

## ClfA Scottish Group Winter Newsletter 2018



**The ClfA Scottish Group committee would like to wish all our members our very best wishes for the Christmas season and 2019.**

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### Training workshops survey

Our ClfA Scottish Group are in the unique position of having dedicated funding from Historic Environment Scotland to deliver CPD training workshops for you!

We have several exciting workshops being developed but want to make sure they are the right training opportunities for you. We would be grateful if you could spend a quick five minutes answering this survey.

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QQXK5FB](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QQXK5FB)

The results will be used to inform training workshops going forward and may be used to support the development of wider training initiatives for the Scottish Heritage Sector.

If you have any further questions, please get in touch with [Cara](#).

### Scottish Group consultation responses

Members of the Scottish Group represent ClfA on a number of panels and groups, including assisting ClfA in responding to historic environment consultations relevant to Scotland and Scottish members.

ClfA has recently responded to the consultations on the Draft Historic Environment Policy. Other recent consultations, have included:

ClfA response to Historic Environment Scotland corporate plan consultation (November 2018)  
Joint ClfA and CBA response to EFRA committee inquiry into the Agriculture Bill (October 2018)  
Joint ClfA and CBA response to consultation on Environmental Principles and Governance (August 2018)  
Joint ClfA and CBA response to HLF policy directions consultation (July 2018)  
Joint ClfA and CBA response to Health and Harmony - the Future of Food Farming and the Environment consultation (May 2018)

Full consultation responses can be found [here](#).

## Committee meeting dates

As a member of the CIfA Scottish Group, you can 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 dates of the next meetings are:

- Thursday 28 February 2019, 13.00 – 15.30
- Thursday 30 May 2019, 13.00 – 15.30
- Thursday 22 August 2019, 13.00 – 15.30

If you would like to attend, please send an email to our [committee secretary](#) and we will send you an invitation.

## Conferences

### Call for Papers: Scottish Student Archaeology Society Conference 26 and 27 January 2019

Edinburgh University Archaeology Society is calling for papers on the theme 'Scotland's Diversity Past' for the Scottish Student Archaeology Society Conference. The deadline is **5 January 2019**. For more information and a to submit a form visit [University of Edinburgh webpage](#).

## News

### Celebrating Scotland's Archaeology 2018

At the end of November, Scotland's Archaeology Strategy released a free online version of **Celebrating Scotland's Archaeology 2018**. This is a magazine-style report which outlines how Scotland's Archaeology Strategy is being delivered while also being a place to celebrate some examples of best practice and share news. Many readers will have taken part in projects which feature in the magazine. Articles are written by a range of people from across the sector, including community groups.

You can find out more and download the magazine for free [here](#). There is also a very short (30-second) survey monkey questionnaire there where you can give any feedback you have. If you would like to contribute a case study which could feature in future publicity you will find out how to do that on that page too.

If you enjoy the magazine, we would be grateful if you could share this with any colleagues, peers, or partners who may be interested. Thanks again to those of you who contributed content and helped spread the word.

### Archaeology Scotland's Heritage Hero Awards

Rebecca Barclay, Archaeology Scotland

With community and schools work increasingly becoming part of many roles, you might be looking for new and innovative ways to add value to your work. If this is the case Archaeology Scotland's Heritage Hero Awards are here to support you. This free award scheme offers a framework and focus for your project and a reward element for your group. The scheme has been hugely popular since its launch in 2017, with almost 7000 award recipients across the country.

## How do the awards work?

These are group awards, focused on heritage and archaeology projects. The Awards were designed for young people, but are open to, and have been extensively used by groups of all ages. They are free and are based on a relationship of trust and support between Archaeology Scotland and those taking part. Deliberately the paperwork we ask for is minimal - a brief overview to start (as we understand projects can change) and details of what has been done for the project at the end. We don't require the evidence to support this, trusting you as the professional to run the project appropriately.

Each project should allow participants to take part in the 5 stages listed below, these fit natural with project work and should be easy to complete within the course of any project undertaken.

### Plan

Be involved in the planning of the project from the big ideas to the fine detail.

### Investigate

Research and find out more about the heritage you want to engage with.

### Engage

Visit, explore and experience heritage. Spend time on the site or with the collection at the heart of the project.

### Inspire

Share what you have learnt in an imaginative way. Inspire others with something you create.

### Reflect

Identify the transferable skills you have developed through the project.

Evaluate your own performance, what you have learnt and how you could use this going forward.

