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# The ARCHAEOLOGIST



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ON THE ISLANDS**

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**Archaeology on the islands**

One aspect immediately apparent when studying islands is that they are rarely insular. To those used to modern transport they may seem hard to reach and to have distinctive cultures, but to those who travelled by boat, had no fear of getting feet wet when they landed and appreciated any haven during a long voyage, they were part of a cosmopolitan network. At times of war they might take the worst brunt of invasion (whether 9th- century Vikings or 20th-century Germans), while in peaceful times traders naturally called by, whether buying, selling or taking on supplies, and there may be specialist products to export. Other visitors on the move included the religious, especially those seeking temporary apparent isolation whilst remaining remarkably well connected (Iona is a leading example of this, but many islands had similar claims), and even those bringing the dead, for whom certain island became a prestige resting place. It is no surprise therefore that every archaeologist who works on an island soon recognises that place as an exceptional archaeological resource.

The rewards may be great but so are the modern problems for archaeologists working in these environments. Articles in this *TA* spell out some of the horrors of just gaining physical access with the sort of equipment required today, few islands are large enough to sustain commercial archaeological organisations on more than a visitor basis, and some are governed by different legislation to that of the mainland. This means that until very recently they may not have the equivalents of county archaeologists or supportive legislation. There are,

at last, dedicated officers working on these islands now who bring us up to date in these pages, but it is a scandal that the Channel Islands still do not have automatic developer funding or rights to preservation in situ on the lines accepted as minimal in the UK for the last 20 years.

For a complete change, the next issue of *TA* will be a bit of a retrospective. In addition to legislative and structural changes, I want to illustrate the value of work achieved by IfA's Registered Organisations over the past ten years. Too often developer-led archaeology is seen as less valuable than projects driven by research, and yet the results overall have been stunning. I would therefore like to promote the most exciting excavations since 2000, and I also want to include the most fruitful surveys, the most innovative approaches, best PR and outreach programmes, most effective management and conservation of monuments – and of course the finest publications. So please, think back and let me have your suggestions. In the meantime, *Highlights in British Archaeology* will also be the theme for a session at IfA's Annual Conference (p5) – hope to see you there.



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# In defence of local authority archaeologists

Peter Hinton

At its meeting on 10 December 2010, IfA Executive committee agreed that the greatest threat to archaeology and the historic environment comes from cuts to local authority historic environment services. These services are responsible for identifying heritage assets that may be affected by development, for requiring planning applicants to provide the information necessary to make an informed decision, and for ensuring that the applicant takes the necessary steps to mitigate or offset the environmental harm caused by the proposed development, in accordance with government planning policy. Crucially, local government archaeologists deal with undesignated assets – the important and significant parts of our heritage that make up 95% of the whole. While PPS5 in England sets out clear guidance on a local authority's responsibilities and represents a unique opportunity for significant improvements in practice, it and its longer-established counterparts elsewhere in the UK depend on the retention of expert professional staff for their effective application.

The continued employment of such staff is far from assured. There is already extremely bad news from some English counties, and more is rumoured. At a time of unprecedented cuts, the historic environment is unlikely to be top of a beleaguered authority's priority list. And yet an effective service has much to contribute to local government core objectives relating to communities, sustainable development, economy, and environment. The Institute takes every opportunity to make that case.

In recent months IfA, often in partnership with other bodies in the Archaeology Forum, has been making the case to government ministers and officials and to senior staff in national bodies for concentrating resources on protecting local government services. The Institute is pleased that recent statements by English Heritage indicate that that body recognises and understands the essential role of local authorities, and has requested Westminster government to remind English local authorities of their responsibilities. In Scotland IfA forms part of the Built Environment Forum Scotland task force, which sought, unsuccessfully, an amendment to the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill to make it a statutory requirement for local authorities to take expert historic environment advice, and has identified MSPs who appear willing to take this on.

IfA will continue to make the arguments for the retention of unique skills in public sector bodies at both national and local levels. Experience shows that the Institute is most effective where it lobbies strategically with politicians, officials and the press – but IfA is always happy to write to individual bodies where members at a local level agree that this would be helpful. Likewise we know that our successes are greatest where we work in partnership, and so we have worked closely with the Association of Local Government Archaeology Officers throughout this campaign.

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... we know that our successes are greatest where we work in partnership ...

**Notes to contributors**

**Themes and deadlines**

Summer: Best archaeology of the 21st century  
deadline: 21 February 2011

Autumn : IfA Conference and Annual Report 2011  
deadline: 1 June 2011

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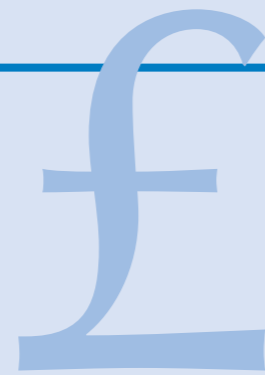
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# IfA recommended salary guidelines

Kate Geary



For many years IfA has sought to promote recognition of the responsibility held by archaeologists and other historic environment professionals in the study and care of the historic environment, and the high levels of skill this demands. We have also campaigned for greater recognition of these high level skills in status and salary levels. Since 1996, IfA has published minimum salary recommendations, which became a requirement for Registered Organisations to meet in 2006. In 2007, the minimum salaries were linked to a wider remuneration package including working hours, pension contributions and sick pay. In 2008, the minimum salaries were benchmarked against salaries in comparable sectors and a programme was introduced to increase them over a five-year period. This programme was badly affected by the recession and continues to be hampered by the economic climate.

IfA also recognises, however, that concentrating purely on minimum salaries will have a limited impact on the drive to increase recognition of the work of historic environment professionals and its value to society. In line with professional associations such as the Institute of Conservation, the Museums Association and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, IfA has developed recommended salary guidelines which provide guidance on appropriate starting salary ranges for the three levels of IfA membership. These guidelines are based on a comparison of typical starting salary ranges for comparable levels of competence and responsibility in other sectors and are

The recommended salary guidelines are not intended to replace the current minimum salary levels which are still binding for Registered Organisations and members who employ archaeologists. Instead, they are guidance for employers both within and outside the sector, to inform funding bids which include support for archaeological posts and as an advocacy tool to highlight the importance of appropriate recognition and remuneration for the vital work archaeologists do.

The recommended salary guidelines are published on the Remuneration page of the IfA website at <http://www.archaeologists.net/practices/salary> and will be updated from time to time. More information on IfA minimum salaries, the 2007 benchmarking survey and the 2010 update can be found on the same page along with links to other professional associations' salary guidelines.

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PIfA-level competence/responsibility	£18,000– £19,500
AIfA-level competence/responsibility	£24,500– £28,000
MIfA-level competence/responsibility	£30,500– £37,000

## IfA Annual conference and training event

University of Reading,  
13–15 April 2011

The conference will offer topical lectures, updating delegates on current issues, policy and best practice, and new techniques and developments in the profession. They will focus on understanding significance as the key to assessing, managing and explaining the historic environment. There will be parallel practical training workshops developing skills and understanding in a range of subjects and new techniques. Both the lectures and workshops will provide essential CPD opportunities for all practitioners.

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

For further information about how to book, details about the sessions and workshops, and a detailed timetable for the event see [www.archaeologists.net/conferences](http://www.archaeologists.net/conferences).

Discounts on bookings apply until **21 March 2011**.

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### Understanding significance: the key to assessing, managing and explaining the historic environment

Sessions and workshops will include

**Characterisation – where next?** *Emma Hancox and Adam Mindykowski, Worcestershire County Council*

**Southport Group: towards a revitalisation of professional practice**  
*Taryn Nixon, Museum of London Archaeology and Chair of the Southport Group*

**Assessing the significance of iron objects and production remains**  
*Evelyne Godfrey*

**The planning jigsaw: how does it all fit together?** *Tim Howard, Institute for Archaeologists*

**Understanding and protection: the application of significance in the historic environment and the National Heritage Protection Plan**  
*Paul Stamper, Edmund Lee and Charlotte Winter, English Heritage*

**Assessing significance underwater: just piles of old rocks, geophysical anomalies and shifting sands?** *Paul Sharman, Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology and Caroline Wickham-Jones, University of Aberdeen*

**Essential writing skills for archaeologists** *Alison Taylor, Institute for Archaeologists*

**Self-employment and business start-ups** *Tariq Mian, Towergate Risk Solutions*

**Aren't we all in this together? The importance of partnership working**  
*Susan Casey, RCAHMS and Jeff Sanders, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*

**Assessing significance for planning applications: preparing PPS5-compliant reports for local authorities** *Duncan McCallum, English Heritage and Sandy Kidd, Buckinghamshire County Council*

**New research possibilities for old finds** *Andrew Jones, IfA Finds Group and Ian Panter, Principal Conservator, York Archaeological Trust*

**Training: promoting best practice** *Archaeology Training Forum*

**Widening the audience for community archaeology: the significance of PPS5** *Austin Ainsworth*

**Highlights in British archaeology** *David Jennings, Oxford Archaeology*

**Visualisation in archaeology** *Garry Gibbons*

**CPD logs, PDPs and training plans** *Kate Geary, Institute for Archaeologists and Kenneth Aitchison, Landward Research Ltd*



# AERIAL SURVEY AND INVESTIGATION: an EPPIC Placement

Tara-Jane Sutcliffe

Reconnaissance over the ruined chapter house and gatehouse of Thornton Abbey, North Lincolnshire. © English Heritage, NMR

English Heritage Professional Placements in Conservation (EPPIC) is a capacity building project funded by English Heritage and managed by IfA. Established in 2003, the scheme provides year-long specialist structured training placements in archaeological skills for which there is a gap in the sector. The aim is *to provide the sector with historic environment professionals capable of meeting future challenges*. Details can be found on the websites of IfA and English Heritage.

EPPIC is provided in-house with the English Heritage Aerial Survey & Investigation teams in York and Swindon. Previous placement holders have gained employment with partner projects of the National Mapping Programme (NMP) and cognate historic landscape studies such as the North Yorkshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Project. I came from a background in multi-period landscape analysis, having worked on desk-based assessments which drew upon cartographic, documentary and archaeological sources and this equipped me well to undertake training in air photo interpretation.

## TEACHING BY PRACTITIONERS

The majority of training was delivered 'on the job' on a mentoring basis. The boon of work-based learning is the opportunity to work within a professional organisation with experienced practitioners as teachers. A Learning Agreement drawn up with IfA and English Heritage operated as a Professional Development Plan. Monitored at quarterly intervals, support was provided by both organisations to enable successful attainment of personal, work and

professional goals. This ensured that I was able to specialise in air photo interpretation and also develop more general professional skills. Training focused on developing abilities to recognise, assess, interpret and record archaeological monuments and landscapes visible on aerial photographs and Lidar imagery, which involved development of landscape interpretation skills in terms of topography, land-use, soils and vegetation. Metrically accurate plans require training in specialist software, a rewarding aspect of the placement, developing GIS and AutoCAD skills. Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop CS3 were also used to create project posters and report illustrations. How the air photographic record is formed, types of images available and the biases in coverage and capture are important for informed interpretation. Opportunity was thus provided to fly out of Sherburn-in-Elmet in North Yorkshire in a Cessna 172, as part of routine reconnaissance over Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

My training enabled me to contribute to the Miner-Farmer Landscapes of the North Pennines NMP, multi-disciplinary analysis of Thornton Abbey in North Lincolnshire, and an independent project to map the Roman town at Aldborough, North Yorkshire. As a result, I have an article in *Research News* and a forthcoming co-authored report in the English Heritage Research Report Series.

## LEVEL 4 NVQ

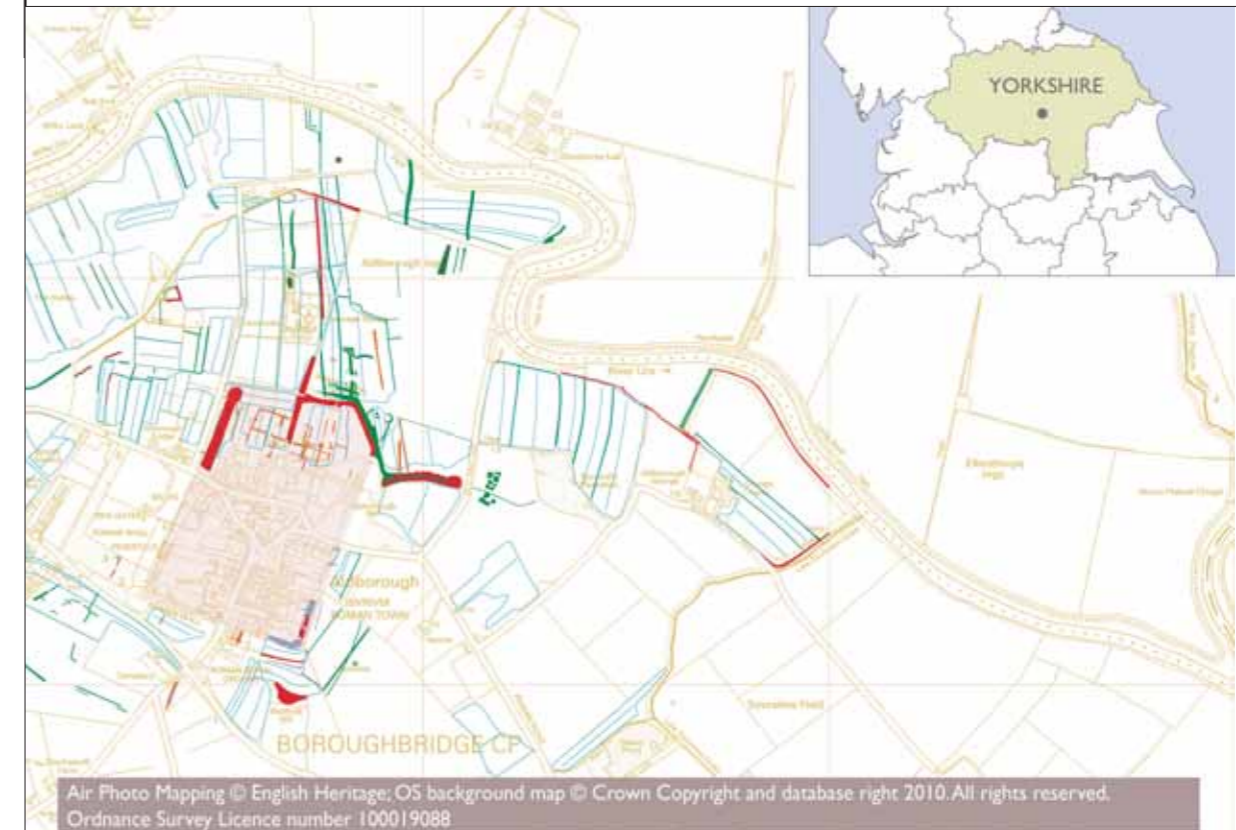
Through formal training and experiential learning I also developed time management, oral presentation skills, project management and knowledge of health and safety issues, as well as my contextual knowledge of the planning system as it applies to the historic environment. This was structured by pursuit of an NVQ in Archaeological Practice. In November

2010 I was very proud to be the first to achieve the level 4 of this award, which confirmed ability to

- agree professional standards
- characterise the archaeological resource
- conduct intrusive investigations
- conduct non-intrusive investigations
- contribute to advances in the body of knowledge and archaeological practice
- develop my own resources and protect the interests of others
- maintain compliance with archaeological requirements
- oversee project costs, quality and progress
- propose and agree project methods
- reduce risks to health and safety in the workplace
- research and analyse information to achieve objectives
- undertake analysis and interpretation

The NVQ is assessed via a portfolio of professional work and can take account of previous experience, validating one's capabilities as well as potential. I found that the NVQ consolidated the training I had received in the EPPIC but also allowed me to stretch

Air photographic mapping and analysis at Aldborough, North Yorkshire. Air Photo Mapping © English Heritage; OS background map © Crown Copyright and database right 2010. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088



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EPPIC Tara-Jane Sutcliffe setting out in a Cessna 172 on routine aerial reconnaissance with English Heritage. © English Heritage, NMR

myself. The NVQ is championed by IfA, and a level 4 award is recognised with upgrade to Associate (Alfa) grade membership. At a time when employment and career development opportunities are at a premium, the NVQ provides a competitive edge.

I am keen to thank all those in English Heritage and IfA who supported my placement, and am happy to report that I have gained employment with Archaeological Research Services Ltd, with whom I am currently applying my new skills on the North York Moors National Park NMP Project.

## Tara-Jane Sutcliffe Alfa

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North York Moors National Park. Photograph by Tara-Jane Sutcliffe, November 2010

# Archaeological archives

Roland Smith

FAME (the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) welcomes the explicit reference in PPS5 to the deposition of archaeological archives in appropriate repositories, especially as such a statement was conspicuous by its absence in PPG16 and NPPG5. The successful completion of archaeological projects should always be marked by safe deposition of the archive with an appropriate museum or storage facility.

## Archives crisis

After 20 years of PPG16 in England, and the extraordinary increase in volumes of excavated archaeological material, the mechanism to achieve this final storage of archaeological archives is clearly broken. Increasingly museums across England (and more recently also in Scotland – see *TA 78*, 8-9) are unable to accept archaeological archives due to a lack of storage space and limited resources. Although not uniform across the country, the problem has worsened markedly and will continue to do so in view of local authority spending cuts, which are having a disproportionate impact on museums. There seems no realistic possibility in the short or medium term that the situation will improve.

A recent survey (*Managing Archaeological Information*, courtesy of Duncan H Brown, English Heritage) shows that of around 200 archaeological practices in England, a sample of 12 shows that they alone hold 14,781 boxes of finds and 10,000 document files that they are unable to deposit. In total these 12 practices hold nearly 42,500 boxes of finds from 6729 projects. The immediate issue is backlog archives, some of which have already been held for over a decade. Many practices have received storage grants pending deposition but these funds are being spent on long-term temporary storage. It is likely that unless a solution is found soon, practices will be unable to afford continued storage and/or the cost of museum deposition.

FAME supports the establishment of Regional Resource Centres but, in the current straitened times, who will fund them? The sector needs to decide with

urgency what is to be done with the current backlog and how it can change its approach to address a continued lack of space. In FAME's view the time has come for a radical review leading to bold decisions on the way ahead.

## Archive usage

Any review needs to be informed by data on the usage of archaeological archives currently held in museums. There is an urgent need for a survey on how often these archives are accessed, what material/data is being researched, in what form and for what purpose. The views of museum professionals should also be taken into account. Data on the current and future storage capacity of museums should also be collated to understand fully the national picture.

## Selection, retention and disposal

In FAME's view, the future lies with greater selectivity in what is collected, what is held for analysis and what is retained after post-excavation research and publication. The survey of archaeological archive usage will be vital in considering how to implement such an approach. The Archaeological Archives Forum's draft guidance on selection and retention is welcome as it recognises 'that not all material collected or produced during an archaeological project will be worthy of preservation in perpetuity'. However the policy will have to go far beyond discarding duplicate photographs or unstratified finds. In FAME's view, the profession must come to terms with the fact that it cannot retain material to the extent that it has done, particularly in relation to bulk finds categories, whether stratified or not.

This will have significant implications for the profession, with the need for greater involvement of museum professionals from the outset and earlier processing of finds and environmental samples. Consistent application and the ready availability of appropriate specialist advice will be required. There is a need for a series of publicised case studies to advise and inform the sector on implementation and best practice. There are archives that have yielded significant new information on re-evaluation and such incidences and their circumstances need to be known and understood. The majority of archives which result from small-scale projects, often with

## where do we go from here?

negative or negligible results, and their purpose and value should be considered, especially when the significant project data is already held in technical reports by the HER.

