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Hello from your committee! January Newsletter 2020

Welcome

Dear Scottish Group Members,

Welcome to the first Scottish Group newsletter of 2020!

Having been handed/given no option of taking the reins of Newsletter Editor following the retirement from the committee of Bidy Simpson (thanks for everything Bidy), I thought this would be a good opportunity to introduce the current committee to the group.

This used to be a feature of the newsletter that has unfortunately been buried for many years. However, like all good archaeological features, a quick scratch of the surface can resurrect a diamond in the rough (or a flint in the mud) and is hopefully a helpful bit of information for members so that they can recognise their committee members and feel more in touch with the organisation of the group.

Following on from the introductions, there are some dates for the diary and an article on Mesolithic trade networks.

The newsletter functions best when members make contributions about their work, their views and what they want to see and read about, so look out for the call for content in the next couple of months to have your work/views/photos posted in the next newsletter, or if you have something ready and roaring then send it through to secretary.cifa.sg@gmail.com and we'll get it posted.

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, or on our [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter](#). We've also got some information on the group's [Cifa webpage](#).

All the best for 2020,

Kevin Paton BA MA MCIfA, Newsletter Editor

and the rest of the Scottish Group committee

Meet the committee



Sam Fox BSc (Hons) MLitt ACIfA - Chair

Sam has worked on archaeological projects in the public and private sectors and has been a member of the committee since 2014. He currently works in the Planning and Advice team at Historic Environment Scotland.

After studying at the Centre for Battlefield Archeology at the University of Glasgow, Sam completed an IfA/HLF Workplace Training Bursary in 2013 with Historic Scotland and has worked for Headland Archaeology as a Heritage Consultant.

He was elected as Chair in 2019. His focus as Chair has been on filling previously vacant positions on the committee and improving the group's engagement and outreach of its members via social media.



Joe Somerville MA (Hons) MSc MCIfA - Secretary

Joe completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Glasgow in 2002, and spent the next 5 years working on short term contracts on Scottish archaeological projects for the likes of GUARD, CFA and AOC before joining RSK Environment Ltd as a Consultant Archaeologist in 2007. He now leads RSK's EIA and Environmental Management team in Glasgow, but keeps his hand in with archaeological consultancy when other duties allow.

Joe's proudest moment of his archaeological career was seeing one of the skeletons he excavated at Horse Cross, Perth in 2003 on display at the Hunterian Museum in 2016, and being able to show his family how some of the interpretations he made as a digger at the excavation site formed part of the information boards.

Joe has an abiding interest in how archaeology and cultural heritage can contribute to sustainability and the wider environment.



Tristan Boyle BSc (Hons) - Treasurer and Social Media

Tristan has worked on projects in Scotland and England and has been a member of the Scottish Group since 2014.

He is the co-founder of the Archaeology Podcast Network, which creates archaeological media content for the public and professionals alike and has written in journals and books about podcasting about archaeology.

He often helps record sessions and presentations at archaeology conferences for Landward Research and is engaged in online discourse about public and digital archaeology and outreach.



Lindsey Büster BSc (Hons) MA (Hons) PhD PCIfA - Committee Member

Lindsey did her BSc at UCL (2003-6), her MA at the University of York (2006-7) and her PhD at the University of Bradford (2009-12).

With a research focus on Iron Age Britain and Europe, she co-directs excavations at the Covesea Caves, NE Scotland.

Previously a Teaching Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, she is now a researcher on the COMMIOS Project at the University of York, exploring identity and connectivity across Iron Age Britain and the near Continent.

Lindsey completed one of the first NVQs in Archaeological Practice during her HLF/IfA sponsored placement at ARCUS (2008) and champions greater opportunities for workplace training.



Kevin Paton BA (Hons) MA (Hons) MCIfA - Newsletter Editor

Kevin has worked in the commercial archaeology sector since 2008, working with AOC Archaeology between 2010 and 2018, and now part of the Cultural Heritage and Archaeology team at WSP in Glasgow.

Kevin's greatest achievements in archaeology include saying 'squishy' on Time Team, finding a Viking boat burial, and having over 100 DSR's uploaded onto ADS.

