



## Summer Newsletter 2021

Dear Scottish Group members,

Summer is here again! We have a multitude of exciting articles to share with you including exciting projects, publications and initiatives, many of which are ongoing.

I'd just like to remind you all of the new [SGCIfA Facebook Group](#) which has been up and running for the last few months, and gaining members – **If you've not** joined us there, then please do sign up and let us know your thoughts on the articles below!

If you have any comments or queries about the Scottish Group, feel free to get in touch with us through our email, [secretary.cifa.sg@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.cifa.sg@gmail.com), or on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). We also have information on the group's [CIfA webpage](#).

Keep safe!

Josh Gaunt BA MCIfA

And the Scottish Group committee

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## Scotland's Summer Dig Season Celebrated with Annual Campaign

Julianne McGraw, Dig It! Communications Manager



Scotland is once again shining a spotlight on its world-class archaeology this summer with Scotland Digs 2021.

Now in its third year, the campaign coordinated by the Dig It! project involves four months of promotion (from 21 June to 22 September) designed to build a buzz around the important work **being done in the sector and increase the visibility of everyone's content.**

Dig It! promotes Scottish archaeology all year round, but the campaign takes it up a notch each summer by focusing on fieldwork with a social media push, event promotion, press coverage, bespoke webpages on the website and more.

In Orkney, the University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology Institute have already invited the public to watch archaeology in action as excavations resume at the Neolithic settlement at the Ness of Brodgar, as well as Skaili farmstead, the site of a large Norse hall discovered in 2019. **Volunteers could also get hands on experience helping survey and record Orkney's energy landscape heritage as part of a project led by the Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology (ORCA).**

In July, the public had the chance to help investigate the 15<sup>th</sup>-century ruins of Glengarnock Castle in North Ayrshire with DigVentures and Garnock Connections, where a handful of artefacts—such as a copper alloy sword pommel—suggest that the medieval fortress could be much older. Urras nan Tursachan (the Calanais Trust) also invited volunteers to gain practical experience of rapid archaeological survey techniques and help update records of coastal heritage sites in the Outer Hebrides with a team from the SCAPE Trust.



The 15<sup>th</sup>-century ruins of Glengarnock Castle in North Ayrshire – *Credit: DigVentures*

Towards the end of the summer, volunteers will be able to help the Can You Dig It team search for evidence of prehistoric stone tools in Dumfries & Galloway and unearth more of **Scotland's** first railway and the remains of 17<sup>th</sup>-century salt making in East Lothian with the 1722 Waggonway Project.

Plans are also being finalised for investigations into Mesolithic mountain



Illustration of the day before the Battle of Prestonpans which was fought across the Waggonway line as part of the 1745 Jacobite Rising, with a brakesmen chatting to redcoat soldiers *Credit: Alan Braby © Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust*

dwelling in the Highlands by University College Dublin and a 60 square km-wide Neolithic 'axe factory' in Shetland by Archaeology Shetland.

The Scotland Digs 2021 campaign also highlights the work of commercial archaeology units through social media and short articles on the Dig It! website—particularly with regards to fieldwork which isn't physically accessible to members of the public.

If you want to get involved and help celebrate Scotland's summer digs and other fieldwork (either happening in 2021 or which occurred in recent years), there's still time.

Why? By using the hashtag (#ScotlandDigs2021), we can build a buzz around the important work being done in the sector, share everyone's content more widely and create a "one-stop-shop" hashtag. Plus, the Dig It! website (which hosts the Scotland Digs webpages) was visited by over 11,000 people during the 2020 campaign period and the press releases were published in national and regional newspapers with a total print circulation of approximately 73,000, so it's a great way to spread the word about your events and projects. We're also offering access to free webinars hosted by experts designed to help you promote your work, a free proofreading service for your press releases, the chance for your events/findings to be featured in the marketing and PR materials, and public engagement stats at the end of the campaign that can be used in reporting and future funding applications.

How? If you're interested in taking part in the campaign, thinking of writing an article about your summer fieldwork for the website, or running any Scottish archaeology events that are free/inexpensive and open to everyone (no experience required), get in touch. If there's anything

else we can do to best support and promote your work this summer, we'd also love to hear from you.

For more information, follow [#ScotlandDigs2021](https://twitter.com/ScotlandDigs2021), visit [DigItScotland.com/Scotland-Digs](https://DigItScotland.com/Scotland-Digs) or contact the Dig It! team at [DigIt@socantscot.org](mailto:DigIt@socantscot.org).

*Dig It! is coordinated by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and primarily funded by Historic Environment Scotland.*

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Overview of Trench P at the Ness of Brodgar Neolithic complex  
*Credit: Hugo Anderson-Whymark*