## Deposition standards

Most archaeological archives are uniform in composition and yet there is an extraordinary diversity of deposition requirements between museums. A review could provide the ideal opportunity for standardisation, or increased flexibility where appropriate.

## Digital data

Technical reports are increasingly deposited in digital format with HERs for greater accessibility and to reduce physical storage space. Is this the future for the excavation archive records? The digital components of archives have increased exponentially in recent years and yet there is wide variance in the willingness and ability of museums to accept and curate digital data. The current default is to rely on creating physical records rather than providing museums with the necessary digital capability or using nationally recognised digital repositories such as the ADS. This issue is manifest in the adherence to certain anachronistic practices, such as the continued requirement for *microfiche*, which is now virtually impossible to source. Similarly, digital photography now provides an excellent and accessible record for all but the most specialised of projects and should be adopted as the photographic standard.

## Backlog archives

Any future changes, however, will not resolve the problem of backlog archives which is the most pressing issue for FAME's members. So what is to be done?

- rationalise archives through selection and disposal
- find cost-effective storage to reduce costs, either through deep storage or in a shared-resource
- after a given period, negotiate to return the archive to the legal owner, with an explanation of why it cannot or is not being held elsewhere
- after a given period, the practice may dispose of the archive as it sees fit

Some of the options are clearly currently unacceptable on contractual and ethical grounds, but where does responsibility lie? Local authorities who stipulate a requirement through the planning process

regarding excavation and recording projects and archive deposition must give assurances that these conditions can be met. Failing this the profession will have no alternative but to devise a system to 'sign off' archives when its own obligations have been met.

## Roland Smith MIFA

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In a good home – but these boxes can't stay with their excavators forever. © Wessex Archaeology



Joining, or registering an organisation with, IfA involves meeting a benchmark of competence and quality appropriate to the level of individual membership or the type of organisation registering. Applicants are assessed against criteria which have been developed over a number of years and are published on the IfA website. Both individual and organisational memberships are assessed through peer review and neither are about meeting a set standard and then standing still. The introduction in 2009 of compulsory CPD requires members to assess and update their skills on an ongoing basis. The Registered Organisation Scheme, too, is about continually raising standards, improving practice and developing new methodologies for delivering excellent historic environment practice.

IfA has always sought to promote individual and organisational membership as benchmarks of quality and competence within the sector and beyond. Recently, however, we have been taking another look at the way we recognise and promote excellent practice, particularly within the Registered Organisation Scheme. As part of the inspection process, panels provide feedback on any aspects of practice which have particularly impressed them, but we would like to make more opportunities to promote these examples more widely within the sector. We have looked at the potential for developing criteria for inspection panels to use, which could even develop into a formal 'badging' system to highlight particular areas of work which are exemplary.

Introducing such a system in the current financial climate may not be appropriate: additional costs and requirements within the Scheme at a time when organisations may be concentrating on staying in practice are unlikely to be helpful. Actively promoting positive examples of good practice, however, is vital during times of increased pressure such as these, in order to demonstrate the importance of maintaining and improving standards. With this in mind, we will be looking for opportunities to promote excellent practice and the work of Registered Organisations and individual members through articles in *TA*, on our website, in the *Yearbook* and the *Historic Environment Policy and Practice Journal*. Inspection panels will be tasked with reporting back on suitable examples and members and Registered Organisations are invited to submit their own material for consideration.

IfA will also be represented on the judging panel for the first Archaeology Training Forum Award for excellence in Training and Professional Development which will be announced at the IfA conference in April.

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## Far-flung islands:

The National Trust for Scotland manages three uninhabited islands at the south end of the Western Isles in the Outer Hebrides: Berneray, Mingulay and Pabbay. Apart from the lighthouse on Berneray, occupied until automation in 1980, they were abandoned around 1912. People had decided that their daily lives were just too hard. Factors included being cut-off for the 6 months of winter by stormy seas, there being no harbour facilities on any of the islands, nor regular access to a doctor or priest. And times haven't changed: even now they are challenging places to care for. The Trust has neither a sea-going vessel nor a helicopter, so access is dependent on private boat owners during the summer months (winter visits are not generally attempted).



A peat stand on Mingulay positioned so that the peat stack would catch the drying winds. © National Trust for Scotland

## Berneray, Mingulay and Pabbay

Jill Harden

### Survey and recording

After acquiring these islands in 2000 for their rich natural and cultural environments, the Trust initiated survey and recording programmes, both for management and research. This followed previous archaeological work under Patrick Foster, who had invited students from the Czech Republic to survey the islands and excavate half-a-dozen sites prior to Trust ownership and had published the results under the aegis of Sheffield University's SEARCH project in 2000. However, these surveys were undertaken pre-GPS, and it proved difficult to relocate many of the myriad features his teams had recorded across the complex topography of the three islands. Furthermore, their lack of familiarity with the archaeology of this part of Scotland had resulted in varied descriptions and identifications.

A new survey programme was developed in partnership with RCAHMS, most time being spent on Mingulay, at around 4km by 3km the largest of the three islands. This involved helicopter transport for equipment, with boats for staff. No electricity, mobile

phone coverage or water other than the burn – but the archaeology more than made up for it. Mingulay is blessed with a sandy east-facing bay backed by the post-medieval township, extensive field systems and lazy beds, and summer shielings on rough hill-ground beyond. The valley of Skipisdale has various earlier structures with large prehistoric roundhouses and settlement mounds, and groups of medieval/post-medieval buildings. On the higher slopes and ridges are numerous small, sub-rectangular settings of stones which are now recognised as peat stands. Cut peats and turfs were stacked here to dry before being taken downhill for use as fuel. These peat stands are ubiquitous across Pabbay too, with fewer on Berneray. At the time of identification they were a fairly new thesaurus type for Scotland.

### Incised early Christian stones

Berneray and Pabbay were already known to have substantial Iron Age structures in prominent positions – Dun Sron an Duin at the top of sheer 200m cliffs and Dunan Ruadh, now being washed by the highest of seas. On Mingulay, the extent of less ostentatious

A blackhouse on Berneray, looking north to Mingulay with Pabbay beyond and Barra in the far distance. Photograph: Jill Harden



The 18th/19th century township on Mingulay, with a ruined chapel to the left. Built in 1898, it stands above the blackhouses, dominating all. © National Trust for Scotland



prehistoric structures had not been previously appreciated. Both Berneray and Pabbay also have incised early Christian stones, and the latter has the clearest evidence for a small settlement of monks. As well as a cross-marked Pictish symbol stone, one of only two from the Western Isles, the survey recorded an additional cross-incised grave marker. There must be others awaiting discovery.

The review of these remains across the islands certainly proved its worth. Almost all the stone circles, cairns and chambered tombs are now recognised as more prosaic structures and features. But the isles still retain evidence of a time-depth of at least six millennia of occupation. The surveys have



The township on Mingulay, photographed by a visitor in 1906

disentangled many of these features, grouping like with like and facilitating research into past settlement patterns and land-use, for it wasn't just the land and sea that yielded food. The inhabitants enhanced their food supplies with rich harvests of seabirds nesting on the high cliffs, which provided eggs, flesh, feathers and oil. Here is a microcosm of highlands and islands life over the millennia that is now more clearly recorded and understood (a Mingulay broadsheet is available from RCAHMS).

#### Conserving ruins

Better understanding leads to better management. The conservation of later mortared buildings has begun with consolidation of the sole example on Pabbay,



The township today. © National Trust for Scotland



RCAHMS staff recording a structure discovered on the sea stack of Gearum Mor, between Berneray and Mingulay. © National Trust for Scotland

built in 1896. A flat-pack bothy/portacabin had to be helicoptered out to provide accommodation for the masons on that project. For Mingulay, a conservation statement and heritage impact assessment for the school was prepared in advance of building works in 2011/12. This is the only roofed building on the island and will be used as a base for those working here. Other ruins on Mingulay and Berneray also need consolidation before they collapse into rubble.

#### Rabbit-alert

Blackhouses and other drystone structures are not being consolidated but, like the archaeological remains, are being monitored for change. It is clear that the greatest threat is rabbit damage. The 19th-century islanders of Pabbay apparently declined the offer of rabbits but Berneray and Mingulay now have vast numbers undermining drystone structures, digging out earthen banks and destroying stratigraphy. The Trust has yet to develop an integrated programme of control: it will need to leave some areas for the rabbits – a key food source for golden eagles – but remove them from archaeologically significant parts.

These are not the only issues, for these islands are not abandoned in the eyes of the local communities of Watersay and Barra. They are part of their history, with strong links and memories running through the families to this day. Successful management of these islands needs to involve people, to share knowledge



An internal gable of Pabbay House before consolidation and reapplication of eroded lime pointing



After conservation. © National Trust for Scotland

and undertake further research. These activity areas have still to be addressed, but the opportunities are clearly outstanding.

#### Jill Harden MifA

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Branigan K & Foster P 2000 *From Barra to Berneray*



Monitoring blackhouse ruins: recording structure by structure the ingress of wind-blown sand and the location of rabbit burrows. © National Trust for Scotland





A prehistoric landscape at Loch of Kellister, with crofting features (particularly 'plantiecrubs', stone built kale yards) superimposed. Plantiecrubs were often built on top of prehistoric house sites, making use of orthostats already in place

Shetland is the most northerly group of islands in Britain, 130 miles from Aberdeen (the closest public transport links) and from Bergen. It comprises 15 inhabited islands. The time and expense of travel make Shetland remote to modern eyes, and it is difficult to participate in meetings on the Mainland. (When I first went to Shetland and was on the Council of IFA, there was an assumption that I would resign rather than expect travel and essential overnight expenses). However, Shetland is cosmopolitan, with boats arriving from around the world. To the Vikings, Shetland was at the heart of the sea road, and we have dense rural Viking settlement in Unst, the most northerly island of Britain. Just 12 miles long and 5 miles wide, there are more than 40 Viking farmsteads, three of them recently excavated as part of Shetland Amenity Trust's *Viking Unst* project.

#### COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST

When Shetland appointed an Archaeologist in 1986 the post was outsourced to Shetland Amenity Trust, one of the public bodies created with Shetland's oil revenue. Shetland having a population of only 22,000, the forthcoming post was debated at length in the local paper and people already had a variety of expectations. At that time, Shetland had recently seen excavations by Olwyn Owen and team, and the profile of archaeology had been raised by a visit of Prince Charles and Diana to Kebister. Historic Scotland's Noel Fojut had walked the hills and recorded new sites and was a well-known figure. Shetland has spectacular monuments and also the extensive prehistoric and Viking landscapes which have completely captivated me. The expectation that the Shetland Archaeologist would just create an SMR and do development control was always a minority view: Shetlanders wanted me to fill a role which hadn't been invented then: that of Community Archaeologist.

## SHETLAND: a flavour of island archaeology in the far north

Val Turner

#### TRAINING TO ORDER

Within months of my arrival the Shetland survey group was born, carrying out an EDM survey of Viking/Norse soapstone quarries with volunteers. There was no professional help to call on, but the numerous small communities and strong sense of identity had already helped create a network of History Groups, whose main focus was family history but whose members gradually expressed an interest in archaeology. In 2000, the *Shetland's Past* project began. Since then we have carried out training to order, to help groups record archaeological sites in a meaningful way. We produce manuals and training materials to empower groups to carry out high quality survey on their own, creating exhibitions and feeding information back into the SMR. We are giving people skills when they ask for this, rather than to any schedule of our own.

#### BURNT MOUND

Shetland Amenity Trust manages two major *Access to Heritage* projects – *Old Scatness Broch and Iron Age Village* and *Viking Unst* – pioneering the concept of public interpretation being of equal importance to research and marrying the interests of the two. Living History and reconstruction buildings have become key to our work, on and off site, in schools and with adult groups. The History Group on the island of Bressay developed and obtained funding for their own project with minimal support from us – the rescue and relocation of a coastally-eroding burnt mound, with professional archaeologists from EASE leading the excavation work. The burnt mound, recreated outside the Bressay Heritage Centre, is now the focus of experimental work by the group, in association with a PhD student.

#### SCOTTISH/EU LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Shetland sits within the Scottish/EU legislative framework, in spite of strong cultural affinities with Scandinavia. The Zetland County Council (ZCC) Act also gives Shetland additional legal jurisdiction over marine matters and therefore we, as an Archaeology Section, have a long history of involvement in marine

(right) PhD Student Lauren Doughton takes the temperature of water in the tank of the reconstructed burnt mound, with Living History demonstrators and members of the Bressay History Group

licensing and underwater issues. Another aspect of island life is that our Councillors are largely Independent. The one attempt made to politicise it resulted in a resounding defeat at the next election. This makes it hard to guess how any Councillor will react to any given issue, and everything is very personal.

The archaeology of Shetland is quite different from that of much of Scotland and there are few contract archaeologists living locally. For those who do, it tends to be either famine or feast. The Amenity Trust's Archaeology Service currently comprises four full time and several seasonal staff: it includes the running of Old Scatness as an *Access to Heritage* site, and developing work on the *Viking Unst* project. The small population of Shetland means that the Archaeology Service is very visible, and I have promoted this through a weekly column in the local paper during the field season and radio programmes for BBC Radio Shetland. When things don't go according to plan, our public position can become a double-edged sword but, on the other hand, we know our MSP and other officials and can talk to anyone at any level. In development control work the joys are incredible and the frustrations (including financial cuts) are the same as everywhere. The quality of Shetland's archaeology and the desire to protect it for the people of the islands, past and present, is our inspiration.

Val Turner MIfA

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Members of the Old Scatness team, Jane Outram and Jon Pulley, play hnefatafel, a game rather like chess, in one of the reconstruction buildings at Old Scatness



Demonstrating ancient crafts and getting visitors to have a go themselves is an important part of interpreting sites at Old Scatness. The reconstructed wheelhouse is in the background. The floor plan is based on archaeological evidence from the site



Old Scatness Broch and Iron Age Village under excavation

# Iona – a place apart

Islands always have a particular feeling about them but few feel as special as Iona, with its combination of wonderful natural and cultural heritage features. Over the last few years the National Trust for Scotland, which owns most of island and manages it in partnership with Historic Scotland, has undertaken several small archaeological and conservation projects here.



Derek Alexander

Bonfire and sunset on the beach. Photograph: National Trust for Scotland

Columba's establishment of a monastery on Iona in 563 AD, and subsequent construction of a Benedictine Abbey on the same spot in about 1200 (which survived until the 17th century and saw reconstruction as the lively centre of the world-wide Iona Community in the 20th century) has rightly been the focus of archaeological attention. However, there are many other archaeological sites (including possible prehistoric burial mounds, Dun Bhuirg Iron Age fort, carved crosses and grave slabs that date from the 8th century onwards and a 12th-century nunnery). Unfortunately, apart from the ecclesiastical sites, no archaeological deposits had been dated by scientific means, until recently.

### Bronze Age on the beach

Erosion of a burn edge in the sandy machair, on the west site of the island, just inland of Port Ban, exposed a text-book pit section. Within the neatly truncated fill were worked flints, pot sherds, animal bone and coarse stone tools. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal produced a date in the Late Bronze Age (SUERC 22587: 2730±30 BP) – the first datable evidence for prehistoric activity on the island outside the Abbey confines.

A Late Bronze Age pit revealed on the beach at Port Ban. Photograph: National Trust for Scotland



### Archaeology in the Abbey

The immediate area around the Abbey itself has been subject firstly to widespread disturbance due to the consolidation and renovation work carried out on the structures from the 1870s until 1965 and also from numerous (over 70) excavations by archaeologists, including Charles Thomas, Richard Reece, the Fowlers, John Barber, Finbar McCormick, and Jerry O'Sullivan (to name a few). The Abbey is now in the care of Historic Scotland, is lived in and used by the Iona Community, although much of the ground outside is owned by the National Trust for Scotland and is part of a tenanted farm. A burst drain in a scheduled area south of the Abbey recently led to a geophysical survey by the Trust, with a grant from Historic Scotland. The work was conducted by Sue



Geophysics beside the Abbey. Photograph: National Trust for Scotland



One isolated bay contains white marble that was briefly exploited. Equipment left behind when the quarry fell out of use at the onset of the First World War has recently been conserved by the National Trust for Scotland. Photograph: Alison Taylor

Ovenden, based at the Orkney College Geophysical Unit. Using resistivity, magnetometry and GPR the team mapped the full extent of the monastic *vallum* that surrounded the site. Another discovery has been a rectilinear ditched enclosure, just south-east of the ruins of St Mary's chapel. A low mound in the field corresponds with the location of this enclosure, whose ditch defines an area 44m by 30m. This may represent a cemetery. These projects attracted much attention both from the national and the local press and the local community. It is hoped in the future to develop a research strategy in partnership with Historic Scotland, to explore some of the recently discovered features on the island.



A rare survival of the earthworks of spade agriculture, on sandy soil near Port Ban. Photograph: Alison Taylor



Resistivity plot of features around the Abbey. © National Trust for Scotland

The National Trust for Scotland has many islands and parts of islands in its care, each with its own archaeological story to tell: St Kilda, Canna, Iona, Fair Isle, Staffa, Mingulay, Pabbay, Berneray (p10) and properties on Arran, Mull, Unst and Yell. Working on islands is always rewarding, especially Iona, and is undoubtedly good for the soul!

