



ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for England and Wales was published on 24 July following a consultation period. The Government's response to that consultation *recognises the importance of the historic environment and has no intention to reduce, whether through the Framework or otherwise, the important protections that exist for it.* Some amendments have been incorporated, following responses from organisations and colleagues concerned about possible impacts on archaeology. The importance of high quality buildings and places is emphasised. 'Heritage policy remains largely unchanged,' says Historic England, and 'greater clarity is given to ensure that practices that protect heritage assets must be adhered to and are not simply recommended.' A list of policies which might provide a reason for refusal of planning consent has been extended to include 'irreplaceable habitats' and nationally important but non-scheduled assets of archaeological interest.

In its response the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) says that most provisions relating to the historic environment from the original NPPF have been retained: 'Some passages have been re-written or re-ordered for clarity, and largely ... successfully'. A requirement for Local Planning Authorities to maintain or have access to a Historic Environment Record has been raised to the main text. In sum, 'There should be no major impact on the way the historic environment is managed or any lessening of the weight afford[ed] to heritage assets as a result of the revisions.'

In recent years concerns have grown however, that there is a general overarching push for development, including the introduction of Permission in Principle, which could be given without adequate evaluation, ceding the principle of development before the significance of any assessment has been determined. Matt Thomson, Head of Planning at the Campaign to Protect Rural England said of the NPPF 'it is a speculative developers' charter and will lead to the death of the plan-led system'. The editor of *Salon* (vol. 412) fears it might 'encourage builders to do what they want, as if a serious housing shortage can be blamed on obdurate planners'.

Provision for the controlled and orderly removal of archaeological remains from a site within the planning process will continue, but the Government wishes to reduce the use of pre-commencement conditions to shorten the time it takes between planning permission being granted and the start of development on site. Worryingly, archaeology is one of the areas where the use of pre-commencement conditions seems unavoidable. Despite warnings and recommendations from the archaeological profession, the Government has declined to accept that this might be a problem.

Until now, the planning system has been seen as effective in facilitating development while managing its impact on heritage assets, though there is little documented evidence of the planning system's successful operation, or of how the removal of elements of it would reduce protection of the historic environment. A new project, funded by Historic England and led by CIfA, is investigating how archaeology is managed in the planning system. Case studies are being collected from local authorities and the commercial and voluntary sectors, to illustrate current successful and problematic management of heritage assets with archaeological interest, as well as how recent and proposed changes might influence this objective. They are also looking for useful statistical data (e.g. the proportion of pre-determination evaluations that produce significant archaeology) and thematic case studies, especially those relating to recent planning changes (e.g. assessment of sites on brownfield registers). The casework dossier will be made available as a basis for policy formulation and advocacy. An online resource is being created with the potential to accept further cases. A report detailing the methodology, the archaeology and planning cases, and any overall trends and issues will be produced and circulated. The survey and guidelines for completing it are available at www.archaeologists.net/news/archaeology-and-planning-case-studies-project-england-1532938001

OUR NEW PRESIDENT



Blaise Vyner BA, FSA, successor to Professor Champion as President of the Institute, has had a varied career in museums, archaeological field units and local authority archaeology, while for the last 25 years he has been an archaeology consultant. He has been engaged in large and diverse assignments nationwide on the impact on archaeology, historic landscapes or historic buildings of, among other things, major road construction schemes, waste-treatment facilities and wind or solar panel farms.

Blaise's underlying interests are in pottery from the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age through to the post-Medieval period, and also in air photography. However, he is probably best known as a field archaeologist — for the past 40 years based in Teesside and the North-East, where he has conducted excavations and explored prehistoric and other earthworks, especially those of the North York Moors.

He will already be well known to RAI members as Editor (volumes 152–55) and formerly Assistant Editor (146–51) of the *Archaeological Journal*. He is himself author of numerous reports and papers on topics ranging from mole-trapping in South Wales to the archaeology of the A66 in the North-East, and the archaeology revealed after devastating wildfires on Fylingdales Moor in North Yorkshire. His general works include collaboration on the development of an historic environment research framework for the East Midlands. Blaise agreed to be interviewed by Sally Kingston.

What paths did you take into archaeology and how did your consultancy come about?

I was brought up in Wiltshire and I remember my father pointed out that from the top deck of the bus (a Bristol Lodekka on the Swindon to Bristol no. 31 route via Malmesbury) a number of places showed evidence of where the road had been straightened, leaving isolated meanders of its old track. My hunt for the hedges and old banks that were evidence of its originally more wavering line, together with discovery of *The Making of the English Landscape* by W. G. Hoskins, hatched a lasting interest in the historic landscape. I started digging when I was 16, when my keenness on the idea of it led my mother, to my teenage embarrassment, to write to John Wachter, who offered me a place on excavations at Cirencester. The University of Cardiff followed, a good place for archaeology then as now, though I was surprised to find myself also doing history and English in my first year.

Jobs in archaeology were hard to find after university but when I resigned from a short stint off piste at an antiquarian bookshop, my old friend at the National Museum of Wales, John Lewis, asked if I would work on the pottery assemblage from his excavations at Loughor Castle. I found myself incarcerated in the then dusty cellars of the NMW, but it wasn't long before I was mobilised to do a watching brief on the construction of the Newport/Port Talbot section of the M4 and other projects. From there I joined the newly established Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, one of four that are still responsible for providing a public archaeology service in Wales. The Trusts had been set up specifically to consider developments and planning applications in their archaeological context. By the time I moved to Cleveland (aka Teesside), local authorities had become increasingly aware of the need for advance scrutiny of development plans in respect of cultural heritage.

Offers of what became a wide range of projects led into consultancy: impact assessments, historic landscape analysis and research, and management plans, as well as specialist reports on pottery. A common theme among many of the jobs has been concern regarding potential damage to the environment, attainable mitigation and reasonable compromise.