## Aberlady X-Craft projects- combatting isolation from Covid-19 through heritage research

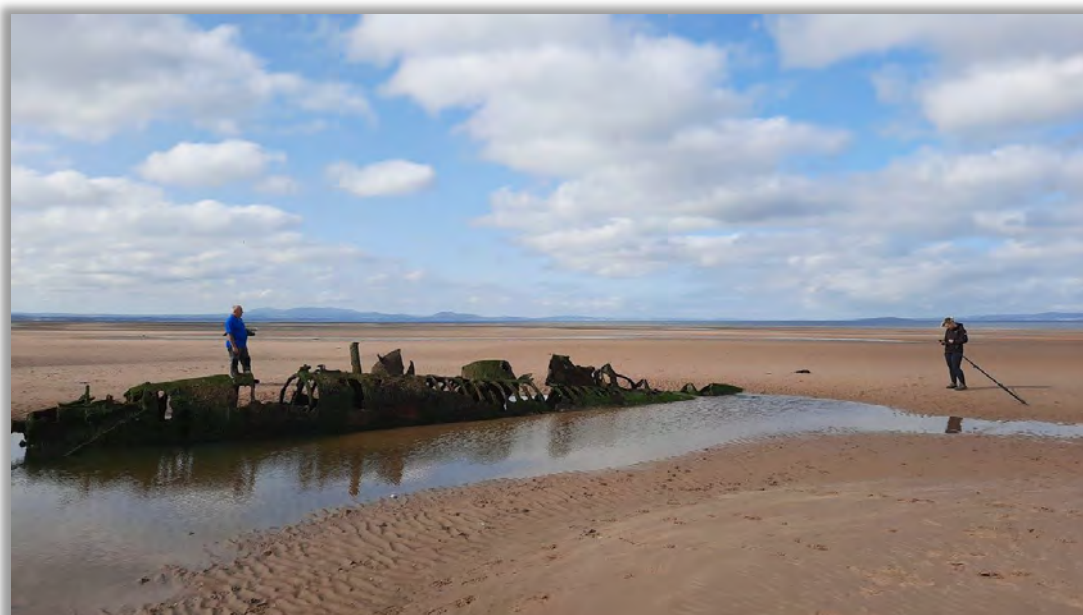
Ben Saunders – Wessex Archaeology

The Covid 19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown has put enormous strain on the mental health of us all and resulted in the cancellation of projects and events designed to support the wellbeing of groups such as injured veterans. With funding provided by the National Lottery Community Fund as part of their covid-19 projects, Wessex Archaeology launched a training and research project based around the wrecks of two WWII X-Craft mini subs resting in Aberlady Bay, East Lothian. Over the course of one year the Aberlady X-Craft project, led by Wessex Archaeology and supported by [Breaking Ground Heritage](#), provided hands on survey training for the veterans and produced an updated condition report of the wrecks. The project engaged over 30 veterans and provided support for eight individual projects, five of which have been taken through to completion. Alongside these projects we have provided a space for discussion, a wide range of training materials and an opportunity for veterans to make contact with others at a time when their traditional networks and meeting places were unavailable. The project is part of Wessex **Archaeology's longstanding work using heritage to support mental health and well-being**, and our ongoing commitment to supporting wounded, injured and sick veterans.

The project began with the completion of the on-site photogrammetric survey of the two wrecks, completed at low tide during spring tides in September 2020. This allowed us to collect all the necessary data for the condition survey while also completing survey training for the veterans able to attend. From the data collected our geomatics department produced a digital 3d model **enabling anyone who couldn't access the sites to investigate the current** condition of the wrecks.

*Links to 3d models of Aberlady x-craft wrecks: [western](#) [eastern](#)*

Using this as inspiration, the project then assisted the volunteers to develop their own research projects. These included the construction of scale models of an X-craft with associated training in artefact scanning/photogrammetry, the investigation of the loss of the aircraft carrier HMS *Glorious* by a relative of one of the crew members lost, research into the use of X-Craft in the Far East, research in to the medical conditions that particularly affected submariners and the



Surveying the Aberlady X-craft (© Wessex Archaeology)

assessment and collation of the Fred Bown archive, one of the survivors from K17, a submarine lost during fleet exercises in 1917 in the Firth of Forth (the Battle of May Island).

The levels of engagement by volunteers varied from ad hoc inclusion in discussions and training via the projects social media page to active engagement in research projects. For some of the veterans these projects were an opportunity to connect a hobby they loved doing e.g. scale modelling, with an aspect of historical research, while for others it was an exercise in developing their research and academic writing abilities. Others were keen to investigate family history, honour former servicemen and women from their own branch of the services or to complete a project that had interested them but they had not had the resources or support to do. Whatever the reasons for doing their projects, it was great to see them build up their data, develop an argument or line of investigation and then to bring it through to completion.

**Thanks to Wessex Archaeology's** sector-leading coastal & marine and marine geophysics departments we were able to match up two researchers with the project team at Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Limited, who had completed high-quality marine geophysical survey over the wrecks of two K-Class submarines from WWI which had been lost during the Battle of May Island. Our Studio team completed 3D virtual modelling of the scale model of the X-Craft built by one of the volunteers using the Artec Spider artefact scanner, which allowed the 3D models of the wrecks to be compared with a complete X-Craft. The scale model itself is now being worked up into a dockside diorama which will be donated to the Aberlady Historical Society for their community museum. The project looking at the X-Craft in the Far East has also put together service biographies of X-Craft crews and we are investigating publication options for this output, as we are for the Fred Bown archive project.

Some feedback from the volunteers:

*"This has been a great project to be involved with, I work through a lot of service records and military postcards to piece the bits of the history back together in my spare time so when I was asked by Dickie from Breaking Ground Heritage, I knew it was something to be involved with. Last year during lockdown was particularly hard for a number of people, however I believe the project has given a purpose to many veterans who would normally assist on digs but has meant*



3D model of an Aberlady X-craft (© Wessex Archaeology)

*they have still kept their hand in, including myself. For myself it has been really interesting to work through Fred's service records and write a summary of his time spent in the Royal Navy, after being interested in military history for many years, to work on the Battle of May Island has been a great eye opener of history that has been covered up for many years."*

*"My contribution was a fact-finding project on X-Craft which included visiting X24, the only surviving WW2 midget submarine displayed in the Submarine Museum in Gosport. It gave me a sense of the size and internal structure of the Aberlady X-Craft wrecks we were investigating. In addition, I conducted a literature review of published research into the medical problems experienced by British submariners in WW2. It was fascinating – not surprisingly life onboard a WW2 submarine was hazardous! My report has been added to the archive in the Institute of Naval Medicine, Gosport. It was a great to be part of The Aberlady X-Craft Projects team. It came at a time of isolation and loneliness during the COVID lockdowns of 2020/2021 and the project kept me busy, engaged and mentally stimulated which increased my self-confidence and self-worth."*

Thanks to all the volunteers for taking part; to Wessex Archaeology staff in C&M, Marine Geophysics, Studio and Geomatics for their support; to NnGOWL for the provision of the marine geophysics data for the wrecks and to NLCF for their funding. The project overall has been an inspirational combination of development led archaeology, community impact and individual research which I am very proud to have been part of.

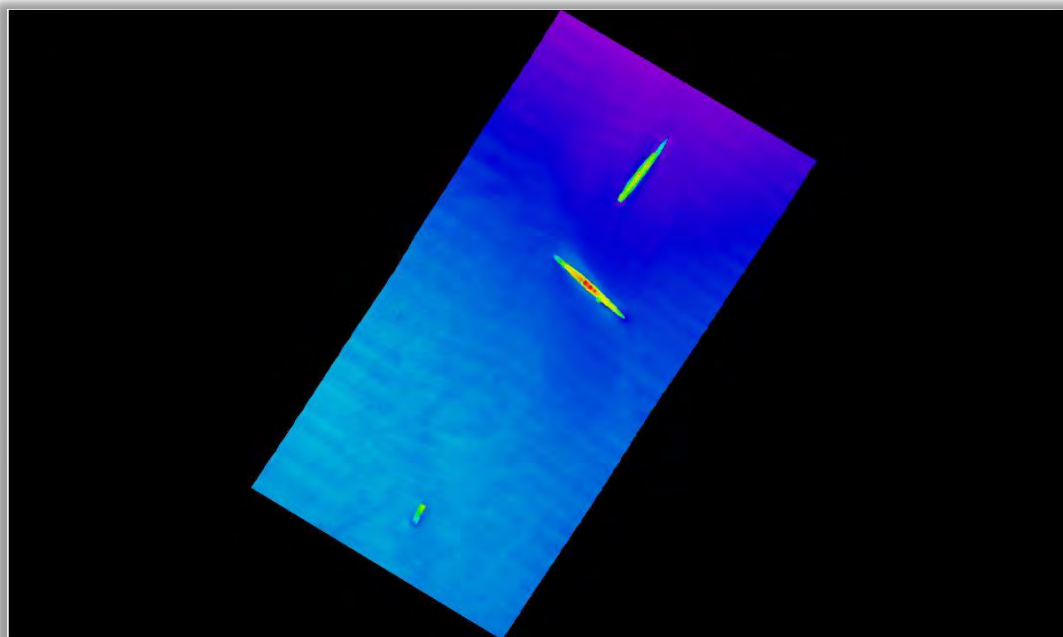
Further Reading:

<https://nngoffshorewind.com/>

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk>

<https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/news/re-examining-k-class-wrecks-battle-may-island>

<https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/along-came-spider>



Plan of K-class subs (© Wessex Archaeology)

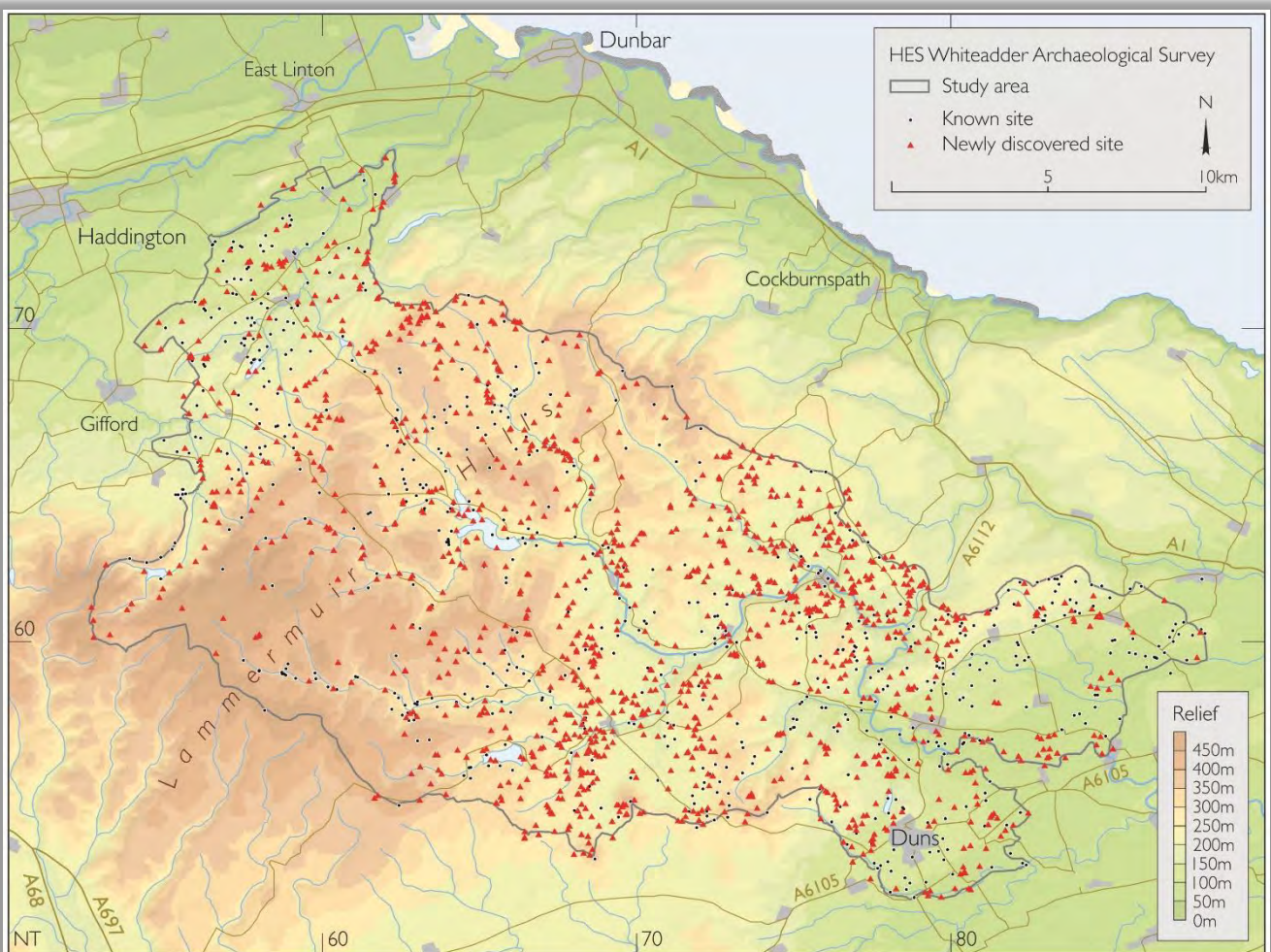
# Whiteadder Water Survey

Dr George Geddes, Archaeological Survey, HES

A survey of the upper catchment of the Whiteadder Water (392 km<sup>2</sup>) was undertaken by the Archaeological Survey team of Historic Environment Scotland between October 2019 and March 2021. The survey formed part of the Rapid Archaeological Mapping Programme, a research and development project designed to develop processes and protocols for the rapid enhancement of the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE). The aims of the survey were: (i) to enhance the NRHE through a combination of record revision and the identification of new sites; (ii) to further develop procedures for the rapid archaeological mapping of large areas that emphasise speed and economy; and (iii) to capitalise on the availability of Airborne Laser Scanning (ALS) data.

The survey was mainly concerned with discrete archaeological features, with a particular focus on those that can be shown to pre-date the first edition of the OS 6-inch map. Later features that have been abandoned were also included on a discretionary basis, but no attempt was made to record relict features later in date than c.1900 AD.

The project made use of Airborne Laser Scanning (ALS) data delivered to HES by the Scottish Government (Lidar for Scotland Phase 3). Initially captured by Fugro for Scottish Power Energy Network in 2015 and 2016 to monitor their overhead power cable network, the data also included



Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] [2021].

Map of the study area showing the known and newly discovered sites © HES (SC2171060).



information gathered on behalf of Scottish Borders Council in 2019. With a point density of about 30 last returns per m<sup>2</sup>, the resolution of the full dataset is significantly higher than Phase 3 data available through Scottish Remote Sensing Portal (4 points per m<sup>2</sup>). The point cloud data was processed by HES to generate digital terrain models (DTM) with a resolution of 0.5m. Visualisations were subsequently produced using the Relief Visualisation Toolbox, a great piece of free software (<https://iaps.zrc-sazu.si/en/rvt#v>).

The survey specification was designed to ensure rapid coverage and to meet the minimum record requirements of the NRHE with specific regard to location, classification and period. The location of each site was recorded as a site-area polygon at a scale of between 1:1,000 and 1:2,000 and a centre point with 1m precision was subsequently generated from the polygon. The classification and period of each site was recorded in line with the specification for a Level 2 HES Levels of Survey.

