARGE SCALE ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

In specific zones of Southern Britain, unwary project managers are only too painfully aware (financially) of the complexity of the Bronze Age landscape they might encounter. In a research project, funded by English Heritage, all the evidence of droveways, enclosures, coaxial and aggregate field systems throughout England has been pieced together. This synthesis draws on the substantial body of grey literature generated by field personnel. It reveals a scale of regimented prehistoric landscaping without parallel to date in Europe. The research confirms the sophistication and importance of large-scale animal husbandry (first flagged up by Francis Pryor in his pioneering Fenland research) and shows that Middle and Late Bronze Age field systems are mostly confined to a region south of a line between the Bristol Channel and the Wash. Not only are they confined to Southern England, especially the South East; their occurrence is restricted to particular enclaves in this area. This is less true of earthwork sites than of the lowland field systems discovered in excavation. The systems are commonly found on the coast, along estuaries or beside major rivers and their tributaries, locations where people were well placed to participate in long distance exchange, but were vulnerable when social networks collapsed as the Bronze Age came to a close. Some of these regions seem to have been used so intensively that Bronze Age land divisions extend into adjacent

areas with heavier, less productive soils.

They are found along the Thames, its estuary and major tributaries. The Fenland was also important at this time, although it is clear that the field systems are associated with the lower reaches of the major feeder rivers (Welland, Nene, Great Ouse, Cam, Lark, and Little Ouse) rather than the wetland itself. They also occur along the North Sea and English Channel coasts, including farming settlements on the fertile loess of the Sussex coastal plain, another region already known for its deposits of metalwork.

CONSPICUOUS PRODUCTION

In certain cases it seems that Middle Bronze Age field systems went out of use in the Late Bronze Age and that some Late Bronze Age systems were established in different positions from their predecessors. There is little evidence that they were used or maintained far into the Early Iron Age. More importantly, there is little to suggest that similar land divisions were newly established during the Early Iron Age. In lowland England the creation of 'Celtic fields' may have lapsed for several hundred years. The field systems may represent a form of conspicuous production, an intensification of agrarian endeavour best understood in relation to the maintenance and promotion of hierarchical social systems involved in exchange with their counterparts across the English Channel.

SPIRITUAL REPLENISHMENT

Before the advent of commercial excavation there were less than half a dozen known excavated lowland Bronze Age field systems in Southern Britain. Now there are already more than 300. Their detection (and confirmation of zones of absence) is one of the great achievements of developer funding. Two major challenges, however, have emerged. First what is the best way to preserve (by record or scheduling) such monumental constructions? Secondly comes the realisation that such formally gridded terrains are immensely complex in construction conventions, social meaning, phasing and incorporation of ritualised practices. Many answers as to how people engaged in the new



Snow covered coaxial fields at Brisley Farm, near Ashford in Kent. Late Bronze Age paddocks and boundaries covered some of the worst clay soils imaginable. Reconstruction painting by Casper Johnson



Late Bronze Age ringwork at South Hornchurch, Essex. The gridded land slants away across a flat tract of cultivated fields, stockpens and trodden earth. Corralled overnight the livestock await the next drive to distant lands where they will be separated, exchanged and sorted again. Reconstruction painting by Casper Johnson.

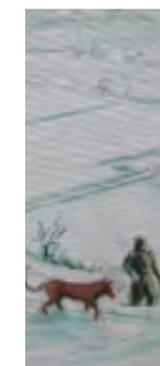
world of farming lie scattered in the fields. For example, waterholes not only provide environmental evidence but may contain special deposits including metalwork, animal bones, human remains and token cremations. These features may have the same symbolic significance as storage pits in the Iron Age.

There are also indications of spiritual replenishment in these enclosed farmlands. Work in Cornwall and Cambridgeshire suggests that field shrines were incorporated and the discovery of human bones within manure matrices suggests a special emphasis

on soil enrichment - possibly signalling the continued participation of the dead. Unlocking the intricacies of such potentially large-scale 'sites' requires development of new strategies and sampling methodologies.

Land, Power and Prestige (David Yates) covering all the research findings will shortly be published by Oxbow Books.

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The pit circle ©
Wessex Archaeology

A ritual landscape at Boscombe Down

Andy Manning, Wessex Archaeology

Boscombe Down has yielded some major discoveries in recent years; the Amesbury Archer and the Boscombe Bowmen. But why were those men buried there? The discovery of contemporary ritual monuments in the latest excavations has begun to provide an explanation.

Previous work had already identified a significant ritual landscape in this future housing estate on the outskirts of Amesbury, Wilts. In 2002, the Amesbury Archer, the richest Early Bronze Age or Beaker burial in Britain so far known, was found. Within a year, the mass grave of the 'Boscombe Bowmen' was found. These men are likely to have originated in Wales. Inevitably, links have been drawn between these two discoveries and the building of the stone circles at Stonehenge, less than three kilometres to the west. But why were the burials made at Boscombe Down, rather than close to the contemporary temples at Stonehenge, Durrington Walls or Woodhenge? Preliminary results from major excavations covering over 13 hectares adjacent to the grave of the Amesbury Archer undertaken in 2004 are exciting.

Pit circle on a plateau

A prominent plateau, which gradually falls into a dry valley further to the east, was partially encircled in the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age by a shallow angular ditch with a possible external bank and a series of short ditch segments and pits. More significantly, a large pit circle, estimated to have been at least 63m in diameter, occupied the crest of a plateau. Thirty-one pits spaced 3-4m apart were uncovered, most with no evidence for having supported timbers. Instead, they contained a wide variety of worked flint, bone and pottery, including Late Neolithic Grooved Ware and a small number of placed deposits. However, ramps on the sides of four of the larger pits here showed that substantial timbers had been slid into position before erection. The timbers may have only been in position for a short period, although the presence of Beaker and Collared Urn in some pits indicates that the monument was in use into the Early Bronze Age.

Burial sequence

The pit circle and enclosure were the focus of ritual activity. An Early Bronze Age barrow had a body placed in a timber mortuary structure, and shortly



The barrow grave and the semi-articulated remains of the main burial © Wessex Archaeology



The Early Bronze Age barrow, ring ditch and enclosure at the edge of the plateau © Wessex Archaeology



Aurochs remains within a rectangular pit © Wessex Archaeology

afterwards the grave was reopened and the remains of a neonate and perhaps one or two young adults were interred. The articulated human remains of the original burial were rearranged, with two fragmentary Beakers, a barbed and tanged arrowhead and part of an antler in the backfill of the grave.

A small shallow ring ditch, possibly a small hengiform feature, lay a few metres south of the barrow, close to the terminal of the enclosure ditch. The tightly crouched burial of an infant had been placed within the ring ditch, and the grave was filled with tightly packed flint nodules.