**Derek Alexander Alfa**  
Interim Head of Archaeological Services  
The National Trust for Scotland



The Burial Road – high-status bodies were brought to Iona for burial, the route to the cemetery from the harbour and from the Abbey being still extant. Photograph: Alison Taylor

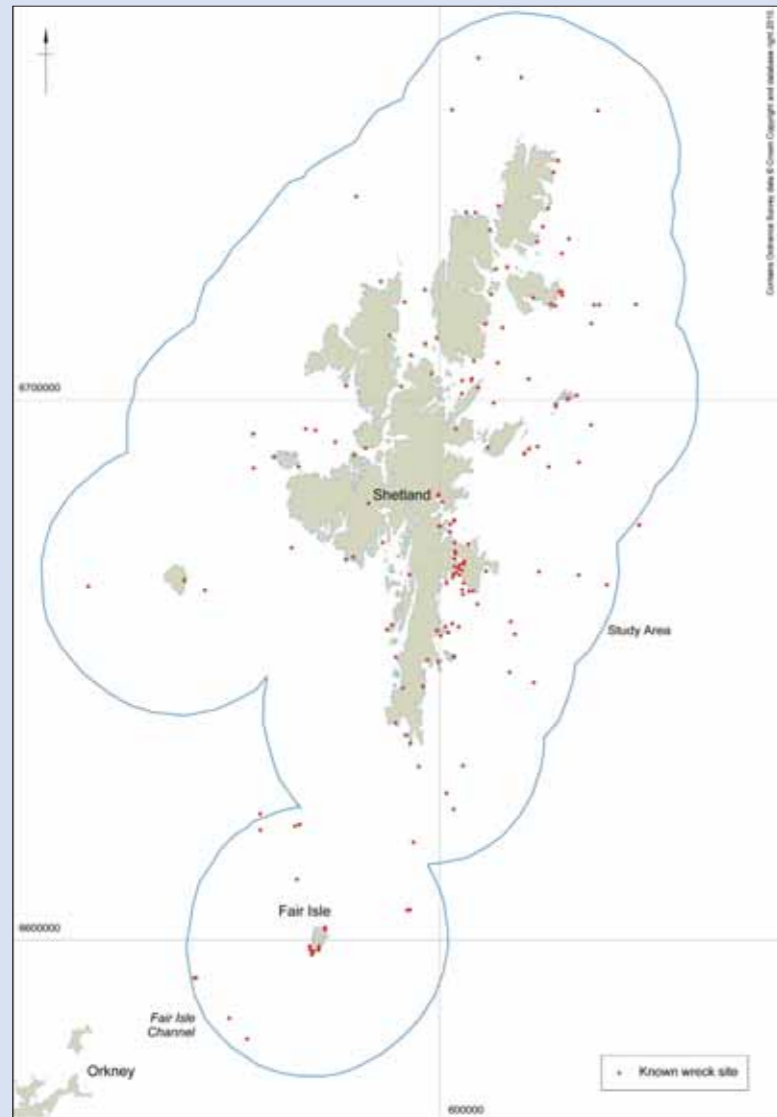


The wreck of the Norwegian ship *Ustetind* at Silwick, 1935.  
© Shetland Museum and Archives

*'The tallow from the Aiswick ship  
Was carried far and wide:  
It lay about like roogs of truck  
They scarce took time to hide*

*'The Weisdale folk, the Kuckron folk,  
The Stromfirth folk and aa  
Cam oe'r the hill at dead of night  
And carried it awa*

*'They ate the fat, they drank the fat,  
They used the fat for light,  
There ne'er was sic a godsend  
As the tallow ship that night'*



This poem by Andrew Greig and Robert Laing, two 19th-century teachers, describes how inhabitants of the island of Nesting in Shetland turned the loss in 1834 of the Russian ship *St Nicolai* to their advantage. It underlines the long-standing economic and cultural importance that shipwrecks have had for Shetland and for island societies generally. Shetland and Fair Isle have traditionally been short of wood and wrecked ships have been one of the ways that islanders have acquired scarce materials for houses, fences, furniture and prized ornaments, even boats.

### Centre of a maritime world

Shetland communities have always relied on the sea for transport, trade and subsistence. Far from being remote, Shetland is at the centre of a maritime world. During the medieval period it formed part of the great Viking 'sea road' stretching from Norway to Ireland and beyond. During the post-medieval and modern periods much of the Atlantic trade of Northern Europe passed the islands. From the 16th century onwards the waters off Shetland have been amongst the most important European fisheries, and in the First World War the islands were a staging post for North Sea convoys and played a vital role in the blockade of Germany. Upwards of 1500 ships and boats were lost in territorial waters in and around

Known wreck distribution on territorial waters around Shetland and Fair Isle. © Wessex Archaeology

Shetland and Fair Isle, almost 9% of the Scottish total, and remains of more than 180 wrecks are known to survive on the seabed.

Maritime archaeologists have long held a fascination with Shetland, but studies have tended to focus on a few high profile sites, mostly wrecked post-medieval warships or armed merchant ships of international origins. In 2010 Wessex Archaeology commenced a project for Historic Scotland and Shetland Amenity Trust to assess the significance of the shipwreck heritage of Shetland and Fair Isle as a whole. The project is a pilot. It is designed to support Historic Scotland's marine heritage designation and management responsibilities and Shetland Amenity Trust's role in marine planning work. At the same time, it is hoped that the project will promote wider appreciation and understanding of this important aspect of the heritage.

The project has compiled information about known and located sites from data held by RCAHMS, the Shetland SMR, and other sources including divers, history societies, museums, professional archaeologists and archivists. A wide range of themes are evident from examination of a ship's build, use, loss, survival and history of investigation. These themes have relevance and significance across local, regional, national and even international horizons. An example of the theme of war, for which there is good survival on the Shetland seabed, can be seen in the table below.

This thematic approach helps us understand the significance of the large number of 19th-and 20th-century wrecks that dominate the shipwreck resource

in Shetland, as elsewhere. It also pinpoints where gaps exist, both in terms of survival and our understanding. Perhaps the most important 'gap' relates to the evolution of the vernacular small boat tradition of Shetland.

It is anticipated that field surveys will take place in summer 2011 on high priority sites emerging from the desk-based work. This will coincide with the visit to Shetland of Historic Scotland staff who will be carrying out scheduling fieldwork in south Mainland, west Mainland and Unst. This fieldwork will also provide opportunities to engage the Shetland public with this project and with the shipwreck heritage of Shetland in general.

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Historic Scotland

**Val Turner MIfA**  
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**Steve Webster, Graham Scott AlfA and  
Nicolas Bigourdan**  
Wessex Archaeology Ltd



Shetland children with objects salvaged from the wreck of a Soviet trawler. © Shetland Museum and Archives

MAIN THEME	PROJECT THEME	SUB-THEME
War	World Wars of the 20th century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Role of the Shetland-based Northern Patrol in blockading Germany and winning the First World War</li> <li>Role of the Auxiliary Patrol in defending seaways around the Northern Isles against U-boat attack</li> <li>Role of the 'Shetland Bus' in supporting covert and resistance operations in Norway during the Second World War</li> <li>Role of Shetland in convoy operations, particularly in the First World War</li> <li>Impact of German U-boat and other attacks around Shetland and Fair Isle</li> </ul>
	Continental and American Wars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact of continental wars</li> <li>Piracy and privateering</li> <li>Impact of American War of Independence</li> </ul>



The rich archaeological landscape at Dunagoil. The remains of two prehistoric forts survive on these dramatic volcanic ridges © RCAHMS DP 062659

George Geddes

## RCAHMS and the archaeological landscape of Bute

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland has a long history of fieldwork on Scotland's islands, beginning with a visit to Fidra in East Lothian and publication of two of our inventory series, *The Outer Hebrides, Skye and the Small Isles* (1928), and *Orkney and Shetland* (1946). Further trips included North Rona (once Britain's most remote inhabited island) in 1924, while the islands of the Firth of Forth were included in *Fife* (1933). The monumental task of surveying Argyllshire (1971 to 1992) included a host of island visits, one of which involved staff wading out to a vitrified dun. Although this traditional methodology produced standard-setting works and the honing of unique investigative and illustrative skills and methodologies, it was apparent that the organisation needed to work more efficiently and to engage with more of Scotland's people – one reason for the publication of the summary *The Archaeology of Argyll*, in 1997.

Thus RCAHMS began smaller, more manageable surveys, the publications of which acted as introductions to the archaeology of specific areas. Recent island surveys include the Small Isles, Mingulay, Inchkeith, part of Shetland, and both St Kilda and North Rona. The testing conditions of remote islands, and the increased costs of undertaking fieldwork, have resulted in new methodologies and in partnership working.

### Back to Bute

The seven volumes of *Argyll* did not include the former county of Buteshire, and it took little persuasion to bring RCAHMS back to the isle of Bute itself for a thorough revision and upgrade of the archaeological records, undertaken in partnership with the Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme, whose remit is to 'enable residents, visitors and new audiences to discover Bute'. In a telling departure from traditional methodologies, local volunteers took part in most aspects of the fieldwork, both as students and as self-titled 'native guides'. Their knowledge and enthusiasm was of great value, and coupled well with the broad experience and varied methodologies which professionalism allows.

The existing 500 or so archaeological records for Bute belied many years of dedicated work by Dorothy Marshall (1900–1992), and the Buteshire Natural History Society. The legacy, including numerous excavations, surveys and research, has been positively affected by the sense of identity, community and capacity that a small island brings. Research by other organisations or individuals on Bute has, however, been limited, and the most notable contributions date to the early 20th century. Developer-funded work, so important to research since 1990, is limited by the island's economy, although the privately-funded research project on the adjacent island of Inchmarnock has provided an exemplar for Early Christian studies.

### A new model

The RCAHMS project involved

- complete revision of existing records
- systematic survey for additional sites, and detailed site surveys
- training opportunities and workshops

Over 150 new sites were discovered, including a stone circle, rock art, hut circles and an illicit still. Grid references were improved, illustrations added, descriptions written, and desk-based research undertaken. All fieldwork was open to both individuals and societies. The project began the process of breaking down 'island' mentalities – between individual and group, local and national, and amateur and professional. It focused instead on good quality and accessible knowledge, which can be used to aid research and management, and to help in the development and sustainability of a sense of Scotland's places.

By providing results of the survey through our website and a booklet we hope to inspire curiosity and learning, on Bute and more widely. The records are one of the most comprehensive historic environment records available in Scotland. They are a first port of call for information on Bute, and we have made over 1600 digital images available through our website. Through partnership working and efficient practice, we have provided a model for sustainable and effective use of government resources, one that sees the provision of knowledge as its principal *raison d'être* and provides a positive legacy for the connection of people to place.

Our national database Canmore and our publications, including *The Archaeological Landscape of Bute*, are available through [www.rcahms.gov.uk](http://www.rcahms.gov.uk).

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Before roll-on-roll-off ferries, island fieldwork involved ingenuity and patience. Taking an RCAHMS landrover to Coll, 1967. © RCAHMS SC 1098516



Scalpsie Barrow during the volunteer excavation. RCAHMS staff assisted volunteers and staff of the Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme, and the excavations recovered a Bronze Age cinerary urn © RCAHMS DP 088550



RCAHMS staff and volunteers discussing the day's survey. © RCAHMS

# Archaeology and Planning on the Isle of Man

In 1996 I contributed the article *Archaeology and planning: a view from the Isle of Man to TA's predecessor The Field Archaeologist* (25, pp 14–17), drawing attention to the different legal structures and policies existing on the Isle of Man and comparing working practices with British jurisdictions. Re-reading it recently recalls a slight sense of pessimism. It is worth re-visiting the salient legal and policy background, which differ significantly from the UK. Our archaeological legislation, comprised in the Manx Museum and National Trust Acts 1959-86, includes

- protection of ancient monuments and archaeological objects
- reporting all archaeological discoveries within 14 days
- licensing all archaeological excavation
- licensing the destruction or alteration of archaeological objects
- restrictions on the use of metal detectors
- licensing export of archaeological objects off the Island

This legislation is looking increasingly long in the tooth but contains useful powers, particularly with regard to licensing; a new Heritage Protection Bill is likely to go out for consultation in the near future. Existing treasure trove legislation, dating from 1586(!), is already being revised and a new Treasure Bill is expected shortly.

## Planning legislation and the Valletta Convention

Planning legislation is encompassed within a revised and consolidated Town and Country Planning Act dating from 1999, and overarching planning policy is set out in the Isle of Man Strategic Plan, brought into operation in August 2007. The Strategic Plan is the first Manx planning policy to refer to the Valletta Convention, although the Island adopted the convention back in 2001. The Plan contains policies to protect important archaeological sites or designated monuments from damage or disturbance, and from development which would detract from their setting. No cases have yet arisen which severely test the 'setting' issue and it will be interesting to see how this will be interpreted, particularly in the context of a limited geographical and landscape entity like the Isle of Man.

## No planning archaeologist

The Strategic Plan also requires that archaeological evaluations be submitted before determination of

## Andrew Johnson

proposals affecting sites of known or potential archaeological significance. In cases where preservation in situ is not merited, the planning authority will expect to secure excavations and/or recording in advance of construction. In practice this policy is proving somewhat hit-and-miss: several major Government developments have gone through rigorous pre-planning impact assessment, but the private sector is less easily controlled. This is probably because the Island still does not have a PPG16 / PPS5 equivalent, and the planning authority does not employ a planning archaeologist; whilst closer links with Manx National Heritage in part make up for the lack of in-house expertise, procedures do not yet exist within the planning authority to ensure private developers undertake pre-planning consultations on archaeological matters.

The built environment is better served through planning legislation, the designation of Conservation Areas and Registered Buildings (nearly equivalent to Listing, but without a grading system) and an in-house building conservation officer. Liaison between that officer and the author has been increasingly close during the last decade and has proved significant in spreading understanding of buildings archaeology, conservation repair, and more recently the importance of vernacular buildings. Whilst the Island's seaside building stock has been lauded since the time of Betjeman, the rural vernacular, which is related to a centuries-old pattern of landholding, is now under particular threat of redevelopment.

## Encouraging signs

On p24 Fraser Brown reports spectacular archaeological discoveries at Ronaldsway Airport, and this is not the only work undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North in recent years. Recent and current projects include pre-planning assessment and fieldwork associated with a 40km natural gas pipeline network, and a watching brief for a recycling facility closer to the Airport which has quickly produced a remarkable and rich variety of prehistoric and potentially medieval deposits. A growing number of pre-planning assessments are now being undertaken, encouraging signs that the mitigation of archaeological and other environmental concerns are playing a growing part in determination of development proposals.

In the last five years the Isle of Man Government has recognised that cultural heritage and national identity

play significant roles in the promotion of the Manx 'brand', and these are gradually being translated into Government policy. As with any flourishing economy – the island has seen over 25 years of continuous economic growth – there will continue to be a vigorous dynamic between preservation of the past and development of a sustainable future.

## Andrew Johnson

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Thatched cottage at Cranstal, currently being restored with advice from the Manx Building Conservation Officer and the author. Recording of the building works has proved that the building is earthen-walled, behind facades of local brick



Ballavagher, a Manx farm probably improved in the second quarter of the 19th century on the back of rising demand for dairy products in the nearby capital, Douglas. Spoiled by modern windows and loss of interior detail, its slate-hung façade is a rare local example. The house is likely now to be saved within a business park development



Rehanging the original slates on this early 19th-century cottage in Kirk Michael revealed a carefully made roof whose precision carpentry belies its low status. Note the vertically boarded timber partitions in the upstairs rooms



The Manx 'brand' finds its way onto Time Team for the first time in 2007, with investigation of an early medieval chapel in the middle of Mount Murray golf course, whose fairways had been carefully designed around it in the early 1990s

The Portable Antiquities Scheme does not operate on the Isle of Man: instead, longstanding legislation requires all archaeological objects to be notified. In 2008, this resulted in acquisition for the national collections of this fine 10th-century pommel and guard from a Viking sword, found by metal detectorists near Ballaugh



# Excavating Mesolithic and Bronze Age houses on the Isle of Man

As Andrew Johnson discussed on the previous pages, cultural heritage is considered important for the distinctive identity of the Isle of Man and it also provides revenue through tourism. Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), based in Lancaster, has had the privilege of being involved in several projects. The most high-profile of these, redevelopment of the Isle of Man Airport at Ronaldsway, Malew, commissioned by the Isle of Man Government, has produced spectacular findings. Other important sites have been investigated during construction of a natural gas pipeline and in the course of private developments.

## Insular traditions

Ronaldsway has been a well-known type-site on Man since discoveries during construction of the airport in the 1930s. Perhaps most noteworthy was a pit house and associated finds dating to the late Neolithic period, which permitted identification of an insular form of the Grooved Ware tradition that became known as Ronaldsway Culture. Another site was Ronaldsway Village, a complex of roundhouses and other settlement remains associated with a ceramic assemblage subsequently radiocarbon-dated to the mid to late Bronze Age. These are now the principal settlement type-sites on Man for their respective periods. Together with sites ranging from the Mesolithic to early medieval

Fraser Brown

periods, these were included in a desk-based assessment by the Centre for Manx Studies that was commissioned as part of the Environmental Statement.

## Bronze Age houses, Iron Age settlement?

Subsequent excavations were in keeping with these high expectations. OA North found settlement remains belonging to the Ronaldsway Village, which was of greater extent than previously thought, and linear in form. This comprised several roundhouses with sunken floors surrounded by stone kerbs. One roundhouse had burned down, leading to preservation of internal clay-made fixtures. It may have been torched during deliberate abandonment of the settlement – an adult and infant had been buried in a pit cut through the centre of one of the other structures, and the kerb of yet another had been grubbed-up and gathered into a cairn, next to which an adult male was buried. This individual may have been a warrior of some status; in several places, his skeleton bore the unhealed marks left by an edged weapon, and on his arm he wore an amulet of iron and copper alloy. This object may suggest an Iron Age date for this part of the settlement, if the burial is indeed contemporaneous, although the pottery assemblage superficially resembles the Bronze Age material collected in the 1930s.

## Mesolithic house

A rare Mesolithic pit-house was also probably part of a more extensive settlement – another such house was previously investigated 150m to the east, at Cass Ny Hawin, and quantities of worked flint can be recovered eroding out of the cliff face in the area between. Material recovered from the Mesolithic house includes c15,000 struck flints; other stone tools, some of which, unusually for the period, have been shaped by grinding; and deposits of burnt hazelnuts and charred wooden structural elements that suggest the house burned down. All finds have been three-dimensionally recorded, and the entirety of the deposit within the house was removed, as whole-earth samples, by spit and 1m grid square. It is hoped that the careful way the structure was

excavated and recorded will provide insights into the lives of those who once dwelt within it. It will also be possible to make comparisons with the small corpus of contemporary structures, including the recent discoveries at Howick, Northumbria and at East Barns, East Lothian.

We hope that funding will be forthcoming in the near future for analysis and publication, as the structures, finds and palaeoenvironmental remains promise to tell a story of huge interest to the wider archaeological community and to the Manx people.

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A Bronze Age roundhouse, showing internal features

An Iron Age warrior with a bronze and iron amulet, his bones showing evidence of unhealed marks left by a weapon blade



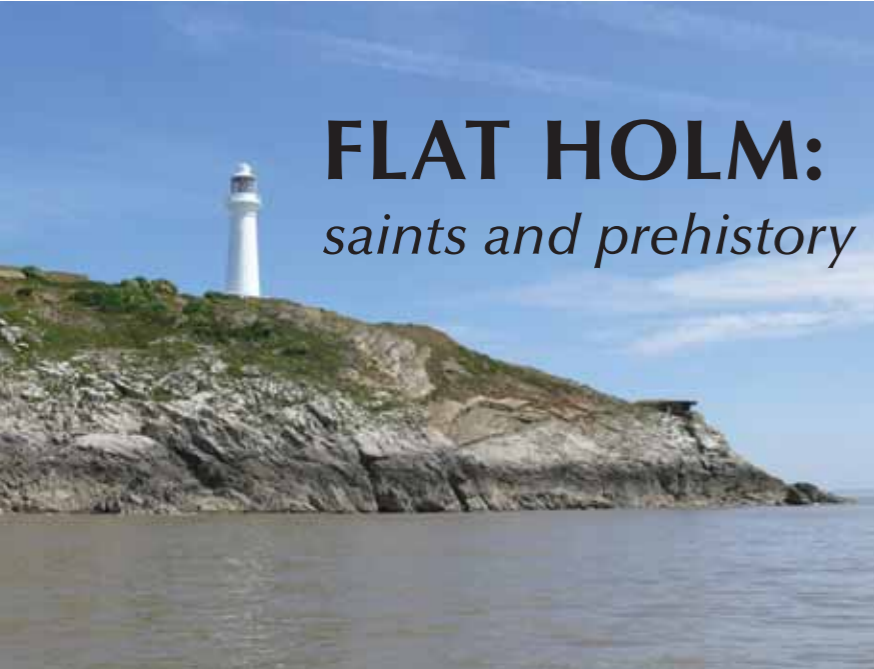
A rare Mesolithic pit-house under excavation on the site of Isle of Man airport



Flint tools and worked stones from a Mesolithic house at Ronaldsway

The Bronze Age village at Ronaldsway, under excavation





# FLAT HOLM: saints and prehistory

Flat Holm island  
and its lighthouse

The island of Flat Holm, at the mouth of the River Severn and 4km south-east of the Vale of Glamorgan coast, forms part of the City and County of Cardiff and is administered as a SSSI and nature reserve, whilst its neighbour, Steep Holm, further out in the Bristol Channel, is administratively part of England. In early 2010 the Cardiff Harbour Authority submitted a planning application to replace a septic tank to prevent discharge of raw sewage into the Severn, and a watching brief was required.