The first phase of the project involved the revision of the classification, period and location of sites recorded in existing records. All finds and architectural records were excluded, as well as most sites only represented by documentary evidence. In addition to the ALS data and the information in the NRHE, reference was made where necessary to material in the HES Archive. These included aerial photographs and related mapping, drawings and notebooks related to the work of RCAHMS, the records of the OS Archaeology Division, and other manuscript sources.

In the second phase of the project, desk-based survey concentrated on the identification of new features in a desktop GIS environment from ALS-derived visualisations including Local Dominance and Multidirectional Hillshade. Vertical aerial photographs captured up to 2018 (supplied by Getmapping plc) provided additional information, as did successive iterations of OS Historic Maps at 6-inch and 25-inch scales (supplied by the National Library of Scotland) and current OS digital and raster mapping. Those features identified with a high level of confidence were double-checked by members of the project team, while those identified with a low level of confidence were first double-checked and then tagged to be visited in the field.

The survey dealt with 1,954 archaeological sites. This comprised the revision of 698 pre-existing site records (44 of which benefited from a field visit) and 1,256 previously unrecorded sites (a 180% increase), including 259 that were visited and 51 that were identified during fieldwork. Among the large number of newly discovered sites only 26 can be assigned with any confidence to the prehistoric or medieval periods. This low number is due to the impact of agricultural improvement on the lower-lying ground, the extent of previous field and aerial survey, and an apparent paucity of remains on the higher ground. The prehistoric discoveries included a probable **Bronze Age burial cairn on the summit of Rangely Kip (NT66NW 72) and a burnt mound at Gowk's Cleugh (NT66SE 121)**. A possible scooped settlement was identified at Damhead Plantation (NT75NE 199), and three other possible settlements (NT56NE 155 and 156, NT66SE 112) elsewhere. Among the medieval sites noted is what may be a motte and bailey castle at Castle Moffat (NT66NW 73), and farmsteads at Moss Burn and West Hopes (NT56NE 149; NT56SE 61). Of the 15 shieling sites that were discovered, only one (NT67SW 163) was considered to be medieval although the largest group, at Lodge Rig (NT66NW 84), may have been in use over many years.

In stark contrast to the comparative lack of sites of medieval or earlier date is the wealth of material from the post-medieval period. At least 27 farmsteads were recorded, along with 21 **solitary buildings and others that can be ascribed to more specific uses, such as shepherd's cottages**. The hilly nature of the ground is reflected in the discovery of 32 dams, 28 mill ponds and 22 lades, most of which relate to the use of water to power threshing machines on farmsteads. More than 250 sheepfolds were recorded, the great majority of which are evident as a turf ring-bank, along with many other forms of enclosure that were probably also sheepfolds. Of these, 16 exhibit evidence of multiple phases of construction or rebuilding. The largest group of features relate to extractive industries and, taken together, they reflect the huge demand on

raw materials for the construction of roads, field-walls, drains and buildings in the 18th and 19th centuries. They include sandstone (14) and whinstone quarries (159), gravel pits (21) and clusters of small quarries (142).

The Whiteadder survey has made a significant contribution to enhancing our understanding of the historic environment in this part of the Borders. It demonstrates the value of the ALS data in particular in helping us to create systematic archaeological evidence in a rapid and cost-effective manner, and has contributed to helping us think about how we further develop large area archaeological mapping (see Banaszek *et al.*; Cowley *et al.* 2020; Cowley *et al.* 2021).



Oblique aerial view showing *Friar's* Nose fort and the upper reaches of the Whiteadder © [\(DP336604\)](#)

## References

- Banaszek, Ł., Cowley, D. & Middleton, M. 2018.** Towards national archaeological mapping. Assessing source data and methodology – a case study from Scotland. *Geosciences* 2018, 8(8), 272; <https://doi.org/10.3390/geosciences8080272>
- Cowley, D., Banaszek, Ł., Geddes, G., Gannon, A., Middleton, M. & Millican, K., 2020.** Making LiGHT Work of Large Area Survey? Developing Approaches to Rapid Archaeological Mapping and the Creation of Systematic National-scaled Heritage Data. *Journal of Computer Applications in Archaeology*, 3(1), pp.109–121. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/jcaa.49>
- Cowley, D., Geddes, G., Banaszek, Ł., Millican, K., & Kramer, I. 2021.** Expedite and upscale – large area archaeological survey in the age of big data and machine learning. *The Archaeologist*, Winter 2021, Issue 112, 15-7

## The Social Value Toolkit

Elizabeth Robson

A new toolkit has been launched to help heritage practitioners understand how communities value and relate to Scotland's historic environment. The [Social Value Toolkit](#) was developed through a collaborative doctoral project jointly funded by the University of Stirling and Historic Environment Scotland.

For the first time, the toolkit provides heritage professionals with detailed, practical guidance on how social values – **people's connections, memories, and associations with historic places** – can be assessed and brought into decision making as part of heritage management and conservation projects.

The launch of the online toolkit follows extensive [research](#) carried out by PhD student Elizabeth Robson at historic places across Scotland on the impact of using different methods to assess social values. Studies ranged from an Iron Age monument in the Outer Hebrides to 21<sup>st</sup>-century graffiti heritage in inner-city Glasgow and included both formally recognised and undesignated sites. **Ms Robson's research** explored how these historic environments are valued by people today and the methods heritage professionals could use to incorporate this knowledge into heritage management decisions.

Ms Robson said: "When heritage practitioners are deciding what kind of work is needed, for example, to conserve a monument or manage visitor numbers, they will consider the historic or scientific significance of the site, but not normally the social values.



Visitors climbing on Dun Carloway Broch, Isle of Lewis

**“Changes** to the look, feel, or access to a place impact how people experience it and can lead to tensions with communities or leave some groups feeling excluded.

**“Social values** are complex to assess and work with because they are often contextual and evolving. A variety of groups and communities can have a connection to a site, including people who don’t live nearby, and they may express a range of different, potentially contradictory, values.

**“This toolkit not only helps raise awareness of the importance of wider public engagement, but provides a step-by-step, practical guide for heritage professionals, supporting them to identify and collaborate with relevant communities in assessing and evidencing the values of the historic environment.”**

Ms Robson’s doctoral project is part of a programme of research focusing on heritage values within the [University of Stirling’s Centre for Environment, Heritage and Policy](#). It is also linked to a wider institutional partnership between the University and [Historic Environment Scotland](#).

Professor Siân Jones Director of the Centre for Environment, Heritage and Policy at the University of Stirling, said: **“Through her excellent doctoral research, Elizabeth Robson has advanced our knowledge and understanding of methods for assessing the social values of heritage places, in often challenging situations.**



A community-led tour group outside Kinneil House, Bo’ness

**“By providing a sophisticated toolkit for assessing and understanding social values, her PhD project has the potential to transform heritage conservation, taking the meanings, memories and values people associate with them into account.”**

Judith Anderson, Senior Cultural Significance Adviser, Historic Environment Scotland (HES), said: **“Our vision in HES is that the historic environment is cherished, understood, shared and enjoyed** by everyone. This means that we need to understand the many aspects of the historic environment that people and communities value, and we know these may reach well beyond architectural or archaeological values. For many heritage practitioners addressing these social values represents a gap in understanding and experience.