As for air photography, that interest goes back to the late 60s, when I went up in a World War II-period Auster, invited by its photographer owner to see from the air the current site I was digging. The Auster was disconcertingly tatty — the ground could be seen through holes in the floor, while the fabric of the aircraft body flapped like washing in a gale. Despite that, I have flown most years since then, in pursuit of progress shots of road building, for example, or to get an idea of the landscape context of a proposed development, or to find 'disappeared' sites, or quite simply to get a better view of a site under excavation.

Is present legislation sufficient for the protection of our cultural heritage?

Pressure for development and the necessary infrastructure threatens to weaken the planning process. Updates and amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) potentially water it down in respect of our cultural heritage. Individually innocuous these may be, but cumulatively they are not — heritage seems to have less clout than builders and the bias is towards building. Among adverse effects is, for example, a loosening of protection for National Parks, while I am especially worried about historic features in the rural landscape — gate posts, walls and stiles are particularly endangered. Meanwhile there has been a reduction in the numbers of Conservation Officers, while in some areas local authorities are side-stepping their obligations to maintain Historic Environment Records.

How do you see the Institute moving on in your time as President?

I would like to think the RAI will continue to build on its strengths: lectures in London; week-long, weekend or one-day meetings in this country and occasionally overseas; regional conferences; and of course the *Journal*. These are all important components of the RAI. The RAI is known to be friendly and accessible and I would like to be alert to every way of bringing its aims and activities to the attention of widening audiences of all ages. I would lay emphasis on publicising its grants, prizes and bursaries, hope to ensure that journals in related fields carried references to the Institute in their editorials, and encourage members to promote the Institute in their own publications.

Through the Institute I hope we can keep a spotlight on archaeology and the built environment: working to raise awareness and helping to ensure that the value and interest of our cultural heritage is appropriately balanced against planning and development.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

British Archaeological Awards 2018

This year's awards will be announced after the AGM of the Chartered Institute for Archaeology

Central Hall, Westminster on October 15. For information on how to get tickets, see www.archaeologicalawards.com

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE RESEARCH GRANTS

The Institute awards the following grants annually:

Tony Clark Fund	Up to £500 for archaeological work and dating
Bunnell Lewis Fund	Up to £750 towards archaeology of the Roman period in the UK
RAI Award	Up to £5000 towards archaeological work in the UK

Please write to the Administrator @ RAI c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE for an application form or visit our website, www.royalarchinst.org

Closing date for applications: 10 December 2018. Awards announced in April 2019.

RAI Dissertation Prizes

The RAI awards prizes for dissertations on a subject concerned with the archaeology or architectural history of Britain, Ireland and adjacent areas of Europe. In odd-numbered years, the competition is for the best dissertation submitted by a Master's student. In even-numbered years, the Tony Baggs Award is given to the best dissertation submitted by an undergraduate in full-time education. Nominations are made by University and College Departments. The winner will receive £500 and the opportunity for a paper based on the dissertation to be published in the *Archaeological Journal*. The chief criteria considered are (a) quality of work and (b) appropriateness to the interests of the RAI as reflected in the *Journal*. The prize will be presented at the Institute's December meeting.

RAI Cheney Bursaries

As a result of a bequest left by Frank Cheney, the Institute has a small fund of money to enable students to attend conferences or RAI meetings. An allocation is available annually from which individuals can apply for a maximum sum of £200. Please check with the Administrator that money remains in the yearly fund before you apply.

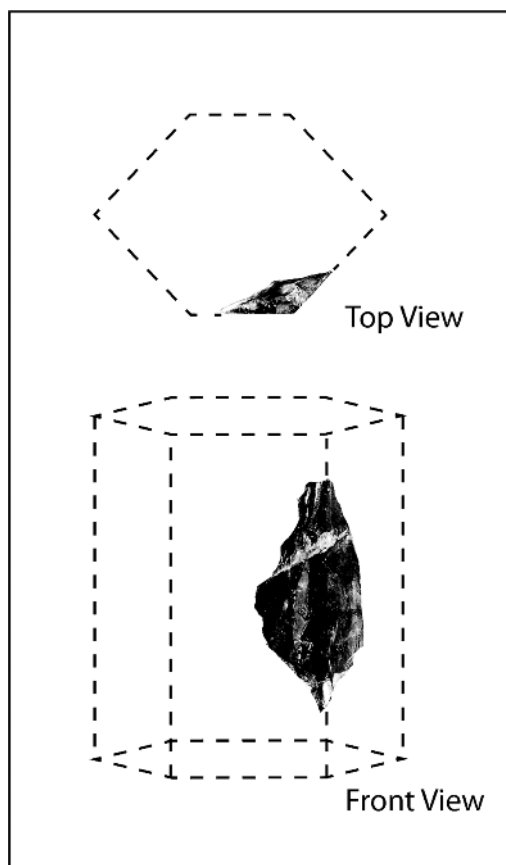
Students who wish to apply for a bursary should email to admin@royalarchinst.org.uk or write to the Administrator, RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BE, at least six weeks before the event they wish to attend, stating: the institution in which they study, the event they wish to attend, the sum of money requested, a breakdown of how the money would be spent and a summary (up to 250 words) of why they would like to attend the event and in what way this would be useful to them. Successful applicants may be asked to produce a brief report of the event for the Institute.

RAI Research Grant Reports

Rock Crystal in the Early Neolithic

Nick J. Overton, Irene Garcia-Rovira, Elizabeth Healey and Julie Birchenall

Since 2011, excavations at Dorstone Hill, Herefordshire, have revealed three Early Neolithic long mounds, sealing remains of earlier timber halls. Since 2012, excavations have recovered a total of 323 pieces of rock crystal; this form of quartz, noted for its exceptional clarity, forms naturally as isolated six-sided, single or double-ended crystals, or as part of larger formations. However, the



Drawing (left) and photo (above) of knapped rock crystal pieces (N. Overton)

Dorstone material was being systematically knapped.