Inscribed stone found during desk-based assessment, recording the name of Flat Holm but possibly not ancient

## in the Severn Estuary

Andy Sherman

### LENTEN RETREAT?

Archaeology on Flat Holm ranges from a Neolithic flint scatter and a Bronze Age axe to a mass burial pit for 19th-century shipwreck victims and anti-ship and anti-aircraft defences constructed between the mid-19th century and the Second World War. Indeed, a previously unrecognised gun-laying radar mat was discovered during our latest programme of work. The island's military defences are scheduled, and its lighthouse and foghorn house are listed. The islands probably first appear in the sources for the pre-Norman period as *Echni* and *Ronech*. *Echni* is referred to as a Lenten retreat in the hagiography of St Cadog, written c 1100 (though Cadog himself lived in the 5th/6th centuries AD). Flat Holm is often accepted as *Echni*, although Caradog of Lancafar'n's *Life of Gildas* says that *Echni* was closer to England and *Ronech* to Wales, suggesting that *Echni* is actually Steep Holm. Gildas was said to have built a chapel and *cubiculum* on *Echni* and lived on sea birds' eggs and fish.

### INSCRIBED STONES

The only contemporary physical evidence from Flat Holm is a rectangular stone, inscribed with a Latin equal-armed cross formed by broad and deeply pecked grooves with a central dot, dated to between the 7th and 9th centuries AD and now in the National Museum of Wales. A second inscribed stone was found during the initial walkover during the desk-based assessment; at the time of discovery it was tentatively identified as of a similar date. However, Mark Redknap of the National Museum later deciphered the stone as reading 'Flat Holm' a name not thought to have been used before the 10th century, so it must be later, and possibly not of great antiquity. The island is documented in the medieval period as the site of a grange belonging to St Augustine's Abbey in Bristol. A curved segment of a bank enclosing the site of the associated medieval cemetery has been recorded as part of the grange, but could date back to an early medieval cemetery.

### PREHISTORY ON THE BEACH

The new septic tank was sited to the west of the grange and in late March we started the watching-brief. Landing on Flat Holm is tide dependent so we

left Cardiff Harbour at 5:15am. The contractors' plant had already been landed, although the dumper's engine had flooded when it was driven into deep water and had to be dragged lifeless on to land. We at least arrived dry-foot. The watching-brief revealed no archaeological remains, but lasted all day, and the weather changed rapidly for the worse overnight. By morning the sea was too rough for the boat to land safely and the contractors had to rescue their materials from the beach, the sea having surged past the point where they were told it was safe to store items. However, five tons of gravel doesn't suffer from being flooded, and they only lost one bag. Fortunately we'd been warned of the risk of being stranded and had packed extra food. On the third day we took a walk along the base of the low, earth cliffs on the western shore where the storm had created fresh areas of erosion, and we found a Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead and a small flint flake that had begun to erode out of the cliff, and a small

assemblage of flakes and cores on the beach, where they had been washed out of the cliffs overnight.

In the evening the sea was still too rough for the boat to dock against the quay and so, as the harbour office in Cardiff closes for a week over Easter and this was our last chance of getting home, the Rigid Inflatable Boat was hard-landed on the West Beach and we waded through the surf to reach it. We arrived in the docks in the evening of the third day of what was meant to be a one-day's watching brief. Mainland archaeology was never like this!

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A Bronze Age arrow head, freshly washed from a cliff. A small assemblage on the beach indicates that a prehistoric settlement is being eroded



Knight JK 1984 'Sources for the Early History of Morgannwg' in Savory HM (ed) *Glamorgan County History, Volume II, Early Glamorgan, Prehistory and Early History*. Cardiff

Redknap, M and Lewis, J M 2007, *A corpus of Early Medieval inscribed stones and stone sculpture in Wales: Volume I South-East Wales and the English Border*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press



Contractors rescuing supplies from a high tide

Lundy is a small granite outcrop, three and a half miles long and half a mile wide, in the Bristol Channel. It is often out of sight of land and can be isolated by storm for days or weeks. Access is by ferry in summer and helicopter in winter, it is administered by the Landmark Trust and received over 17000 visitors in 2010.

## RICH ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE

The island stands like a block of upland in the middle of the ocean, with standing stones, cairns, Bronze Age and medieval settlements and field systems preserved through its remote island setting and lack of later development. In Beacon Hill Cemetery four early Christian memorial stones propped against the enclosing wall may represent a time when the island had deep spiritual significance, perhaps being the retreat of a saint or the home of a community for which little other evidence has yet been found. A proud castle keep with 13th-century origins dominates the landing bay, and numerous batteries

and lookouts are also testament to its strategic position. The lighthouses and old west coast fog battery warn of its hazardous position to shipping, and a short-lived 19th-century quarry shows a failed attempt to exploit the island's natural resources.

## SURVEY AND CONSERVATION

Although many excavations and studies have been undertaken, including work by the Lundy Field Society in the 1960s, it was not until the 1990s that the extent of archaeology across the island was mapped in the *Lundy Survey*, a campaign of short fieldwork sessions by National Trust staff and volunteers. In addition to accurate recording in the field, information was gathered from previous investigations and indexed through the Trust's archaeological database, the Historic Buildings Sites and Monuments Record (HBSMR). The database records over 1400 individual features, contains management recommendations and is linked to polygonised survey data in a GIS. The *Lundy Survey* has informed management of the island and development of a new Conservation Management Plan (imminent at the time of writing). Lundy's national significance was recognised through scheduling of 41 sites and areas. Many of Lundy's features lie within an SSSI, and the survey allows archaeological concerns to be balanced with those of nature conservation.

## GUIDELINES

Leaflets about archaeology and management of the historic environment (including advice to visitors on reporting finds) were produced in liaison with the Landmark Trust, with grant aid from English Heritage. Our warden now has a system for temporary finds storage prior to deposit and conservation. A field guide explores the archaeology more deeply. The management leaflet, mainly intended for staff and volunteers, provides a simplified version of the landscape survey plan and highlights areas of scheduling. It sets out guidelines to ensure that unintentional damage through everyday activity is kept to a minimum and indicates when to seek advice. The guidelines cover the use and maintenance of trackways, fences, and walls and sourcing of stone for repair. In particular, attention is drawn to stones which, though apparently randomly situated, may have archaeological meaning. The advice extends to those who may be involved in controlling vegetation for archaeological or nature conservation reasons. This includes removal of bracken and rhododendron (and their associated



dangers of/from fire), and the archaeological potential of soils. Reference is made to the control of animals including rabbits and farm stock.

Today, the island and its small farm, supported by Environmental Stewardship agreements, are managed to a level designed to achieve a conservation balance for its wildlife, archaeology and farming needs.

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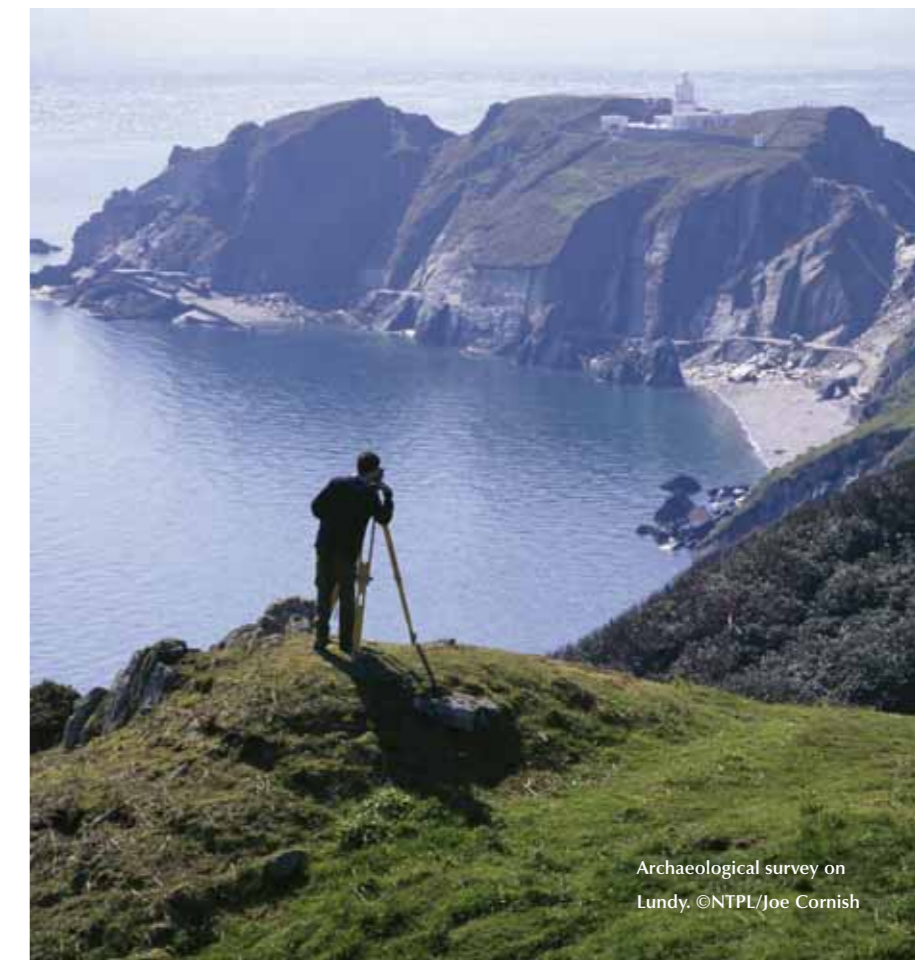
The Old Light and Keepers House on Lundy. ©NTPL/Joe Cornish



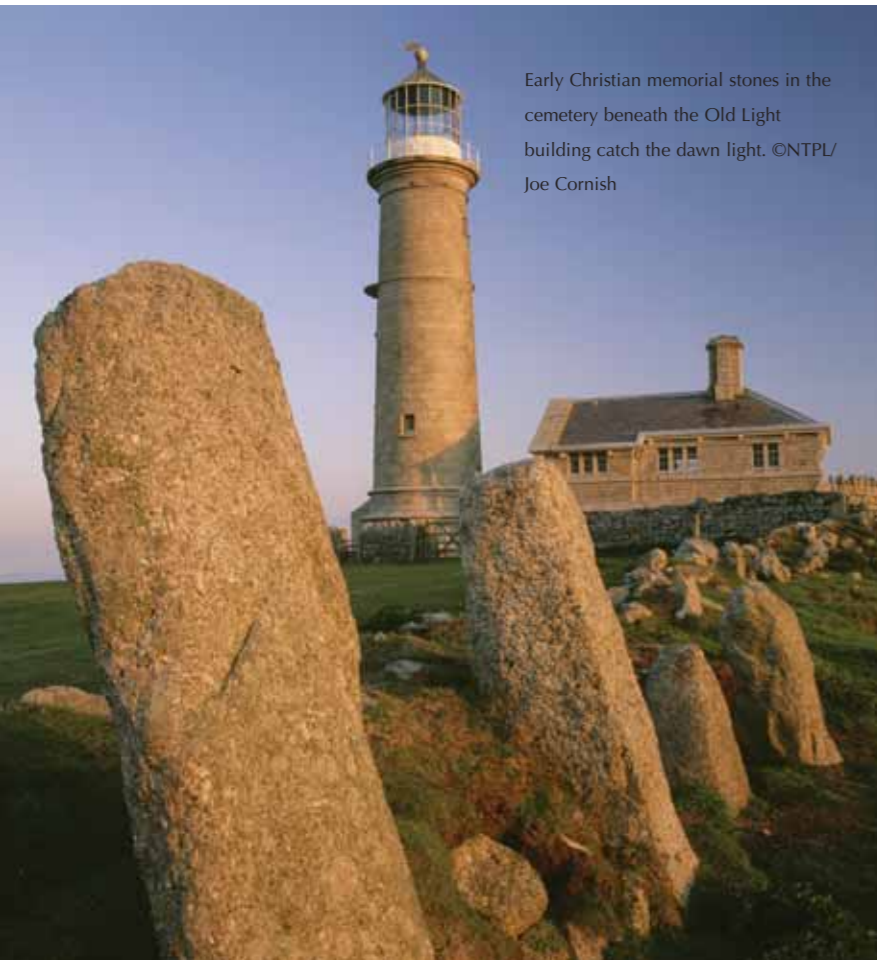
(left) The Old Battery, used in the Civil War but with origins in the 13th century, which defended the main landing bay ©NTPL/Joe Cornish



(below left) Prehistoric finds from Lundy shore ©NTPL/Joe Cornish



Archaeological survey on Lundy. ©NTPL/Joe Cornish



Early Christian memorial stones in the cemetery beneath the Old Light building catch the dawn light. ©NTPL/Joe Cornish



# Islands of the National Trust: HOLY ISLAND

Harry Beamish

The Castle Point lime works on Holy Island off the North Northumberland coast represent the last phase of the sea-borne lime trade along the north-east coast, which had developed in the 18th and expanded in the 19th century, when it was overtaken by the railway network.

Lime burning on Holy Island developed in the first half of the 19th century, supplying Scotland, where limestone was not widely available. The 1860s saw a new bank of six kilns developed by a lime merchant from Dundee at Castle Point, with new jetties giving ready access to the harbour entrance. The kiln bank was built against a natural rock outcrop to seaward of the old castle and is a substantial structure in its own right, with internal access tunnels served with tramways to facilitate handling of the burnt lime. In addition to the kiln bank there is an extensive system of tramways which contributed to the movement of imported coal for fuel and stone from the quarries towards the charging floor at the top of the kiln bank.

A survey of the earthworks and structures associated with the lime works was undertaken for the National Trust in 2009 by Addyman Archaeology, who also reviewed the available limited documentary evidence for the operation of the lime works in the late 19th century. Information from the survey has contributed to improved interpretation for visitors to the site.

Lime kiln on Lindisfarne, with appropriate ecclesiastical design

**Harry Beamish**  
National Trust Archaeologist  
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# Islands of the National Trust: ORFORD NESS

Angus Wainwright and Guy Salkeld

Orford Ness, on the eastern extremity of England, is a shingle spit stretching about 10 miles south of Aldeburgh on the Suffolk coast. The Ness is not, strictly speaking, separate from the mainland but its geography gives it an island character.

## MILITARY RESEARCH

Orford was an important port in the Middle Ages, but coastal change profoundly affected its economy and the only early remaining building on the Ness is the light house, built 1792. The military connection began in 1915 when the Armament and Experimental Flight of the Royal Flying Corps was transferred here. Military research and development continued with the development of radar, and then into the Second World War with work of Bomb ballistics and Firing trials. In 1959 the site transferred to the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment (AWRE) and work concentrated on the ballistics and technical aspects of the atomic bomb. When AWRE relinquished the site it briefly became RAF Orford Ness and saw construction of an immense but ineffective radar installation known as Cobra Mist. From 1967 to 1986 the Ness was home to No.2 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit (RAF) but then, until acquisition by the National Trust in 1993, it was left prey to easterly gales, scrap metal merchants and vandals.

## UGLINESS, MODERNITY AND NEGLECT

The Trust's approach to the coast centres on the saving of 'unspoilt' landscapes, but many who visit Orford Ness dislike it on first meeting, especially those used to the rural charms of bucolic lowland farms or the rugged beauty of Lundy. The Orford landscape has a disturbing effect on the viewer, due to the violent contrast of its manmade and natural elements and its exposed and somehow hostile nature, so typical of the East Anglian coast. One school of thought believed that the place should be 'tidied up' and converted back to a 'wilderness'. Whilst some of the features are of historical or biological interest, it is ugly and seemingly commonplace features that are an essential part of what makes Orford Ness a unique place. Our job was to step beyond negative reactions and appreciate the order in disorder and the beauty in ugliness – to define

and conserve Orford's own particularly powerful aesthetic of ugliness, modernity and neglect.

Orford is strong in nature conservation designations and this aspect was widely recognised. It was more difficult at the time to justify the significance of modern buildings to decision-makers within the Trust. Defining and promoting the aesthetic, symbolic and historical importance of the property was the first step of a management plan. The philosophy aimed to conserve three key aspects: the impact of the buildings in their landscape and the contrast of manmade with natural; the role of technology in 20th-century warfare and the awesome destructive forces it unleashed; colonization and destruction of manmade artefacts by nature. Other aesthetic qualities include the terms exposed, hostile, disturbing, mysterious, inscrutable, conflicting, bleak, solitude, peaceful, stillness – but not wilderness.

## NON-INTERVENTION

The archaeological challenge is to preserve evidence of the past but allow natural processes to run their course. However, it was felt that Orford's particular aesthetic overrides historic significance and a general policy of non-intervention has been adopted. The old airfield has seen intervention, as it has to accommodate offices, visitor and volunteer facilities and an exhibition area, but on the shingle spit this philosophy has been held rigidly, with no tidying or conservation on most buildings, although three are maintained for interpretation purposes.

A visit to Orford Ness is not a 'safe' experience – in contrast to other National Trust properties it can be physically and emotionally rigorous. Many visitors are shocked by the apparent neglect of the buildings and heaps of rusting metal. Nearly twenty years on, attitudes to 'modern archaeology' have changed and English Heritage uses the site to inform their thinking on how modern structures might be protected in the future. We have always known the historic importance of Orford, yet felt that the historic cost of retaining its particular aesthetic was worth it. But, the balance, like Orford shingle, may well shift ....

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Watson Watt's Radar Tower and accompanying derelict buildings. ©NTPL/Joe Cornish



The 'Street' of derelict buildings on Orford Ness. ©NTPL/Joe Cornish



Shingle and two Pagodas at Orford Ness, Suffolk. ©NTPL/Joe Cornish

# Archaeology and Planning in Guernsey

The unusual status of the Bailiwick of Guernsey – a Crown Dependency, part of the British Isles but not of the UK – has an effect on almost every aspect of our life in the island, including the way that archaeology functions. I shall focus here on the complex relationship of archaeology and planning, and how it works – or occasionally doesn't work – today.

## **No compulsion or funding**

Archaeological excavation takes place almost exclusively under the auspices of Guernsey Museum, where I am employed as States Archaeologist, with two half-time assistant archaeologists. As well as the traditional responsibilities of museum curatorship we are closely involved in the island's planning process, which is overseen by the Environment Department of the States of Guernsey (we are employed by another department, Culture and Leisure). This role has evolved organically; there was never a point when the States decided that there should be an island archaeologist or consultation on planning applications, but that is the situation that exists today. Until quite recently, the onus was on us to react to planning applications. If we consider that there is some archaeological interest to an application, we can ask for a 'condition' requesting that the States Archaeologist be contacted if anything comes to light when work takes place. Note that there is no element of compulsion even in this condition. If the application affects an area where we have more serious concerns, we can request that a watching brief be carried out or that we be given the opportunity to dig test-pits or carry out a rescue excavation. We can also recommend that development does not take place because of the archaeological importance of a site. The Environment Department will consider our views as part of their decision, and may therefore insist, for example, that the site is excavated before development takes place, although without any requirement for funding.

