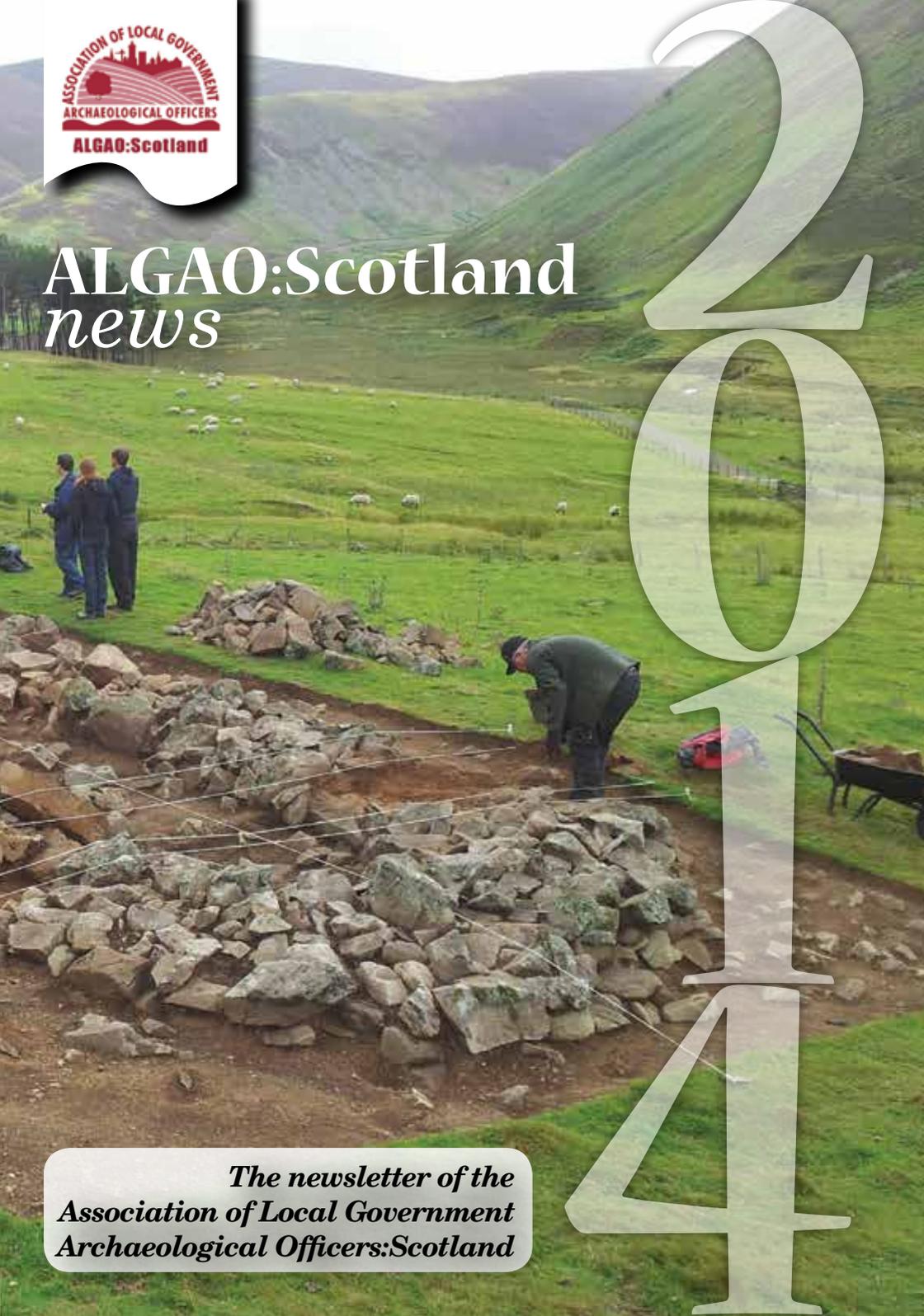


ALGAO:Scotland *news*



*The newsletter of the
Association of Local Government
Archaeological Officers:Scotland*



Welcome

Welcome to the 2013-14 annual newsletter of ALGAO: Scotland. The Association represents Archaeologists working for, or on behalf of, Local Government and National Parks in Scotland and whose task is to protect, manage and promote the historic environment. Our members' work ranges from working with planning officers and elected officials, to community interpretation and outreach projects, to research and conservation and helping develop national heritage policies and standards. The newsletter is an annual review highlighting the activities of our members through the last year.