There were three other crouched burials and a semi-articulated burial within a conical shaft. In addition, pits containing fragmentary human remains were found in close association with both monuments. In one case, a pit that contained only an upturned skull was flanked by two further pits that each contained a complete Beaker. The disarticulated human remains suggest excarnation. A possible excarnation platform is represented by a four-post structure with a central pit lying between the two monuments and other clusters of postholes, both within the enclosure and throughout the plateau, may have served a similar purpose.

Placed deposits

Numerous scattered pits were found concentrated near to the monuments. These contained charcoal,

flint, bone and pottery that may represent placed deposits. The presence of Grooved Ware and Early Bronze Age Beaker and Collared Urn material show that these deposits were made over a long period. One rectangular pit contained the carefully arranged remains of a juvenile aurochs or wild cow with the limbs detached, the lower limbs being placed close to the head.

Ritual landscape

It is within this ritual landscape that the Amesbury Archer and the Boscombe Bowmen can now be viewed. They were not buried in isolation, but close to monuments, constructed in the Late Neolithic or the beginning of the Early Bronze Age. These monuments were probably still standing when the Archer and Bowmen died in the Early Bronze Age.

Ritual activity then ceased. Generations later, the plateau was briefly occupied by a small Middle/Late Bronze Age farm and later it was divided by a massive Bronze Age boundary ditch. It may be coincidence, or not, that the plateau was chosen as the setting for the cemeteries of the Late Romano-British village and returned once more to a ritual landscape.

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Prehistoric flintwork – an undervalued resource?

Chris Butler

Flint is sharper than metal and second only to diamonds in hardness. It can be worked predictably to produce tools of defined type and shape and for a variety of tasks. Immensely durable, it is the only material used on some sites that survives. Without flint we would understand little about our past. We therefore need to appreciate how prehistoric people used flint, where they obtained raw materials, and how tools were made and used.

Changes in flint tools, such as these arrowheads, can provide evidence for dating, as well as function.

During the Mesolithic, the use of microliths to make composite hunting equipment required production of bladelets, which needed good quality flint and very controlled working. When hunting equipment



changed in the Early Neolithic, and leaf-shaped arrowheads replaced microliths, the knapping strategy changed, and it continued to change throughout the Neolithic. The transformation becomes more apparent in the Bronze Age, when metal begins to replace flint, leading to a general decline in flintworking skills and a smaller range of tools. Flint tools were not solely functional: there are many prestige items found unused with burials and in ritual deposits, such as pits or ditch terminals. An increase in such deposits of finely made axes, knives and arrowheads occurred just at the time when general flintworking skills were declining.

Some archaeologists are sceptical about using flint for dating, in contrast to reliance on pottery. Part of the problem is that flint is very durable, so will often be residual, and careful consideration of context is essential. Although certain types (eg microliths, arrowheads and polished axes) have become established cultural indicators, it is only in recent years that the study of debitage and manufacturing technologies has provided much more information.

Diagnostic pieces can quite easily be given a broad date, but many sites produce huge quantities of debitage, but few tools or diagnostic pieces. Again, sites frequently comprise more than one phase, and assemblages can become mixed. Alternative methods of dating or phasing therefore need to be found. Proven techniques such as length-breadth analysis and an understanding of how different raw material sources were exploited in different periods can often provide an answer.

Technological characteristics that result from the manufacturing process, seen on flakes and cores as well as ordinary implements, may successfully be used for classification, and it is these that flint specialists today concentrate on. Replication of flint tools and ethnographic studies have also contributed to understanding the knapping process, the debitage that is produced, and how different tools are made and used. Use-wear analysis is also currently back in favour.

A detailed study of a good stratified flintwork assemblage provides both dating evidence and information about activities on the site, together with aspects of trade, technology, social organisation and even ritual.

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Author: Prehistoric Flintwork,
Tempus Publishing Ltd 2005

PREHISTORIC ARTEFACTS & the Portable Antiquities Scheme

Sally Worrell

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) was introduced in 1997 and since 2003 has covered all England and Wales. The volume of material recorded is vast and at the end of March 2005 there were 138,000 artefacts on the database (www.finds.org.uk). Most have been found using a metal detector and, although their study is hampered by lack of stratigraphic context, most findspots have a six figure NGR and thus distribution patterns can be established with some precision. One of the real strengths of PAS is creation of an ever increasing national accessible database of material.

So what is the archaeological potential of this data? My recent study of 3200 Iron Age artefacts includes the most heavily studied 'heartland' areas of the Iron Age such as Wessex and Hertfordshire, as well as 'marginal' less intensively researched areas. An interesting pattern emerges for example for middle to late Iron Age horse and vehicle equipment. The traditional view has seen Wessex and East Yorkshire as the Iron Age equine material culture 'hot-spots', but recent studies in Norfolk demonstrate that county's artefactual wealth. PAS data also reveals marked differences in the types and proportions of horse and vehicle equipment: terrets now dominate, with a total of 127 recorded and there are 24 lynch pins and 15 strap-unions.

In contrast to excavated evidence, only a modest quantity of horse and vehicle equipment has been recorded by PAS in Hampshire, Somerset, Dorset and East Yorkshire. However the distribution in the eastern counties of Norfolk, Suffolk and Lincolnshire is striking. Of particular note are 21 artefacts within this group recorded from Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire and Staffordshire. The total of 7 lynch pins recorded is outstanding, especially when compared to the 4 examples recorded previously. Interestingly, the number of brooches normally exceeds that of horse and harness fittings, although in Staffordshire and Warwickshire the opposite is the case. The pattern is curious and highlights a possible regional trend in



Distribution of Iron Age horse equipment recorded by PAS

the Late Iron Age with horses and their trappings being more decorated than people. The use of horse gear with metal fittings seems to have been exaggerated within and underestimated outside Wessex.

PAS data is therefore beginning to change perceptions of aspects of the archaeology of England and Wales and is building an ever-increasing research resource.

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Building materials for the archaeologist

Michael Nevell

Building materials are often diagnostic of date and function, and can also reveal the extensive local, regional, and national trade networks of a given period. Before the 1830s principal construction materials were stone (including flint and cobble) in the uplands, clay for brick making, and oak timber in lowlands. Important materials after the 1830s are iron, steel and concrete.