## **Historic Environment Triggers**

Since April 2009, when a revised planning law was implemented, the situation has changed in that the Environment Department is now more proactive in referring applications to us. This has been achieved through creation of a Historic Environment Trigger (HET) layer on the Sites and Monuments Record, which we maintain and to which the Environment Department has access. If an application falls within a HET zone, details are automatically sent to us. We also watch the weekly applications lists, in case something comes up which falls outside a HET zone but which

might be of interest. This is practicable because we are dealing with a small area, where there might be on average 30-40 applications per week, many of which have no archaeological implications.

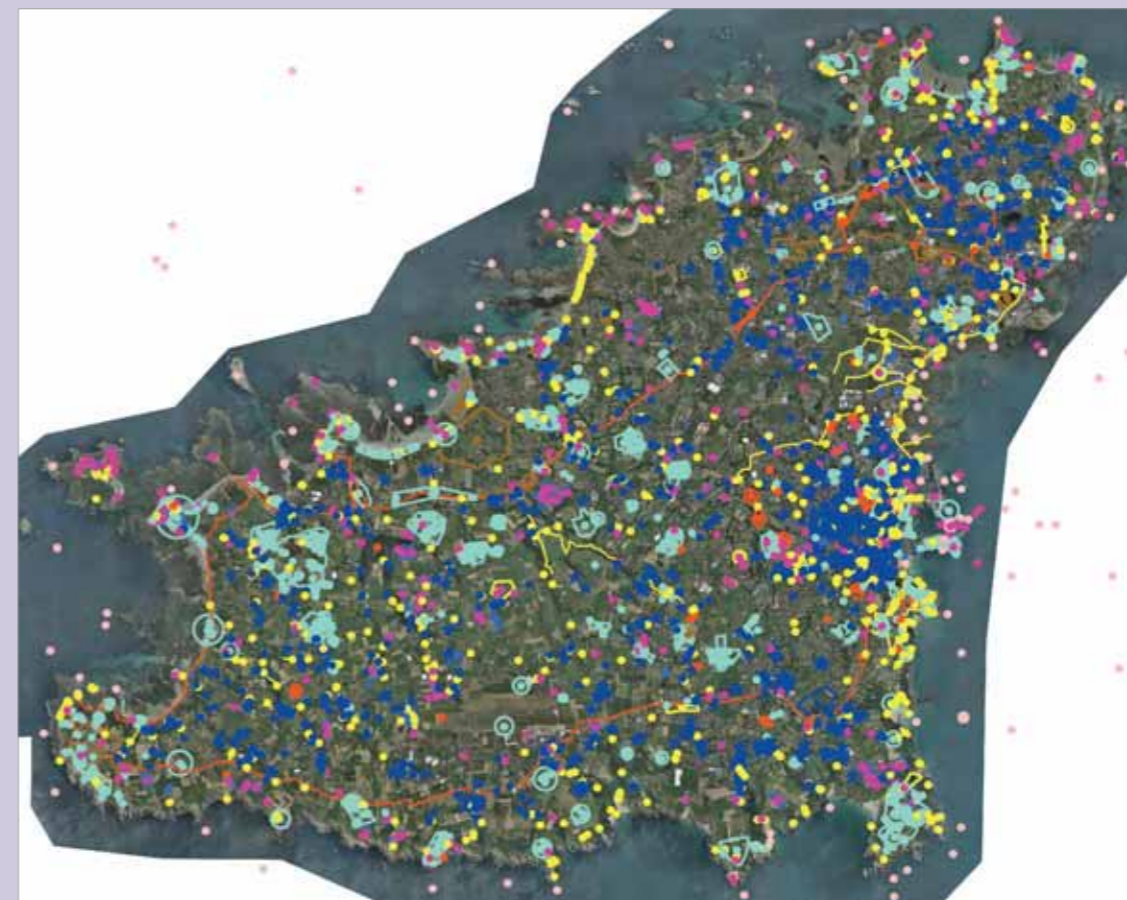
## **Politically separate**

As you will have noticed there has been no mention of PPG 16, PPS 5 or comparable guidance. This is partly because we are politically separate from the UK and under no obligation to take note of advisory documents or legislation. Considerable efforts were made when the new planning laws were drafted to introduce the concept that 'the developer pays', but this was resisted by the Environment Department, despite Guernsey being one of the wealthiest communities in the western world. Therefore, if we recommend that archaeological work be carried out, we will almost certainly have to do it and pay for it ourselves. We have some enlightened developers who have contributed to the costs, but in practice we rely heavily on volunteer labour and a small annual budget. Although there has been occasional involvement in the island from UK-based units, it is an expensive business to ship over personnel and equipment – and why would any developer do this when they are not under any legal or quasi-legal obligation to do so?

## **Need for developer funding**

Developers need to pay – the fact that this is not enshrined in our planning legislation is an outdated embarrassment, but it is unlikely to be introduced in the near future. If we do finally catch up with the rest of the UK, there may have to be some kind of two-tier system, whereby the minor works could be carried out by us, while major developments are put out to tender to commercial archaeological organisations. There might just be the potential for a locally-based archaeological organisation, though they would almost certainly have to buy in expertise from the UK. In some ways the primary role of the States Archaeologist would revert to the situation in the 1970s, with a focus on research excavation – currently undertaken mostly by visiting academics – rather than rescue.

Change will no doubt come, but this could be a slow process. The exceptional wealth of archaeology on Guernsey, demonstrated by the SMR and HET maps, illustrates the need for progress to be considered rapidly, as development pressures increasingly threaten our vulnerable sites.

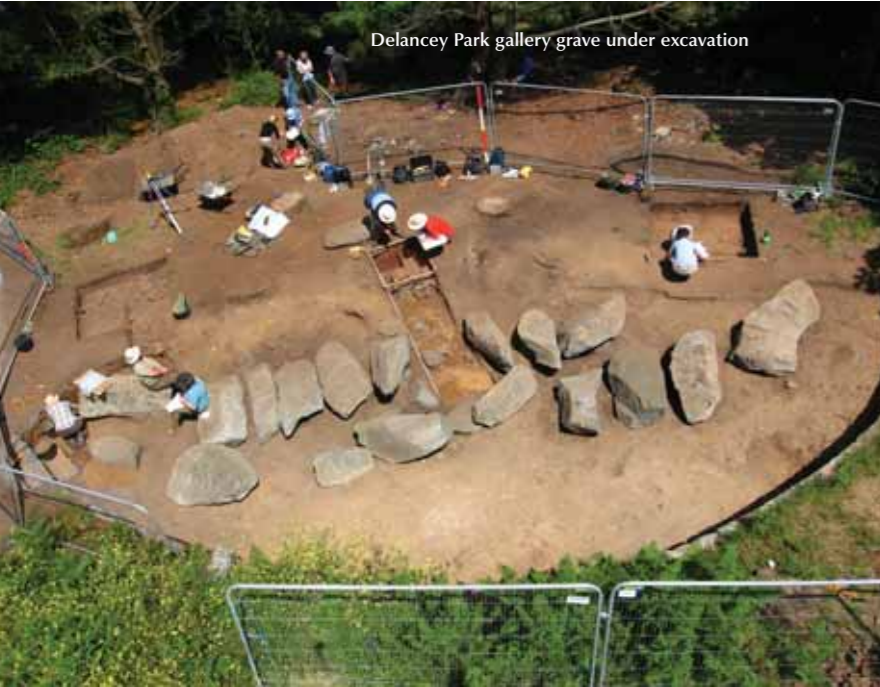


The SMR, with all sites and events marked.  
© Guernsey Museums and Galleries



The HET layer on the SMR. © Guernsey Museums and Galleries

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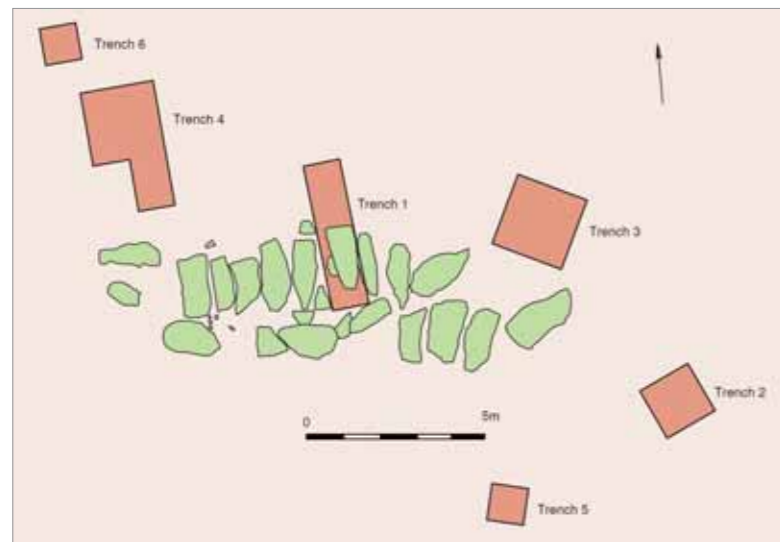
# Excavating a Neolithic gallery grave in Delancey Park, Guernsey

George Nash

As part of a long-term project supported by Guernsey Museum and Admiral de Saumarez Trust, a small team in 2009 undertook a desk-based assessment and conducted the first systematic survey of the monument since its discovery in 1919. In 2010 evaluation included excavation of six trenches around the central and northern sections of the monument. Results were encouraging and will assist in targeting further investigations this summer.

### Discovery and recovery

Following initial discovery in 1919, the Guernsey States Architect, TJ Guilbert, instructed the workforce to treat the site with great care, thinking that the stones formed part of a dolmen. Further stones were uncovered, nearly all 'oblong' in shape and in a 'perfectly natural condition'. It is not clear if an official excavation took place, and if it did, how detailed this was. A small number of artefacts, many probably contemporary with construction and use of the monument, were recovered, including fragments of ox bone, limpet shells, stone tools and pottery. Stone tools included a fragment of a greenstone axe (or rubber) which had been cracked by fire, a small



Site plan and trenches, July 2010

Last summer, a professional team trained staff and volunteers from Clifton Antiquarian Club, Bristol, in aspects of archaeological excavation and recording at Guernsey's only known Neolithic gallery grave. The monument, one of seventeen free-standing stone chambered Neolithic/Bronze Age burial-ritual monuments in Guernsey, consists of two parallel lines of stone that extended some 9.5m, orientated roughly east-west. Two further gallery graves stand in Jersey, 24 in northern France and two in Wales. The Delancey Park monument probably dates to the Late Neolithic period and is therefore later than the passage graves, a monument tradition which dominates the Neolithic burial-ritual landscape of Jersey and Guernsey. The barrow stands on a former promontory which, during Neolithic times, would have been separated by a substantial water channel.

Conducting the first systematic survey of the site, August 2009

collection of flint chips and four gun flints (probably from the 18th century). Based on the presence of a (questionable) axe fragment, pottery and flint, the monument was probably in use around 2500 cal BC.

### Early excavations

Excavations in 1932 indicated that there were possible remains of a chamber at the western end, although the site photographs suggest the excavation consisted of 'prodding' between the stones. In a letter dated October 1932 the excavator, Vera Collum, refers to Delancey Park as an *allée couverte* – a gallery grave-type monument found mainly in Brittany and around the Paris Basin, dating to the 3rd millennium BC. Finds included animal bone from a disturbed (cultural) black soil deposit that directly overlay the natural light yellow clays. Within the same deposit, around the socket holes in the northern part of the monument, were sherds from at least eight vessels. Based on contemporary photographs it appears that none of the larger stones were removed off site for this excavation, but although the monument appears to be largely intact, Vera Collum does suggest that some stones had been removed and broken up around 1878 for foundation material to support the nearby Admiral de Saumarez monument.

### Significant assemblages

In one 2010 trench, small fragments of burnt, possibly cremated (human?) bone were found indicating, along with bone recovered from the 1932 excavation, that the western end of the monument was a location of burials. One of the fallen uprights, centrally located along the northern line of stones, was carefully removed. Based on the 1932 photographic archive, it appears that this and other fallen uprights had remained in situ and undisturbed. If this was the case then Neolithic/Early Bronze Age deposits may be found. Revealed underneath was evidence of the 1932 excavation trench. Beneath this was a tantalizing glimpse into the early history of the monument, including possible in-situ stone packing from the northern and southern lines of stones and a small but significant assemblage of worked flint and pottery.

The 2010 season evaluated and identified those areas of the site that potentially have significant archaeology. This year we hope to target an open area trench along the northern line of fallen uprights. If the results of the 2010 season are anything to go by, this year's excavation poses an interesting prospect.

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Coarse Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age pottery with grog inclusions. Photograph: Donovan Hawley



Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age pottery with decorated rim. Photograph: Donovan Hawley



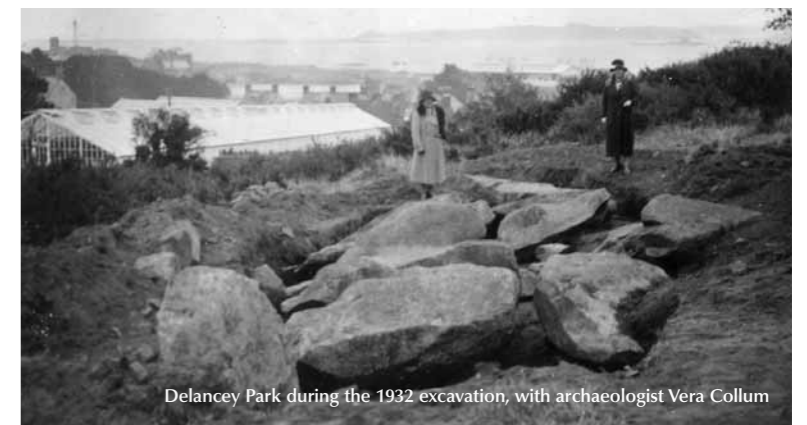
Blade section made from local cherty flint. Photograph: Donovan Hawley



Flint core made from local pebble flint. Photograph: Donovan Hawley



Guernsey in 1757, by Jacques Nicholas Bellin. The red spot marks Delancey Park



Delancey Park during the 1932 excavation, with archaeologist Vera Collum

# Neolithic settlement at L'Érée, Guernsey

Duncan Garrow and Fraser Sturt

The Neolithic of Guernsey, as of the other Channel Islands, is renowned for its impressive burial monuments. In stark contrast, the settlement record of the same period remains poorly understood. Across the Channel Islands as a whole, only four potential Neolithic occupation sites have been identified: an artefact scatter or midden at La Motte, Jersey, a group of post-holes and pits at the Royal Hotel site, St Peter Port, Guernsey, the site under discussion here at L'Érée, and a probable structure revealed during very recent work directed by Chris Scarre (University of Durham) on Herm. In Guernsey, and indeed the Channel Islands more broadly, the archaeological cliché that we know more about the dead than the living is truer than ever. It is therefore critical that we gain a better knowledge of the sites where people lived out their daily lives. Our latest project aims to investigate changes in settlement, landscape occupation and environment over the period c 5500–2500 BC, situating the monumental evidence on the island in its broader landscape context and shedding light on the initial introduction of Neolithic practices there. More broadly, the project will help us to understand the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in north-western Europe, in particular the mechanisms by which Neolithic practices spread into western France and then across the Channel to Britain.

## Eroding coast

Since the 1970s, seasonal storms had been revealing what appeared to be a promising Neolithic habitation site on the west coast of Guernsey at L'Érée. Each year, pottery and flint, and occasional features, are eroded out of the low cliff face onto the beach below. Previous small-scale archaeological work on the site had revealed substantial Neolithic/Early Bronze Age artefactual evidence, and Early-Middle Neolithic radiocarbon dates, so there was a strong case for exploring the site while it still existed.

## New settlement evidence

Following non-intrusive survey work in early 2008, we have carried out excavations at L'Érée in 2008, 2009 and 2010, funded by the Society of Antiquaries of London, the Universities of Liverpool and Southampton, and strongly supported by Guernsey Museum. We have relied too on the goodwill and hard work of numerous volunteers from the island to get things done. Our initial aim was to find out whether the material eroding onto the beach was associated with any settlement features. It was. We have found numerous features dating to the Early-Middle Neolithic, confirming settlement in the area, along with a probably Early Bronze Age ditch. Two distinct buried soil horizons have also been identified, the upper containing large quantities of predominantly Chalcolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery and flint. This suggests significant occupation in the vicinity during this later phase, providing a landscape context for Le Creux ès Faïes tomb situated 100m upslope, which is known to have been reused around this time.

Stratified deposits at L'Érée are also significant for data on the changing environment of the Channel Islands throughout the Holocene. A coring and sampling programme has been carried out to enable pollen analysis (Rob Scaife), micromorphological analysis (Charly French) and landscape, sediment dynamics and environmental modelling (Fraser Sturt) to be undertaken. The results of these investigations will help us to understand micro-level site formation processes as well as the changing nature of the broader environs.

## Intermittent occupation

After our 2010 season we feel confident that we are dealing with two main phases of occupation at L'Érée, which are separate rather than continuous: one Early-

Middle Neolithic (c 4700–4000 cal BC), and one Chalcolithic/EBA (c 2500–2000 BC). There is evidence that both phases themselves lasted for a fairly long time, each leading to substantial build-up of soils. Settlement features relating to the earliest occupation include four hearth pits (stone-lined during use), three pits containing burnt material, and a series of stake- and post-holes which probably represent remains of a temporary structure. These suggest short-term episodes of occupation, with the site being returned to intermittently. Intriguingly, radiocarbon dates obtained recently (by Rick Schulting, Heather Sebire and John Robb) for a chambered tomb across the island at Le Déhus suggested a late 5th millennium date. This certainly makes it possible that our settlement is directly contemporary with the tomb immediately adjacent to it (Le Creux ès Faïes, which is closely comparable to Le Déhus).

## French connections

Apart from pottery and flint tools, one important find was a fragment of a polished stone ring. Rings of this type are commonly associated with the Villeneuve-St-Germain complex on the French mainland. A small number have previously been found in the Channel Islands, including a second fragment from the cliff face at L'Érée and several from the tomb at Les Fouaillages. The rings from L'Érée, as with most examples from the Channel Islands, fit most closely with the Paris Basin sub-series of polished stone rings, indicating long-distance contacts with mainland France.

Work at L'Érée has added significantly to our slight knowledge of prehistoric settlement in the Channel Islands (see also 'useful links' below). The earlier phase represents conclusive evidence of occupation of Earlier Neolithic date (with surviving settlement features) in Guernsey, adding to previous glimpses obtained at the Royal Hotel site, St Peter Port. Importantly, there are also close material connections (pottery assemblage, polished stone ring fragment, etc) with Phase 1 of the tomb at Les Fouaillages (dug by Ian Kinnes in the 1970s, and soon to be published in monograph form), suggesting a close temporal relationship between the two sites: this does appear to be a settlement which was contemporary with the earliest known monuments on the island. Next year, we hope to extend two of our 2010

trenches, revealing a much larger area of this exciting site. It is important to establish whether the apparent absence of substantial domestic structures is real, and whether our current working hypothesis that this was an impermanent settlement is supported once a wider area has been exposed.