There are 5 levels of award to suit all ages, abilities and projects. Projects can be focused on any form of cultural heritage and to date the Awards have been used for one off/one day events, training course activities, participation in excavations and for school/youth work heritage projects. Completion of the previous level is not necessary. It is also possible for participants within a project to achieve different levels based on their own participation. We hope to keep the awards as inclusive as possible, participation and the learning journey is the focus of celebration, not academic ability.

### Getting started

Ideally groups should register for the awards before the start of their project – to do this complete side one of the Project Proposal Form, found on the [Archaeology Scotland website](#). We can offer advice and support at that point and whenever needed during a project. At the end complete side two of the form, we'll review it and send out personal certificates to all your participants.

## Members' News

### Exciting finds and masses of potential: Lephin an enclosed chapel and burial ground or medieval farmstead?

Clare Ellis MCIfA. Argyll Archaeology

It is very early days but we are really excited about our community excavation at Lephin, Glengorm Estate, on the beautiful Isle of Mull. A week of extremely hard and industrious work by all has demonstrated the presence of a probable 13<sup>th</sup> century massive walled stone structure, enclosed by an equally massive stone enclosure under which might be a Norse period structure.



Lephin, Mull © Argyll Archaeology

We originally mapped the site as part of the [Baliscate project](#) as it was recorded as a burial ground on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map and in plan was very similar in size and form as the enclosed

structure at Baliscate. Despite 28 solid days of community excavation at Baliscate we failed to definitively prove that the enclosed structure (actually there were at least two structures the first having burnt down) was a chapel. Frustratingly the underlying cemetery dated to the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> century AD while the structures, with no definable contemporary burials, dated to late 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

So the question remains are sites such as Balicate, Lephin, Crackaig, Cillchriosd and Cille Mhuire enclosed chapels or medieval farmsteads. The RCAHMS have argued that Lephin is a farmstead and indeed there is a later winnowing barn built over the ruin enclosure wall but if this is the case then why does the oral history of the site recognise it as a burial ground? We wanted answers.....

After a week of toiling (and lots of delicious homemade cake) and initial post-excavation (samples have just gone off for dating) we now know that the structure is largely constructed from stone, with an internal wooden frame of earthfast posts that would have supported the weight of the roof and which is basically the same design as recorded at Baliscate. We recovered from floor deposits some highly decorated pieces of a single pottery vessel and significantly virtually the same design was found on pottery recovered from a 13<sup>th</sup> century context at Baliscate. Furthermore, as at Baliscate the various floors of the interior of the main structure were filthy. The floors levels contained lots of carbonised cereal grains including oats, barley and some flax, for an Argyll site heaps of pottery sherds, loads of charcoal from all sorts of wood and even some yew (!) as well as evidence of metal working... all stuff which we would not typically associate with the interior of a chapel. So confusingly were also found within the stone enclosure a stone lined cut, possible a large grave cut, although no bone survived in the excavated portion.

Finally, just outside the enclosure wall we found a massive burnt deposit that appears to represent *in situ* burning and significantly it went under the enclosure wall, so it is clearly earlier in date. It contained lots of small fragments of burnt bone and masses of charcoal. When the retent from the bulk sample was sorted, fragments of a bone comb decorated with circles and parallel lines were recovered and initial searching online indicates that this decoration occurs on other combs. The decoration on one comb (which was recovered in Gotland, Sweden) which is dated to the Viking period, bears an uncanny resemblance.





Fragments of a bone comb, Lephin, Mull © Argyll Archaeology

We are currently applying for various grants and funding to return next year. Our aim would be to uncover a good portion of the interior of the structure to determine how the building was used and whether there are burials beneath those floors and if so, from when do they date. We also want to explore outside and under the enclosure wall, to see if we really do have a Norse period hearth and to see if there is an associated structure.....we can't wait for those radiocarbon dates!

Funders: Heritage Lottery Fund, Mull Museum and Mull Historical Society.