**“The toolkit will be available free as a resource on the HES website to help anyone undertaking or commissioning research into the social value of heritage.”**

The Social Value Toolkit was officially launched at an online event on Wednesday 9 June. It can be accessed here: <https://socialvalue.stir.ac.uk/>.

For more information on the research behind the toolkit, visit: <https://wrestlingsocialvalue.org/>.



**Ship's name (for H.M.S. Hood), maintained by community members, Loch Eriboll**

## Timberwatch Scotland campaign update: Dendrochronology CPD event news

Dr Coralie Mills MCIfA

Further to our 'Timberwatch Scotland campaign' news item in the March newsletter, Anne Crone and I ran a linked CPD event on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 on 'Dendrochronology in Scotland's Historic Buildings'. This proved hugely popular, it was attended by 97 people, many of whom are professionals in a position to improve the level of condition-setting and uptake of dendrochronology in Scotland and to help prevent the loss without record of important historic timberwork.

We opened with the reasons for holding the CPD and then outlined the principles and methods involved in dendrochronology. We gave an overview of what Scottish buildings dendrochronology has revealed so far, followed by several case studies which showed the benefits of precision dating in the historic period. We outlined the discoveries made through accompanying dendro-provenancing which reveals where the timber came from. Scotland's international connections across Scandinavia, Northern Europe and latterly North America are writ large in the tree-ring record as are domestic difficulties with the timber supply. We also illustrated the potential in vernacular buildings and in fixtures and fittings - and made the case for the benefits of dendrochronology at both project-specific level and at wider thematic and regional scales. Rob Wilson, dendro-climatologist at the University of St Andrews, introduced some new methodological advances and the contribution of the historic tree-ring record to climate change studies in Scotland.

The presentation by Cathy Groves, a perspective from Historic England on dendrochronology in historic buildings, showed what has been achieved with their long-standing HE funding and support for dendrochronology, leading to a high level of uptake both within and beyond Historic England's own work, facilitated through the work of its Scientific Dating team where Cathy is the dendrochronologist. HE, and the heritage sector more generally in England, value and embrace dendrochronology in a manner we would love to see emulated in Scotland. This is how England has over 4000 dendro-dated listed buildings while we have only about 40 standing building sites with dated *in situ* timbers in Scotland. Of course, we have a smaller population, and fewer buildings, but that is in no way proportionate to the level of work that should be taking place in Scotland and we know that many historic timber structures are being lost all the time.

Actually, Scotland has a far more diverse timber record than England does, and we would argue that it is even more interesting with many exciting new stories yet to be told. Our funded opportunities in Scotland are currently tiny compared to England, and as well as reminding everyone of the potential benefits of dendrochronology, the final section also identified the likely consequences of not improving support and uptake in Scotland. As well as irreplaceable loss of information, this could lead to an inability to train a next generation and the end of this specialist service for Scotland. We have made the strongest case we can for increasing the level of support for dendrochronology in Scotland and are cautiously optimistic for the future.

The lively Q&A and discussion session showed a great level of engagement by the participants and some very promising statements were made during and after the event by professionals who could help to change the situation here in Scotland. We shall be monitoring the level - and distribution - of dendro-commissioning going forward to see whether our campaign and CPD is making a difference. If you wish to read our original campaign article, please follow this link - <http://dendrochronicle.co.uk/timberwatch/>

We are extremely grateful for the support of a wide range of professional bodies for this CPD event, namely ALGAO, BAJR, CIfA, IHBC, RIAS and the University of St Andrews – as well as our own organisations, AOC Archaeology for Anne and Dendrochronicle for Coralie. CIfA kindly hosted the event on their Zoom, took the bookings, and Cara Jones of CIfA was the very able chair for the event. Thank you all very much.

## Dendrochronology in Scotland's Historic Buildings



**Anne Crone**



**Coralie Mills**



## Powering and Protecting Scottish Heritage

Kevin Mooney – Principal Cultural Heritage & Archaeology Consultant for WSP

Along the west coast of Scotland lies a chain of more than 136 islands that are home to some of **the UK's most remote communities. For thousands of years, farming and fishing have** forged a deep connection between the islanders, the land and the sea. Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) serves 59 of these western islands, ensuring these communities are connected to vital power supplies. Some 280 miles (450km) of SSEN cables link the islands to the mainland electricity system.

### The Isle of Coll

Like many of the west coast isles, there are no gas mains on the Isle of Coll. Just 13 miles long and 4 miles wide, Coll is served by a single 11KV subsea electricity cable. Everyone on the island **is dependent on electricity for power, including heating and lighting their homes. Coll's first cable** was installed in 1987 running from the neighbouring Island of Mull under the sea to the Bay of Sorisdale on Coll.

SSEN is consulting with local communities, local businesses, elected members and other key stakeholders to help minimise disruption. But the company wants to achieve more than a consensus on how to approach the project, SSEN is taking the opportunity to talk to people on Coll about what life is like on the island and form an audio library of local experience. The project **has been delayed by the impact of the COVID19 pandemic, and the community's experience of** the pandemic will now also form part of the stories the project seeks to tell.

SSEN and WSP wanted to create a programme that will not only benefit the community for generations to come in terms of a reliable power source, but will also build our relationship with the community, bringing people together to celebrate their historic and proud island traditions.





## Revealing Coll's rich heritage

This oral history project sits alongside SSEN's efforts, working in partnership with WSP, to uncover, and share with the public, new archaeological insights about Coll, as well as other island communities. The archaeological remains that the team discovered as part of the cable replacement project speak to the sustainable and unique way of life in this part of the world which centred on crofting. The northern portion of Coll is an emotive landscape with very few inhabitants in it and dispersed isolated communities. Crofting as a way of life is dying out, but there is still a small crofting community on Coll which is situated around the Bay - where the cable emerges **from the sea. It's important** that any project recognises this and minimises its impact on this traditional way of life. Evidence of a rich crofting tradition on Coll was very clear. We know that in prehistory - six or seven thousand years ago - the inhabitants of Coll were harvesting and processing grains and vegetables. Our investigations also show there has been very little development in the area, which means the land has not been disturbed much over the centuries.

### Archaeological discoveries

Interesting discoveries to date include byers, structures, kelp kilns and boat nausts. WSP also uncovered a small number of previously unrecorded cairns located on hills across the assessment area. These are wayfaring piles of stones (now grassed over), which potentially allowed the crofting community to navigate their way around the area. They may have also helped the crew of fishing boats along the bay to work out and triangulate where exactly they were. The archaeological survey work also encountered a tidal fish trap - a small wall of stones on the coast used to trap seawater (and fish) when the tide came in. While it has not been possible to date the structure, it is possibly prehistoric and was in use all the way up to the mediaeval period and beyond.