Techno-typological analysis of this material has identified the majority of the assemblage as small chips and spalls, produced during the knapping process. A number of pieces retaining portions of external surface can be orientated within the parent crystal, identifying two clear types: removal of the outer 'cortex' along the length of the crystal (left) and removals diagonally across the crystal, using the external crystal surface as a striking platform. There are also blades and flakes with no external surface; the largest specimen (right) measures 34×16 mm, indicating the minimum size of the parent crystal. There is also one core which, based on morphology, is likely to represent the base of an exhausted crystal.

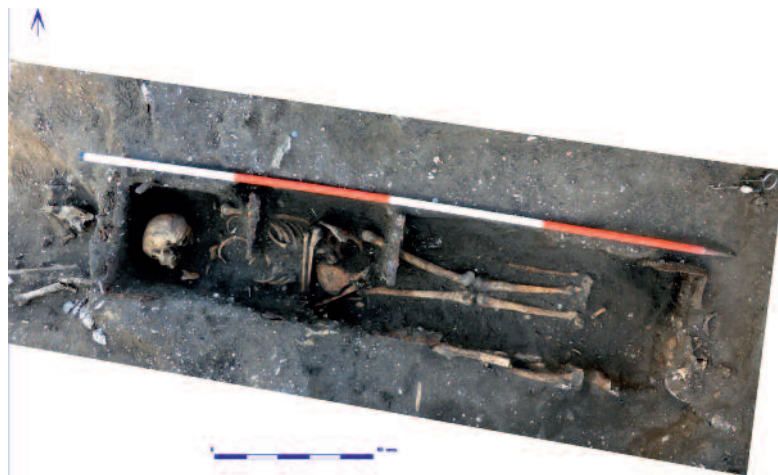
267 pieces were recovered from a single pit, including both larger flakes and a high proportion of chips and spalls, indicative of an in-situ knapping event, and associated with high frequencies of charcoal. A specimen of Alder/Hazel round-

wood was submitted for radiocarbon dating, returning a date of 3890–3660 cal BC. This date is later than previously obtained from the timber halls (3980–3800 cal BC and 3950–3710 cal BC), suggesting a particular association between the rock crystal and later mortuary activities at Dorstone. The lack of formal tools aside from the blades, flakes and core suggest this exotic material, or the process of working it was significant, more than the production of 'finished pieces'.

Rock crystal of the clarity seen at Dorstone Hill is exceptionally scarce in the UK; documentary research has identified North Wales and Cornwall as two likely sources, and a suite of geochemical analyses is planned, potentially to identify the specific source of the Dorstone rock crystal.

A multi-period site near Elloughton Peter Halkon and James Lyall

This unusual site with aspects of national significance, whose precise function remains uncertain, is situated on a gravel rise close to a former creek



The chest burial. Note the iron corner brackets, strapping and hinges (J. Lyall)

which once ran into the River Humber. The discovery of Peterborough ware pottery in 2015, combined with finds from the 1990s, demonstrated Neolithic activity. Bronze Age burials have been found nearby.

In the 2015 season, an elderly arthritic female skeleton in the central grave of a large square barrow was radiocarbon dated to 480 to 390 cal BC, making it one of the earliest of its type. An infant burial and pottery demonstrate further Iron Age activity.

Remote sensing recorded a trackway running roughly north–south towards the Humber. In 2014, this feature was sectioned and produced Flavian samian. In the lower of two adjacent intercutting pits, there were carefully arranged bones, mainly geese and other aquatic birds including swan; a cowrie shell; and sherds from a cup and dish in East Gaulish samian of the early third century AD. In the later third or early fourth century AD, an apsidal-ended building, 18 m × 8 m, was built using local oolitic limestone. It had been of some status with painted wall plaster in panels of red, green and beige with floral decoration, and a mosaic floor, which from the varying size and colours of the tesserae, had almost certainly been figured with a guilloche pattern border.

A series of intercutting burials of adult males and females were excavated. The lowest, an adult male, was radiocarbon dated to around 770 cal AD. Oyster shell and chalk pebbles had been arranged around the head and shoulders. The eastern end of the grave was overlain by the burial of an elderly

female with severe arthritis, in a wooden chest with iron carrying handles and iron strapping, and decorated with a cross-shaped iron fitting. Magnetometry suggest that these burials are part of a 16 × 20 m cemetery. Few settlement-related features from the Anglo-Saxon period were identified, though Tony McManus's collection of artefacts contained strap-ends, pins and styli from the mid to later Saxon period, resembling those from Flixborough (N. Lincs).

Bridge Farm environmental samples analysis Robert Wallace

During 2014, the Culver Archaeological Project carried out a 600 sq m. open area excavation in a meadow to the west of the Romano-British settlement discovered in 2011 adjacent to the River Ouse, near Lewes, East Sussex. This followed on from four trenches excavated in 2013.

The excavation targeted thirteen circular geophysical anomalies forming a rectangular grouping 16 m by 6.4 m, which when excavated proved to be 1 m diameter postholes, each containing the base of a waterlogged post averaging 0.45 m in diameter at 0.8 m – 1 m deep. These were interpreted as the principal posts of a building, possibly aisled, dated by pottery to the late third century AD.

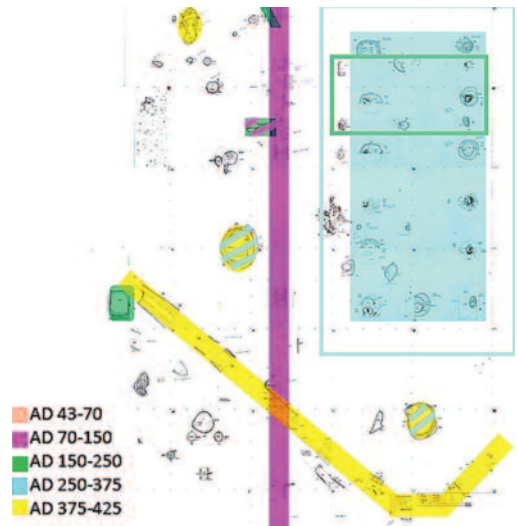
Adjacent to the building we discovered a large fourth-century ovoid pit over 2 m wide and 1.3 m deep. Bulk environmental samples were taken from the lower contexts of this pit (a possible sump well), as well as from the postholes, for being waterlogged they could potentially provide organic

remains. The fills from two nearby hearths were also sampled for possible charred remains.