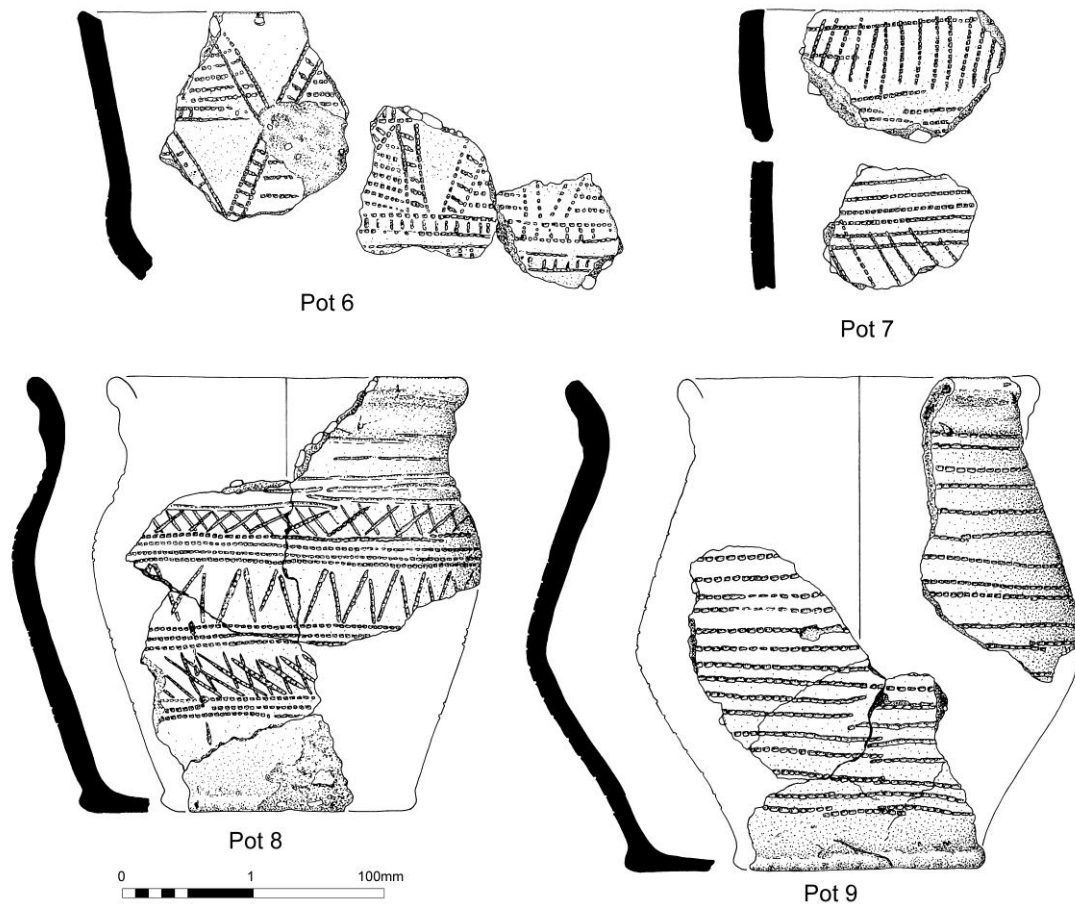
### **New CFA publications**

Melanie Johnson MCIfA, CFA Archaeology Ltd

CFA Archaeology Ltd are delighted to announce the publication of two new papers covering developer-funded research in Scotland. We hope you enjoy reading about these interesting discoveries!

The first of these will appear in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland volume 147, which should be arriving in members' mailboxes this month. The paper, *A prehistoric cremation burial at Duns Law Farm, near Duns, Scottish Borders* by Sue Anderson and with contributions from Ann Clarke, Mike Cressey, Mhairi Hastie and Melanie Johnson, describes the discovery of a pit during a watching brief on a water main installation. A strange collection of material was contained within this pit, along with a possible stone setting, including Beaker vessels, cremated human remains, a stone axehead and Neolithic pottery. Radiocarbon determinations produced early Neolithic dates for

four samples of human bone and a grain of wheat, and one human bone sample produced a Bronze Age date later than the generally accepted currency of Beaker pottery production in Scotland. This pit appeared to have been used in the Early Neolithic for cremation burials, which is a rare find, with later use in the Early Bronze Age resulting in disturbance of the Neolithic burials and deposition of Beaker vessels.



Pottery from Duns Law Farm, Duns, Berwickshire © CFA Archaeology Ltd

A second paper describing the excavation of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery and a medieval enclosure at Orchardfield, East Linton, East Lothian, is published on Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports 80, and is authored by Magnus Kirby with contributions by Mike Cressey, Sue Anderson, Mhairi Hastie, Melanie Johnson, Ann Clarke and Clare Ellis. Three ring-ditches, interpreted as a Bronze Age barrow cemetery, and a large ditched enclosure of likely medieval date were excavated. Cremation burials were recovered from all three of the barrows, from their upper ditch fills and from a central pit in one of the barrows. A large pit close to one of the ring-ditches, which may have been used to dispose of the residue ash from one or more funeral pyres, was also excavated and provides an insight into the wider ritual activity taking place on or near the site and is an unusual find. To the east of the barrow cemetery, a meandering length of ditch is considered to be medieval in date and probably forms an enclosure. Radiocarbon determinations produced Middle Bronze Age dates for samples of cremated human bone, with charred grain producing Iron Age and medieval dates. The excavation of Bronze Age barrows in Scotland is unusual – while they are well known from cropmarks, invasive investigation is much rarer.





