



## Summer Newsletter 2022

Dear Scottish Group members,

Summer has rolled round again, and excavation season is well underway!

I hope everyone is coping with the weather, especially those outdoors digging in the sweltering heat. Whether you're sheltering from the summer sun or soaking up the rays, we have another fine selection of articles for you!

If you have any comments or queries about the Scottish Group or any of the following articles, 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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# Cockenzie harbour past, present and future: a walking tour of the historic industrial harbour

Ben Saunders

The walking tour will present the architectural history of Cockenzie harbour and run through potential conservation paths for the historic structure, laying out the conservation management plan recently completed by Wessex Archaeology and 1722 Waggonway Heritage Group for East Lothian Council. Partly funded through Historic Environment Scotland's Year of Coasts & Waters Fund.

Meeting place: Outside the Waggonway Museum, West Harbour Road, Cockenzie.

Date: Sunday 11 September at 10 am.



*Aerial image of Cockenzie Harbour © Wessex Archaeology*

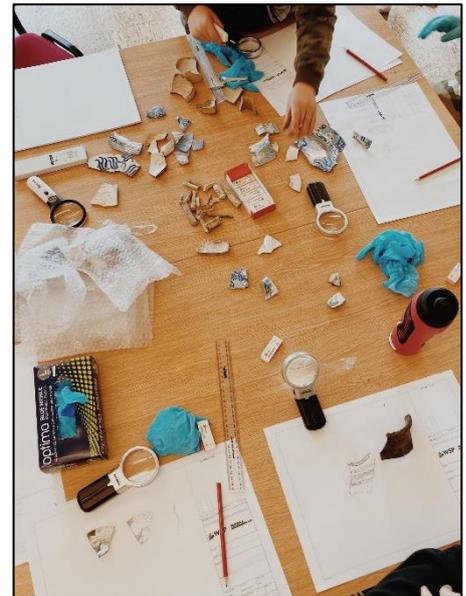
# The Young Archaeologists' Club

Kevin Mooney

The Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) is the only UK-wide club where 8–16 year olds can participate in real archaeology and discover why it matters. We hope to foster the professional archaeologists of the future but also young people with a passion for heritage.

The Edinburgh Young Archaeologists Club has restarted after a brief hiatus. Our new club meets once a month on a Sunday morning with classroom activities primarily based out of the Holyrood Park Education centre (with the fantastic support of Historic Environment Scotland). Along with our classroom-based activities, we also get to visit some exciting sites and historic properties, providing our members access to some of the more unusual areas that the public don't get to see.

We take part in all sorts of fantastic, hands-on activities, including excavation, working with artefacts, visiting historical sites and undertaking experimental archaeology with our next meeting in July a hands-on pottery class where our YAC members will replicate their own Prehistoric pottery. Our previous meetings have provided artefact handling and drawing classes with our most recent trip to Edinburgh Castle. You can follow our journey on our twitter @edinburghyac.



We are passionate about engaging heritage and supporting participation for everyone, so if you have any exciting excavations, activities or think you can help us out then please get in touch. We would love to take our members out to see some of the exciting work you are all doing and provide visibility of the sector in Scotland. Our priority is to provide access to our intrepid archaeologists of the future – and what better way to do it than to see some of the exciting work in person!

Please contact Branch Leader Kevin Mooney ([edinburghyac@gmail.com](mailto:edinburghyac@gmail.com))