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Probable Earlier Neolithic  
structure (with small post-holes  
and stake-holes)



Cara Garrow  
emerging from  
Le Creux ès Faïes  
chambered tomb



Earlier Neolithic  
hearth, covered  
over with stones  
on abandonment

Excavations  
underway in 2010



For those who wish to see more about recent work on the Neolithic of the Channel Islands, useful web links include *Neolithic land- and seascapes' project, Guernsey (L'Érée excavations):* [http://www.soton.ac.uk/archaeology/research/projects/Neolithic\\_Guernsey.html](http://www.soton.ac.uk/archaeology/research/projects/Neolithic_Guernsey.html)  
*Delancey Park, Guernsey:* <http://www.cliftonantiquarian.co.uk/delanceypark.htm>  
*Herm project:* <http://www.dur.ac.uk/herm/project/>  
*Sark excavations:* <http://sercq.info/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.newsDetail&newsid=155>



The partially-destroyed Iron Age roundhouse under excavation, 2005. © Guernsey Museums and Galleries

The excavation of this Iron Age settlement and cemetery could serve as a model of the *ad hoc* way in which archaeology has been integrated into Guernsey's planning process. Fortunately, in this case, the various developers have been co-operative, allowing prolonged access to excavate with our meagre resources, and in the main phase of recent development providing essential financial assistance. It is important to stress that this assistance was obtained after prolonged negotiation, rather than because our planning laws require archaeological involvement.

### Access and co-operation but little funding

The site was discovered when a builder noticed a shell midden and other features on the site of a new school boarding house, in 1980. Between 1980 and 1983 excavations on and around the site led to the discovery of the settlement and four burials. In 2004, the property was sold and a planning application submitted. Heather Sebire, then Archaeology Officer at Guernsey Museum, negotiated access and some funding from the developers for work in 2005–6. The most recent phase of work, 2009–10, focused on a neighbouring property. In this case a planning application was submitted to the Environment Department and the present writer commented on it, arguing as strongly as possible under the terms of our planning legislation that if the work was permitted we should be given time to excavate. Once again we were fortunate that the owner was fully co-operative and gave us every assistance in carrying out the work, although it has been funded out of the Museum's archaeology budget.

### Settlement and warrior burial

King's Road lies on a loess-covered plateau, about one kilometre west of St Peter Port. The 1980s' excavations revealed late Iron Age settlement and burials, including a warrior with an iron sword, shield boss, spear head and other items. The underlying assumption in the excavation report is that the burials were contemporary with the settlement, and this interpretation has been used as the basis of accounts of trade through the Channel Islands in the late Iron Age, which stress the importance of Guernsey on this route. However, the recent excavations have raised questions about this chronology.

We excavated a partially-destroyed roundhouse lying between the settlement and burials revealed in the 1980s. Although there has not yet been specialist analysis, the indications are that the pottery is early or middle Iron Age in date. Our excavations have now revealed a further nineteen graves. There is, unfortunately, almost no skeletal material; our soil is extremely acidic and apart from a few fragments of tooth enamel and a tiny piece of bone adhering to a sword, none has survived. A particularly rich grave



Warrior burial excavated in 2008, containing an iron sword in its scabbard, and a shield boss. The grave was discovered when the footings trench to the right was dug by JCB; the concrete foundation at the top, just clipping the grave, belonged to a house constructed in 1917. © Guernsey Museums and Galleries

contained two shale bracelets, one apparently cut down from a vessel, together with eleven copper alloy bracelets of various styles and dimensions, two large copper alloy neck-rings, a neck-ring in iron, an iron bracelet and remains of an iron pin, and a small section of silver rod. Much of the material is quite difficult to date precisely, but there are parallels for the shale and for the copper alloy bracelets from cemeteries in lower Normandy of the 6th and 5th centuries BC. One grave contained just two copper alloy neck-rings, one of which has engraved twists and bulges which are closely paralleled on torcs from the Paris Basin, dating between the 5th and 3rd centuries BC.

### Traders or migrants?

Despite the difficulties in dating plain objects stylistically, and the possibility of some being heirlooms, there are enough items to suggest that the cemetery was two or three centuries earlier than we believed, making it harder to argue the case for Guernsey's role as a significant point on the network of cross-Channel trade. It could still have been important, of course, at an earlier date; but there are other possibilities to consider. Could King's Road cemetery represent the resting place of a group of settlers from the Continent, who brought their fine personal items from Normandy or the Paris Basin? We know that there were significant movements of population in the middle Iron Age, and it is just possible that at King's Road we are seeing the end of the journey of one small group of migrants rather than a focus for trading.

This work has taken place under a planning system which is less than perfect. It demonstrates that with goodwill and perseverance it is possible to get important results, but how many other valuable sites have been lost where circumstances were different,



Shale bracelets from Grave no. 14, King's Road, one cut down from a vessel. Artefacts in this exceptionally rich grave have parallels in cemeteries in lower Normandy of the 6th and 5th centuries BC. © Guernsey Museums and Galleries

for as discussed in a previous article (p32–3) the legal situation in the Channel Islands lags well behind the UK. The King's Road area is now recognised as archaeologically sensitive, and although this does not equate to full protection, it is firmly on the radar of the planning department, not to mention local residents who may be considering digging up their gardens. If they do, we are in a good position to extract the maximum archaeological advantage.

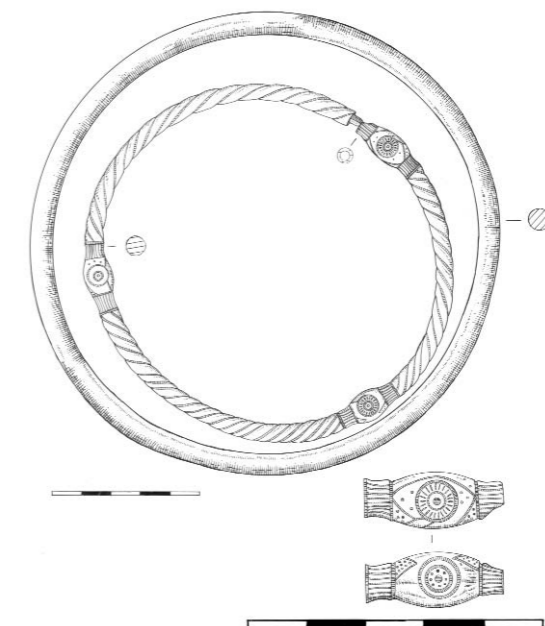
### Philip de Jersey

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Burns RB, Cunliffe B and Sebire H, 1996 *Guernsey: an island community of the Atlantic Iron Age* (OUCA Monograph 46, Guernsey Museum Monograph 6)



Another grave (right hand side), with two copper alloy torcs in situ. © Guernsey Museums and Galleries



Torcs from the above grave, which have close parallels in the Paris Basin, dating between the 5th and 3rd centuries BC. Drawn by Barbara McNee. © Guernsey Museums and Galleries

My aim, which has been gestating for some time, is to establish an archaeological methodology for the analysis of modern military occupations, based on the German occupation of Europe during the Second World War and taking my case study from the Channel Islands. I also want to explore whether such a methodology could be applied to occupations from other periods. While each is unique, certain elements are common to all military occupations and their associated attempts at population control and surveillance.

### ■ Abandoned pistols, helmets and bayonets

Since 2000, archaeologists have been increasingly interested in 20th-century conflict. Conflict archaeology as a concept grew out of this work, and occupation archaeology is part of this new sub-discipline. My research started in 2007, with a British Academy-sponsored project to analyse artefacts of occupation made by German soldiers, slave workers, Channel Islanders, political prisoners and people deported to internment camps. I saw objects as a way of understanding the multiple experiences of occupation – oppression, hardship, shortages, and unequal power relations. However, I soon realised that, powerful as the objects were, their collection and curation since 1945 was a fascinating study in its own right and revolved around schoolboy explorations into German bunkers and tunnels to find abandoned pistols, helmets and bayonets. These same

schoolboys, now adults, control the trade of occupation artefacts in the Islands, and they have converted the bunkers in which they once played into occupation museums.

### ■ Neglected victims

The role of occupation museums in the Islands and the stories they tell – and those they choose not to tell – led me into the field of museum and heritage studies. I observed the way that German bunkers were restored and presented to the public by local enthusiasts: the role of the occupiers dominated, while the foreign forced and slave labourers who built the fortifications were marginalised or neglected. Having observed the neglect of these victims of Nazism, I saw that this was a theme that echoed in other legacies of the occupation. The remains of work camps of foreign labourers are almost entirely obliterated in the Channel Islands, and only one camp has been memorialised with a plaque: the Sylt concentration camp in Alderney, erected in 2008. The prisons of the occupation period have now been demolished in the Channel Islands, and former political prisoners, ie those who committed acts of resistance against the Germans, are still among the most neglected occupation veterans in the Islands. Jersey's memorial to these brave people was erected in 1995, and Guernsey has yet to memorialise this group at all. Their legacy is still contested and they are not seen as heroes of the occupation.

Entrance posts of SS Lager Sylt in Alderney, the only concentration camp built in the British Isles



The late commemoration of other victims of Nazism is reflected in the date of other memorial plaques. Jews, foreign labourers, political prisoners and deportees have, by and large, only been commemorated from around 1995. The most ubiquitous memorial plaques, stones and monuments celebrate the liberation, erected every five years since 1985 and accounting for most of all memorials in the Islands. Liberation was such an important event that it eclipsed all other collective memories and is still celebrated annually with a national holiday on 9 May. There are re-enactments in St Helier of the original events of liberation and in St Peter Port liberation-themed floats drive through the town on important anniversaries. Darker episodes of the occupation are rarely if ever remembered or invoked in this fashion.

### ■ Legacy of occupation

What began as a study of occupation artefacts grew into a wider archaeological and heritage-related project of the legacy of occupation over the last 65 years. It has embraced fortifications, museums, memorials, commemorations, camps, prisons, graveyards, artefacts and collectors. This legacy is not unique to the Channel Islands; similar fieldwork using similar methodologies could be applied to the occupation of any country in Europe, and many further afield, during the Second World War. Other features of occupation archaeology, not in evidence in the Channel Islands, might include ghettos and presentation to the public since 1945 of the space they occupied. Partisan archaeology, too, would be a rich seam to mine, examining what remains of former forest dwellings or artefacts made by partisans to help them adapt to forest life. The destruction of cultural heritage, of buildings, villages and towns, and an examination of how these events are and have been remembered, would also be a vital part of occupation archaeology in Eastern Europe.

### ■ Recent and ancient occupations

What of more recent or ancient occupations? Israeli-occupied Palestine would need a landscape approach to examine the role of surveillance and control upon poor communities which are overlooked by rich Jewish settlements and fenced in by the wall which separates those in the West Bank. How are these perceived by the communities affected and conveyed to the next generation through heritage sites, museums or memorials? Roman occupation, too, can be studied through similar features of surveillance and control. Like the Germans, the Romans left

behind fortifications and commemorative monuments; they used slaves and the fruits of slave labour survive. Through the artefacts of this period, we can understand how occupation affected ordinary people and the soldiers who enforced it. Archaeology also lets us see the destruction of cultural heritage from this period.

As a concept and a methodology, occupation archaeology is a versatile tool for practitioners of conflict archaeology. It has great potential for the study of historical archaeology, and offers a new lens for understanding how communities come to terms with and remember military occupation over generations.

### Gilly Carr

Lecturer in Archaeology  
Institute of Continuing Education  
University of Cambridge

Carr, G 2010 'The archaeology of occupation, 1940-2009: case study from the Channel Islands', *Antiquity* 84: 161-174

Having curated museum exhibitions in the Channel Islands on the artefacts made by Islanders in German civilian internment camps, Gilly Carr is co-editing *POW Archaeology* (Springer) and *Creativity behind Barbed Wire* (Routledge). She is currently engaged in another British Academy-supported project, *Protest, defiance and resistance in the Channel Islands, 1940-1945*, and in her 2011 sabbatical will finish writing *The legacy of Occupation: Heritage and archaeology in the Channel Islands*.



The Liberation Monument, St Helier, Jersey

# Developing policies for archaeology in Jersey

Kevin Pilley

The Crown Dependency of Jersey's archaeological legacy is not protected by British law but by the Island's government – the States of Jersey – through its own planning law and planning policy. The level of protection and engagement in archaeology by the community and development professions in the Island is now steadily growing (see p44).

Jersey is the most southerly of the Channel Islands, lying 19 miles from Normandy's Cotentin Peninsula and 85 miles from the English coast. It is the largest of the islands, with a land area of 117 sq km above high water mark (200 sq km at low water). The Bailiwick of Jersey encompasses the offshore reefs and islets of the Écréhous, the Paternosters and Les Minquiers and the Island's jurisdiction extends to a 12-mile territorial limit. The Island slopes gently from high cliffs in the north, across a central plateau dissected by deep-sided valleys to the line of a fossil cliff, an ancient coastline of Jersey which has been pushed back by accumulations of blown sand which form the flat, low-lying coastal plain. This coastline is characterised by broad sandy bays set between rocky promontories. Geologically, Jersey relates to the hard ancient rocks of Normandy and Brittany. The predominant building material is granite.

## Archaeological heritage

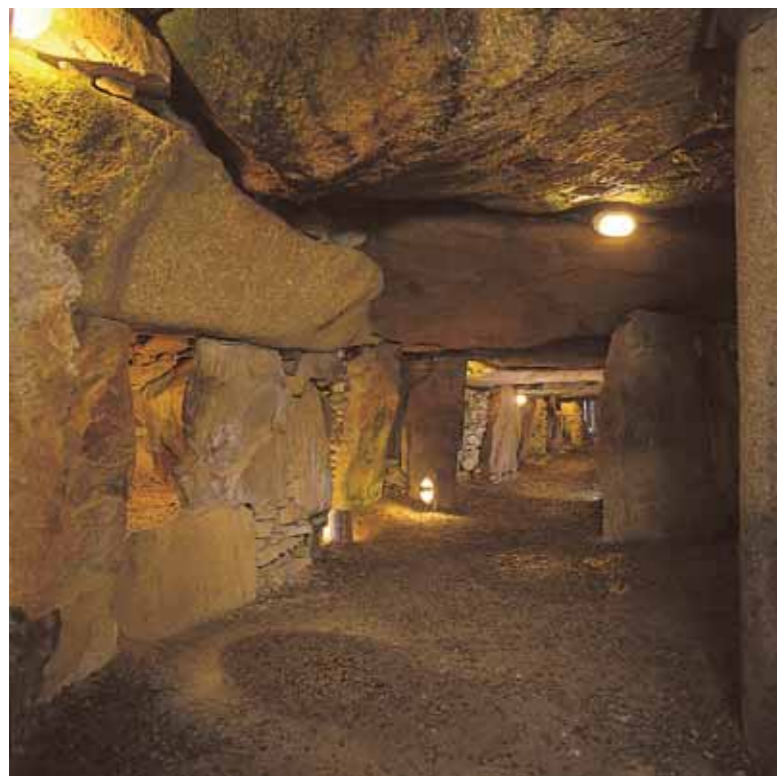
The Island's archaeological heritage ranges from the Palaeolithic site of La Cotte de St Brelade to the

dramatic remnants of reinforced concrete fortifications that were part of Hitler's 'Atlantic Wall' – defence works which stretched from the Baltic to the Spanish frontier – constructed during the Occupation of Jersey by German forces during the Second World War. Jersey, which became an island around 8000 BC, produces Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flint scatters and there are extensive Neolithic and Bronze Age remains, most notably La Hougue Bie passage grave. There are a number of Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements, and also promontory forts, such as Frémont and Catel de Lecq. Hoards of Armorican coins demonstrate trading patterns in the 1st century BC, but few archaeological remains from the Roman period have so far been found. 5th and 6th century evidence indicates links, including Christian missionary activity, with south-west Britain and migrations to Brittany, while the Island was under Breton control until 933, when it was annexed by Normandy. The Normans developed the legacy of agriculture, navigation and commerce which has shaped the Island's economy and influenced the character and appearance of its landscape and coastline.

## Independent systems

After the English kings lost their French possessions in 1204, the Channel Islands maintained their allegiance to the English Crown and in return were permitted to develop their own independent system of government, a system which has persisted. It was not until the 1950s that Jersey introduced legislation to protect archaeological sites, followed by the Jersey Development Plan and the establishment of a planning office in 1962. Subsequent planning legislation in 1964 made provision to designate sites of special architectural, archaeological, historical or other interest, and in 1972 and 1974 a selective 'listing' of historic buildings in St Helier and at Gorey Pier in St Martin respectively was undertaken, followed by a more comprehensive survey in 1987 to 1989, resulting in an island-wide Register of heritage assets in 1991, although archaeological designations were limited. Until very recently, most archaeological study was undertaken by the Société Jersiaise – a learned society founded in 1873. The Jersey Heritage

Inside La Hougue Bie, one of the largest passage graves in western Europe. © Jersey Heritage



Trust, a semi-independent organisation established by the States of Jersey in 1981 and responsible for the management of major historic sites, museums and public archives, has also carried out research into heritage assets within its administration. Together, these two agencies curate the Island's archaeological records.

## Recent reforms

Successive development plans provided policies to protect archaeological resources, but it was not until 2008 that these were given real effect. At that time, the two archaeological records were integrated into the planning system, and the majority of the Island's known prehistoric sites were given some formal designation. The second change was development of mechanisms and specialist resources to interpret, apply and operate planning policy effectively. This involved expert archaeological advice for the States of Jersey Planning and Environment Department which has, since 2007, been provided by Oxford Archaeology on a consultancy basis. These changes have resulted in increased archaeological research being undertaken through the planning process and funded by the development industry. At least two professional archaeological consultancy practices have been working on behalf of applicants, and the outcome of their work is contributing to knowledge about Jersey's past. Specifications for archaeological works now issued by the Planning and Environmental Department make explicit reference to *IfA Standards and guidance*, require appropriate grade membership by individuals undertaking work and Registered Organisation status for organisations. More survey work remains to be done, and identification and designation of medieval chapel sites, and military and marine archaeological sites, is envisaged. Work is also underway to develop new legislation to deal

with the management of finds involving treasure, portable antiquities and human remains.

The Planning and Environment Department is also overhauling its entire historic environment protection regime (see p45). A comprehensive re-survey of all the Island's heritage assets will be undertaken by a consortium led by Aylin Orbasli and Jersey Heritage on behalf of the Planning and Environment Department, in 2011-2012. This will provide a solid and consistent basis for designation and protection of heritage assets and also contribute to development of an accessible and informative Historic Environment Record. However, much work remains to be done to promote greater awareness and understanding of the value of the Island's heritage, a task in which all of those with an interest in its heritage have a role to play.