Timber technology

Amongst the earliest surviving timber structures in Britain is Greensted church in Essex (mid-eleventh century), but most standing timber structures date from the fourteenth century onwards. These are usually made from oak in either box-framing (where the weight of the separate roof trusses was taken on the wall frames) or cruck-framing (where the roof

load was supported through pairs of included trusses running from floor to ridge height). There is little chronological difference between the two types, but crucks are most common in Wales and central and northern England. Carpenter's marks, usually Roman numerals, are important elements in the recording and understanding of timber structures. The wall spaces between the uprights and rails were usually filled with either wattle and daub or later on brick, but timber wall frames could be clad in wooden tiles or covered in timber weather-boarding according to regional taste. Timber-framing ceased to be the normal means of construction in lowland Britain in the later seventeenth century, but the box-framed tradition survived long enough to be revived in the mid to late nineteenth century, whilst timber remained in use for roof structures. The decline in vernacular carpentry techniques can be seen in the nineteenth century, with the introduction of iron bolts and nails in the assembly of roof trusses. One feature of the new industrial factories was the use of pine timber (sometimes from the Baltic and indicated by geometric marks on the wood) for floors, supporting posts, and roof trusses.

Styles of stone

The use of stone in buildings is extremely varied but perhaps the major divide is between irregular types of rubble walling, often graduated with the larger stones at the bottom, and regular walling techniques using finished and smoothed ashlar blocks which often fronted a rubble wall. The style of tooling of such finished blocks gives a broad indication of date. However, the stylistic divide between rubble and ashlar walls appears to be more one of economic and social status rather than chronology, although traditions vary from region to region. Where cobbles and flints were the common building medium more polite structures were often rendered.

Cement, a stone substitute, was first reintroduced into Britain in a 1796 Patent by James Parker, but was not popularised until Portland Cement was manufactured at Swanscombe in Kent 1844.

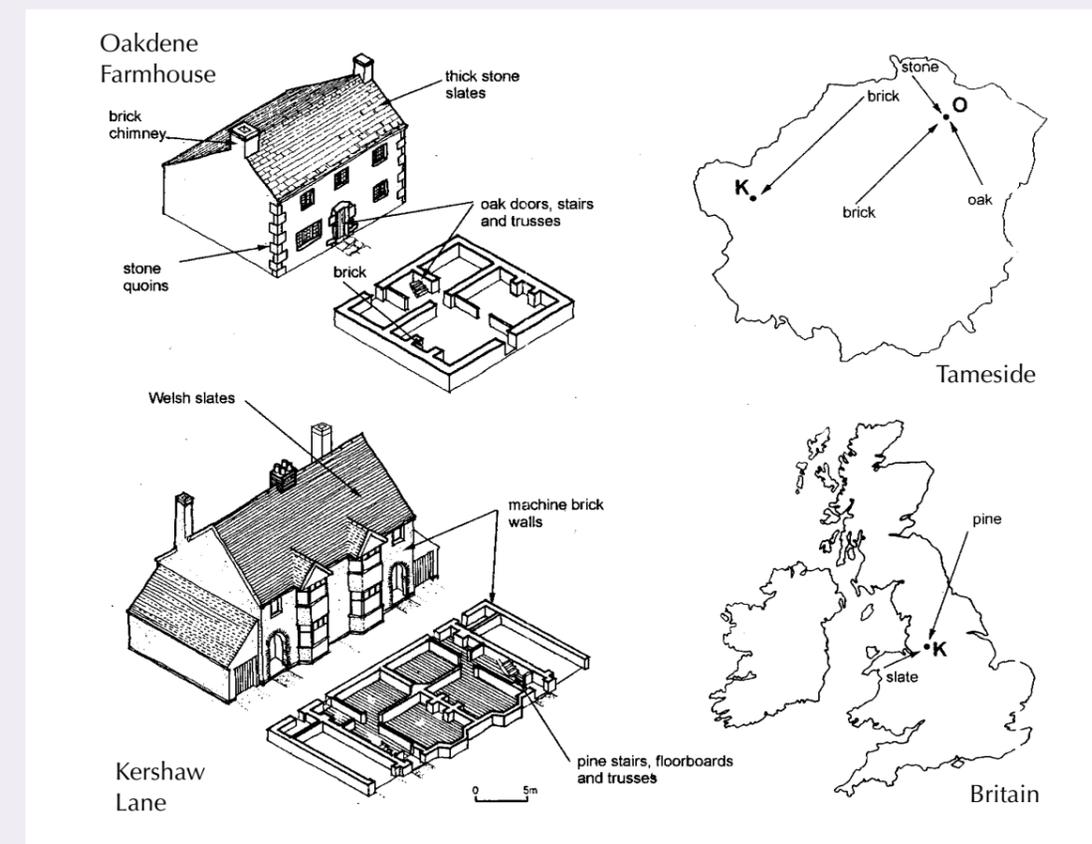
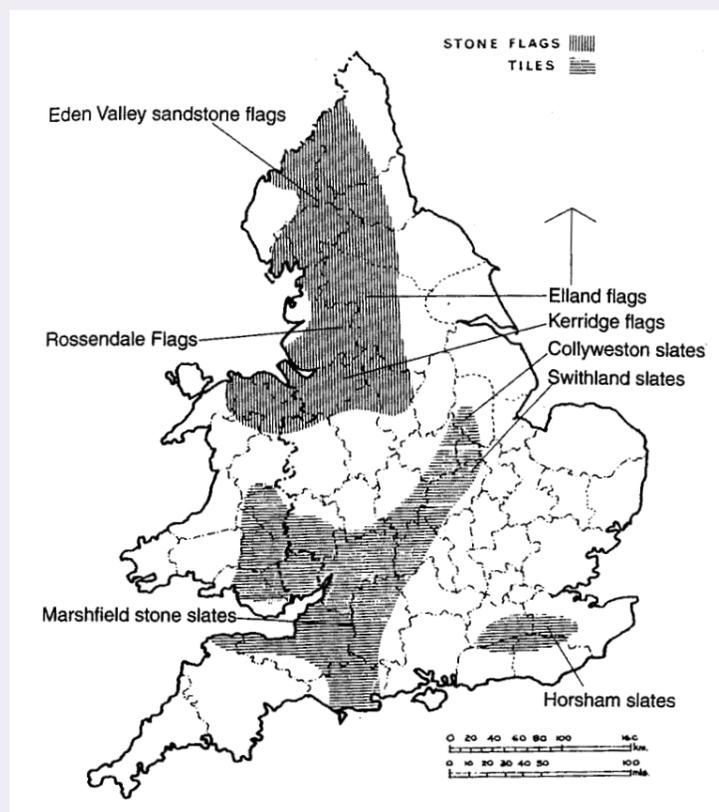
Bricks – decorative finish to mass production

Although in regular use from the late medieval period brick only rarely became a fashionable building medium in polite architecture before the late sixteenth century. This, combined with the increasing restrictions on oak timber supply, probably encouraged its use in vernacular architecture in the seventeenth century, when many timber buildings were given false fronts or were completely encased in brick. Sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth-century brickwork is distinguished by decorative effects using coloured bricks, produced by differential firing, and projecting mouldings. The unfamiliarity of some of the early craftsmen with the structural strengths of brick led occasionally to the use of iron tie plates to brace walls, whilst sometimes a timber-lintel behind a

brick arch would carry most of the weight across an opening. A variety of Brick Taxes (1725 1784, 1803), attempted to standardise sizes and can provide broad dating if used carefully. Again the introduction and span of these features varies from region to region. Initially handmade in clamp kilns, moulded and terracotta bricks were introduced in the eighteenth century and machine-made bricks in the mid-nineteenth, by which date the vernacular traditions of the medium had all but disappeared. The introduction of machine-made brick coincided roughly with the building of the first generation of railways and allowed mass-produced bricks of a standard and regular size to be transported across Britain from the major brickfields in areas such as Bedfordshire. The transition from handmade to machine brick is one the most useful relative dating horizons in Buildings Archaeology.