These samples were initially processed on site using a SIRAF flotation unit with the >4mm residues investigated for organics. These were subsequently sent together with the floating material (flots) collected by 300µm mesh for specialist analysis. The results provided valuable information for the interpretation of the site and its wider environment during the occupation period.

The data extracted included no evidence of cess disposal or crop processing, suggesting that grain was in storage awaiting consumption. The well contained waterlogged roundwood suitable for a wattle structure. The plant debris was mainly from the surrounding environment rather than food waste, with no exotic species observed. Some iron-hammerscale was detected in the primary fills of both the possible forging hearth and the well, providing evidence of metal working in the vicinity.

The specialist's report highlighted the rarity of waterlogged material in the archaeological record for South-east England and offered valuable advice on how we can improve our procedures to obtain even more data in the future. It also recommended items that should be considered for radiocarbon dating.



Phased plan of Bridge Farm site (R. Wallace)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There are to be no more paper fliers for Meetings. Once events are confirmed, full details and booking forms will be on the Meetings Programme page <http://www.royalarchinst.org/meetings>. If you would like further details of any meetings sent to you, please send your e-mail or postal details to the Administrator, RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE or admin@royalarchinst.org or to Caroline Raison, RAI Assistant Meetings Secretary, 48 Park Avenue, Princes Avenue, Kingston upon Hull, HU5 3ES, or csrason@gmail.com.

Please note that non-members are not covered by the Royal Archaeological Institute's Public Liability Insurance and they must arrange their own insurance to enable them to attend Institute Meetings.

2018

Annual Conference 2018 'Ten Years of Thames Discovery', 13–14 October, at London (see below)

Autumn Day Meeting 27 October, a visit to the Mithraeum, London.

Forthcoming in 2019

Please check our website for news and early details, at www.royalarchinst.org/events

Spring Meeting 10–12 May at Dover, led by Jonathan Coad (details to be confirmed)

Summer Meeting 6–13 July to Ayrshire, led by Hedley Swain (details to be confirmed)

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE and THAMES DISCOVERY PROGRAMME CONFERENCE

Ten Years of Thames Discovery

13–14 October 2018 at University College London
(N.B. This is a non-residential conference.)

This year the RAI is joining with the Thames Discovery Programme (TDP), the multiple award-winning community archaeology project empowering and enabling Londoners to monitor and record the fast-eroding archaeology of the Thames foreshore. While communicating their findings to a wide audience, TDP will be celebrating its tenth anniversary at a FREE two-day conference. Papers will be presented by TDP staff and volunteers (the Foreshore Recording and Observation Group or FROG), including new junior members, the TaDPoles, and by professional archaeologists. The presentations will explore the archaeology of the River Thames, London's wider

archaeology, and coastal and inter-tidal archaeology from elsewhere in the UK and further afield.

The conference presentations will be filmed by Doug Rocks-Macqueen and made available online after the event (via YouTube, TDP website and RAI website).

Cost: FREE, and tea and coffee will be provided at breaks, and a wine reception on Saturday evening.

Booking is via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thames-discovery-programme-royal-archaeological-institute-foreshore-forum-tickets-48907195739>.

MEETINGS NOTES

Report of the Spring Meeting at Hereford, 10–13 May 2018

LARA O'BRIEN

In the 1990s a piece appeared in a Sunday paper's travel supplements with the headline 'the 20th century paused at Hereford and moved on' – the writer then proceeded to dismiss an entire county as only feature writers with a particular agenda can. Herefordshire's crime? Its lack of accessibility by road and rail, its rurality and culmination of horrors, its lack of good restaurants. I hope a journalist commissioned to write the same piece today would take a very different view.

Herefordshire is one of the most agricultural and sparsely populated counties in England, its industry rural, its countryside largely unspoilt, with two areas of outstanding natural beauty, the Malvern Hills and the Wye valley. It is also, thanks to its position on the Welsh borders, a county of 'strongholds and sanctuaries' (Ellis Peters, 1993) filled with archaeology from prehistory to World War II. The RAI's three-day visit to Hereford provided an opportunity to explore both the county's defensive past and two of its sanctuaries, Hereford Cathedral and Kilpeck church.

We began on Thursday evening with a lecture by Tim Hoverd, our guide from Herefordshire Archaeology, who introduced us to some of the principal excavations and research carried out in the region by the service over the last ten years, including sites from early Neolithic to c.1945 (an SOE secret army's Anderson shelter). He described too, political/administrative changes to the organisation of projects, mostly developer-funded or grant-aided, and now funnelled through him and project-managed using, unusually, locally-experienced contract workers.

The narrow lanes of Herefordshire and its numerous valleys make coach travel a challenge, but on Friday we left the city to explore the south of the county visiting Goodrich Castle to the south-east of Hereford, Longtown Castle and village to the south-west on the Welsh border and finishing at Kilpeck Castle, Church and village.