## Kevin Pilley

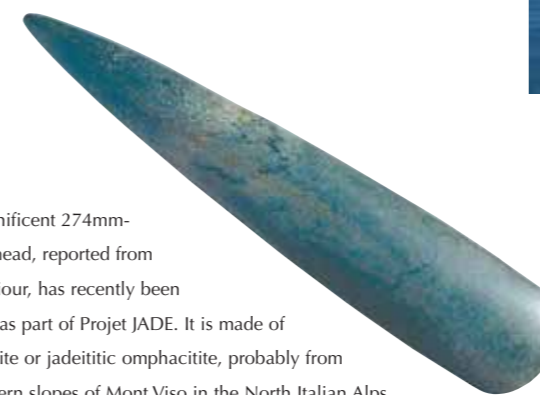
Assistant Director  
States of Jersey Planning and Environment Department

Orbasli and Associates (forthcoming) *Jersey Historic Environment Resurvey Guide*, Jersey Heritage

States of Jersey Planning and Environment Department, 2008 *Archaeology and Planning Land Use Consultants*, 1999 *Countryside character appraisal for Jersey*



L'Île Agois is believed to have been defended in the Iron Age. There is also early medieval settlement here, possibly an early Christian eremitic monastery. © Jersey Heritage



This magnificent 274mm-long axehead, reported from Saint-Saviour, has recently been analysed as part of Projet JADE. It is made of omphacite or jadeitic omphacite, probably from the southern slopes of Mont Viso in the North Italian Alps, and dates to around 4600 BC. Two complete and two fragmentary stone disc-bangles of similar date may have been found nearby. 24 Neolithic axeheads and axehead-pendants of Alpine rock are known from the Channel Islands. They would have been acquired from mainland France. Information from Pierre Pétrequin and Alison Sheridan, Projet JADE. © Jersey Heritage



An Armorican gold stater found with 2500 others as part of the Le Catillon Hoard, in 1957, illustrating Jersey's position on Gallo-British trade routes in the Iron Age. Made or struck in the 1st BC by the Baiocasses tribe of Bayeux, the front shows a human head with a boar in its hair and the back a human-headed horse galloping towards a gate. © Jersey Heritage

# Protecting and investigating archaeological

# sites on Jersey

Robert Waterhouse



La Hougue Bie is a spectacular Neolithic passage grave, its burial mound surmounted by a medieval chapel. Its impressive entrance masonry was excavated by Société Jersiaise members under Mark Patton from 1991 to 1995. The Société, which owns this and several other chambered tombs in the island, published a major monograph on excavations and survey here in 1999. Photograph: R Waterhouse

some commercial work. In addition, a programme of writing-up unpublished excavations and surveys should commence next year. The next five years should provide a major boost to the understanding and protection of Jersey's archaeology.

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Société Jersiaise  
[www.gov.je](http://www.gov.je)  
[www.jerseyheritage.org](http://www.jerseyheritage.org)  
[www.societe-jersiaise.org](http://www.societe-jersiaise.org)  
[www.prehistoricjersey.net](http://www.prehistoricjersey.net)  
[www.jerseygeologytrail.net](http://www.jerseygeologytrail.net)

Architectural Survey. Neil Molyneux of the Société Jersiaise, with a post-medieval fireplace recently uncovered in a house near St Ouen which the Archaeological Section are recording. Photograph: R Waterhouse



recorded unofficially on a piecemeal basis as their owners could not be contacted, or refused access. Most of this work took place in St Helier, where a major rebuilding boom caused significant and largely unrecorded destruction of archaeological deposits between 1970 and 1995. This work was undertaken by the Société under the direction of Margaret Finlaison and others.

## Present protection

Protection of sites through the Planning system has developed slowly (p42), but since 2008, the island's heritage has been subject to a programme of legal protection of extraordinary extent. This has taken elements of the UK's proposed Heritage Protection Bill to produce a complex raft of protection. Details can be found on the States website, but can be summarised as

*Buildings of Local Interest (BLI)* substantially retain their historic form and detail, or this can be readily recovered from surviving evidence. They make a



La Cotte de St Brelade, an internationally important Palaeolithic cave site used for habitation and butchery of mammoth and rhinoceros, presents interesting dilemmas of conservation, due to active erosion. A multi-disciplinary team from University College London and the British Museum is currently studying surviving cave earth deposits and previously excavated finds. Photograph: R Waterhouse

significant and positive contribution to the architectural and historical identity, character and amenity of Jersey

*Proposed Sites of Special Interest (pSSI)* are buildings that had an initial assessment, usually in 1992, which suggest enough historic character or quality to be considered as a future Site of Special Interest (SSI)

*Sites of Special Interest (SSI)* are buildings and places of 'public importance' having 'special archaeological, architectural, artistic, historical, scientific or traditional interest' or a combination of these. These feature on the List of Sites of Special Interest which is established under law

*Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP)* are likely to be archaeologically sensitive, but this has yet to be determined. They are often associated with known sites of archaeological interest (designated as SSI or AS) or are based on old map evidence and place names

*Archaeological Sites (AS)* have specific information about the nature and location of archaeological artefacts and remains

There are presently 4355 buildings, structures and sites in Jersey which enjoy some form of protection because of their heritage value.

## Future change

Proposals include

- A web-based *Historic Environment Record (HER)*
- *Conservation Areas*, to be called Heritage Character Areas (HCA)
- *Simplification of the designation system*, so that each historic building, structure or site becomes a 'listed' building or place, replacing SSI, BLI and AS designations. Each would be allocated a non-statutory grade from Grade 1 to Grade 4.

The review and consultation process is taking place at present and should be complete by 2012.

## Société Jersiaise Field Archaeologist

Despite 40 years lobbying of the States of Jersey by the Société Jersiaise, no professional archaeologist was based permanently in Jersey. In April 2010 the Archaeological Section of the Société was donated sufficient money by an anonymous individual to employ a full-time field archaeologist for an initial five years. I took up this post in August 2010. My main areas of responsibility include tuition for Section members in practical archaeological techniques, personal research into the island's archaeology, and

Jersey's rich heritage of prehistoric sites has attracted many research excavations and surveys, most notably at La Cotte de St Brelade and La Hougue Bie, and environmental research into palaeoenvironmental deposits of prehistoric to medieval date around the island's coastal fringe began in the 1970s. Much of this work was by members of the Société Jersiaise, and further collaborations with various academic institutions are continuing.

Research into historic buildings has been carried out by several individuals over the last few decades, notably Jean Arthur and the late Joan Stevens. They have largely taken an art-historical approach, but the current work of John McCormack is using detailed typologies in conjunction with archaeological survey to interpret domestic and ecclesiastical architecture of the Channel Islands as a whole. A major book on the subject is pending. The Société's Archaeological Section is also involved in buildings archaeology. Apart from these examples however, work on Jersey is site-specific, with no major landscape studies, in contrast to Guernsey. This is currently being redressed by the author, who has commenced an island-wide survey of landscape archaeology, building on similar studies he carried out in South Devon over the last decade.

## Past problems

From about 1970 until the 1990s, development-related archaeology in Jersey followed the pattern of unpaid rescue excavation seen in the mainland UK between the 1940s and 1980s. It was not a legal requirement and as funding was often minimal, it largely consisted of trial trenches through stratified archaeology. Much of this work was possible through good working relationships between the Société and site agents/architects. A few sites were however



Intertidal Archaeology. Archaeological Section members Carol Rabet and Sam Wilson clean remains of a post-medieval barrel well cut into a prehistoric peat bed, one of many multi-period structures found in the intertidal zone. These include fish traps, seaweed harvesting tracks, peat beds and faunal remains: many of these are not statutorily protected. Photograph: R Waterhouse

Jersey



# The Lyonesse Project: evolution of the coastal

The drowned landscape of the Isles of Scilly, described in an article in *TA 66*, is an archipelago of approximately 200 islands, islets and rocks situated 28 miles south-west of Land's End. It contains wide expanses of shallow sub-tidal and intertidal environments flooded by rising sea levels in the mid to late Holocene, and is therefore a valuable laboratory for studying sea level change within an historical context and for research and record of important sites that will be lost to the sea, together with knowledge of how past populations adapted to their shifting shores.

The Lyonesse Project, a two-year study of the evolution of the coastal and marine environment of the Isles of Scilly, was commissioned by English Heritage in March 2009. It is coordinated by Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council and includes experts from English Heritage and Aberystwyth, Cardiff, Exeter and Plymouth Universities as well as the Cornwall and Scilly Maritime Archaeological Society (CISMAS) and the Islands Maritime Archaeology Group (IMAG).

## Mythical drowned land

The sub-surface bathymetry between Scilly and Land's End suggests that the archipelago was separated from mainland Cornwall some 12,000 years ago, during the late Glacial period. Initially Scilly comprised one island roughly 16 km long and 8 km wide; by 3000 BC the rising waters had created the islands of St Agnes, Annet and the Western Rocks, others being encompassed within one larger island later known as



Dan Charman (Exeter University), assisted by Rhiannon Philp (Cardiff University) taking a peat sample at Par Beach, St Martin's, with Steve Mills (Cardiff University) recording the location at low spring tide, September 2010. Photograph: Cornwall Council

*Ennor*, 'The Land'. Following a visit in 1926 OGS Crawford suggested that Scilly might be the real lost land of Lyonesse – a mythical drowned land west of Cornwall.

## Sea level rise

There are currently two models for sea level change in Scilly. The first, published by Charles Thomas in 1985, suggests Ennor existed until about the 5th century AD and formed a single entity at low tide until as late as the 11th century, the final separation perhaps not occurring until the early 16th century. In the absence of radiocarbon dates, Thomas calculated the rate of sea level rise by plotting the vertical position of intertidal stone remains which could be broadly dated from artefacts and analogy with sites elsewhere and assuming a minimum occupation level. Place-name evidence was also used for the medieval period and later.

The second model resulted from palaeoenvironmental assessment and corresponding radiocarbon dates on intertidal peat and organic silt deposits sampled between 1989 and 1993 by Cornwall Archaeological Unit (now Historic Environment, Cornwall Council), in conjunction with the AM Lab and Bristol University, with funding from English Heritage. This indicates a less dramatic rate of sea level rise, and GIS modelling suggests that the islands could have been separated at high water from c1000 BC. The process of inundation is ongoing; the latest prediction by the Environment Agency suggesting a possible rise in mean sea level of 0.57m by 2050.

## Submerged forest

The initial impetus for the current project was discovery of a submerged forest at a depth of 8m in St Mary's Roads by IMAG diver Todd Stevens. A sample was recovered, and further samples taken by divers in 2009 and 2010, including a large segment of tree trunk (willow). The project has involved an audit and verification of all recorded peat exposures in Scilly during two seasons of fieldwork. Marine geophysics has been used to map the submerged forest and to prospect for peat on the seabed. Reports of peat by local divers have been investigated and samples taken from St Mary's Roads and the sea bed off Nornour. In the intertidal zone auger surveys, tied in with GPS, were used to map the extent of peat deposits which are often buried by sand. Samples were taken from Crab's Ledge and Bathinghouse Porth, Tresco; Porth Mellon, Porth Hellick and Old

# and marine environment of the Isles of Scilly

Charles Johns

Town, St Mary's, Par Beach, St Martin's, and Porth Coose, St Agnes. Radiocarbon determinations ranging from 5990 to 4350 cal BC date the submerged forest to the Late Mesolithic. At this time the sea level must have been below the points at which these samples were taken.

## Changing vegetation

Pollen spectra from the sub-marine samples show a sequence of vegetation change through the Mesolithic from a herb-rich grassland, gradually colonised by oak, birch and hazel woodland. A large peak in charcoal at the transition to the overlying peat is associated with a peak in birch and a decline in oak, suggesting disturbance or clearance by fire, followed by recovery of oak-dominated woodland, with an increasingly wet surface shown by the presence of willow. The final phase sees a change to open marsh dominated by sedges, changing to grass dominance with increasing salinity, possibly from rising sea levels. Radiocarbon determinations and OSL ages from the Crab's Ledge and Bathinghouse Porth samples indicate a saltmarsh environment on the southern edge of Tresco by about 1200 cal BC. Such recent results and better understanding of the calibrations needed to interpret them indicate that a realistic model for sea level rise is close to that suggested in 1989–93.

Palaeoenvironmental analysis and scientific dating of the samples is currently ongoing and the final results of the project will be disseminated in September 2011.

## Charles Johns MfA

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Scilly from the air, with St Mary's in the foreground. Photograph: Cornwall Council

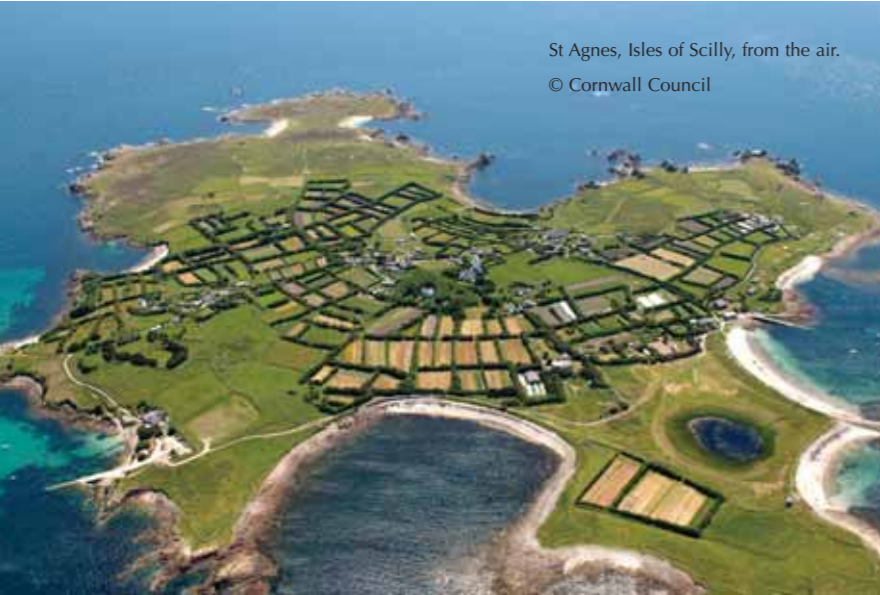


Crab's Ledge, Tresco at low spring tide in September 2010. Photograph: Cornwall Council



IMAG diver Todd Stevens with a tree stump from the submerged forest. Photograph: Carmen Stevens

CISMAS divers Innes McCartney and Luke Randall taking a core sample from the submerged peat in St Mary's Roads. Photograph: Kevin Camidge



## A Bronze Age house on St Agnes, Isles of Scilly

Charles Johns and Sean Taylor

Part of a prehistoric settlement has recently been found on St Agnes in the Isles of Scilly on a sheltered south-west facing slope, within a prehistoric to Romano-British field system and settlement, in advance of a housing scheme. The first phase of work revealed a stone-built roundhouse 6m in diameter, the centre of which was filled with granite rubble. An L-shaped porch projected from one side of the structure, evidently post-dating initial construction of the building. The whole structure was contained within a cut into the slope, which formed a relatively level base. Excavation of the interior revealed two postholes that may have held roof-supporting posts; there has been very little previous evidence of such features on sites in Scilly. A whole pottery vessel, encased in limpet shells in a matrix of sandy clay, was found in a stone-lined chamber within the

The Bronze Age roundhouse during excavation.  
© Cornwall Council



building. Large quantities of very thick coarse-grained Bronze Age pottery were recovered. An inscription on one of these sherds may be an early representation of a sailing boat. The marks were made before the vessel was fired.

At the bottom of the slope were shallow, sub-circular pits, presumably for extracting soft clay for manufacture of local pottery, or possibly for coating pots to make them watertight. One smaller pit contained the whole rim and shoulder of a Roman-period pot and cut into an earlier pit containing a copper alloy brooch. The location of these two pits seems to have been marked with posts. Upslope were stratified deposits and structural remains, including part of a stone-walled building with two hearths and extensive shell middens. During later phases the building had been partially demolished and obscured by walls delineating the settlement compound.

The project will now focus on assessing and analysing the data and artefacts, for publication in *Cornish Archaeology*.

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Bronze Age hearth, filled with limpet shells © Cornwall Council



Some experts think that this Bronze age potsherd is boat-decorated, others think it is just irregular scoring

## The Archaeological Landscape of Bute

George Geddes and Alex Hale 2010  
Edinburgh: RCAHMS £7.50 pb

This attractive and lavishly-illustrated little volume results from a partnership project between RCAHMS and the Discover Bute Landscape Partnership



Scheme, the latter an ongoing and mainly HLF-funded initiative to improve knowledge and presentation of Bute's rural landscape. The aims were to enhance the RCAHMS records for Bute, working closely with the active local community, and to produce this booklet summarising the archaeology of this small island in the Firth of Clyde (and of its smaller neighbour, Inchmarnock) from the Mesolithic to the 19th century. The result is informative yet succinct, making good use of a variety of sources; in particular, aerial photographs provide vivid impressions of topography and of individual sites.

The booklet rightly pays tribute to the long tradition of archaeological interest shown by the people of Bute – from the Earls of Bute to the Marshall family and the Buteshire Natural History Society. The wealth of Bute's archaeology is evident, as is the work that still remains to be undertaken. Much doubtless remains to be discovered within Bute, but the skill-sharing that has been a feature of the partnership project has ensured that the community is well-equipped to play an active role in its discovery.

*Alison Sheridan*  
National Museums Scotland

## Excavations at Old Scatness, Shetland Vol 1: The Pictish village and Viking settlement

Stephen J Dockrill, Julie M Bond, Val E Turner, Louise D Brown, Daniel J Bashford, Julia E Cussans, Rebecca A Nicholson  
Shetland Heritage Publications 2010 £45 399pp, hb  
Available from  
shop.shetlandmuseumandarchives.org.uk

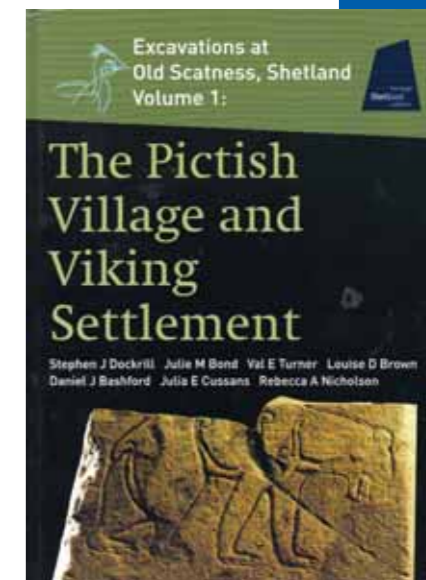
This mighty volume is the first in a series of academic publications on the 1995 to 2006 work on the broch and surrounding village at Old Scatness. It covers the period when Pictish society, which produced high quality art in stone and metal (including silver) as found on this site, was wiped out by Vikings, for whom it was the first landing place in Britain. The Late Iron Age settlement (Pictish broch and village) dates from the 5th to late 9th century AD, had cultural links with Pictish Scotland, a sequence of buildings in multi-cellular dry-stone construction and a vibrant metal economy. Exceptionally, domestic buildings contained stones carved with Pictish symbols, including a bear, salmon and boar, as well as painted quartz pebbles and much graffiti.

Although Pictish structures continued in use during early stages of the new settlement and there are no signs of violence, the new culture was distinctly different. The Viking and Norse settlement had long

rectangular houses in Scandinavian tradition, using turf and timber as well as stone. Pottery was replaced by soapstone (at first imported, then quarried on Shetland). Nevertheless, the basic pattern of agriculture remained similar, apart from introduction of flax and increase in oat crops. Both relied heavily on fish, some in the Viking period from deep seas, and much less on birds.

The endgame of the project is to place Old Scatness firmly on the world stage, through innovative presentation and Living History, and to explain Shetland's heritage to a wide public. This beautifully illustrated hard back volume, with in-depth discussions from experts on varied topics alongside equally expert specialist reports and site descriptions, is an invaluable bedrock for these ambitions.

*Alison Taylor MIfA*



# Managing monuments on

Some of the finest monuments on the Spanish island of Menorca are the megalithic 'talayotic' villages. Formidable stone towers, or 'talayots', obtrude from rubble mounds that sprawl over hill sides among olive groves. Elsewhere, menhir-like posts jut from the collapsed remains of huge multi-cellular interconnected dwellings. Settlement is understood to date from 1400 BC through to the Roman conquest, and the ruins were later adopted by Islamic refugees following the Christian re-conquest of Spain. In 2010, Souterrain Archaeological Services carried out a pre-excavation survey at one of the best known of these, Torre d'en Gaumés, on behalf of excavation director Amalia Pérez-Juez, of Boston University in Spain.