He is passionate about training in archaeology and is part of the Archaeology Skills and Training Panel, helping to create alternative routes into the profession.



Alison Douglas MLitt, MA (Hons), FSA Scot, PCIfA - Committee member

Alison has experience in academic, commercial, and community archaeology. She is currently the social media voice of the Cochno Stone and Faifley Rocks Projects in Clydebank. These projects have attained global attention and featured in television (BBC, The History Channel) and print (Herald, Scotsman, The National) media. Alison also writes an archaeology module for the Curriculum for Excellence which will be added to the syllabus at Clydebank High School in 2020.

Known locally as "The Queen of the Cochno Stone" Alison will be continuing to work closely with the local community of Clydebank this year as The Faifley Rocks project will be returning for more excavation in the summer of 2020.



Paul Murtagh BSc (Hons) MLitt PhD MCIfA - Committee member

Paul did his BSc in Archaeology at the University of Glasgow (2000-04) before going on to work on the "circuit" for a couple of years as a site assistant for CFA, GUARD and AOC. He returned to the University of Glasgow (2006-07) to complete a master's in Professional Archaeology, which helped him gain a full-time position at GUARD where he worked until 2009.

From 2009 until 2014 Paul undertook a PhD at Durham University, which focused on the Iron Age of the west of Scotland.

Since completing his PhD, Paul has worked for various organisations, including Archaeology Scotland and Northlight Heritage, where he developed his knowledge of engaging non-traditional audiences in heritage. During this time, he directed a series of exactions on Iron Age sites in Lanarkshire, working with hard to reach groups, students and volunteers.

Paul currently works as a Consultant Archaeologist for CFA Archaeology Ltd. He spends his free time volunteering on the Ardnamurchan Transitions Project and enjoys exploring the archaeology of sport.



Héléna Gray MA (Hons) ACIfA - Committee member

Héléna worked for ten years in commercial archaeology, working for CFA Archaeology from 2005 until 2015. She has worked part time for East Lothian Council Archaeology Service since 2015, and for Archaeology Scotland as a freelancer and then part time member of staff since 2016. She has also been involved with the Ardnamurchan Transitions Project since its second year in 2007, for several years as a project director and more latterly as a field director.

Career highlights include finding a cannel coal bead in the bottom of a roundhouse post-hole, knowing some of the best coffee and bacon roll vendors across the arterial routes of Scotland, and working with young people as part of an employability scheme.

She is interested in everything from field drains to hillforts, but is passionate about training, teaching and engaging others with archaeology, and particularly in using heritage as a vehicle to help others.

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 or remotely with an internet connection via our videoconferencing facilities.

The next meeting is **Tuesday 10 March 2020, from 1pm.**

If you would like to attend, please send an email to secretary.cifa.sg@gmail.com.

Dates for your Diary

The University of Stirling Centre for Environment, Heritage and Policy Seminars

Members may be interested in these upcoming seminars, hosted by the Centre for Environment, Heritage and Policy. Here some of the speakers are specifically invited from a Heritage perspective, though other topics are included. All welcome. Please see the list of seminars [here](#).

Scottish Student Archaeology Society Annual Conference

The Scottish Student Archaeology Society Conference 2020 will be hosted on the 15 and 16 February by the Glasgow University Archaeology Society in the Debates Chamber of the Glasgow University Union on University Avenue.

The conference will bring together students and early career researchers to discuss the latest research in Scottish Archaeology.

Themes include- Prehistory: Landscapes, practices and life-ways; Roman to Medieval: Empires, Chiefdom and Kingdom; and Post-Medieval to Contemporary: Developing modern Scotland.

Tickets are £10 and will be available online. If you are interested in attending, presenting a paper or poster session- more info can be found on [the SSAC 2020 website](#).

Scotland's Archaeological Research in Progress Conference 2020

Call for Papers and Sponsorships

Scotland's Archaeological Research in Progress (ARP) conference will take place this year on Saturday 23 May 2020 at Aberdeen University, organised by Archaeology Scotland in partnership with the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. The event aims to cover archaeological research in progress from around Scotland covering all periods.

We are currently advertising a call for papers and opportunities to sponsor this one day conference.