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The distribution of some roofing material types, after R Brunskill 2000, *Vernacular Architecture. An Illustrated Handbook* (Faber & Faber, London, 4th edition), page 207



Sources of buildings materials for Tameside houses. Top: the 1755 Oakdene Farmhouse was built using materials local to Tameside. Bottom: the Kershaw Lane housing estate built in the 1940s in Audenshaw used materials from around Britain and abroad. Note the increase in floor area between 1755 and the 1940s and the presence of a motor garage at Kershaw Lane.

Dating Scotland's past: the National Museums of Scotland C14 dating programmes

Alison Sheridan



Unfinished alder cup from Watten, Caithness, 170 cal BC – cal AD30. Photo: NMS

Since the early 1990s the National Museums of Scotland Archaeology Department has undertaken programmes of radiocarbon dating to shed light on ancient Scottish artefacts and funerary practices.

Thanks to generous outside support, the scope of this activity has expanded to encompass material held outside NMS' own collections, including some from Wales and England. It has also included cremated bone: in 2001 the NMS *Dating Cremated Bones Project (DCBP)* was established, using the new technique of AMS dating of structural carbonate (bio-apatite) in cremated bone as developed at the University of Groningen. This technique – which uses a completely different approach from previous, disastrous attempts to date absorbed carbonate or collagen in charred bone – opens new horizons for certain classes of material (such as Bronze Age cinerary urns), and had already been tried and tested by Anna Brindley and Jan Lanting, revolutionising our understanding of Irish Bronze Age pottery. Some 79 cremated bone dates have been obtained for the DCBP, with 11 more in the pipeline. Our colleagues in Scottish archaeological units have also embraced this technique, with CFA Archaeology Ltd's work on the assemblages from Skilmafilly, Aberdeenshire and Lesmurdie Road, Elgin, Moray, giving us the most comprehensively-dated Early Bronze Age cemeteries in Britain and Ireland. Colleagues in the National Museums &



Leatherworker's tool box from Evie, Orkney, dated to cal AD640-870. Photo: NMS

Galleries of Wales have initiated similar dating programmes, and we look forward to English colleagues catching up.

Some highlights...

The themes of NMS dating programmes are varied. In the 1990s, in preparing displays for the new Museum of Scotland, attention focused on objects from Scottish peat bogs. Fascinating results emerged, including several 'firsts': the oldest evidence for wheeled transport in Britain and Ireland (disc wheel from Blair Drummond: OxA-3538, 2810±85 BP, 1220–800 cal BC at 2σ, calibrated using OxCal v3.9); the earliest bow (from Rotten Bottom: OxA-3540, 5040±100 BP, 4040–3640 cal BC at 2σ); the oldest ox yoke (Loch Nell: OxA-3541, 3430±85 BP, 1940–1520 cal BC at 2σ); and the earliest swingletree (a crossbar to regulate movement during pulling by traction animals) in the world (White Moss: OxA-4507, 3115±60 BP, 1520–1210 cal BC at 2σ)! Other highlights include dates for two animal traps – a late third millennium pit-fall trap from Mye Plantation (UB-3882, 3913±39 BP, 2500–2230 cal BC at 2σ) and an Early Historic deer tread-trap from the Moss of Auquharney (OxA-6052, 1440±45 BP, cal AD 530–680).

Dates were also obtained for items of clothing (including the Orkney Hood and a pair of shoes, both first millennium AD); for wooden vessels and bog butter; for items connected with water transport (logboats, unfinished Viking boat stemposts from a suspected boatyard on Eigg, a rudder, and boat bailers); various hafts and shafts; a Bronze Age log coffin cover; horizontal mill wheel paddles; a flax scutcher; and a Late Bronze Age leaf-shaped sword made of yew from Grotsetter in Orkney, *inter alia*.

The last five years have focused on Bronze Age material, producing significant numbers of dates for Scotland's various urn types and accessory vessels; for Food Vessels and Beakers (to be fed into Mike Parker Pearson's 'Beaker People' project); for faience (in Scotland, Wales and England); and for daggers, battle axes and bone toggles. Highlights – of which there are many – include the discovery that the henge bank at North Mains (and by extension, the ditch) must have been constructed around or after 2000 BC, significantly later than the timber ring enclosed within, as Gordon Barclay predicted. Further dating work for other researchers, using material in NMS collections, has produced equally fascinating results (such as the Ritchies' confirmation that the Stones of Stenness henge ditch and bank had been created around 3000 BC, thereby neatly providing a millennium-long bracket for henge construction in Scotland).

Neolithic axe with Antrim porcellanite blade from Shulishader, Lewis, 3500-2900 cal BC. Photo: NMS



Funerary practices – Mesolithic to post-medieval
Recent results include dates for Iron Age inhumations (from Burnmouth, Craigie and Cumledge) and for Early Neolithic cremated bone from the non-megalithic Cairns of Atherb. Samples have also been provided from NMS collections for non-NMS programmes of research, including Rick Schulting's work on early Neolithic populations, Mike Richards' work on the Late Mesolithic human remains from Oronsay and James Barrett's work on the Pictish and pagan Norse cemetery at Westness.

Dissemination and impact
Over the last 13 years, the NMS C14 dating programmes have produced 168 results, mostly from the University of Groningen and the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Dating Service (ORADS). Most have already been published (below). Most have also been incorporated in Patrick Ashmore's Historic Scotland radiocarbon datelist, www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/, and it is planned to publish full details, with images, on NMS' own website.

Together with the major programme of radiocarbon dating archaeological sites that Patrick Ashmore has co-ordinated for Historic Scotland (reported annually in *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*), the NMS' programmes – which are ongoing – have transformed our understanding of Scotland's archaeology and that of neighbouring countries. As value for money, and an example of partnership,

collaboration and synergy, it's been a spectacular success!

We thank the following for generous support: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland; NERC; Historic Scotland (Patrick Ashmore); University of Groningen (Jan Lanting); Aberdeenshire Archaeology (Ian Shepherd) and Queen's University Belfast with ORADS (Finbar McCormick). The collaboration of many museum curators and field archaeologists is warmly acknowledged.