Ring ditches at Orchardfield, East Linton, East Lothian © CFA Archaeology Ltd

### **Mote of Urr excavation published after 65 years**

Beverley Ballin Smith MCIfA, GUARD Archaeology Ltd Publications Manager and ARO Editor

The results of Brian Hope-Taylor's excavation of the Mote of Urr, undertaken 65 years ago, have now been published in GUARD Archaeology's [publications journal](#).





ARO31 Cover © ARO

Excavations at Mote of Urr, near Dalbeattie in Dumfries and Galloway were undertaken in 1951 and 1953. The earliest phase of occupation comprised the construction of the motte-and-bailey castle and its apparent destruction by fire, after which a large central stone-lined pit for an oven, furnace, kiln or beacon was dug. The pit continued in use when the motte was heightened in a second phase of occupation and enclosed by a clay bank and palisade. In its final phase, when the motte was heightened yet again, evidence for a possible double palisade enclosing the summit of the motte was found. A trench across the moat around the motte revealed three phases of the ditch and evidence for a timber bridge across the moat.



Aerial photograph of Mote of Urr. © Historic Environment Scotland.

Hope-Taylor dated the construction and earliest occupation at Mote of Urr to the late twelfth century, with continued occupation into the fourteenth century. Although Mote of Urr seems to have been the centre for Walter de Berkeley's lordship of Urr in the second half of the twelfth century, David Perry of Alder Archaeology, who brought together this report, concludes that nothing as early as this was identified in the pottery and artefacts recovered from the excavations; only two radiocarbon dates from the earliest phase of occupation support the twelfth-century occupation at the motte, which probably terminated during the rebellion in Galloway in 1174. A radiocarbon date of AD 1215-1285 from a later pit suggests that the heightening and strengthening of the motte took place in the thirteenth century. Pottery evidence suggests occupation in the thirteenth century, continuing into the second half of the fourteenth century, if not into the fifteenth century.



Richard Oram's exhaustive historical investigation demonstrates how often the lands of Urr changed ownership between the establishment of the motte in the twelfth century and its decline in the later post-medieval period. The identities of the owners of the site in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are only partly known historically. Urr was probably partly destroyed during the Wars of Independence in the early fourteenth century and there is a large gap in the documentary record for the latter part of the fourteenth and first half of the fifteenth centuries, by which time the estate was being rented out to tenant farmers at a relatively low value. The fourteenth/fifteenth-century redware pottery on which the dating hangs cannot therefore be linked to particular known historical figures or events but does concur with the documentary evidence of continued use of the site during this period.



Photograph of excavation team (in 1951?). Brian Hope-Taylor is in the back row, second from the left. © Historic Environment Scotland.



The full results of this research, which was funded by Historic Environment Scotland, *ARO31: Brian Hope-Taylor's archaeological legacy: Excavations at Mote of Urr, 1951 and 1953* by David Perry, with contributions by Simon Chenery, Derek Hall, Mhairi Hastie, Davie Mason, Richard D Oram, and Catherine Smith is freely available to download from the ARO website - [Archaeology Reports Online](#).

## **South East Scotland Archaeological Research Framework (SESARF) Update**



In previous ClfA Newsletters we introduced the South East Scotland Archaeological Research Framework (SESARF) and the series of workshops that were run in Edinburgh. SESARF has been under development by SESAP (South East Scotland Archaeology Partnership) and Wessex Archaeology since June 2017. The Regional Research Framework (RRF) will cover the council areas of Edinburgh, Midlothian, East Lothian and The Scottish Borders and is being funded by the Society of Antiquaries for Scotland supported by a grant from Historic Environment Scotland. The RRF is formed around three key themes of **Understand**, **Value** and **Protect** and has continued to be developed throughout 2018 with a wide range of stakeholders.

Due for delivery in Spring 2019 much progress has been made since the last update, with Working Group contributions on archaeological periods, key themes, specialist case studies and research questions and priorities now in and ready to be integrated into the wider framework in the New Year. For anyone who is still working on a contribution and/or is interested in submitting one, please do [get in touch](#).