ALGAO: Scotland over the last year has been busy working with Scottish Government and other Heritage bodies in helping to develop national strategies for the Historic Environment. SHED, launched by Fiona Hyslop Cabinet Secretary for Culture & External Affairs in April 2014, is a national strategy aiming to ensure the long term sustainability of Scotland's Historic Environment Data and was the product of a close collaboration between ALGAO, Historic Scotland and RCAHMS.

At the same time members have been active in responding to consultation regarding the future of the proposed new body Historic Environment Scotland (a merger of Historic Scotland and RCAHMS). ALGAO: Scotland has expressed concerns regarding the potential scope of the new body in terms of roles and responsibilities of this new national NDPB. We will continue to liaise with Scottish Government to ensure the voices of Local Government Archaeology Services and the communities we serve are heard. To this end work is being to develop a new Joint Working Agreements with the body, the pilot for which will be launched in 2014 with Scottish Borders Council.

ALGAO: Scotland welcomed the launch in 2014 of the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland 'Our Place in Time' which at it is core aims to place the historic environment at the heart of a flourishing and sustainable Scotland. Local Authority members have a key role in helping deliver upon the Objectives of this National Strategy is recognised in this document.

ALAGO: Scotland has been engaged not only in helping develop the Strategy but is actively participating in the Historic Environment Working Groups set up by COSLA and Scottish Government to look at key areas and themes to enable delivery. In particular ALGAO is leading on the group looking at the policies and practices surrounding the management, protection and promotion of our Nations undesignated heritage, estimated to comprise over 94% of the total known resource.

Reviewing the figures from our last annual survey covering 2012-13, we can tease out details on just how much work the members of ALGAO: Scotland have undertaken on behalf of the historic environment.

Although for the first time in 5 years the number of archaeologists has risen from 21.55 to 24 full time equivalent staff from April 2012 the overall picture is still of less than one full post per local authority area. Indeed these staffing levels are still significantly below the pre-recession figures of 29.9 in 2008. More worrying perhaps is the decision by Inverclyde Council to pull out from WoSAS in April 2013 and not replace their archaeological advisory service.

Our members across the 27 member Local Authorities advised on nearly 7,100 planning applications, of which nearly 2,200 required further archaeological mitigation or 5.7% of the total number of planning applications, an increase of nearly 1% from the previous year. This resulted in the overseeing of just under 1400 archaeological programmes of work from recording of historic buildings to excavations, covering all periods from the Mesolithic to the 20th century. Furthermore nearly 650 agri-environment and forestry applications were advised upon along with undertaking a wide range of public outreach including over 70 guided walks, 65 public lectures and 14 major community events.

All of this work is essential in not only protecting and managing our historic environment for the future, but also for ensuring that everyone in Scotland and beyond benefits from it as well. The following articles provide just a small snapshot of the varied work being undertaken by the ALGAO: Scotland membership.

John A Lawson
Chair ALGAO:Scotland

Partnership Working Reveals New Recumbent Stone-circle in Aberdeenshire

In 1998 a circular feature was identified by a member of the public, Mr Cooper, on a hillside overlooking Tarland in Deeside, Aberdeenshire, when it was still covered in trees. It was thought to be the remains of a prehistoric hut-circle and entered into the records as such.

No more thought was given to the site until 2012 when the MacRobert Trust, owners of the land where the site lies, informed the Archaeology Service that forestry felling operations had accidentally damaged the site. This seemed to the Service to be an ideal chance to investigate an upland prehistoric structure and so we invited a local community group – the North East Archaeological Research Society (NESARS) – to fieldwalk not only the site itself but also the wider landscape around it.