Call for Papers

Do you have exciting research findings that you would like to present at the ARP this year? We are inviting proposals for 20 minute papers that demonstrate the most up-to-date information and best practice. Please submit the following information to e.macqueen@archaeologyscotland.org.uk by end of Sunday 23 February 2020.

- Title of Paper
- Short description: maximum 35 words to be used in ARP programme and publicity
- Longer description: a concise description of your research to include the purpose, methods and implications of the work and brief biographical information on organisations and/or individuals involved. Maximum 400 words.

Nominate Research

Our aim is to programme a breadth of chronological and geographical projects from across Scotland and beyond. So, even if you have nothing you wish to contribute yourself, we are also asking you to nominate research relating to Scotland that you would like to see included in ARP 2020! For this we will require a short description of the research and contact details for the researchers.

We will get back to you as soon as possible to let you know if you are on the programme (and ask for images for publicity if you are). The event will be recorded and available online free to view afterwards.

Travel expenses will be reimbursed and accommodation paid for where necessary for a single presenter per paper included in the programme.

Sponsorship Opportunities

We are seeking support to help us deliver a quality conference for all. Costs are increasing and we wish to keep ticket prices as low as possible so external support is vital. The wide range of sponsorship support we normally receive towards ARP also helps to demonstrate collaboration and highlights cross-sector support for the rapid dissemination of archaeological research.

Supporting the conference provides you with the opportunity to promote your organisation while also supporting rapid knowledge dissemination, research excellence and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Sponsorship benefits include:

- Branding on all print and digital programmes, the opportunity to display material at the conference and delegate places,
- Sponsor acknowledged on the 'supporter thank you' page of our website,
- Sponsor's support included on the online lecture archive in perpetuity (hosted on YouTube),
- Editorial and logo acknowledgement as event sponsor in one of our magazines and annual review distributed to all our members and partners,
- Acknowledged as the sponsor in social media related to the event or project,

- Acknowledged and warmly thanked as sponsor by our President in opening and closing addresses of the sponsored event with sponsor's logo prominently displayed.

All contributions, in cash or in kind, are welcome so please do contact David Gilchrist on events@archaeologyscotland.org.uk if you would like to discuss ways you can be involved in the 2020 ARP conference.

Featured member's article

Black Isle bloodstone artefacts; long-distance exchange during the Mesolithic period

Torben Bjarke Ballin

Lithic Research, Stirlingshire

Honorary Research Fellow, University of Bradford

Eric Grant

Project leader

Tarradale Through Time

In 2018, one of the authors published an update on Scottish archaeological bloodstone research (Ballin 2018). In this paper he discussed the definition of bloodstone as a raw material, and the group of raw materials to which it belongs (the chalcedony group), but he also discussed the distribution of archaeological bloodstone from the source island of Rum. Fig. 1 shows the distribution of archaeological bloodstone artefacts and assemblages known at the time of publication.