In addition to the ongoing work for **Understand** progress has been made in developing the themes of **Protect** and **Value** for SESARF and the first drafts of these are also due to be with the Working Group at the start of 2019. To fully develop these elements we will be holding a workshop in the New Year to discuss issues relating to archaeology and heritage in South East Scotland around these themes. Full dates and times will be forthcoming.

To keep up to date with all things SESARF please [visit our website](#) for the latest news, information and upcoming workshops.

## **Other News**

### **News from ScARF**

Helen Spencer, ScARF Project Manager, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

### **SIRFA Symposium**



© SIRFA

It is your final chance to book for the launch event of [Scotland's Island Research Framework for Archaeology \(SIRFA\) project](#) - the Western Isles Symposium. We are looking forward to a packed program in Uist from Mon 7 - Fri 11 January 2019.

If you would like to attend please see the [website](#) and [get in touch](#) as soon as possible. Accommodation is limited and filling up, so book a place sooner rather than later.

### Museums, Museums, Museums!



(left) Agricultural tools in Aberdeenshire Council Museums Service Discovery Centre © ScARF  
(right) Farming displays in Aden Farming Museum, Mintlaw © ScARF

Anna, our Museums Officer has been furiously working away at what will be the culmination of the ScARF museums project - **a research framework document for farming and fishing in Aberdeenshire**. This project has been a pilot project, working with assessing the research potential of archaeology collections in the care of [Aberdeenshire Council Museums Service](#). We know from the [national ScARF research framework](#) that museum collections are an underused resource so this project has been a test to see what knowledge gaps can be identified from the material remains themselves held by museums.

### What does this framework look like?

The framework is predominantly case studies, built up around site assemblages. We've delved into the site listings on [Canmore](#), and where possible included information about object-specific research and analysis. We've asked the same set of questions of each site assemblage but are also looking at

wider museology questions in relation to the role of archaeology within exhibitions and wider research.

**A draft of the museums framework** has now been sent out to everyone who has expressed an interest in the project or who has been at one of our workshops. We will then work it up for publishing on our website by the end of March. If you'd like to contribute, or want to know more, you are very welcome - just get in touch!

#### **Launch event**

We are also starting to plan a launch event including workshops and community activities to be held in Aberdeenshire next year. It is shaping up to be an exciting event - look out for more news in 2019 when details are confirmed.

#### **Regional Research Frameworks**

The **Regional Research Framework project managers** all got together in November to talk about the four projects that we are currently working on - South East Scotland, Highland, Scotland's Islands and Perth & Kinross. (Wish I'd taken a picture of us all - instead here is a great picture from the Cromarty excavations in the Highland region! © Susan Kruse at Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands (ARCH)).



While each of the frameworks will have its **own unique perspective** they will all form part of the National framework so working together from the start is really important. Wessex Archaeology, who are creating the SESARF framework were really helpful sharing their experiences, especially with gathering the base data and transforming it into a draft framework. We shared ideas and tips on stakeholder engagement and holding events, as well as the development of digital platforms for research frameworks and how the chronology and themes of each of the regional frameworks would align.

Keep an eye on the [ScARF twitter](#) feed and sign up to our [newsletter](#) for more news about the regional research frameworks. You can also contact the [ScARF team](#) if you want to find out more about the project and get involved!



## Notices

### **Roger Mercer** Former Secretary (Chief Executive) of the RCAHMS

It is with great sadness that we have learnt that Roger Mercer passed away on 3 December. Together, Roger Mercer and Diana Murray (former Chief Executive of the RCAHMS and joint Chief Executive of Historic Scotland) set up the Scottish branch of the IFA [now ClfA, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists]. Roger will be very greatly missed by all his colleagues and friends. His funeral will be private, and a memorial service is anticipated early in 2019.

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Membership of the Scottish Group is free for ClfA members and is £10 per year for non-ClfA 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 on the ClfA's Scottish Group please see our [website](#), where you can download copies of meeting minutes and past newsletters, and keep up-to-date with the work of the Group and training courses:

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. Search for 'Scottish Group of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' and 'like' us.

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

#### **The deadlines for articles in 2019 are:**

- Spring Edition (8 March)
- Summer Edition (7 June)
- Autumn Edition (6 September)
- Winter Edition (29 November)

To make a contribution to forthcoming editions of the Newsletter please email [Biddy Simpson](#)