### The Isle of Lewis and Harris

Another island community that has experienced major change, most recently during the Covid19 pandemic, and over the centuries, is the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. It is the most northern of all of the Western Isles with a population of around 18,500. A mainland electricity link was first established in 1991 and it is vital that this infrastructure is maintained and updated. **Stornoway's substation operated for 30 years but needed to be replaced in 2018 as part of the project** to improve the power connection between Stornoway and the other islands.

### Protecting and preserving peatland

Creating the new substation involved challenges for the team. A challenge that had been gathering for hundreds, if not thousands of years - the presence of peat deposits. Peatlands are the largest natural terrestrial carbon store and the restoration and protection of peatland is a priority for the Scottish government as it seeks to reduce its carbon footprint. It follows that SSEN with support from WSP needed to **minimise disturbance to Harris and Lewis' rich and ancient peatlands**, and also consider peat restoration projects.

**Given the island's long history and rich cultural heritage assets, WSP were also asked to carry out** an archaeological assessment of the site. WSP undertook a phased approach of archaeological assessment which included the production of an Environmental Appraisal and subsequent archaeological mitigation in advance of the construction. An additional palaeo-environmental survey was also requested to investigate the formation periods of the peat deposits near the development Site. WSP liaised with Client and Kevin Murphy, the local authority archaeologist to streamline and seek wider benefits to the Historic Environment Record.

Planning conditions were updated to allow for peat coring analysis and radiocarbon dating and WSP secured AOC Archaeology to undertake on site investigations. The work undertaken on Lewis, identified secure and stratified peat deposits with significant potential to provide valuable

information on human agency, activity, deforestation and landscape change during the Holocene. The work highlights the valuable contribution that archaeology provides within a development process and the potential ramifications on not only the current options for discharging conditions but wider future environmental modelling and understanding of climate change in Scotland in the Holocene.

Further information on the work above is included in a podcast on the link below.

<https://engineeringmatters.reby.media/2021/04/01/101-powering-and-protecting-scottish-heritage/>

# SCARF Update - June 2021

Helen and Leanne



We are missing seeing people in person at workshops and events, however, we have been busy in the background continuing to support the creation of new research frameworks, working with the on-going Regional Archaeological Research Frameworks, updating the National Science Framework, promoting student bursaries, and presenting at conferences. We have several upcoming opportunities for anyone who would like to contribute to our frameworks or learn a new skill - read on to find out how you can get involved!

## Regional Research Frameworks Update

The countdown is on...! Following three years of events and invaluable input from contributors across the sector and beyond, the Highland Archaeological Research Framework ([HighARF](#)) is nearing completion and on-**track to be available on the ScARF website in the coming weeks**. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the recent consultation event, especially those who took the time to review and contribute to the draft documents. Look out for HighARF updates and launch events coming soon!

The chapters and research questions for the Perth and Kinross Archaeological Research Framework ([PKARF](#)) have entered the final phase of refinement by key contributors and specialists. Anyone with an interest in a specific period who would like to review and contribute to the drafts are asked to contact PKARF Project Manager Gavin Lindsay directly



Excavation of coastal caves at the Geodha Smoo inlet near Durness, Sutherland has shown occupation from the Mesolithic to Norse periods – discussed in a new HighARF case study!  
(©ScARF)

([Gavin.Lindsay@pkht.org.uk](mailto:Gavin.Lindsay@pkht.org.uk)). The drafts will be available for wider public consultation soon – keep an eye on our website and social media for updates and how to get involved.

### ScARF Skills Workshops

Following on from the success of our ScARF Skills Workshops in 2019, we are delighted to continue to support the Highland Archaeological Research Framework by sponsoring Skills Workshops, as part of the launch of the Highland Archaeological Research Framework, at this year's [Highland Archaeology Festival](#) taking place over two weeks between 25<sup>th</sup> September – 15<sup>th</sup> October. The festival is shaping up to be action-packed with the usual exciting programme of events which are free and open to all. ScARF sponsored workshops will include sessions delivered by experts on Basic Conservation and Handling of Finds and Introduction to Small Finds Illustration. Spaces for these events will be extremely limited – keep an eye on our social media updates to book your place!

### National Science Framework – Call for New Case Studies!

As regular readers will be aware, we are currently working with archaeological scientists and specialists who are or have been involved with ground-breaking projects all over Scotland to bring you a new and improved National Science Framework. The updated Science Framework will be designed to complement our Regional Research Framework projects, which will naturally update the overall chronological picture across Scotland. The new framework will be more multidisciplinary and packed full of new case studies to show how a range of scientific techniques can work together to answer and pose new research questions for the future. Are you an Archaeological Scientist with some exciting research to share? If so, we'd love to hear from you!

### Students and Bursaries

**We'd like to remind everyone we still have a number of** ScARF Student Bursaries available. ScARF Student Bursaries are normally available to help with the costs of travel and attendance at



A hands-on prehistoric pottery ID ScARF Skills Workshop at Inverness Museum in 2019, where participants were guided through millennia of pottery typology by Beverly Ballin Smith. (©ScARF)

conferences or workshops, however, in light of Covid-19 and the cancellation of in-person networking events and workshops, ScARF is keen to support students in other ways. These bursaries are designed to help students studying an aspect of Scottish archaeology who have experienced additional costs incurred as a result of the pandemic. Are you, or do you know a student who has had unexpected costs, for example purchasing software; membership/joining fees; training; access to digital resources? Let us know how we can help! The maximum that can be applied for is £200; more information and criteria can be found on the Students page of our website [here](#). Please spread the word if you know anyone who may be eligible for this bursary.

Have you checked out the new Early Career Research page yet? For several years, ScARF has been committed to supporting students and ECRs studying any aspect of Scottish archaeology – this new ECR Research section aims to offer additional support by providing a platform for researchers to showcase and share new work being undertaken across Scotland. Take a look [here](#)!

Are you an ECR or student with some exciting research to share? If you would like to submit any aspect of your research as a ScARF Case Study contact us with a brief summary of your research and how it relates to research questions posed across our frameworks!

As always – if you have any comments or would like to contribute to our frameworks, please get in touch [scarf@socantscot.org](mailto:scarf@socantscot.org)



A new ECR Case Study by PhD student Amber Rivers (UHI) uses experimental techniques to explore the function of Iron Age long-handled bone combs. (top image: cache of long-handled bone combs from the Cairns, Orkney ©Martin Carruthers; lower images: wool preparation and fabric produced with a long-handled comb ©Amber Rivers)

# Cockenzie Harbour Conservation Management Plan

Ben Saunders – Wessex Archaeology

As part of the Historic Environment Scotland funded Year of Coasts & Waters, Wessex Archaeology are working alongside the [1722 Waggonway Heritage Group](#) to complete a conservation management plan for the historic harbour at Cockenzie, East Lothian.