# The Circular Archetype in Microcosm – The Carved stone balls of late Neolithic Scotland

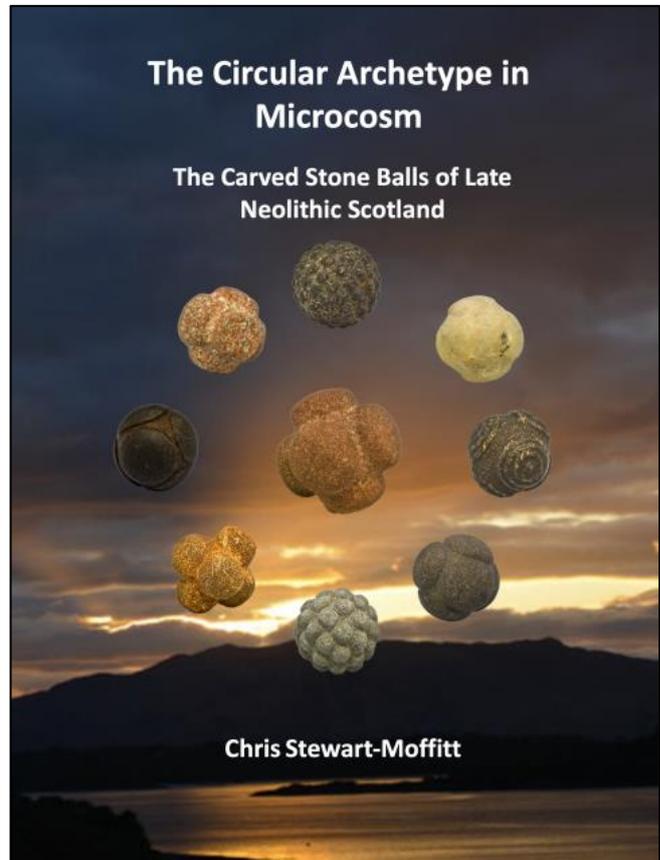
Dr Chris Stewart-Moffitt

The Circular Archetype in Microcosm is the culmination of seven years research into the Carved Stone Balls of Late Neolithic Scotland. It is the first study of these enigmatic artefacts since that which was undertaken by Dorothy Marshall in 1977 and includes all currently known examples in both museums and private hands. An online Photographic Database, Gazetteer and Master CSB Database is available to all book purchasers via the Archaeopress website bringing many previously unseen CSBs together in one place for the first time. Datasheets provide up to date details of finders, approximate findspots, materiality and the majority include scaled colour images and location maps which show their geographic association with other artefacts and structures. Many of these artefacts have previously only been seen by museum staff and private collectors.

As a result of this research Dorothy Marshall's original typology has been revisited and a number of new types added to offer an up to date and revised classification/typology of these unusual artefacts. Following careful analysis, it is also suggested that it is possible to determine a number of individual craftspeople with a wide range of skills at work.

For the first time, a visual geological characterisation has also been undertaken of the materiality of approximately a third of the corpus leading to some interesting and surprising results: this has enabled a more detailed analysis of their potential origins and the landscapes in which they were found. It also considers the type of landscape in which they were found and their potential relationship to monuments. Finally, it suggests that they were used as a unique and distinctive gestalt which represented the ideology of the people who lived in the core area of Aberdeenshire and that their unique morphology enabled disparate groups across Scotland with similar ideologies to recognise one another.

Chris Stewart-Moffitt is currently an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Aberdeen.



## Cracknie Souterrain – Subterranean Survey

Matt Ritchie, Archaeologist, Forestry and Land Scotland

The remote Iron Age souterrain of Cracknie in Borgie Forest in Sutherland was built over 2000 years ago. It was recently the subject of an excavation to open the entrance passage, light touch consolidation of the exposed stonework and a detailed archaeological measured survey by laser scanning.