Sheridan, JA 2003 New dates for Scottish Bronze Age cinerary urns: results from the National Museums' of Scotland *Dating Cremated Bones Project*. In Gibson, AM (ed), *Prehistoric Pottery: People, Pattern and Purpose*, 201–26. BAR (International Series 1156).

Sheridan, JA 2004 Scottish Food Vessel chronology revisited. In Gibson, AM & Sheridan, JA (eds), *From Sickles to Circles: Britain and Ireland at the Time of Stonehenge*, 243–67

Alison Sheridan
Head of Early Prehistory
National Museums of Scotland

Food Vessels from Ratho, Midlothian (left) and Pitmilly, Fife (right), and accessory vessel as miniature Food Vessel from Craigdhu, Fife, 2140-1740 cal BC. Photo: NMS



Jobs in British Archaeology 2004

James Drummond-Murray

Here again is the annual review of Jobs in British archaeology – based on the ads placed in JIS, plus some from BAJR. There was an identical number compared to last year (127) which suggests that the archaeological economy is at least steady. The high point of 146 jobs in 2001 is still some way off.

Pay

This was encouraging at the bottom end, averaging £13,710 – up from last year's £12,903. The general upward progress of previous years has been resumed, though this is still far too low. Encouraging signs of action on this front include formation of the IFA Diggers' Forum (p8) and the work of Prospect (in particular Phil Carpenter) in seeking to set up National Pay Bargaining for archaeology. The words of the new IFA chair David Jennings in the *TA 53* in making this issue a personal priority were especially welcome as he is in a good position to influence these matters.

There were too few supervisors' jobs to comment but Field/Project Officers were virtually static at £16,563 (2003 – £16,592). Project Managers advanced to £20,957 (2003 – £19,701) but are still at the same general level of 2001 (£20,881) suggesting the quiet last two or three years is having a dampening effect. This may also be the reason both Junior CRM and

SMR slipped back to an anaemic £16,941 and £21,397 respectively from last year's healthier £17,274 and £23,840.

The advances made by the Specialist and Illustrators categories last year went into sharp reverse as they plunged from £17,170 and £16,914 respectively to £15,254 and £15,992 though there were more jobs (27 rather than 18). This may be an area that needs looking at closely to make sure these jobs are graded correctly in the employing organisations.

IFA membership

The number of jobs mentioning IFA membership continued to grow, up to 23%. There is room for improvement, but at least some ads stated 'PIFA preferred' for the first time.

IFA recommended minimums

Pete Hinton wrote in *TA 54* that this whole issue was being reviewed, and a new system is awaited with interest. A more sophisticated approach is surely to be welcomed. It should be noted that the minimum for a MIFA level goes up to £20,295 for 2005-2006. The author wonders how many MIFA's earn less than this. If membership at MIFA level guaranteed this level of pay in RAOs this would certainly encourage higher membership.

	AV WAGE 2004	NO OF ADS (2003)	MENTION IFA	AV WAGE 2003	AV WAGE 2002	AV WAGE 2001	AV WAGE 2000	AV WAGE 1999	IFA MINIMA APRIL 04
Excavator / site assistant	£13,710	26 (26)	4	£12,903	£13,232	£12,378	£12,024	£11,174	£13,071 (PIFA)
Supervisor	-	3(11)	1	£14,765	£14,806	£12,741	12,868	£12,700	£15,225 (AIFA)
Field Officer / Project Officer	£16,563	23 (14)	6	£16,592	£18,489	£15,572	£15,518	£13,777	£19,713 (MIFA)
Project Manager	£20,957	16 (13)	8	£19,701	£21,536	£20,881	£19,447	£18,671	
Junior CRM / SMR	£16,941	13 (27)	3	£17,274	£15,563	£17,532	£15,608	£14,167	
Senior CRM / SMR	£21,397	9 (15)	5	£23,840	£30,605	£23,012	£23,486	£20,654	
Specialists	£15,254	15 (8)	3	£17,170	£14,992	£16,531	£14,632	£15,476	
Illustrators etc	£15,992	12 (10)		£16,914	£14,085	£14,908	£15,497	£13,271	
Misc	-	5							
		127 (79)	30(23%)						



Ketley Crag rock shelter, with its dramatically decorated surface

NEW Prehistoric BOOKS REVIEWED

Richard Bradley, Robin Daniels, Tim Phillips, Nicola Powell and Alison Taylor

Prehistoric Dorset

John Gale 2003

Tempus 192 pp pb £16.99

Our understanding of prehistory is changing fast throughout Britain, but Dorset can still boast many

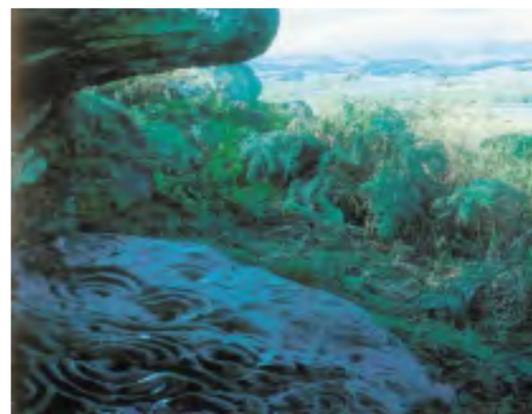


Maiden Castle

of the finest monuments and most spectacular excavations of this period. This book by a lecturer at Bournemouth university, who has excavated sites in the county and used its resources extensively in teaching, is a useful roundup of this seminal archaeology, and to an extent brings us up to date with important reports of recent years. Excavations for example include Mount Pleasant, Cranborne Chase, Hambledon Hill, Gussage All Saints, sites in Dorchester such as Greyhounds Yard and Flagstones, and of course Maiden Castle itself. He ends with a handy gazetteer of sites to visit which should inspire many outings.

The limitation of the work is that the less accessible results of developer-funded fieldwork (ie not published as monographs or in journals) and, I imagine, other entries in the sites and monuments record, are essentially ignored. Putting these in context might have changed the picture in interesting ways, and this is evidence that local studies in particular have little excuse to ignore.

Alison Taylor



Prehistoric Northumberland

Stan Beckensall 2003

Tempus Publishing 192pp pb £16.99

Here is quite a different county to Dorset, and quite a different approach. Northumberland is in the

heart of Britain, despite its domination by borders in later periods, and the dramatic scale of its prehistoric archaeology reflects both sides of the modern divide. Stan Beckensall is a local enthusiast who seems to have practically re-invented the archaeology of rock art, and his insights and his access to recent excavations and other fieldwork bring welcome freshness to those sated with lowland settlement cropmarks. The book is written thematically rather than chronologically, including whole chapters on prehistoric rock art and on symbols of power as well as standards divisions of religion, burial and (sensibly combined in this context) settlement and defence (though it is interesting how rock art creeps into most of these). He ends with suggestions of places to visit. This is not a full over view of prehistory in Northumberland, but is a valuable and enticing addition to its literature.