'The noblest ruin in Herefordshire' (Wordsworth), Goodrich Castle stands on a rocky sandstone outcrop overlooking the river Wye



View NE from Goodrich battlements (A.Williams)

about 16 miles from Hereford. A good deal is known about Goodrich castle itself, but very little about its environs. When English Heritage moved their shop away from the castle, excavations revealed the medieval village of Goodrich and a row of burials from the mid-1000s, confirming a settlement here well before the castle was built in the 1090s. Goodrich is Herefordshire's 'best castle' in terms of architectural design and completeness and it still makes a statement – as it was intended to do when it was built on the west bank of the river Wye close to enemy territory; Welsh remained the local language in the surrounding area until the 1800s. The original motte and bailey construction was replaced between 1160 and 1170 by a light-grey sandstone three-storey keep, a copy of the White Tower in miniature, 25 feet square, surrounded by a roughly square courtyard guarded by three large towers with spurs, built during the 1280s in darker sandstone. The barbican, now only half its original height, was also inspired by a similar design at the Tower, leading to the causeway over the dry moat – it was always dry – and to the asymmetrical gatehouse. The gatehouse's east-facing tower contains the chapel, with newly restored fifteenth-century glass at one

end and the Radar Research Squadron Memorial window at the other. This unexpected warmth provided much needed shelter from the bitter wind to listen to the immensely complicated history of the castle's ownership from its original Anglo-Saxon owner, Godric of Mapplestone, through numerous Norman families and intermittent crown ownership, its slighting during the Civil War, its period of picturesque ruin in the eighteenth century to its rescue in 1920 by the Commissioner of Works. Perhaps the most interesting of these owners from an architectural standpoint was William de Valence, who enlarged the castle from 1280 onwards, building in a style similar to his nephew Edward I's castles in Snowdonia, a concentric castle rare in England at the time. Those of us brave enough to explore the rest of the complex in the bitter wind were rewarded with magnificent views of the Wye and surrounding countryside and a chance to wander through and marvel at the extensive domestic buildings within the bailey, including the great hall.

Our next 'stronghold', Longtown castle – now named after the medieval market town built outside its precincts – though smaller and simpler in design to Goodrich, is no less impressive. It stands at an equally strategic site, a spur of high ground between two river valleys on the site of a Roman camp, and once controlled the Vale of Ewes. It is also impossibly picturesque with its surrounding apples trees and wild orchids, like an Arthur Rackham illustration. We entered through a gap in the ruined curtain wall. Ahead stands all that remains of the Norman castle, the gateway to the inner bailey, and its beautiful round keep sitting atop a motte about 10m in height and reached by a flight of stone steps. The Lacey family were a pioneering Norman family, given land by the Conqueror in reward for their loyalty; they are recorded in the Domesday Book as landowners extracting rents in pigs and honey from their tenants. In the twelfth century they spent £37, perhaps about £27,000 in today's money, replacing the original timber structure that stood on the top of the motte with the two-storey stone keep we see today. Round keeps were rare and the closest model in the county is that of the circular chapel at Ludlow Castle. The walls are about five metres thick, and notable features include the windows, possibly enlarged in the fourteenth century; a



The circular keep at Longton (B.Vyner)

fireplace; corbels to support floor beams; and a projecting seven-seat latrine.

The exterior originally had three semicircular projecting towers, one incorporating a chimney flue, and another containing a spiral stair. The castle was refortified against possible attacks by Owain Glyn Dwr in the 1400s, but had fallen out of use by the 1450s and played no part in the Civil War.

We crossed the main road which bisects the Roman fort, the outline of which is still evident, to the Village Green which is where the castle works, masons, forges, and bakery once stood.

The original six-acre village of Kilpeck is thought to date back to the eighth century with a population of approximately 600 in 1259. Once it was one of the 26 thriving market towns in the county, but the population of the village, like much

of Herefordshire's, was decimated by years of famine in the early 1300s, followed by the Black Death in 1349. The county's population did not reach its early fourteenth-century level again (c. 80–100,000) until the beginning of the nineteenth century, having stayed a rural economy, which is why there is so much well-preserved ridge and furrow in the county. The burgrave plots which outline the medieval village are still visible from the lane beside the church. We scrambled up the man-made earthwork to the west of the church to view the remains of Kilpeck castle. Historic England have done a magnificent job clearing the scrub, blackthorn and bracken that hid the surviving structure and made the site impenetrable, stabilising the mound in the process. Standing beside the remains of the polygonal shell keep with its 360-degree view of the surrounding country, it is easy to see why the motte served as an early warning station for the Royalists in the civil war, looking out for troops from Monmouth and Abergavenny.

Lastly, to the Romanesque Church of St David and St Mary built c. 1140, its second attribution coming from the ruined castle chapel dedicated to St Mary. Its nave, chancel and apsidal apse are familiar Romanesque features, but the sheer quantity of Norman stone carvings in local red sandstone, so perfectly preserved both inside and outside the church, is what makes Kilpeck so remarkable and undoubtedly a major highlight of the meeting. The finest examples are the double columns around the south door, with its series of snakes, heads swallowing tails, birds in green foliage, a green man, two warriors fighting and various mythical birds and beasts; the West window; and a row of 91 corbels, 85 of which survive,



Four of Kilpeck's corbels (M. O'Brien)

decorated with birds, animals and figures, including a fearsome Sheela-Na-Gig, running around the exterior of the church under the eaves. The carvings have been attributed to a Herefordshire school of stonemasons who may have been instructed by master masons recruited from France. The economic decline of the area and its relative isolation are probably what saved these extraordinary carvings over the years, combined with the sensitive restoration of the church in the nineteenth century by the architect Lewis Cottingham.

Saturday dawned a perfect blue-and-gold day for a walking tour of the 'two cities' of Hereford, the secular, industrial city of the crown and the ecclesiastical city of the Bishop, ending our tour at the sanctuary of the Cathedral. Building work around the Cathedral for the new exhibition gallery, opened in 1996, had revealed some evidence of Roman building prior to the small commercial settlement that grew up after Offa created Hereford as part of his defensive circuit. The Romans may also have made use of the ford to cross the Wye that was later used by Offa's troops for Summer campaigns. We began by viewing the remains of the Anglo-Saxon stone defences of the city behind a block of flats at the junction of Green Street and Union Street.