Between March and July 2013 NESARS spent twenty days working their way slowly over the area, finding beaker pottery, flint debitage, an arrowhead and large quantities of worked quartz. As the group's interest grew further partners were brought in by the Archaeology Service to help train the volunteers and develop our understanding of the site. This included Aberdeen University and British Archaeological Jobs & Resources (BAJR) who trained the volunteers in field survey.

As 2013 progressed it became increasingly apparent that the site not as first assumed, therefore Richard Bradley and the University of Reading were brought in to conduct a three week excavation in September of that year. By now the established partnership network, managed by the Archaeology Service, not only trained and supported the community volunteers, but also undertook a huge amount of work in a very short time.



Tarland Deeside 2013 excavations on the stone-circle



Tarland Deeside 2013 excavations on the stone-circle

The results, which are still being worked on as I write this, confirm that the site originally thought to be a hut-circle is in fact a previously unknown recumbent stone-circle, with ring cairn and cremation burials. The ring cairn is one of the largest ever found, while the later central cairn was found to contain no less than 13,000 pieces of quartz. This hugely important site will add immensely to our understanding of these enigmatic structures which are only found here in the NE of Scotland.

Furthermore the partnership working, so carefully put together by the Archaeology Service, has not stopped there. Another community excavation will take place in June 2014, targeting another circular feature found by NESARS during their field survey. This may be a hut-circle, but no assumptions are being made this time! Plans are also underway between the Archaeology Service and the MacRobert Trust to develop the new stone-circle site into a visitor attraction. Nothing better demonstrates the benefits of partnership working than this inspiring project.

Bruce Mann
Regional Archaeologist,
Aberdeenshire, Moray & Angus Councils

New Outreach Initiatives in East Lothian

2013/14 has seen the development of a number of new initiatives by East Lothian Council Archaeology Service particularly in our outreach programme. The outreach runs in conjunction with our core duties of development control and HER maintenance.

The largest piece of work, certainly at the start of the year, was a museums exhibition centred upon the archaeology collections held by East Lothian Council Museum Service. These were supplemented by a number of objects that had never been on display before, such as Bronze Age burial urns from the AI excavations and a fragment of the rock art from Traprain Law discovered in somebody's garage! (most of rest of the rock art was blown up by quarrying in the 1930s). The whole exhibition was designed and curated by the Archaeology Service. The exhibition proved to be a fantastic showcase for the archaeology of the area, not only to the visiting public but also to museum colleagues and local councillors. Although finished the exhibition is now digital and can be seen on the John Gray Centre website

www.johngraycentre.org/learning/exhibitions/footprints-in-the-landscape-exhibition/.



East Lothian Archaeology Service Community Excavations, Dirleton 2013

During our annual Archaeology and Local History Fortnight in September, three small scale community excavations were carried out. These, along with the other events (a total of 26 separate events), attracted nearly 2000 visitors over the fortnight. Two of the excavations were run by partners (NTS and Peter Potter Gallery) while the Archaeology Service ran the third. This small excavation of a medieval building on a village green attracted 400 visitors with 70 volunteer diggers. The response to this was over whelming and plans are already afoot to return later this year.

Along with City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service and Scottish Borders Archaeology Service we hosted the annual Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders Archaeology Conference at Queen Margaret University. Once again we had approx 200 delegates and a full varied programme of talks and stalls.

ELCAS is taking part in this year's Dunbar Science Festival, along with partners Archaeology Scotland, Addyman Archaeology and Rubicon Archaeology. This is a relatively new festival which is already attracting a national audience and aimed at getting young people interested in how scientific principles can be used in real life. We are showcasing is the different analysis of organic remains in archaeology including Otzi the Iceman, dendrochronology, pollen analysis and whose pool!

Andrew Robertson & Stephanie Leith

East Lothian Council Archaeology Service



Stone Axes part of East Lothian Council Museums new Archaeology display

'Digging up the Dead': Forensic Archaeology in Edinburgh

The excavation and research into human remains is arguably one of the most important areas of archaeological work as it puts us in direct contact with the remains of our ancestors. Over the last couple of years the treatment, excavation and analysis of archaeological human remains has been a major focus of the Archaeology Service, with chance discoveries shedding new light on Edinburgh's medical schools, the excavation of major medieval and post-medieval graveyards, and co-hosting a UK conference on the subject with ALGAO: Scotland.