Alison Taylor

Submarine prehistoric archaeology of the North Sea: Research priorities and collaboration with industry

CBA Research Report 141

NC Flemming (ed) 2004

CBA 140pp pb £25

These fourteen papers were originally given in 2003, and the editor is congratulated on such quick production. The volume brings together contributors from five countries and is essentially a statement of the current position of research, raising awareness of work around the North Sea outside the British Isles.

Major section headings are: 'The scope and importance of Continental Shelf prehistory';



Examples of Neolithic votive offerings from the Danish sea floor

'Submerged prehistoric archaeological surveys'; 'Systematics, palaeontology, and proxy data'; 'Management and supporting data'. Geoff Bailey makes the forceful point that exploitation of coastal resources seen as a characteristic of the Mesolithic may have occurred in the Palaeolithic as well, the Palaeolithic sites now being submerged. He points out the fruitfulness of the coast to early humans as a food resource and how it facilitated ease of movement, suggesting that submerged landscapes may contain crucial evidence for the arrival and survival of people in northern Europe. Nic Flemming outlines the problems of recovering and analysing data from such a hostile environment.

The volume provides important examples of current work on submerged landscapes, from site location modelling and survey projects to excavation projects of Mesolithic sites. The final section sets out English Heritage's approach to their maritime responsibilities, the Dutch national heritage agency's approach to damage to the seabed which will result from the extension of the port of Rotterdam, and a thoughtful essay by Anthony Firth on what we are trying to achieve and the developer/archaeologist relationship.

This is an excellent introduction to current research and perceptions of the archaeological resource of the North Sea. It is well presented with good reproduction of plates and figures, and I recommend it to anybody with an interest in early prehistory or the east and channel coasts of Britain.

Robin Daniels

In The Shadow of the Brochs: The Iron Age in Scotland

Beverley Ballin Smith and Iain Banks (eds)

2002

Tempus publishing 256pp pb £25

The wealth of archaeological evidence from Iron Age of Scotland often lies in the 'shadow' of the brochs, these brooding, mysterious and enigmatic structures. This aptly-titled volume 'present[s] a general overview of the state of Iron Age studies in Scotland at the beginning of the twenty-first century'; it also marks the retirement of Euan MacKie.

The Northern Isles and Caithness papers centre on the brochs, but take the material further than individual sites. Stephen Dockrill discusses the economic base of their builders and the structure of their society; Julie Bond looks at faunal and botanical remains from Orkney; and Colleen Batey summarises evidence for Viking and late Norse reuse of broch mounds in Caithness. In the section on the Western Isles a greater range of structures is brought out from the shadows, including wheelhouses and souterrains. These chapters are complemented by a discussion of the Western Isles' pottery sequence (Ewan Campbell). John Hunter provides a welcome overview of the late Iron Age, emphasising that this was a period of profound social change including Christianisation, also setting



Scatness broch, roundhouse and wheelhouses

out the difficulties in interpreting this change. A section on regions south of the Great Glen includes a crannog in Perthshire, a hillfort in Angus and the evidence from south-west Scotland (Iain Banks).

The geographical research bias identified by Banks cannot be hidden. This is highlighted by the editors in their concluding chapter, as well as other problems with the research agenda such as a preoccupation with nomenclature and 'the persistent obsession with structures...in contrast to the wider Iron Age landscape'. However, the purpose of this book is not to right the wrongs of current research, but to provide an overview of that research. In this, it succeeds admirably and makes an important addition to the literature of Iron Age Scotland, whilst highlighting where problems lie.

Tim Phillips

Archaeology in Northumberland National park

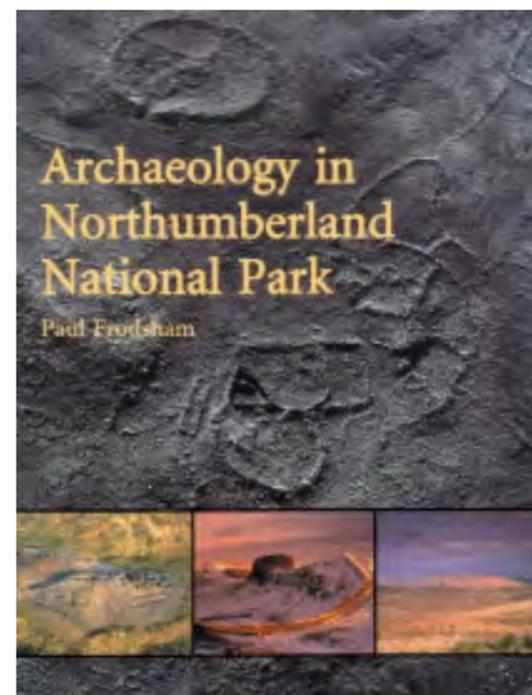
Paul Frodsham 2004

Council for British Archaeology pb 382pp £19.95

The first part of this book looks at the changing landscape of Northumberland National Park over time and the second covers fieldwork by contributors over the last ten years, ranging from the palaeoenvironment and prehistoric periods through to the industrial past and the present day. Early on, we are aware of the importance of the omnipresent and 'looming' Yeavinger Bell, a focus up to the present day. Sites such as Turf Knowe, which includes monuments dating to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, are discussed in greater detail in the second part. The rock art of the National Park is famous and Stan Beckensall's 'Prehistoric Rock Art in Northumberland' is the perfect companion book. Later, we are introduced to a bastle village and then in greater detail to towers and bastles. But most importantly, the Northumberland National Park as a continually

evolving place is emphasised, where the needs and desires of visitors to popular places such as Hadrian's Wall are managed alongside management of an important and so far little studied archaeological landscape. Frodsham has produced an important and enjoyable review of fieldwork in Northumberland National Park for the archaeologist as well as the general reader.