We followed the line of the city ditch, once a wet ditch, along Mill Street to the site of the castle on the North bank of the river. A monastic community dedicated to St Guthlac predated the castle, built by French settlers in about 1052. The castle 'nearly as large as that of Windsor' according to the antiquary John Leland, was largely destroyed in the 1650s and in 1746 the ruins were dismantled

as part of a drive to open up the city to increase air flow and thus prevent the spread of cholera. The site was transformed into the attractive open space it is today, known as Castle Green. We crossed the Wye over the Victoria footbridge, to Bishop's Meadow still owned by the Bishop of Hereford, to view the Southern defences of the city. The ford was clearly visible opposite the Bishop's Palace as we walked along the river bank to re-cross via the medieval bridge at the south-west end of the town. Then down Bridge Street and into Broad Street and the south side of the medieval market place, once a warren of narrow rows, now the open pedestrianized space of High Town. The 'Old House', a well preserved half-timbered Jacobean building from 1621 still stands, the only surviving building of Butchers Row. The Georgians and Victorians changed many of the more colourful medieval street names as was their wont, Cabbage Lane leading from High Town to the Cathedral became Church Street and the aptly named Grope Lane in the heart of the red-light district, now a municipal carpark, has become Gaol Street. Back along East Street, the rampart for the Saxon city and we found ourselves at the Cathedral close, at the opposite end to our starting place, beside the late thirteenth century Precentor's Barn and the statue of Sir Edward Elgar gazing wistfully up at the Cathedral as he leans on his bicycle.

After a leisurely lunch – there is no question now of Hereford being short of excellent restaurants and cafes – we visited the Cathedral, the Mappa Mundi and the Chained Library exhibition.

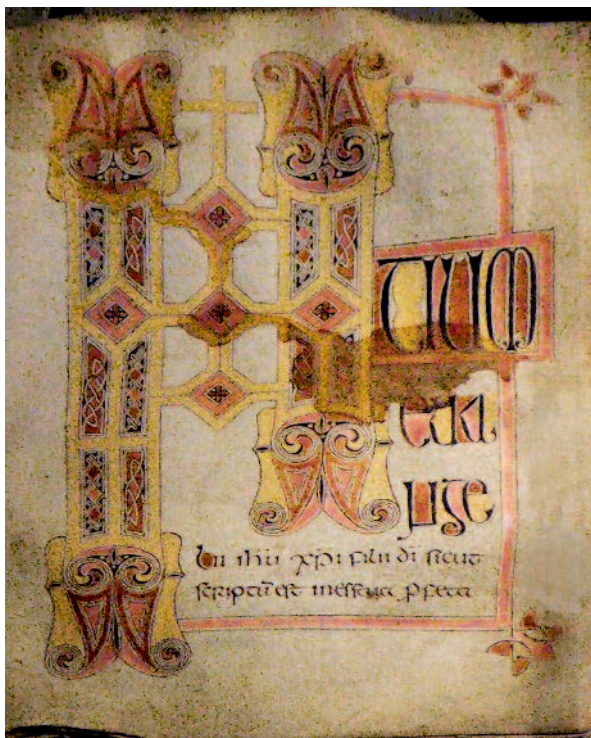
I must at this point confess to some bias towards Hereford Cathedral. I find it impossible to be objective about its architectural status or merits as a cathedral, because it is quite perfect, so I will confine myself to four facts and move swiftly on to the Mappa Mundi. The building of the present edifice extended over a period of 440 years from 1079 when Robert of Lorraine undertook the rebuilding of the Saxon church destroyed in 1056. The cathedral is dedicated to two patron saints, Saint Mary the Virgin and Saint Ethelbert the King. On Easter Monday, 1786, the west tower collapsed creating a ruin of the whole of the west front and at least part of the nave. The chantry chapel of Bishop Stanbury (1453–74), noted for its Perpendicular Gothic vaulting, has vignette windows c. 1923 by Bromsgrove Guild artist A. J. Davies.



Hereford's mid-10th century defences with visible blocking of entrance (A. Williams)



Stanbury processes to his enthronement
at Hereford (B.Vyner)



An initial in the Hereford Gospels (M. O'Brien)

The Mappa Mundi, 'without parallel the most important and most celebrated medieval map in any form, the most remarkable illustrated English manuscript of any kind, and certainly the greatest extant thirteenth-century pictorial manuscript' (Christopher de Hamel), lived quite happily in the gloom of the North aisle for many years until a financial crisis within the cathedral nearly resulted in its sale. The subsequent fundraising to retain the map, the largest known medieval world map in existence (158 cm × 133 cm), resulted in the opening of the museum in the south-east corner of the close to house both the Mappa Mundi and the Chained Library. Although the map is no longer free to view, its new location is a definite improvement. Supported by an exhibition, it is well lit and it is now possible to see clearly the fabulous details drawn in black, red, blue, green and gold ink on this single sheet of vellum: the walled city of Jerusalem in the centre, the labyrinth on the island of Crete, the British Isles in the north-western border, numerous animals and plants, biblical events and scenes from classical mythology.

The new library and museum building also houses the Chained Library, which can now be viewed in its entirety, the largest to survive in Europe with all its chains, rods and locks intact. The cathedral's earliest and most important book is the eighth-century Hereford Gospels which was on display on the day of our visit. It is one of 229 medieval manuscripts which now occupy two bays of the Chained Library.

Credenhill ANGELA RODEN

On Sunday there was a further trip to Credenhill hillfort, one of the largest, covering 19.5 ha (50 acres) in an oval shape that follows the contour of a steep-sided hill overlooking the River Wye. The defences have a double concentric rampart with a medial ditch and interior quarry ditches. The outer bank still stands to 9 m high in places though it has lost up to 2.5 m into the medial ditch. There are original in-turned entrances to the east and south-east, both approached by external hollow ways.

Excavations have found some Bronze Age pottery but only limited evidence of inhabitation in



Credenhill: the south-east entrance
(A. Williams)

the early iron age. There is extensive evidence of quarrying of the interior and south western corner. Excavation at the top of the hill showed that there was only 0.5m overburden above Roman layers. The excavations found evidence of storage pits, and beam slots possibly for timber granaries, and indicated occupation from 390 BC up to AD 75. Tim Hoverd suggested that the need to use the building or maintaining of hillforts, requiring considerable community effort, to indicate status, might have reduced with the introduction of coinage in the late Iron Age. The Romans may have used the hillfort to assess the surrounding area before building Kenchester which lies only a mile away. The hill's quarries would have provided stone for the town, as the predominant terrain below is gravel. A 'Time Team' excavation in 2005 found two

roads from the quarry, a faster route and a slow one for laden vehicles.