Mid 13th century Knights grave excavated in 2012 by Headland at Old High School

The chance discovery in 2012 by workmen at 12 Grove Street (near Haymarket) of disarticulated human remains representing parts of at least five individuals sheds new insights into Edinburgh's burgeoning medical schools during the late-18th century Enlightenment. This project also highlighted the important partnership between Local Authorities and Historic Scotland through their funding of the Human Remains Call-off Contract, a service designed to provide public good in terms of funding the excavation and analysis of chance discoveries. Excavation and analysis of the bones by GUARD Archaeology has demonstrated that they dated to the late-18th and early-19th centuries and were used in anatomical study. The discovery sparked great media interest both nationally and worldwide, as they date to the period of first great flourish of Edinburgh's medical schools, and the period of the Resurrectionists such as Burke and Hare. Although no direct link can be made to these well known figures, the remains are nevertheless very important and rare archaeological relics of this period.

This year will see the completion of the post-excavation analysis by GUARD & Headland Archaeology of the archaeological work undertaken on Edinburgh Trams Project, the archaeological element of which was managed by CECAS. Headland undertook the excavation of two hitherto unrecorded sections of important historic graveyards as part of advanced works in Constitution Street, Leith (part of the South Leith Parish Kirkyard) and at London Road, the later belonging to the late-medieval Greenside Place Rude Chapel and later Leper Hospital (1593-1652).

The excavation of the remains of nearly 400 individuals dating principally from between the 15th and 17th centuries from Constitution Street made this the largest such archaeological excavation undertaken in Edinburgh in modern times. As such it has provided us within an invaluable opportunity to study a large population. Although the results from the detailed stable isotopic analysis are still to come, forensic analysis has provided important population trends which can be matched across similar UK populations. For instance although the male population is of average size, the female population was markedly smaller by over an inch, and there is marked higher than average prevalence of joint diseases, a result perhaps of higher levels of manual work.

The excavations however also highlighted a more serious concern, namely the uncontrolled truncation of human burials by previous utilities works. It is has been estimated that over 400 burials in Constitution Street had already been removed or disturbed, without any reporting or due care and attention, beginning in the 19th century and continuing up until the modern day (1980/90s).

On a more positive note the high profile nature of the project offered the opportunity to engage with the public in a positive manner by opening the work up to public view throughout, the use of information boards, encouraging excavation staff to engage with public directly on site and through more formal talks and also through the media. This open approach, although seen as controversial in some professional quarters, was seen as a very positive initiative by the Tram Project Team, the Council and by the excavation staff. Throughout the six months process virtually no negative responses/comments for the public were received despite its high public profile on the ground and in the media.

Added benefit to the Tram's project has been gained as a result of the development of a partnership between CECAS and Dundee University's Department of Forensic Science. This has to date resulted in nearly 20 facial reconstructions being undertaken as part of graduate degree projects and short-term internships and is already leading onto similar work on other assemblages.

John Lawson
City of Edinburgh Council
Archaeology Service



*Edinburgh Trams Constitution Street burials and facial reconstructions
by Paloma Galzi for CECAS*



New partnership projects for Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust have two new partnership projects which we are very excited about. These are the Perth City Heritage Fund and the Tay Landscape Partnership:

Perth City Heritage Fund

PKHT manage the Perth City Heritage Fund, which is a grants scheme aiming to regenerate buildings in Perth through conservation. As a result of the awarding of City status in 2012, Perth has been provided with substantial funding through Historic Scotland to maintain or restore traditional properties within the Perth and Kinnoull Conservation Areas. The support is a part of the Scottish Government and Perth and Kinross Council's regeneration strategy. The aim is to ensure that the grants awarded give the greatest economic benefit to the city, enabling regeneration through the conservation of our built heritage. Up to three-quarters of the overall costs of repair projects may be available through the fund. Response to the scheme so far has been very positive and grants have been offered to a variety of buildings ranging from restoring traditional shop fronts to comprehensive external fabric repairs to a tenement dating from 1699.