## Menorca Martin Wilson and Mercedes Planas

monumental restoration plus the need to facilitate site access and presentation to the public have together made it increasingly difficult to make sense of the archaeology. The roads and walls deceive many visitors, who assume that they follow prehistoric trajectories. The ancient layout is unmarked on the site map and, with the growing pressures of tourism, significant aspects of an archaeological site tend to blur and monumental reconstructions become isolated from remains of buildings at ground level that they once adjoined. Achieving the right balance can be difficult, and archaeologists playing 'catch up' is nothing new in a world in which the public expects well-packaged merchandise.

### Scientific analysis

However, Boston University's presence at Torre d'en Gaumés has had a far-reaching influence on data recovery techniques and the acquisition of knowledge. Questions of spatial syntax, everyday life, and intra-site connections are now essential research questions, and scientific analysis includes environmental sampling, soils micro-morphology, thin section analysis of pottery and radiocarbon dating, rather than the previous concentration on pottery typology. This work has helped build a spirit of respect, collaboration and enthusiasm between Amalia Pérez-Juez and the *Consell Insular*, the government curatorial archaeological body which contributes grant aid wherever possible to the project. Rules for undertaking a research excavation on Menorca involve a permit from the *Consell Insular*. For this, one must demonstrate a budget sufficient to cover consolidation and preservation of

Survey work in progress, 2010. Photograph: Martin Wilson

any monumental architecture. This obligation may include restoration and reconstruction. If a project team fails to deliver an annual report then no further permits are issued. Scientific analysis is not a prerequisite for an excavation, although many archaeologists would prefer there to be minimum expectations, with scientific techniques as standard, for all research and developer-led investigations.

### Collaboration uncommon

Broad information about an archaeological site may be sought from the *carta arqueológica* (equivalent to an HER), held by the *Consell Insular*, although to obtain anything more in-depth can be problematic. None of the grey literature and site archive submitted to the *Consell Insular* enters the public domain and may only be accessed with written permission from the excavation team. It is not unknown for a site director to be excavating a site adjacent to a previous dig and know only summary information, a serious obstacle to understanding a site like Torre d'en Gaumés (despite it being one of three such government-owned sites) where at least six different teams have worked, and where comparative analysis of results and creation of a composite site plan is imperative. The talayotic house adjacent to Boston University's excavation was dug and re-constructed by a local archaeological group for whom Amalia Pérez-Juez has conducted soils analysis, and reports are exchanged. However, such collaboration is uncommon. As there have been no comprehensive landscape studies on the island (gaining access to land is a convoluted process), we can only guess how many talayots exist. Sites of a similar calibre to Torre d'en Gaumés are known on private land, but the *Consell Insular* has no jurisdiction over them.

A ruined talayotic house with monolithic columns that once supported the central court, and (left foreground) orthostatic base stones. Photograph: Martin Wilson

### Differentiation of Bronze Age and Islamic rubble

Our survey resulted in a 3D CAD working plan, which we will use to devise the excavation strategy and develop as an interrogative tool as excavation takes place. Perimeter walls of the talayotic houses consist, where present, of a base course of large rounded orthostats set on end, but other than this, upper courses and internal walls are not dissimilar from walls made by the Muslim house builders; here we must rely on stratigraphic indicators and comparative and deductive analysis. But, neither is the differentiation of Bronze Age and Islamic rubble unambiguous, and critical to the excavation strategy will be to identify collapsed roof stone, often overlooked in the past, which not only has the potential to yield evidence about site use and site formation processes, but could tell us whether areas, such as the courtyard, were open or roofed.

Post-excavation work was well under way when excavations at Torre d'en Gaumés came to a close in 2010, and long before the last team member had left site Dr. Pérez-Juez was already planning excavations for the decade ahead.

### Martin Wilson MifA

### Mercedes Planas MifA

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Torre d'en Gaumés, set amidst olive groves. Note how modern paths can easily confuse archaeological interpretation Photograph: Amalia Pérez-Juez

### Legacy of monumental restoration

Our principal task was to differentiate between prehistoric and Islamic periods and 20th-century 'tidying up', and this work gave us an insight to the mechanisms that have driven archaeological research work on the island. The main features on display at Torre d'en Gaumés include three multi-cellular houses, recently excavated and rebuilt. Routes are marked on the visitors' plan and paths are kerbed in local stone which blends with the ruins. Viewing platforms are provided at key points and areas roped off in the interest of safety. A long legacy of

Torre d'en Gaumés, Menorca from the air: a talayotic house with Islamic structures superimposed. Photograph: Amalia Pérez-Juez



# Banks, Bells and Bowls: A 21st-century survey of South Dorset Ridgeway barrows

Paul White

*The construction of the Weymouth Relief Road provided the opportunity for a condition survey of barrows along the South Dorset Ridgeway, repeating a similar survey undertaken 30 years ago at a time of arable intensification and providing a unique long-term perspective on the management and survival of rural monuments.*



The Grey Mare and her Colts long barrow. © Wessex Archaeology

The South Dorset Ridgeway is characterised by prehistoric barrows which vary widely in date, form and survival. Many (62%) are scheduled monuments. Collectively, the South Dorset Ridgeway is a major reserve of prehistoric archaeology, which sits within an ever changing and evolving rural landscape. Wessex Archaeology has been working with Dorset County Council and the South Dorset Ridgeway Steering Group, which comprises English Heritage, landowners, residents and parish councillors, to undertake a condition survey of the barrows, an important stage for their future management.

## Bleak outlook

The impact of farming intensification and mechanisation became increasingly a matter of concern during the mid to late 20th century. The 1982 Groube and Bowden monograph *The Archaeology of Rural Dorset. Past, Present and Future* noted that 'intensive farming practices emerge as the most important threat to archaeological sites in the rural landscape of Dorset'. At the same time the Wessex Archaeological Committee (a former

incarnation of Wessex Archaeology) initiated a regional barrow preservation survey led by Peter Woodward.

This survey used standard terminology to record condition and stability, and this has ensured compatibility with the existing survey. The 1980s' survey made bleak reading: many barrows had been 'severely affected by the intensification of arable farming since WWII. Despite scheduling, it is likely that by the end of the century only 40% of the known barrow sites will be visible, and not many of these will be unscathed.'

## New century, new survey

The 2010 survey focused on the main density of barrows around the Ridgeway. The study area covered 9080 hectares and contained nearly 700 barrows. During the past 30 years there have been major advances in technology which means the paper records and maps of the 1980s' survey have been replaced by GIS and databases loaded onto palmtop computers with bluetooth GPS receivers. The barrows were rapidly assessed through field survey, recording their condition, land use, any negative impacts and management recommendations where appropriate. So had the alarming prediction made 30 years ago come true?

## An improving picture?

There has been decline in condition but not been as rapidly as feared. There was a drop in the number of barrows recorded as *Good* and these are now considered to be of *Fair* or *Poor* condition. Broad stability may be due to scheduling, which encouraged stabilisation through positive management by landowners. The stability may also

Minor changes such as relocating a water trough could greatly enhance the remains of this long barrow. © Wessex Archaeology



relate to changes in land use. One major surprise was the massive swing from arable cultivation to long-term pasture ley and reversion. Another surprise was the number of instances where the previous survey had recorded no visible trace of a barrow within an arable field, but in 2010 faint low-level earthworks could be identified within the grass swathe. However the same problems can still be seen in the landscape where the mound is not being ploughed but continues to be clipped and any buried remains outside of the mound are being impacted. Perhaps unsurprisingly, unscheduled barrows dominate the *Very Bad* condition category. Earthworks associated with unscheduled barrows have been badly affected by ploughing as Woodward predicted 30 years ago.

## Specific management issues

Further arable reversion on some monuments as part of Stewardship schemes is necessary, as is increasing buffers around barrows in ploughed fields. Beyond Stewardship schemes, lack of ploughing has created other threats from scrub encroachment and burrowing animals, due to lack of management. The latest survey has provided recommendations on specific monuments. In many instances it is small changes that are required through raising awareness to avoid over grazing, inappropriate placement of feeders or stopping farm machinery driving over monuments. On a small number of barrows visitor erosion could be observed and this should be monitored. During the survey positive management activities were observed, including removal of tree plantations on top of barrows.

## Informed future management

The aim of the survey was not to be retrospective by comparing results but to provide guidance and a new baseline, to take the management of these monuments into the 21st century. Outputs include an



enhanced HER record for each barrow and a stand-alone gazetteer. The gazetteer can be used by land managers, landowners and curators to work towards positive management. By working with the community through the South Dorset Ridgeway Steering Group it is hoped that future condition recording, using a simple pro-forma based on the previous surveys, and also positive management, can be undertaken by the local community, thereby encouraging conservation and appreciation of this nationally important landscape at a local level.

## Paul White MfA

Team Leader- Historic Landscape  
Wessex Archaeology  
p.white@wessexarch.co.uk

*Editor's note: this article was sent for TA 78, Management of rural sites. Due to the vagaries of my computer it didn't arrive, and so is published here.*

The diverse and extensive nature of the prehistoric barrows across the South Dorset Ridgeway as seen at Poor Lot barrow cemetery. © Wessex Archaeology



The 2010 survey uses palmtop computers to directly input condition information into the survey database. © Wessex Archaeology

## New members & Members news

### ELECTED

#### Member (MIFA)

John Ames  
Liz Cornell  
Ian Hanson  
Karl Harrison  
Robert Janaway  
Gaille Mackinnon  
Andrew Mayes  
Penny Middleton  
Andrea Scott  
Lynn Smith  
Adam Stanford  
Suzie Thomas  
Andrew Wilson

#### Associate (AIFA)

Sarah Cobain  
Gregory Jones

#### Practitioner (PIFA)

Rachel Butler  
Tom Elliot  
Mary Harvey  
Malgorzata Trelka

#### Affiliate

Kirsten Amor  
Tim Johnston  
Howard  
Kimberley  
Thomas  
Lightbown  
David Maron  
Krissy Moore  
Marcus Roxburgh  
Vincent Simmonds  
Justina Southworth  
Kerri Wheeler

#### Student

Audrey Alimo  
Thomas Barnard  
Jessica Bownes  
Lucia Campetella  
Matthew Charlton  
Jo Chick  
Kathleen Faccia  
Dee Hannah  
Rachael Holland  
Richard Kevill  
Stewart Munday  
Simon Musset  
David Prestridge  
Camille Shepherd  
Laura Slack  
Katie Smith  
Rowena Thomson  
Caroline Vile  
Robert James  
Williams  
Joanna Winfield  
Valerie Wolfkamp

### TRANSFERS

#### Member (MIFA)

Nicholas Cooke  
Paul Everill  
James Leary  
Abigail Rolland  
Lucy Sibun

#### Associate (AIFA)

Christine  
Hopwood-Lewis  
Tara-Jane Sutcliffe

#### Practitioner (PIFA)

Johnny Crawford  
Karl Hanson  
Jeffrey Muir

### A proposed new Islands Special Interest Group

In view of my recent appointment to the island of Jersey, as Field Archaeologist for the Société Jersiaise (p44), I would like to ask if there are IfA members who would be interested in forming an Archaeology of Islands Special Interest Group. My interest is primarily selfish, as I am a beginner in island studies and would like to find out what other work has or is being done in this field. It occurs to me however that there is clearly an interest in the subject, given the theme of this *TA*.

Before I formally propose this new Group I need the names of at least 15 members of the Institute, of whatever grade, who would like to become members of this SIG, and names and addresses of five members willing to act as a provisional organising committee and naming three of themselves as acting Hon Chair, acting Hon Secretary and acting Hon Treasurer. These must all be corporate members of the Institute. If you are interested, could you email me? Whether this results in an official 'Special Interest Group' or merely a loose collection of interested individuals is less important to me than conversing with others working in the subject area. Over to you!

#### Robert Waterhouse MifA 1268

Société Jersiaise  
7 Pier Road, St Helier, Jersey JE2 4XW  
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Robert Waterhouse

#### Robert Waterhouse MifA 1268

In August, Robert Waterhouse was appointed Field Archaeologist to the Société Jersiaise in Jersey, Channel Islands. Since 1997 he has specialised in buildings, landscape and park/garden archaeology of Devon, working for private clients, English Heritage, South West Archaeology, District Councils and the Devon Rural Archive. From 2002–2010 he was Site Archaeologist at Morwellham Quay, directing volunteers in excavation and building survey projects at this 18th–19th century industrial port. He is currently writing *Archaeology of the Tavistock Canal*, in which much of this work will be published. Robert's long experience of the volunteer sector is key to his new post, in which he will be involving Société Jersiaise members in landscape, building recording and excavation projects over the next five years.

## Members news

### Joe Abrams MifA 1829

Joe Abrams has moved from Albion Archaeology to join Headland Archaeology in their new South & East office in Leighton Buzzard. Joe was Project Manager at Albion for seven years, working in Bedfordshire and surrounding counties. Recent publications include articles on the adulterine castle of Robert de Waudari in Luton, a study of the Biggleswade curus and its associated landscape and a monograph covering Iron Age and Roman farmsteads on the claylands west of Cambridge. The move to Headland Archaeology will open new avenues for business and research, expanding the existing team in this growing office.



Joe Abrams (on left) bagging some of the 4473 coins from the Childerley Gate coin hoard. Photograph: Albion Archaeology

### Karen Bewick

IfA has recruited Karen Bewick to be its Communications Manager. Karen joins the IfA from the Heritage Alliance where she was involved in development of PPS5 and consultations on English Heritage's National Heritage Protection Plan, while lobbying for the historic environment in the proposed new National Planning Policy Framework. Karen brings public relations and communications experience to the IfA having undertaken in-house and consultancy communications roles for various corporate, public sector and charitable organisations over the past ten years. Most recently she acted as conduit for communications on Heritage Protection Reform between Government, English Heritage and the heritage voluntary sector. Prior to this she was Communications Manager at engineering consultants Arup and gained a Postgraduate Diploma in Conservation of the Historic Environment.

Karen will oversee all external communications, working to raise awareness of IfA and to promote the

vital work of its members and Registered Organisations. Karen would welcome comments on the communications that members would like to receive. Please contact Karen.bewick@archaeologists.net.



Karen Bewick

### Diggers Forum travel questionnaire

Coinciding with the relaunch of its newsletter the Diggers Forum is holding an online survey of travel and away work in British commercial archaeology. The survey addresses two of the big 'unknowns' in commercial archaeology: the amount of travel and driving we all do, and the amount of away work and its affect on our lives and careers. The survey is relevant to anyone working in UK archaeology who works on site, even if you do not work away from home. The survey is held at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/diggersforumtravelsurvey> and should take 15–20 minutes, depending on how much you want to say! There is ample opportunity to add personal views and experiences.

### Chris Clarke

Chair, Diggers forum

**Vaughan Birbeck** *Alfa 1374*  
1957–2010

Vaughan Birbeck was one of Wessex Archaeology's longest-serving archaeologists. Born in Burton upon Trent, he studied Engineering Technology and worked for Allied Breweries for 9 years before coming into archaeology through an MSC scheme with Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit. After three years with the Museum of London Archaeology Service and work in Berkshire he joined Wessex Archaeology in 1991, where he established himself as key member of the fieldwork team. In 2000 he became a Senior Project Officer.

Vaughan had the archaeological and site management skills to work across deeply stratified urban sites, large rural sites, and major infrastructure projects, and he pragmatically passed on those skills to generations of younger archaeologists. His projects, from desk-based assessments to standing buildings, were done quietly and efficiently, but excavation was his forte. His published works reflect the unpretentious but high level skills that were deployed on sites across southern England, including Cannard's Grave Roman settlement in Somerset, a Roman villa at Snodland, Kent, and prehistoric settlement at Watchfield, Oxfordshire. He published his own excavations along the A35 and the A34 Newbury Bypass, and also those by other organisations. It was on urban sites that Vaughan was in his element and where he could use his sharp analytical skills to the full. The deep stratified site at Fenchurch Street in the heart of London with its

important Roman sequence, and Hyde Street, Winchester, on the outer precinct of the Benedictine Abbey, were excavated and published. So too was the urban site of St Mary's Stadium, Southampton where the important Anglo-Saxon cemeteries shed new light on the origins of the city.

Typically, he had said little about his achievements to his family, to whom the books and articles came as a surprise. To his friends and colleagues those works will form the enduring legacy of a fine and modest, archaeologist who had so much still to offer. He was a keen climber, and in recent years also a star player in 'The Nomads', the somewhat improbable Wyndham Arms pub pétanque team.

*Andrew Fitzpatrick*



Vaughan Birbeck at work in Langstone Harbour

**Anne Brundle**  
1958-2011

Just before this TA was complete we heard that Anne Brundle, Curator of Archaeology at Tankerness House Museum, Orkney, who would normally have contributed material on Orkney, had died. Anne was a graduate of Edinburgh University, where she went to study English but switched to History. She returned to Orkney after graduation and gained her first hands-on experience of archaeology, digging on the Howe at Howe Farm. She seized an opportunity to stay in archaeology as part of a Manpower Services

Commission scheme at Tankerness House Museum in 1980, was appointed Museum Assistant in 1982 and Curator of Archaeology in 2003. All through this time, in addition to museum duties she organised conferences and exhibitions, taught at Orkney College, served on committees, delivered evening classes, talked on Radio Orkney and generally spread her enormous enthusiasm for her subject.

In 1995 she was awarded an MA in Museum Studies, qualifying her to manage the archaeological collections and enabling more acquisitions to be kept in Orkney, and she served on the committee of



One of Anne's famous Christmas cards, supplied by Caroline Wickham-Jones

Anne Brundle



Scottish Museum Archaeologists for fifteen years. She was particularly interested in bone and antler artefacts from the Late Iron Age in Orkney and the North Atlantic and had begun formal part-time research at the University of York. Her enthusiasm, sense of humour and her welcome and kindness to

professional and amateur archaeologists who crossed her path will be sorely missed.

*Val Turner*

**Marilyn Day** *BA MA Pifa 1384*  
1951–2010

Marilyn Day (Mazza) came to archaeology after a successful career in design. She graduated in Archaeology from Reading University in 1994, and took an MA in Field Archaeology. Marilyn developed an interest in finds whilst an undergraduate and took the lead regarding finds on one of Bill Waldren's legendary excavations near Valdermossa in Majorca. On completing her MA, she joined Thames Valley Archaeological Services as Finds Officer, before moving to Pewsey as a consultant archaeologist. One of her first projects as a member of Pewsey Vale Local History Society was a display about King Arthur. Of eight door-sized panels, it was painted as medieval manuscripts, embracing Marilyn's skills and interests as an artist.

Marilyn instigated local society projects in and around Pewsey and also took part in high-profile surveys such as Stonehenge Riverside Project. She did several seasons on Lihou Island, off Guernsey, in liaison with the Museum of Guernsey, and

volunteered at the Wiltshire Heritage Museum in Devizes. Latterly, Marilyn was an enthusiastic founder member and supporter of Pewsey Vale U3A, where she ran an Archaeology group, sharing her enthusiasm and depth of knowledge.

A vivacious and inspirational lady, she will be much missed. Our thoughts go out to Derrick, Philip and Eleanore Day.

*Nicola Powell, with contributions by Joy Francis, Eleanore Day, Peter Mander and Mike Parker Pearson*



Marilyn Day, working on finds at Stonehenge