*Cracknie souterrain LOWER PASSAGE*

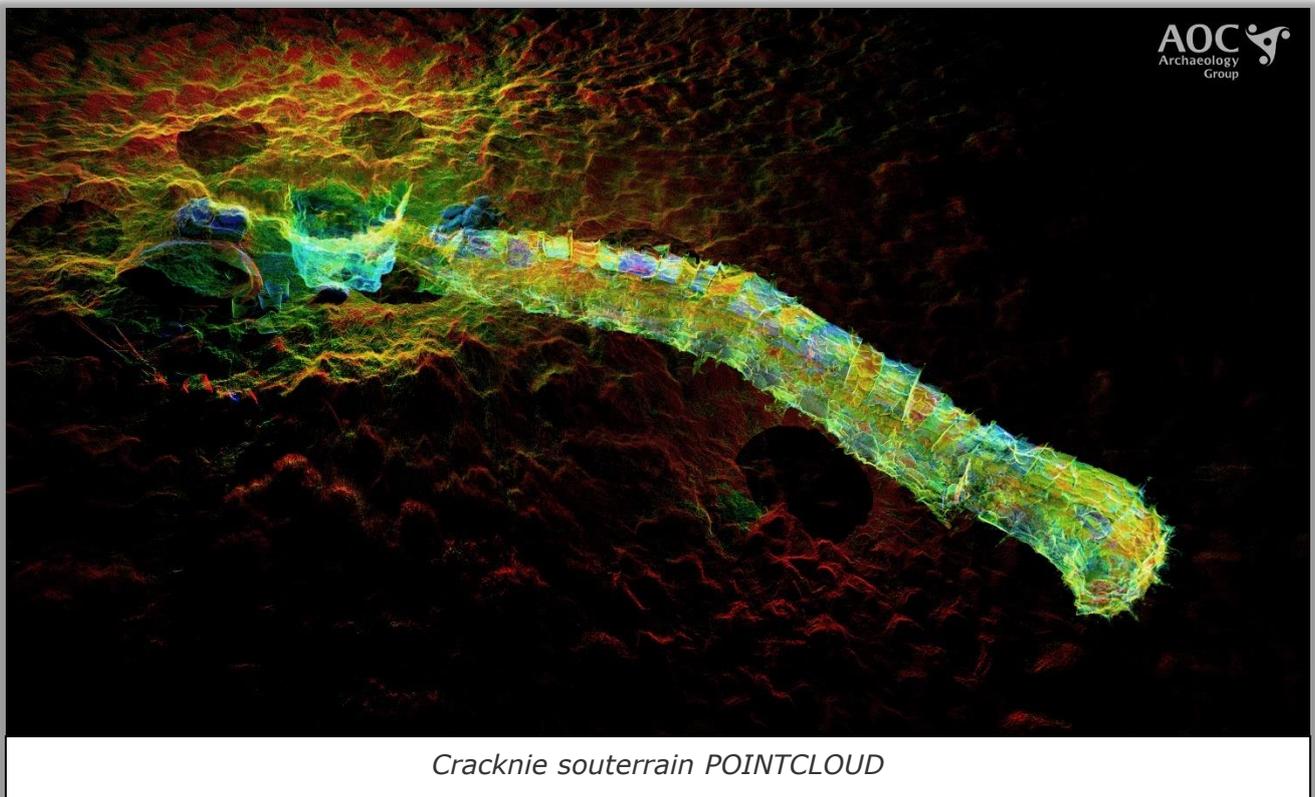
Cracknie Souterrain (NC 665 509) is one of the best-preserved Iron Age souterrains in Scotland. Measuring over 13m in length, and about 1m in height, the narrow curving passage slopes downwards to reach a small chamber at the end. The entrance is marked by a narrow hole in the ground, partially blocked by rubble and a fallen lintel – no stairway or above ground structure survives. The walls are carefully built without mortar and it is roofed with large lintel stones overlapping each other. It is both one of the most important and one of the most remote scheduled monuments on Scotland's national forests and land.

Forestry and Land Scotland are committed to undertaking conservation management, condition monitoring and archaeological recording at our significant historic assets; and to helping to develop, share and promote good practice in historic environment conservation management. We are proud to support Our Place in Time: the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland and Scotland's Archaeology Strategy; and often seek to contribute to the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework.

In 2021 we commissioned AOC Archaeology to undertake an appraisal of options for conservation of the entrance, prompted by observations that access to the souterrain was becoming difficult and potentially hazardous, with the concern that visitors entering the passage could find it difficult to exit.

The souterrain is some distance from established walking routes and relatively difficult to access. Conservation works should aim to maintain or enhance safe access to the monument and limit or arrest any further deterioration – and any intervention must be subtle and in keeping with the authentic character of the unconsolidated site. Given the level of intervention required to meet visitor safety requirements, it was not proposed to formally present the monument to the public.

Following discussion with Historic Environment Scotland it was agreed that a small-scale excavation of the entrance deposits combined with conservation and stabilisation of any unstable stonework was the preferred option.



The supporting laser scan survey created a stone-by-stone architectural record. The survey results illustrate the well-preserved walls and roof lintels, and supported the excavation of the entrance passage, opening the narrow hole to enable safe access. You can see where the archaeologists were excavating at the entrance. At the time of the laser scan, they had lowered the ground surface but had not yet opened up the narrow neck of the passageway. The subterranean nature of the space is easy to appreciate.