Website: www.pkht.org.uk/perth-city-heritage-fund.php

Tay Landscape Partnership

The Tay Landscape Partnership is a Heritage Lottery Funded project which aims to celebrate the natural and historic environments where the rivers Tay and Earn meet.

The landscape partnership consists of 28 diverse interconnected projects which will be delivered over 2014 to 2018. These include exciting historic environment projects: Hill Forts of the Tay will excavate two hillforts; Forteviot Pictish Stones will conserve and display Pictish carved stone fragments; Ancient Abernethy will survey and excavate sites in and round the town; Clay Biggins O' the Carse will carry out essential repairs to some outstanding examples of clay building on the Carse of Gowrie; The Old Parish Church and graveyard at Kinfauns will be stabilised and conserved to ensure its future; Early Settlers will carry out field-walking to find traces of the first people to live in the area; and Telling Our Story will encourage and support local communities and groups to undertake oral history projects.

There will be lots of opportunities to learn new skills, with training available including coble boat building, traditional building techniques, archaeological excavation and recording historic grave stones. The Scheme will be a hub for all sorts of information about the history, wildlife and people of the area and show residents and visitors where they can go and what they can see. The Tay Landscape Partnership is led by Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust and Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust, within a wider partnership including the Gannochy Trust, Perth & Kinross Council, The Robertson Trust and The Cross Trust.

Website: <http://taylp.org/>

Sarah Malone

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust

Regulation or Research?

The Role of Local Authority Archaeologists



The role of ALGAO archaeologists is predominantly and correctly one of regulation on behalf of taxpayers: ensuring that their heritage is properly protected, recorded and explored in a planning context. However, this basic regulatory focus, which is increasingly all that many councils will provide, risks reducing archaeology to mere red tape: we can become portrayed as people who like to say no. Engagement and dissemination have to be at the heart of everything we do in order to demonstrate value for money for the public and this often requires imagination, drive and work beyond contracted hours. Is this a price worth paying?

The 23rd and 24th of June 2014 are of course the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, arguably, the most important battle in Scottish history. The battle itself has been designated by Historic Scotland in their inventory of Historic Battlefields in Scotland, and is the subject of a recently completed multimillion pound revamped NTS Visitor Centre located over the site of the first day of battle, though famously the precise details of the battle over its two days are uncertain.

The NTS Visitor Centre features a reconstruction of the battle, which in turn was aided by research undertaken by the NTS, Glasgow University's Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, GUARD Archaeology Ltd and Stirling University amongst others, which was filmed for a two part programme by the BBC to be aired in 2014. The standard ALGAO role here would be to help with HER searches, facilitate access (where this is on Council land) and help to publicise any public events. However, research on designated battlefields does not require any formal permission so the Council Archaeologists' participation according to a strict reading of my role would have by necessity been limited.



Beechwood Park Roman Road, Stirling's Provost Mike Robbins, Torbrex Community Council, and pupils from St Ninians Primary School

However, I proposed to have a more active role in the research, however how could this be done. There are only so many weekends you can volunteer before you get divorced! Therefore I combined to undertake small scale excavations (Fridays and Saturdays), with slightly larger elements involving both local schools and Community Councils and raised £4600 from the HLE, The Roman Society, the Mackichan Trust, Sons of the Rock, Torbrex Community Council, Stirling Council and Braehead Community Council. All of which was aided considerably by a year long appointment of a CBA funded Community Archaeology Placement: Fiona Watson.

These modest sums were used to examine additional elements not considered by Glasgow University's Centre for Battlefield Archaeology. Over two years four sites were selected: the Stirling Bridge Battlefield (1297), which while not connected to Bannockburn played is still a significant battle in Scotland's Wars of Independence and which had never been explored; the Roman road along which Robert the Bruce and both Edward I and II travelled during their invasions of Scotland and which must have travelled through Stirling; an element of the Carse over which Day 2 of the Battle of Bannockburn took place & finally two standing stones, probably part of a prehistoric stone row that was the location of a skirmish on Day 1 of the Battle on the 23rd June between Thomas Randolph, Early of Moray and Sir Robert Clifford.