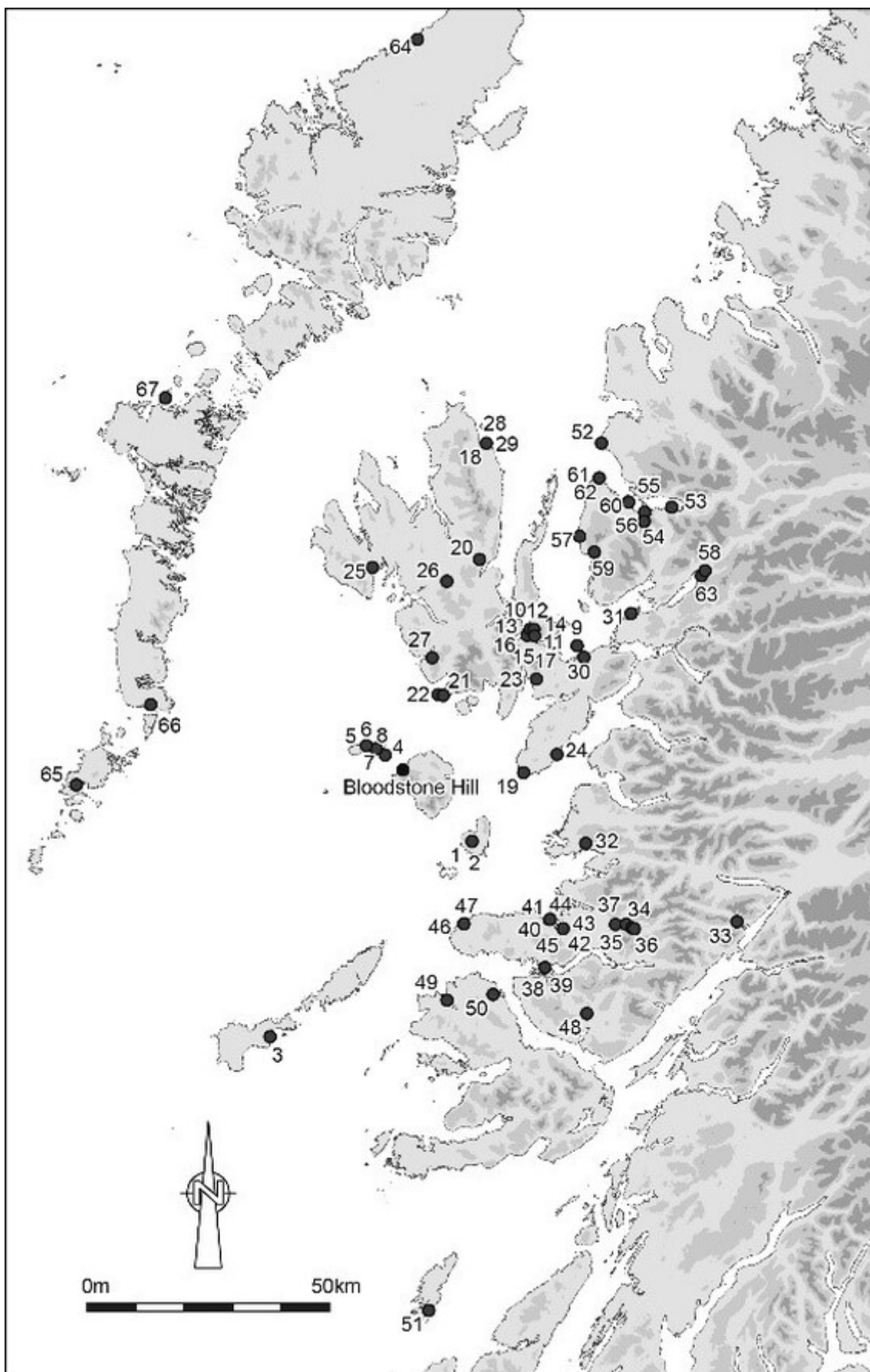


Fig. 1. The distribution of archaeological bloodstone throughout the Hebridean area and western Scotland (map produced by Fiona Jackson). The numbers refer to sites listed in the appendix of this paper.

It was suggested that Rum bloodstone in the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age may have functioned as a tribal identifier – through what is

referred to as 'emblematic style' (Wiessner 1983) – but that small numbers of bloodstone artefacts have been found beyond the core area of the social group identifying itself through the use of bloodstone (a social territory; Clark 1975; Ballin 2009). Fig. 2 shows the perceived social territory within the inner circle, with the area between the two circles demarcating a zone with the occurrence of occasional bloodstone artefacts (an 'area of interest' defined by social contacts and forming part of the extended exchange network of people in the Inner Hebrides).