Credenhill had been heavily wooded for at least 250 years and in the Victorian period the ramparts were included in an extensive perambulatory route which left remnants of laurel, rhododendron and yew. When it was put up for sale in the 1990s it was acquired by the Woodland Trust. Since then a programme of tree management, particularly conifer removal, has been introduced to reveal the ramparts and ditches of the hillfort and open up some of the centre to give a sense of scale and reveal the prospects provided.

We dispersed after expressions of thanks to Caroline Raison for her ever-excellent organisation and to our leaders, Pete Wilson and Tim Hoverd, for a most varied and informative meeting.

LECTURES

Access to Lectures Online

To view the Institute's lectures online you will need to log in to our members' area. If you haven't yet got a username and password to log in, please contact the Administrator with your e-mail address at admin@royalarchinst.org.

Some of the Society of Antiquaries' lectures are available to all and can be viewed at www.sal.org.uk, under News and Events.

Presentations by Early Career Archaeologists and Community Groups

Once again, in addition to our usual programme of lectures there will be short presentations by archaeologists starting their careers, this time, on 14 November 2018, from Hull and Newcastle Universities. For the first time in our lecture series, the second set of presentations will be made by

representatives of Community Archaeology groups. They will be given on 10 April 2019, by archaeologists from Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group and from Fulham Palace.

These talks will start at 3.00 pm, to be followed by tea and the main lecture of the day.

Royal Archaeological Institute Lecture Programme and Abstracts: 2018/19

Meetings are held from October to May, on the second Wednesday of the month, at 5.00 pm in the Rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BE. In November and April, the lecture will be preceded at 3.00 pm by short presentations. Tea will be served at 4.30 pm. Non-members are welcome but should make themselves known to the Secretary and sign the visitors' book.

2018

10 October

Precinct and property: the archaeology of a later medieval monastery: Bordesley Abbey in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries

Professor Grenville Astill

After a brief review of the approaches to the archaeology of monastic sites and their settings, the long-running Bordesley Abbey Project is briefly introduced. The survey concentrates on the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, a time when there was dramatic change in the precinct which affected the liturgical, social and economic character of the claustral complex. These changes were also reflected in the disposition and character of the major properties, the granges. The transformation of these agricultural units has implications not only for the character of later medieval

monasteries but also for the way we view the general nature of sixteenth-century land use and settlement.

14 November

3.00 pm: Presentations by early career archaeologists from Hull and Newcastle Universities

Douglas Carr: Cingulum Militare? A reappraisal of Hawkes and Dunning belt fittings in Britain

Hawkes and Dunning belt fittings are one of a few key artefact types that appear in both Roman and Early Medieval contexts. Since Sonia Chadwick Hawkes and Gerald Dunning published their study of these zoomorphic belt fittings they have been subject to several re-examinations. Unfortunately, these studies have not comprehensively reappraised the typology, chronology and interpretation of Hawkes and Dunning belt fittings. This paper presents the results of a full reappraisal of these belt fittings drawing on a dataset vastly greater than that available to Hawkes and Dunning. The interpretation generated by this study illuminates some of the important transformations taking place in Britain between the fourth and sixth centuries.



Cast copper-alloy buckle (H&D type IB), ?late Roman © Somerset County Council

Lesley Davidson: Assessing and predicting natural environmental impacts on cultural heritage landscapes: a case study on Hadrian's Wall

The Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site (WHS) and buffer zone covers an area of 450 square kilometres across Northern England. The vast scale of this monument poses difficulties to its preservation and management. Parts of the Wall and associated archaeological remains have been partially lost or completely destroyed by human activity (e.g. agriculture, construction); however, the WHS has also been subject to natural decay and damage from environmental processes. Today, there is a sense of urgency to understand the impact of environmental processes on cultural heritage landscapes, as climate change has been identified both as a direct threat to these landscapes, but also as a risk multiplier, meaning that it exacerbates the effect of pre-existing threats. Combining geomorphology, geoscience and archaeological science, this research aims to assess and predict the impact of environmental processes on a number of study areas from across the Hadrian's Wall WHS.

Zechariah Jinks-Fredrick: Deposition and Praxis: A Study of Iron Object Depositions in Iron Age Britain

The life work of Pete Crew has established that iron was an expensive resource to produce in pre-history. Hingley, Cunliffe, and others have argued its deposition was important to the people of Iron Age Britain. This research seeks to clarify further the traditions and attitudes towards iron objects in Iron Age Britain through a detailed analysis of all object depositions from non-burial contexts. Arguably many of these depositional contexts follow a repeated pattern of engagement with the landscape, i.e. praxis. While the true reason for deposition may only be speculated upon, temporal and regional patterns between landscape type, context type, and artefact type exist. Here, these relationships will be discussed and potential interpretations presented.

5.00 pm lecture: The excavation of a Middle Anglo-Saxon 'King's Enclosure' at Conington, Cambridgeshire

Richard Mortimer

Located on a gravel ridge overlooking the A14 (the Roman *via Devana*), and overlying Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement, and a possible mansio, are the remains of a fifth- to seventh-century Anglo-Saxon settlement of sunken-featured buildings, posthole structures, pits, cess pits and wells. In the late seventh century an extensive and multi-phased ditched enclosure system was imposed on the site, characterised by Maxey ware pottery and with gated entrances through deep, defensive ditched enclosures.

The western parish boundary may have marked the boundary between two of the minor Middle Anglian Kingdoms. The place name Conington is equated with 'Kings Enclosure', and is thought to have been one of a series of planted settlements designed to aid the control and organisation of newly conquered lands. This is the first excavation of such a site and suggests construction in the late seventh century under Mercian control, and abandonment no more than a century later.