Over the first three events around 1500 local people took part with the results reaching the national press including the Times and the Daily Mail. The final event is to take place in late May 2014. The project has identified the first medieval pottery from the site of the Stirling Bridge Battlefield and the site of the Roman Road. The project has made connections with the local metal detecting community, including Mr Jimmy Bain who claimed to have found an Edward I coin from the Carse, the site of the English Camp and the scene of fighting on Day 2. Jimmy's coin, as far as can be identified at present is the first contemporary coin to be recovered from the either the English Camp or the site of the Day 2 fighting. The coin has now been submitted to Treasure Trove.

Finally, in addition the information gathered is to be disseminated through a series of local themed works that celebrate and explore the two days of the battle. These Bannockburn themed works were one element in a larger programme of public engagement that has seen over 6000 people over the last three years participate in archaeology in Stirling and is one of the key reasons for the Archaeologist role moving from a fixed term to permanent post.

While such projects are hard to organise and require substantial portions of personal time, I would argue that the need for them has never been greater. We need to demonstrate to taxpayers and politicians that archaeology is amazing and that there is a huge and growing taxpayer appetite for it and that therefore the small cost to the public is well worth it. I would argue that such community projects are the best ways to do it and that the price is certainly worth paying and I would ask ALGAO can we afford not to pay it?

Murray Cook and Fiona Watson
Stirling Council's Archaeologist and
CBA Funded Community Archaeology Placement

Significant discoveries in Scottish Borders arising through Council led development, utility work and community partnership in Scottish Borders



In Jedburgh, the Council sought to remove a dangerous building from the High Street through compulsory purchase and demolition. This allowed for the first time a significant structure in the centre of one of our medieval burghs to be recorded both before and during demolition in 2012 and 2013. Through the excellent work of Addyman Archaeology and Coralie Mills, the building was revealed to be of multi-phase construction dating from at least the 15th or 16th centuries. The remains of a turret stair, blocked entrances, re-used stone from Jedburgh Abbey and oak and pine floors dated to the winter of 1667 all point to a long biography for the building and the tantalizing possibility that Jedburgh's High Street holds many more clues to its medieval and post-medieval past.

Hogmanay of 2013 brought other significant discoveries near Selkirk. A new Scottish Water pipe-line through both the heart of the Philiphaugh Battlefield and the Scheduled remains of a possible Anglo-Saxon settlement was thought likely to deliver evidence for either of these through excavation. Unexpectedly, a watching brief by GUARD Archaeology Ltd during excavations revealed buried stone walls, door pivot stones and artefacts dating from the 13th to the 16th centuries. Recent post-excavation analysis and historical study of the area has revealed this to be the site of the medieval village of Philiphaugh.



Spindle Whorl, Philiphaugh, Scottish Borders

The historical accounts for the 1645 Battle of Philiphaugh make no mention of structures being used during the battle so it is likely that the village had been abandoned and raised before this time. No evidence for this village existed prior to the watching brief and Scottish Water's substantial efforts to ensure the site was properly examined have given us a new insight into medieval settlement in the Ettrick Valley.

Finally, a community project conducted in August 2013 in the Manor Valley near Peebles has the potential to change our notions of prehistoric settlement and land use across Scotland. The supposedly Iron Age site of Glenrath, a large area of well-preserved prehistoric houses and land units, has seen several investigations including a RCAHMS Inventory survey and small scale excavation in the middle of the 20th century. But it was through a community partnership between Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service (as mentor), the Arthur Trails Association, Peebleshire Archaeology Society and AOC Archaeology that allowed for a modern examination of the site.