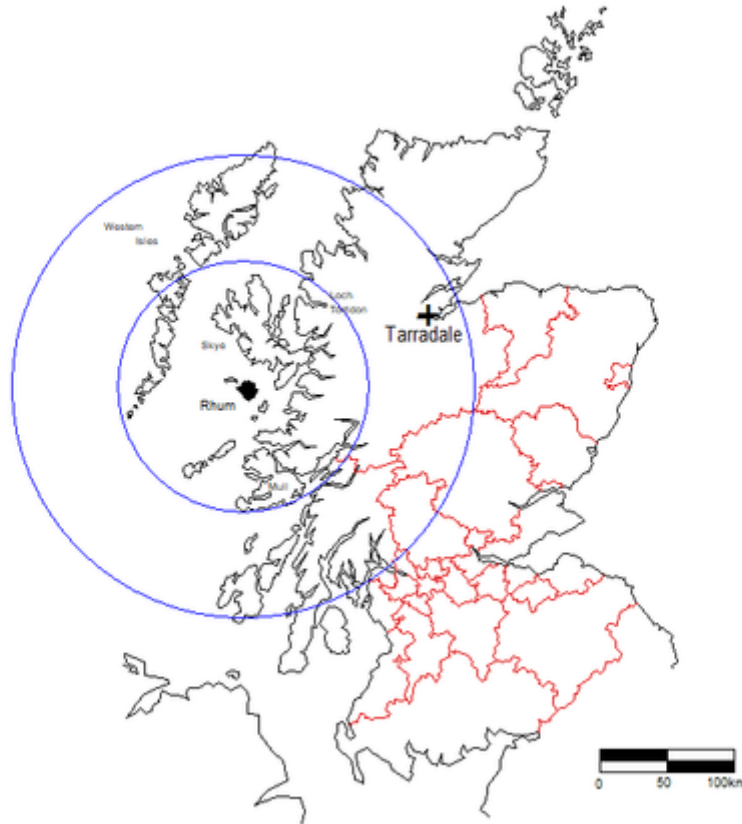


Fig. 2. Impressionistic interpretation of the distribution of archaeological bloodstone (based on Fig. 14), including an inner core area with a radius of c. 80km, and an outer ring adding an extra c. 70km. Tarradale has been inserted.

Due to the nature of archaeological research – with most research being carried out where people live or where infrastructure (roads, railways, gas lines, water lines, electricity lines, etc.) is being built – most bloodstone-bearing assemblages and solitary artefacts have been recovered along the western seaboard and on the Hebridean islands, but little has been known about the penetration of archaeological bloodstone into or through the Highland zone. However, Fig. 2 shows (the outer circle) that archaeological bloodstone could potentially be found on 'the other side' of Scotland.

Many would have thought that this would be 'a bit far-fetched', but in connection with fieldwalking around, and in the hinterland behind, the Tarradale shell middens on the south-coast of the Black Isle, north-east Scotland, three pieces of likely archaeological bloodstone have been found by members of the project Tarradale Through Time.



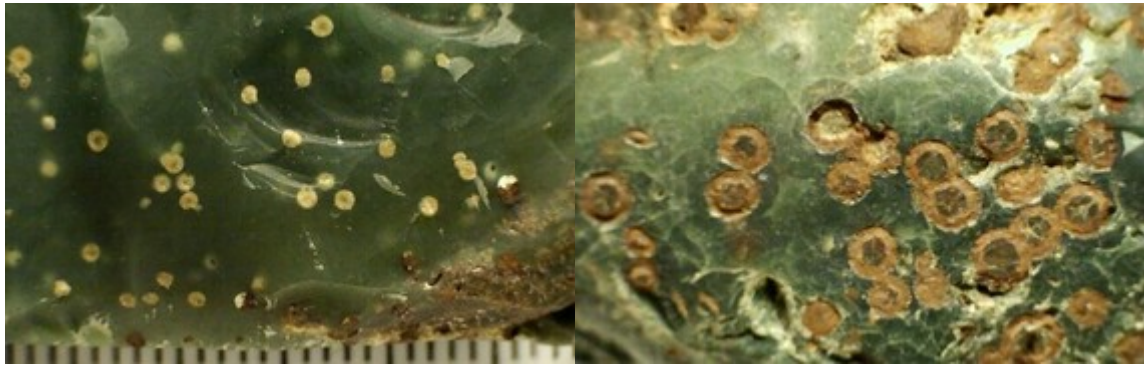
Fig. 3. Flake of gem-quality bloodstone showing the characteristic red spots and filaments. Purchased by TBB in jewellery shop.

The Identification of Bloodstone

As mentioned in Ballin 2018, 'bloodstone' is really a bit of a mis-nomer. This type of stone was defined by lapidarists, rather than by general mineralogists or petrologists, and the name refers to a form of particularly 'nice' material of the chalcedony family, with a green matrix shot through with red filaments (Fig. 3). But as many lithics specialists have found out, most bloodstone have no red filaments, and analysis of bloodstone-rich assemblages from the Inner Hebrides shows that the stone's matrix (although mostly green) varies across a colourful spectrum – from almost greyish-white, across brown light-green, green, dark-green to black (Ballin 2017)

Bloodstone is a member of the chalcedony family which also includes chalcedony proper (grey or bluish-grey), jasper (usually red), carnelian (brown), agate (characterized by concentric banding), and bloodstone/plasma (green jasper), and all forms of chalcedony formed by the solidification of hydrothermal fluids in lavas. Technically, bloodstone is a green jasper.