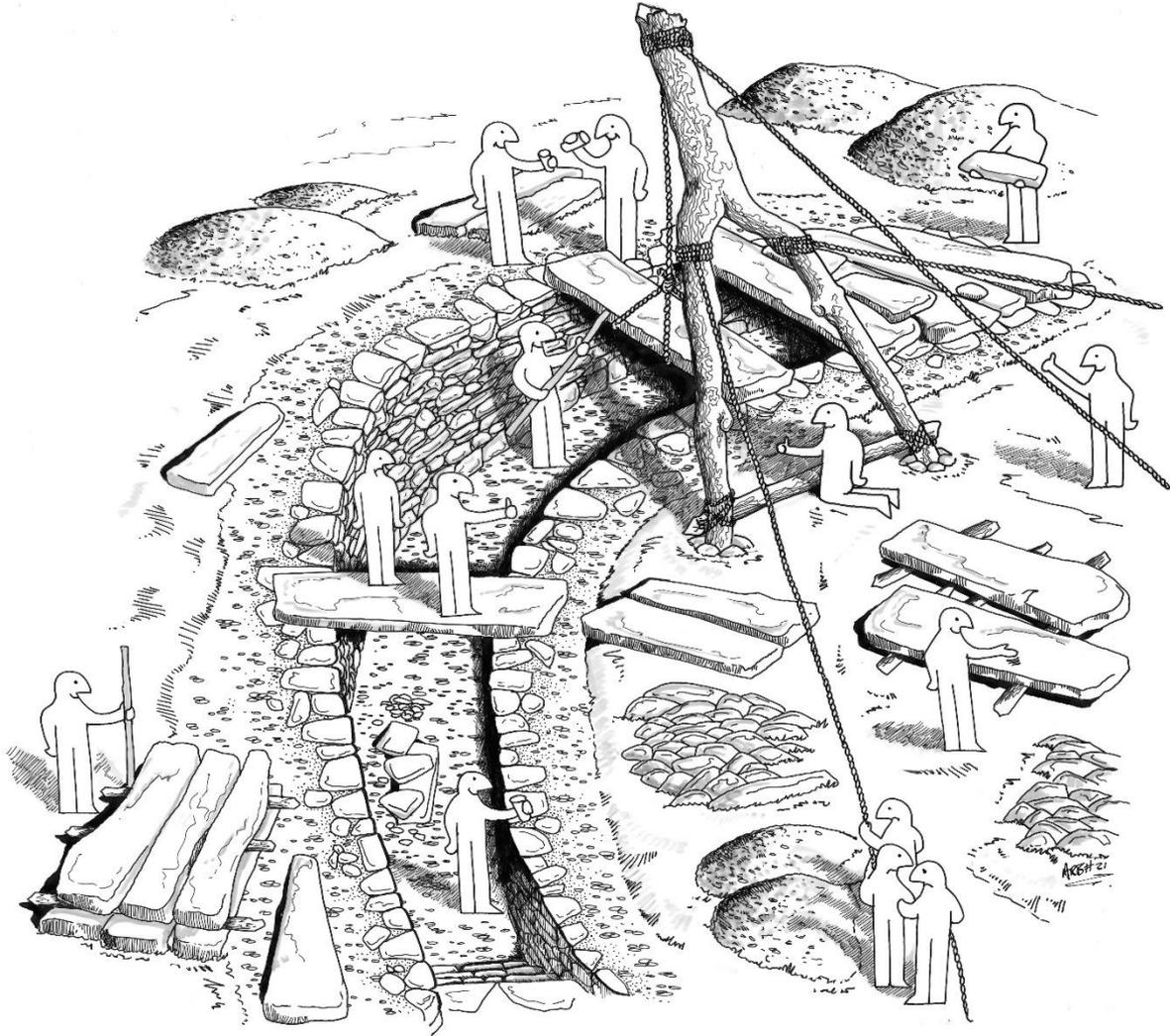
This image is a view of the 3D point cloud of the souterrain from above. The colours indicate the laser reflectance intensity of every stone in the walls. To understand the image, look for the entrance excavation (on the left-hand side) and imagine crawling through the narrow neck of the passage way before crouching low under the lintel stones (visible in the roof of the 3D structure) to reach the chamber at the end.

The excavation cleared the rubble, removed the fallen lintel and took out the infill within the open passage, making safe the entrance to the souterrain. However, it is clear that the walls of the souterrain extend further, and that the original entrance remains buried.



Forestry and  
Land Scotland  
Coilltearachd agus  
Fearann Alba

# SOUTERRAIN



*Cracknie souterrain CONSTRUCTION*

Souterrains are still an enigma. They were usually built below a large timber roundhouse, and may have been used as cold cellars to store food such as cheese and butter. This drawing by Alan Braby imagines the construction of the souterrain – first cut as a trench, and then lined with stones, with the heavy lintels then lifted into place.