Nicola Powell

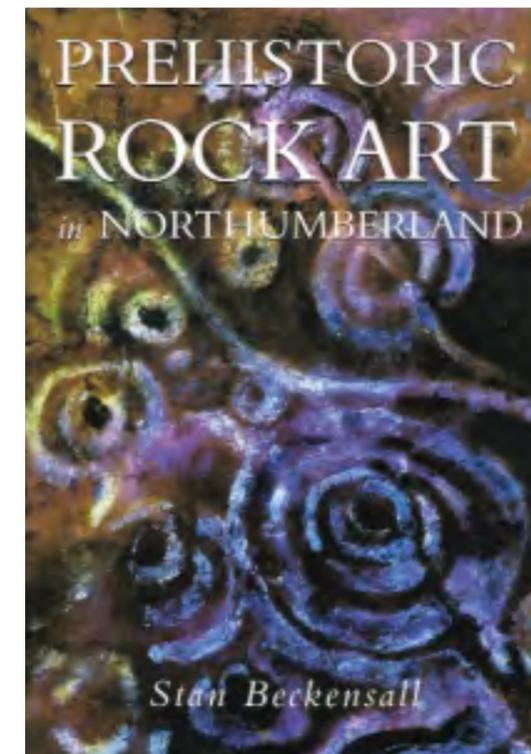


Prehistoric Rock art in Northumberland

Stan Beckensall 2001

Tempus Publishing 192pp pb £16.99

Having spent two weeks walking around Northumberland as an undergraduate searching for new rock art and looking at known sites, fortunately often with the author, it was a pleasure to read this overview of rock art in the county. Beckensall sets the scene, explaining the study of rock art using the highly decorated rock at Lordenshaw. His clear and precise illustrations show rocks covered in art, including cup and ring marks, pick marks, serpentine grooves and motifs, in their context. It explains where archaeologists are in rock art studies, how art is perceived in the landscape and relates to monuments. It also looks at the research in its wider setting and accepts that the subject often raises more questions that it can answer. The main part of the book is more than a gazetteer; entitled 'Art in the Landscape' and along with the chapter devoted to rock art found in a monumental setting, it includes every piece of rock art discovered in Northumberland, with six figure grid references and full description and illustrations. How people have perceived and interpreted rock art is discussed and Beckensall



accepts that there will be many more theories, however odd.

Nicola Powell

From Sickles to Circles: Britain and Ireland at the time of Stonehenge

Alex Gibson and Alison Sheridan (ed) 2004

Tempus publishing 384pp pb £30

This impressive tome was prepared as a *festschrift* for Derek Simpson upon his retirement last year from the Chair of Archaeology at Queen's University, Belfast, and is now sadly also a memorial to him, as he died this March. It is not a work for a general reader, but a serious compilation of significant research topics and discussions by eminent prehistorians, many of whom worked closely with Derek and have personal memories. This includes a good deal of new information and new interpretations, especially welcome when they are by old masters such as Aubrey Burl, Vincent Megaw and Ian Kinnes who have had time to re-evaluate their own pioneering works.

Young Derek Simpson (right, standing), with Piggott and Atkinson, sorting out Stonehenge



The largest part of the book concentrates on Scottish archaeology, and much of this is concerned with aspects of megaliths, where new techniques are reviving old topics. This includes Graham Ritchie's discussion of some dreadful things done to standing stones in the recent past, the importance of understanding past interventions and how we should approach them today. Patrick Ashmore uses Calanais (Lewis) as compelling evidence for frequent long-distance contact networks c. 3000 BC, and Audrey Henshall looks at new data from passage grave and what we should emphatically *not* be trying to learn from them – reinforced by Anna Ritchie's assessment of animal bones in chambered cairns, which can derive from a variety of human and natural causes, destroying

exciting notions of totemism on the way. Dermot Moore uses the impressive settlement evidence of Neolithic Ireland to look at evidence for conflict – and finds quite a lot of it. Several papers are devoted to aspects of artefact typology that are clearly due for an overhaul, and there is a call from Colin Burgess for more disciplined use of uniform phraseology for describing Bronze Age phases (though he admits that over the last 45 years he has been a culprit too). All in all, this satisfying work is a tribute to the ingenuity and tenacity of archaeologists in dealing with old and new data in old and new ways, as well as to the inspiration of Derek Simpson himself.

Alison Taylor

Iron Age communities in Britain *An account of England, Scotland and Wales from the seventh century until the Roman Conquest. Fourth Edition*

Barry Cunliffe 2005

Routledge 741 pp hb £140

When I studied law many years ago, I could never understand why authors of most famous textbooks were dead. Their works were entirely rewritten, yet they retained the original title and format. The same is true in medicine. No one who has studied Gray's Anatomy could have met Dr Gray.

Archaeology is different, for few of its classic texts are ever revised. They may be reprinted long after they have outstayed their welcome, but few are rewritten by their original authors. Gordon Childe was one great exception, and Barry Cunliffe is another. This is the fourth edition of *Iron Age Communities in Britain*, which first appeared in a much slimmer version 31 years ago. It was the one substantial study to consider the Iron Age of the entire island of Britain and it is largely due to its influence that the subject has expanded to such an extent during the last three decades. Although it deals with the prehistory of England, Scotland and Wales, it should really be read alongside Barry Raftery's *Pagan Celtic Ireland* and Dennis Harding's recent synthesis *The Iron Age in Northern Britain*.

One of the problems of recasting older research is that it establishes a format from which it is hard to escape, and there is a certain continuity between

successive editions of *Iron Age Communities*. It is light on theory and cautious in its interpretations. It is rich in drawings of artefacts and site plans and is at its most confident when it deals with subjects and regions on which the author himself has worked: the Wessex chalkland, cross-Channel trade, the archaeology of Atlantic Europe. That is understandable. It is based on exhaustive reading of fully published projects, but, wherever possible, it avoids engaging in controversy. For instance, there is no mention of John Creighton's account of the Late Iron Age.



Its strengths, as in previous editions, are its excellent illustrations, its lucid style and command of detail, and its enormous bibliography. It is a

useful work of reference, but there were times when I wondered if it might have been better to go back to the drawing board and produce a different book altogether. This would not be constrained by the format of its predecessors; it would place more emphasis on the late second and earlier first millennia (here the Bronze Age 'background'); it would take on the opportunities raised by the expansion of commercial archaeology; and it would treat Ireland on equal terms with England, Scotland and Wales. Above all, it would engage more fully with the ideas put forward by the proponents of an 'alternative Iron Age'. That is a radical challenge, but it is one which the author is uniquely qualified to meet. There is no sign that anyone else is prepared to do so.

This latest edition is like a building which has been

renovated many times. The basic structure remains but much fabric is new. It is a great achievement to have offered interpretations that have kept their place in the discipline over such a long period, but there is a danger that any further editions will seem like footnotes to an established text. It should be on the shelves of every field archaeologist, but is so expensive it is more likely to be confined to the better funded libraries. It is to greatly to Barry Cunliffe's credit that he is given us so much to think about, but, as Umberto Eco said in *The Name of the Rose*, 'books are not made to be believed, but to be subjected to enquiry'. That is the nature of research, and it is pity that the publishers seem to have miscalculated the audience in their pricing of this important book.

Richard Bradley

The moon and the bonfire *An investigation of three stone circles in north-east Scotland*

Richard Bradley 2005

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland hb 124pp £25 (£20 to
Fellows of Soc of Ants, Scotland)

This sumptuous hardback volume is ostensibly a report on three excavations and two fieldwalking surveys in Aberdeenshire, but it somehow brings in more than one expects for this genre.