The easiest form of bloodstone to identify is green bloodstone with 'globules' (probably a devitrification product). Although many bloodstone artefacts do not have these inclusions, many do, and when a piece of geological bloodstone has just been 'cracked open' they are white, whereas most weathered bloodstone artefacts tend to have rust-brown globules (Fig. 4-5).



Figs 4-5. 4) Fresh inner surface showing white, unweathered globules. 5) Weathered outer surface showing discoloured, rust-brown globules; several globules in this group have fallen out – the semi-spherical cavities left by detached globules are as geologically diagnostic as the globules themselves. Both pieces of bloodstone were collected in Guirdil Bay, Rhum, by Steven Birch, West Coast Archaeological Services, and donated to TBB's bloodstone research.

Discussion of Bloodstone Artefacts from Tarradale

The three pieces from Tarradale are all green with a slightly 'greasy' sheen, and they all display weathered (rust-brown) globules.

- CAT 823 (Fig. 6) is a small flake fragment (greatest dimension/GD 19mm) with globules on both faces, most prominently on its dorsal face. Field 9.
- CAT 1081 (Figs 7-8) is a heavily rolled dark flake (GD, and to test the original colour of this piece it was split. Internally, this piece is as green as CAT 841 and CAT 1639, and this piece also displays red globules. Field 2B.
- CAT 1639 (Figs 9-10) is a considerably larger flake fragment (GD 53mm) with a large rust-brown globule on its break facet. Field 5C.



Fig. 6. CAT 823 – note the two globules towards the lower left corner of the piece.



Figs 7-8. CAT 1081 – note the numerous small globules.





Figs 9-10. CAT 1639 – note the large globule centre left.

All three pieces were recovered from fields near the present coast-line, in the area around the Tarradale shell middens (Fig. 2). The fact that CAT 1081 is heavily water-rolled suggests a date prior to the Main Holocene Transgression which occurred towards the end of the Mesolithic period, around 5630-5440 cal BC (Ballantyne & Dawson 1997).

Although bloodstone is generally associated with outcrops on Bloodstone Hill, Rum (Wickham-Jones 1990), green bloodstone with and without red filaments (geologically referred to as heliotrope and plasma) also outcrop elsewhere in Scotland (Heddle 1901). These sources are rare and small, and probably not generally of archaeological interest, and Heddle mentions occurrences on other Hebridean islands, as well as in Argyllshire, Perthshire and Kincardineshire. However, Heddle mentions no sources near the Black Isle, which is understandable as the bedrock of the Black Isle and surrounding areas is not igneous, but sedimentary Old Red Sandstone (Johnstone & Mykura 1989).

Combined, the evidence presented above suggests that three artefacts from Tarradale, the Black Isle, are of a mineral of the chalcedony family, most likely bloodstone, and probably deriving from the Isle of Rum in the Inner Hebrides. It can not be ruled out entirely that this raw material is a form of green jasper/bloodstone from a volcanic area nearer the Black Isle and brought to the area by glacial movement, but with reference to Heddle (1901), this is a less likely scenario.

It is therefore suggested that CAT 823, CAT 1081, and CAT 1639 probably represent objects or raw material brought to north-east Scotland through an extensive exchange network which had at its centre the Hebridean Isle of Rum, with Tarradale located approximately 125km towards the north-east as the crow flies. Most likely these pieces found their way to Tarradale by means of the region's waterways, such as by people following (canoeing?) the Great Glen, or through one of the more northerly glens.

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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.

The deadlines for articles in 2020 are:

Spring Edition – 6 March
Summer Edition – 12 June
Autumn Edition – 11 September
Winter Edition – 27 November

To make a contribution to forthcoming editions of the newsletter please email secretary.cifa.sg@gmail.com

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