AOC and the community partners produced a new survey of the site using traditional and newer digital survey methods including ground based laser scanning. This allowed for a better understanding of the site's complex phasing. Several trenches were then excavated across the site focusing on structural evidence. A long building, thought to date from the early historic period, was excavated showing that this was in fact two buildings likely dating from the later medieval period. The excavation of a stone-walled roundhouse also confounded expectations. This was thought to date from the middle or later Iron Age, but radiocarbon dates showed this to be clearly Bronze Age in date. As this building related directly to an enclosed lynchet, it seems likely that Glenrath



Excavation of Longhouse, Glenrath, Scottish Borders

contains in fact a well-preserved Bronze Age agricultural landscape with elements of later settlement pointing to its continuous use over much of prehistory. This is the first time this has been observed in south-eastern Scotland and it has major implications for our understanding of past settlement patterns and land use across the country.

The Borders continues to show the richness and depth of its largely untapped archaeological resource. Scottish Borders Councils Archaeology Service strives to highlight the archaeological potential through providing advice to planning, utilities companies and NGOs and to Borders communities seeking to explore their own heritage.

Dr Christopher Bowles
Scottish Borders Council

High Street, Linlithgow

New, sustainable development in the centres of our historic burghs can raise some of the most complex issues that archaeologists have to deal with, but when successfully addressed, these issues can bring seemingly unexpected rewards for our understanding of the past.



The demolition and redevelopment of a 1950s bus station on the south side of the medieval Cross in Linlithgow posed many difficulties. The narrow site included most of two burgage plots, including their frontages on the High Street, and part of the backlands of another. These burgages were probably first laid out in the early twelfth century, but in modern times the site had been covered by modern buildings and a concrete-surfaced yard.



Excavation of medieval pits on former bus station site High Street, Linlithgow

Evaluation trenching of the site while it was still in use was impracticable, so the survival and extent of any significant archaeology under the garage and offices could not be confirmed before the planning application was determined. On the basis of advice from WoSAS, their archaeology advisers, West Lothian Council granted consent with an archaeological condition. This required the developer to bring forward a multi-phase written scheme of investigation (WSI) which included building recording, control over demolitions to minimise archaeological damage, the subsequent evaluation of sub-surface deposits within the site, and the excavation of any significant remains which were found to be threatened by the development proposals.

The timing, scope, and aims of the work were agreed following early and extensive discussions about the archaeological potential of the site which took place between WoSAS on behalf of the Council and CgMs Consultants for the developer. Potential archaeological issues identified from information in the HER and from WoSAS's theoretical model of the growth of the medieval settlement were taken into account by the developer's team, and incorporated into the development's design to minimise potential impacts and to improve the chances of preserving remains in situ as preferred under current planning policies. Following the Council's approval of the agreed WSI, CgMs appointed Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd to carry out the fieldwork.

Evaluation at the street frontage revealed some remains of medieval walls and pits, which had been dug into shallowly-buried fluvio-glacial sands and silts, and which had been truncated by later, post-medieval and modern construction. Similar geological deposits occurred quite close to the surface in the south of the site, but in the central part of site up to 1.5m of loam deposits, containing medieval pottery, survived above more deeply-lying fluvio-glacial deposits. Features dating to the medieval period were found near the base of the loam, cut into the geological deposits.

Following discussions between WoSAS and CgMs regarding the location, depth and likely significance of the evaluation's findings and the design for the new building, the scope of further mitigation fieldwork was set out in an addendum to the WSI. This led to the opening of a 280m² excavation area where the density of deeper elements of the new development's foundations made it likely that archaeological features there would be seriously damaged or destroyed.

The excavation revealed localised concentrations of features which appeared to respect the predicted early burgh plot boundary, although no physical evidence for the boundary was found. The features appeared to be cess pits, quarry pits dug to obtain sand to be used for building material and then backfilled with midden material, and pits of light industrial function. There was evidence of skinning and metalworking nearby. Full analysis has yet to be completed, but pottery recovered from the features largely dated from the 12th to 15th century.

There was little evidence for post-medieval backland activity. This may relate to a change in use of the backlands from quarrying and rubbish disposal to cultivation. This change appears to correspond to historical evidence of a general decline in the importance, economic strength, and population of the burgh following the Union of the Crowns.