### **Introduction**

We are delighted to be able to attend and organise in person events after such a long time without them. In addition to celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, the ScARF team has been busy supporting the creation of new research frameworks and developing our Early Career Research, regional and national frameworks with new case studies. We have remained committed to offering assistance to students and Early Career Researchers through our programme of grants and bursaries and are excited to be able to help send you to in person conferences once again! Read on to find out more.

### **PKARF Launch date announced**

We are happy to announce the exciting news that the Perth and Kinross Archaeological Research Framework (PKARF) will be launched on **Monday 5 September 2022** as part of Scottish Archaeology Month. This new framework will provide an important and accessible resource to anyone interested in the archaeology of Perth and Kinross. PKARF complements the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF), offering a finer resolution picture that will help inform our understanding of past human activity at both regional and national levels. This framework will assess the gaps in our knowledge and help to inform future research in the Perth and Kinross region.

There is still time to submit a Case Study and contribute to PKARF. If you'd like to do so, please get in touch [with the ScARF team here](#).



Keillor Symbol Stone, Perth and Kinross © ScARF

### **10 years of ScARF**

ScARF is turning 10 in 2022! To celebrate a decade of ScARF, we are hosting an event on **Saturday 26 November** at Augustine United Church in Edinburgh. This event will give participants, old and new, a chance to celebrate how far ScARF has come, and learn about our next steps. We will also be streaming the event live for those wishing to join us from home. Although so much has changed over the past decade, one thing remains the same – ScARF's dedication to providing a fully accessible resource to everyone interested in Scottish archaeology. We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who has contributed to our frameworks and supported ScARF over the past 10 years, and we hope to see many of you at the celebration.

[Visit ScARF](#), or [subscribe to our newsletter](#) for more details.

### **Save the date: SIRFA Orkney symposium**

After a long delay due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are happy to announce that the Orkney symposium for the Scotland's Islands Research Framework for Archaeology (SIRFA) will take place from **Friday 24- Monday 27 March 2023**. It will be held both in Orkney and online as a hybrid event. The project began in July 2018, with two symposiums having already taken place in the Western Isles in January 2019, and Shetland in September 2019. Now, with the final Orkney symposium fast approaching, the SIRFA project is in its final stages.

The event will be open to all stakeholders of archaeological research in the Scottish Isles, including: individuals and organisations whose work involves archaeological research, as well as anyone who engages with the outcomes of research such as museums professionals, commercial archaeologists, academic researchers, archaeology students, community heritage groups, independent researchers and local and national government agencies. The purpose of the event is to identify research gaps and areas of research potential.

Visit the ScARF website for regular updates and more details about the conference. Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions about SIRFA.



Participants at the Broch of Mousa during the SIRFA symposium in Shetland © ScARF

### **Clyde Valley Case studies page**

Our project to develop a Clyde Valley Archaeological Research Framework is under way! This project will offer a deeper insight into the history and archaeology of West Central Scotland - the 'Clyde Valley'. As part of the development of this framework, you can now access our Clyde Valley Case Studies [from the new CV homepage on our website](#).

Have you worked on, or studied, the archaeology of the Clyde Valley region? If you'd like to write a Case Study to add to our framework, we would love to hear from you. Contact the ScARF team to find out more.



Detail of the sarcophagus at Govan Old Parish Church, perhaps representing St Constantine © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collections

### **New ECR Case Study and support for students**

One of our ScARF bursary recipients has written a new Case Study about her MLitt research. Kath Page is a postgraduate student at the University of Highlands and Islands (UHI) Archaeology Institute. She is using zooarchaeological techniques to analyse and explore the significance of red deer during Orkney's Neolithic period. Kath will continue this work with a PhD at UHI, and we look forward to hearing more about this fascinating work as it progresses. [Read the full Case Study here.](#)

Since 2015, ScARF has been committed to supporting students and early career researchers (ECRs) studying any aspect of Scottish archaeology by encouraging collaboration and awarding bursaries to attend conferences, workshops and other events. Our ECR webpage provides a platform for researchers to share their work and become part of a large network of researchers across Scotland. [Take a look here!](#)

If you are an ECR or student with some exciting research to share and would like to submit a ScARF Case Study, we'd love to hear from you. Contact us with a brief summary of your research and how it relates to the research questions posed across our frameworks!



Kath examining red deer skeletal remains as part of her research at UHI © Kath Page

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

Helen and Jennifer

## 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 always welcome.

Our next issue will be released in October/November 2022.

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 committee meeting is Thursday 18 August.

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

News on this year's AGM will be released soon.