Richard Bradley makes clear for example how these apparently unitary monuments went through prolonged sequences of structural change, making nonsense of simple classifications of style or function (eg burials may be one incident, not a major role). In combination with Tim Phillips' fieldwalking surveys, which emphasised the isolated positions of the monuments, on open ground on or beyond limits of settlement, their topography is discussed in terms of how they would have been perceived (both looking in and looking out), the visual effects that would have come into play (changing views and perspectives, movements of sun and moon, use of contrast between red, grey and white stones as part of dramatic and clearly intentional effects of monument design etc). This includes precise alignments with the moon and the setting sun which imply the sites were intended for use at night, with implications for ways we should

understand their siting in the landscape (which has implications for understanding all monuments that came to life when it was dark). He ends with discussion of the elements of these recumbent stone circles that are found on other monuments across Britain and Ireland. Though apparently restricted to a very regional type of site, this report therefore has value for archaeologists attempting to understand prehistoric ritual monuments anywhere in Britain, and perhaps beyond.

Alison Taylor



New members

ELECTED	Member (MIFA)	Associate (AIFA)	Practitioner (PIFA)	Affiliate	Student
	Philip Abramson	Christopher Barrowman	Beth Asbury	Kirsty Bell	Abby Antrobus
	Andrew Crutchley	Julia Bennett	Emily Betts	Rebecca Ireland	Louise Bush
	Joseph Elders	Nicholas Best	Alexander Farnell	Robert McCubbin	Jill Campbell
	Natasha Hutcheson	Sarah Court	Monica Giedelmann	Simon Oakley	Garrard Cole
	Peter Rumley	Suzanne Gailey	Naomi Hall		Richard Constable
	Reuben Thorpe	Mhairi Hastie	David Kaye		Claire Feldkamp
	Sylvia Warman	Charlotte Lewis	Helen Parslow		Natalie Kershaw
		Daniel Lewis	Natasha Ransom		Aoife McKeown
		Doug Murphy	Abigail Rothwell		David Millum
		Geoffrey Saunders	Elizabeth Rundle		David Pearce
		Anna Stocks	Daniel Stone		David Pearce
		Hawk Tolson	Andrew Tizzard		Alice Samson
		Gareth Watkins			
TRANSFERS	Member (MIFA)	Associate (AIFA)	Practitioner (PIFA)	Affiliate	
	Chris Constable	Samantha Badger	Margaret Feryok	Ben Booth	
	Andrew Holmes	Adina Gleeson	Emma Rees		
	Jonathan Kenny	Stuart Prior			
	Stephen Malone	David Sabin			
	Julie Satchell	Christopher Smith			
	Linda Smith	Graham Tait			

News

Apology to Norfolk Landscape Archaeology

We would like to apologise to James Albone(1744), David Gurney(48), Ken Hamilton(2169) and Andrew Hutcheson(1376) whose address details were incorrectly published in the Yearbook and directory for 2005 and should have been – Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, Union House, Gressenhall, Dereham, Norfolk NR20 4DR

Announcement of the result of a Disciplinary Investigation

Peter Hinton

The IFA's current regulations (see *TA 55* for proposed revisions) for investigating allegations of improper conduct have various requirements for reporting. If a Disciplinary Inquiry Panel finds a breach of the Code of conduct and Council imposes a sanction of expulsion or suspension from the Institute, the IFA may publish details of the breaches, sanction and the identity of the member concerned. In the case of a lesser sanction (a

'written warning of future conduct'), the name of the member may not be published.

A Disciplinary Inquiry Panel conducted a hearing on 10 December 2004 to investigate allegations that a member had breached various clauses of the Code of conduct and Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology. The Panel found that a Member of the Institute had not acted in accordance with rule 1.5 'An archaeologist shall give appropriate credit for work done by others, and shall not commit plagiarism in oral or written communication, and shall not enter into conduct that might unjustifiably injure the reputation of another archaeologist.' Council agreed with the Disciplinary Inquiry Panel's recommendation that the appropriate sanction is a written warning: that warning has been duly issued.

In a quite separate case it was found necessary to remove Archaeological Solutions from the Register of Archaeological Organisations for providing false information in support of their application for Registration.

Members news

Phil Carpenter (2652) retired as Prospect's negotiator with responsibility for archaeologists in January, but was immediately hired back to help Prospect work on the new Civil Service pensions scheme. Phil has worked closely with IFA staff recently in developing proposals for industry-wide pay bargaining, and has always emphasised the benefits of union and professional institute working together. He has had many responsibilities in Prospect, but it is obvious that archaeology has left its mark. Reported in Prospect's Bulletin Phil says 'I still think the Prison Service is the worst employer I've had to deal with, though English Heritage is catching up fast.' A member of the Sussex Archaeological Society (RAO 10), Phil intends to



Phil Carpenter

spend part of his retirement researching the history of the iron industry in Ashdown Forest. And attending IFA conferences, of course.

Lynne Bevan (MIFA 1028), IFA's JIS Compiler has just passed her PhD viva (on rock art in Val Camonica). She has also just started a new part time

job as Living History Co-ordinator for Balsall Heath Local History Society, Birmingham but is still available for freelance artefact work.

Obituary

Daphne Lorimer MBE, MIFA 1677

Orkney's archaeology has lost one of its great champions with the death of Daphne Home Lorimer. She was chair of the Orkney Heritage Society 1994 to 2003 and was responsible for the Society's decision to have two international archaeological conferences, *Neolithic Orkney in its European Context* and *Sea Change: Orkney and Northern Europe in the Later Iron Age AD 300-800*. She was also the driving force behind establishment of Orkney Archaeological Trust.

Daphne intended to study English at University but, with the outbreak of war instead became a radiographer, stopping work in 1952 to start a family. She first became seriously involved in archaeology in London with Hendon and District Archaeological Society, and co-edited the final excavation report on a Mesolithic site on Hampstead Heath which appeared in 1989. Retiring with her husband to Orkney in the early 1980s, she wrote many specialist reports on human bones from excavations in Scotland, from Iona and Dundee to Shetland and she did an

awesome job as a volunteer at the Orkney Museum, sorting thousands of human bones from the Neolithic tomb at Isbister in South Ronaldsay. Besides her own archaeological work, Daphne was an enthusiast who supported the efforts of colleagues, be it with information and a listening ear or entire buffet parties for hungry student diggers. In celebration of her work an on-line festschrift was produced last year, *Papers and Pictures in honour of Daphne Home Lorimer MBE*. This includes an impressive series of papers, many by IFA's Scottish members, and can be read on <http://www.orkneydigs.org.uk/dhl/papers/index.html>.

Anne Brundle



Daphne Lorimer