In addition to the site-specific details of medieval life in the town, information about the former topography of the early burgh was also revealed. The varying depth of the medieval and later soils above the water-washed geological deposits on the site indicated that before the burgh was established, a slight gully or line of natural drainage from the high ground to the south had run north-west, diagonally through the site, towards Linlithgow Loch. The depth at which the medieval features were found, and the previously recorded discovery of a log-boat nearby around 1863 also seems to suggest that when settlement began, the loch's shallow embayment to the west of the royal Palace extended much further south than at present, and that the development of the western half of High Street may be a later medieval expansion of the early burgh.

Hugh McBrien

WoSAS

Highlights of the year in Dumfries & Galloway



Throughout 2013-14 the Archaeology Service has continued to deliver to a broad base of users who require archaeological information and advice: development management, forestry sector, planning policy team, museums service, members of the public and heritage groups, pre-application enquiries and data requests from developers.

The highlight excavation of the year has been the work undertaken in advance of the Dunragit bypass funded by Transport Scotland and managed by Historic Scotland. The adopted route had no choice but to steer a course between the known Neolithic henge and ceremonial mound at the head of Luce Bay, in an area known to be of very high archaeological potential. The discovery of a Mesolithic settlement, Neolithic pit burials containing jet necklaces, a Bronze Age cremation burial ground and an Iron Age village partially submerged in blown sand, far outstripped expectations. We worked closely with the developer in respect of advising on the least sensitive locations for ancillary works out with the road line for which planning permissions were required...they breathed a sigh of relief when nothing showed in evaluations and surface strips.



Roman brooch from Satur Mill, Dumfries & Galloway

Wind farm proposals have again dominated development management case work. One scheme was not progressed beyond the scoping stage for a number of reasons, including potential archaeological effects, and elsewhere very significant changes to design have been achieved, reducing archaeological effects. Mitigation for approved schemes have seen excavation of what might have appeared to be a stone clearance to reveal fragmentary remains of a cremation burial at Carscreugh. Elsewhere, site interpretation has been installed to explain the changing upland landscapes.



Fish House, Tongland, Dumfries and Galloway

Recording of the ruinous and modest remains of a building known as the Fish House, beside the River Dee at Tongland, revealed the fascinating history of the salmon fishery. First recorded in 1325 when the canons of Whithorn Priory were confirmed as owners of 'half a salmon fishing of Dee', this continued until the 1930s.

Good progress has been maintained on the Local Development Plan, with the Reporters unit currently considering outstanding objections to the proposed plan. An Inventory Battlefield has recently been proposed at Sark-a first in the region.

Successful education and outreach has been delivered through collaboration with the Council Museum Service's exhibitions on 'Vikings in Dumfries and Galloway' and 'Fabulous Finds', and with the Ranger Service outdoor education programme investigating the surviving earthworks at Kirkcudbright Castle. Co-operation with the museum service is also seen through ongoing liaison between the HER and metal detectorists, steering them away from known archaeology and encouraging accurate reporting of findspots. The archaeology service has contributed to local history group initiatives for walking routes, and interpretative elements of research programmes, such as the Trusty's Hill Galloway Picts project and the American-led excavations at Amisfield Tower.

Jane Brann
Dumfries & Galloway

This is the 2013-14 annual newsletter of ALGAO: Scotland, the association for archaeologists working for, or on behalf of, local government in Scotland.

Our members carry out a wide range of tasks, from working with planning officers and developers, to working with National Agencies and Heritage Groups to develop and deliver Heritage Policies, to community interpretation and outreach projects, to research and conservation. **ALGAO: Scotland news highlights the importance of locally-based curatorial archaeologists who are able to provide a wide range of services and functions which benefit the preservation of our shared archaeology, while contributing to both learning and engagement and sustainable regeneration.**

For details of the ALGAO:Scotland committee see the website: general enquiries to the Association should be directed in the first instance to the administrative officer, Andrea Smith at admin@algao.org.uk

ALGAO:Scotland welcomes financial support from Historic Scotland to help us meet common objectives in the conservation, management and promotion of the historic environment.



Cover: Excavation of Longhouse, Glenrath, Scottish Borders;
Insert: Spindle Whorl, Philiphaugh, Scottish Borders.



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