This document is designed to bring together all of the historical information about the harbour, complete a survey of its current condition and investigate the historical physical and tangential associations of the harbour to assess its overall significance as a heritage asset. The CMP will then look to identify the issues which may cause loss of significance to the harbour and put forward policies to try to negate or mitigate these impacts. The document itself is procedural- it seeks to lay out decision making processes and policy pathways to ensure that the harbour remains a significant asset to the heritage of the area while also looking forward to future utilisation and development of the harbour.

As part of this work, we have already completed an initial summary of the known history of the harbour, using the research work done by volunteers from the 1722 Waggonway Heritage Group, and have also completed a drone survey of the harbour to create plans, sections and elevations of the components. The first section of the CMP collates this information to give an outline of the history and current condition of the harbour, which is then analysed for significance within the second section. Significance can be both in terms of physical connections and more tangential associations- for instance the harbour was designed by Robert Stevenson and Sons, the famous Scottish marine engineers and so its physical layout is of significance due to this. The harbour also has associational links with the history of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, both due to **the construction of lifeboats by the Weatherhead's boatbuilding yard in the harbour and through the deliberate burning of the RNLI Broughty Ferry lifeboat Mona, which was recovered to Cockenzie after the crew were lost at sea during a rescue in 1959.** Considered by local crews to



A view of the Harbour's western breakwater © Wessex Archaeology

be cursed, the burning formed both a ritual removal of the curse and a funeral pyre to the brave crewmembers who drowned.

The significance of the harbour through its close association with local industries such as coal mining, glass and salt manufacture and brickmaking (all of which were closely inter-linked themselves) is unusual as it was built initially as an industrial port, and has remained largely unchanged since its construction. Other harbours built specifically as refuge ports for fishing have similarly not changed but the other industrial harbours around Scotland have generally either been developed beyond recognition (e.g. Leith, **Burntisland**) or **have been infilled (Morrison's Haven)**. Cockenzie therefore is a time capsule, partially encased in concrete. Community excavations have already been demonstrated that fixtures relating to the iron wagonway which brought coal from the pits at Tranent remain in place at the harbour, particularly along the eastern quayside, and there is potential for further material to be preserved below the concrete covering the eastern pier.

As a project this CMP seeks to set out a sustainable and practical way to preserve small harbours around Scotland, while also making them an essential part of the local community as they were during their working past. While Cockenzie is not technically a vernacular harbour, it has many of the same issues that afflict **these harbours all around Scotland's coast**- a lack of investment and a perceived lack of potential, historic assets with no future which are under increasing strain as climate change causes increased storminess and higher sea levels which damage the under-maintained fabric of the harbours. To survive, these harbours need to be brought back to the centre of their communities, potential investment identified and brought in and renewed purpose brought to their piers and breakwaters. These solutions will be unique to each harbour, as each harbour has individual characteristics and potentials, but should be looked at in collective discussions, as there is no point in two neighbouring harbours trying to do the same thing. The potential for local community buy in, and an invested harbour management group ensuring the sustainable future of a harbour, will be investigated as part of the CMP, and potential future management routes discussed. The CMP will provide a basis for decisions to be made that respect and promote the historical significance of the harbour, enabling development to be completed without the unrecorded loss of heritage material.

The current community consultation is looking at gathering the community memories of the harbour, and their views on the current use and condition of the harbour. This information will then be used to identify the issues which might lead to the loss of significance and put together policies outlines to negate/mitigate these. We will then complete a second round of engagement presenting these and asking for their views on the future of the harbour, around the end of August/beginning of September. The final section will then look at identifying an action plan for the future management of the harbour and lay out options for this. The CMP is planned to have been completed and submitted to ELC, HES and any interested groups by the end of the year.

#### Further Reading

<https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/news/cockenzie-harbour-uav-survey-conservation-management-plan-and-community-consultation>

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=9fs9zuoLekqUXdOgymWaYCGgyzo0WnRlhXXt1S69gCBUNzOzNTRMMDZLUIZYQ0NTSOM1WDhVNUJZSy4u>

<https://www.1722waggonway.co.uk/>

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/year-of-coasts-and-waters/>

# Royal Forteviot: excavations at a Pictish power centre in eastern Scotland

SERF Monograph 2. Ewan Campbell and Stephen Driscoll

CBA Res Rep 177, 2020 ISBN978-1-909990-05-0

full report also available as a free download <https://doi.org/10.5284/1082002>

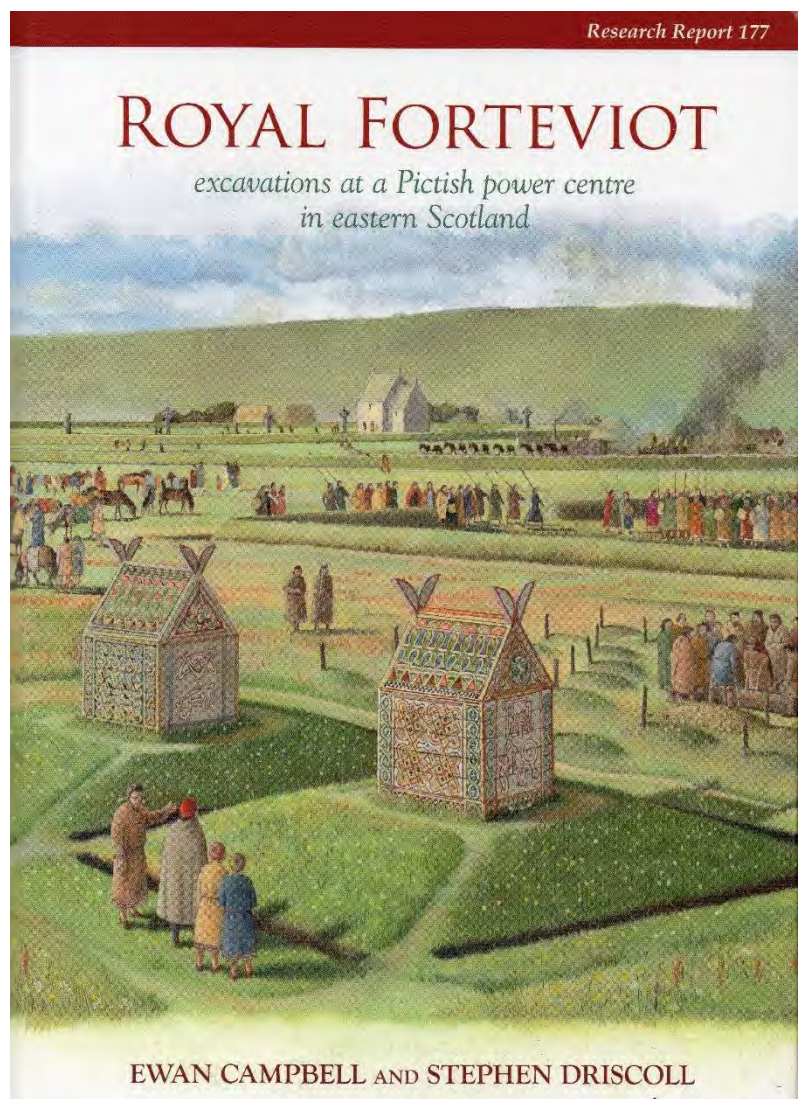
review by Peter Yeoman

I still have to pinch myself when I think how far our knowledge of early medieval Scotland has been transformed in a single generation. This has been a triumph of multi-disciplinary research, with a tremendous contribution being made by field archaeology. While the northern Picts have been giving up their secrets thanks to Martin Carver and especially now due to Gordon Noble, this volume reveals the splendid excavated evidence of a great royal power centre at the heart of southern Pictland.

Forteviot nestles in Strathearn, south of Scone and Perth, surrounded by some of the richest agricultural land in Scotland. It has long been known from crop-mark aerial photography as a major Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial and funerary complex, with a massive timber palisaded enclosure and four henges some of which survived upstanding into 18<sup>th</sup> century (Prehistoric Forteviot CBA Res Rep 176, 2020). These paired volumes publish the results of the Strathearn Environs and Royal Forteviot (SERF) project, begun in 2006 as a field school led by the University of Glasgow. The clever acronym also alludes to Serf, an important early saint of the region.

A likely Pictish barrow cemetery was also spotted between the main prehistoric complex and the village. And evidence of a substantial stone church probably of the early 800s has long been known - a massive carved stone arch featuring carved imagery related to the founding of a royal monastery is one of the treasures of the Museum of Scotland.

Excavations of Pictish cemeteries are rare, so the evidence from this, detailed in chapter 4, regarding burial practices is really important. Sadly no human bones survived from these acid soils, so often the case in Scotland, but the remains of a round barrow, square barrows and dug graves were investigated. It is fascinating to note, as the book outlines, that burying the Pictish dead under square barrows was an outmoded practice, revived here two centuries later – part of a significant body of evidence of conscious engagement with the ancestral past intended to give legitimacy to the new elite. A variety





of burial practices were recorded, including the log coffins and the construction of permanent timber mortuary houses **or shrines, brilliantly realised on the book's cover in David Simon's** marvellous illustration. The excavators suggest that this may emphasise the elite nature of this burial ground, which was not for the use of the wider community.

Chapter 5 explores the surprising discovery of the extent to which the prehistoric monuments were interacted with during Pictish times, with the digging of pits, the deposition of artefacts, and notably the creation of a funeral pyre within one of the henges. Cremations of Christian Picts here was an unexpected surprise, dated to the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Clearly one of the research aims was to discover the Palace, as laid out in chapter 6. Logically this would have been close to the church; trenches in and around here, the graveyard and the modern village had to be limited. The palace did prove elusive, however this chapter details the discovery of a large enclosure ditch dated to the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> cents, helping the authors characterise the nature of the likely palace site as an enclosed space including an earlier church, around which were placed a number of impressive stone crosses.

The key to the whole story lies in chapter 10 The Making of Royal Forteviot. Here the authors skillfully place the royal complex at Forteviot within a broader European tradition, akin to Continental *Kloster-Palast*, while also evoking the glories of Byzantium. As the royal government moved around their estates in southern Pictland, the church was essential, not only for worship but also in providing their monkish civil service. And here the book balances Forteviot alongside our knowledge of other early medieval royal sites of the north – Bamburgh, Yeavering, Dunadd, and Burghead. They interrogate their original set of research questions as to whether these have been answered, and honestly reflect on what would they do differently if starting SERF now, exploring remaining gaps in knowledge. They consider this transformative period, where we see the first making of kings along with the negotiation away from the pagan past into a newly Christian present. So clearly observed in Ireland, but rarely seen elsewhere.

This excellent book reveals how Forteviot has long been an enigma in the story of early medieval Scotland. The place features in the Chronicle of the Kings of Alba in the obit notice of Kenneth MacAlpin (Cináed mac Ailpín), who ruled over the united Gaels and the Picts, and who died in his *palacium* in 858 at 'fothuirtabaicht'. The only physical evidence of this prior to excavation was the superb collection **of Pictish sculpture, including the magnificent Constantine's Cross inscribed to** that eponymous Pictish king who died in 820. On this cross, a treasure of early medieval Europe, Constantine is presented as the biblical King David, and is supported by the carved ranks of his own praetorian guard making clear Roman and Byzantine imperial comparisons.

It is no surprise that the redoubtable Prof Gordon Noble was a partner in this project. In terms of excavation campaigns, everything he touches turns to Pict. We have gone from an embarrassing dearth of excavated data to an almost embarrassment of riches, with every sign that this is just the beginning. No longer are we just trying to wring too much out of the wealth of sculpture by which the Picts are rightly famed. Thanks to the Intellectual powerhouse team of Brophy, Campbell, Driscoll, Maldonado and Noble, we now understand so much more about this formative **period and Forteviot's role in the birth of the nation. Aply demonstrating the power of** archaeology to fill the gaps when the textual sources are so limited.

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## University Accreditation

CIfA and UAUK have announced that the University of Aberdeen is the first university in Scotland to receive accreditation for MA Archaeology and BSc Archaeology. Accreditation recognises undergraduate and masters degrees that provide skills relevant to a career in the historic environment. [https://www.archaeologists.net/Accredited\\_Degrees](https://www.archaeologists.net/Accredited_Degrees)

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## Membership

Membership of the Scottish Group is free for CIfA members and is £10 per year for non-CIfA members. Please feel free to circulate this newsletter and we would ask you to encourage your friends/colleagues to join the Group.

For more information, see [here](#).

**Keep in touch with us via the Scottish Group's Facebook page, where information about events and the work of the Group will be publicised.**

Newsletters are published four times a year and contributions from members are welcome.

Our next issue will be released in October 2021.

To make a contribution to forthcoming editions of the newsletter please email [josh.gaunt@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:josh.gaunt@headlandarchaeology.com) or [secretary.cifa.sg@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.cifa.sg@gmail.com)

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## Upcoming meetings

As a member of the CIfA Scottish Group, you have the right to attend our group committee meetings if you so wish. Committee meetings are held each quarter. Members can attend in person (when possible) or remotely with an internet connection via our videoconferencing facilities.

The next meeting is TBD – August - Sept 2021.

Our AGM is also upcoming, due in Sept – Oct – further details to follow!

If you would like to attend, please send an email to [secretary.cifa.sg@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.cifa.sg@gmail.com).