12 December 2018

Bringing a large legacy project to publication – the Neolithic and Bronze Age Udal, North Uist

Beverley Ballin Smith

Iain Crawford was a controversial figure in Scottish Archaeology but his name will be forever associated with the Udal archaeological and historical project on the island of North Uist in the Outer Hebrides. He began fieldwork in 1963 and ended it in 1994, but he never published. In 2012 a team of specialists began working on the smallest of his Udal sites, updating research and undertaking new, to bring what is known as RUX6 to publication. The monograph was published early in 2018. Iain Crawford's achievements concerning the survival of late Neolithic and Bronze Age remains at this site will be discussed along with his work on the local environment and coastal erosion – subject areas that were in their infancy when he began the project.

There is more to tell of the future work – the problems of bringing the evidence of the two largest sites to publication, and the probability/improbabilities of achieving it.

2019

9 January

Raising the Curtain on London's First Theatreland – Excavations at The Stage, Shoreditch

Heather Knight

The Curtain playhouse was built c. 1577 and is one of the very earliest purpose-built theatrical venues, and operated as a place of public entertainment until the mid 1620s. During that time it staged many productions including William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and Ben Jonson's *Every Man in his Humour*. Of the handful of Elizabethan and Jacobean playhouses that were built in London, the Curtain in Shoreditch is one of the least documented and until the site was excavated in 2016 very little was known about it. Heather will be talking about the archaeology found on the site, looking at the range of questions that this is raising, the new narratives that the archaeology is proposing, and how archaeology is contributing to an interdisciplinary dialogue researching the origins and evolution of sixteenth-century drama.

13 February

The Roman Water Pump

Dr Richard Stein

In the Roman world pumps were used for many purposes, including raising water and, very importantly, fighting fires. Roman mechanical engineers cleverly refashioned the Greek bronze design to make a cheaper and better pump in wood. Ten pumps of bronze, and eighteen of wood, are known. There are remains of twenty-three; one probably shows the progression from the earlier design to the later one.

This presentation will describe the location and dating of the known pumps, and discuss their uneven distribution through the empire. It will explain how pumps worked and were driven, and the rationale for, and process of, change. It will describe their output, how they were used, and what they were used for.

Rome used many types of machine, but few remains exist. The pump gives us an indication of the major contribution that machines made to the Roman world.

13 March

St Patrick's Chapel, Whitesands, Pembrokeshire: an Early Medieval Cemetery'

Ken Murphy

St Patrick's Chapel lies in wind-blown sand at Whitesands Beach in the far west of Pembrokeshire. The severe storms that battered the west coast of Britain in the winter of 2014 damaged the site, revealing burials and other archaeological remains. In May of that year a two-week excavation investigated the most damaged part of the site. This was followed up by three-week excavations in 2015 and 2016.

The earliest recognised use of the site dated to 750–800 AD and seemed to be domestic and industrial. Wind-blown sand formed over this and with it the first burials appeared. Sand continued to accumulate and as it did so burials were stacked one on top of the other, up to eleven deep. From 870–900 AD long-cist graves first appeared, one with an *in situ* upright stone cross. The cemetery seems to have gone out of use during the eleventh or early twelfth century. In the twelfth/thirteenth century a stone-built chapel was constructed; this was abandoned by the sixteenth century.

10 April

3.00 pm: Presentations from Community and Volunteer Projects

Philip Bastow: Hagg Farm – a Romano-British Settlement in the Northern Yorkshire Dales

Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group (SWAAG) is a charitable, voluntary group of some 70 members which has been investigating Hagg Farm since 2010 and has carried out topographical, and geophysical surveys and opened a series of evaluation trenches.

In 2017 a two-week community excavation attracted over 90 volunteer excavators who opened a 400 sq. metre area. The site has revealed high quality civil engineering: paved and cobbled surfaces, surrounded by boundary and revetted walls and two highly crafted doorsills interpreted as thresholds to probable roundhouses. Pottery dating from the second to fourth centuries AD and items suggesting contact with Roman (military) settlements have been recovered. Environmental findings have shown the presence of bere (six-row

barley) meal and spelt grains. The results support the view that the settlement was abandoned towards the end of the fourth century AD.

Alexis Haslam: The People's Palace – Community Archaeology at Fulham Palace

Fulham Palace is the former Summer Palace of the Bishops of London. The last Bishop moved out in 1973. In 2011 a Trust was established to manage the whole site and bring a new vision into being.

Archaeologically the Palace grounds have revealed evidence for Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, late Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval occupation.

Our current £3.8 million-phase Restoration Works entitled 'Discovering the Bishop of London's Palace at Fulham' include a £1.88 million Heritage Lottery Fund grant. The works involve the restoration of our Tudor Quadrangle and Great Hall, as well as moving and updating our museum, and garden works associated with the historical influence of the bishops, many of whom were keen botanists. In September 2017 we undertook our Community-led excavation in which we hoped to find our Tudor dovecote. Since then the volunteers have been involved in historic building recording and archiving the Palace museum's archaeological collection.

5.00 pm lecture: Excavations at Street House, Loftus, North East Yorkshire: Neolithic to Anglo-Saxon

Dr Steve Sherlock

Excavations between 2004 and 2018 at Street House, Loftus, North East Yorkshire, have revealed evidence for a range of sites extending from Early Neolithic settlement to an Anglo-Saxon cemetery of seventh-century date. The earliest features comprise structural evidence for Neolithic settlement c. 3,700 BC that is contemporary with a

Neolithic long cairn excavated between 1979 and 1981. The main focus of the excavations was a Late Iron Age settlement, where salt was being manufactured by the evaporation of brine collected from the sea. This developed settlement formed an open village that extended into the Roman period when pottery, jet and salt were manufactured by AD 300. The Iron Age enclosure was to become the focus of a conversion period cemetery in the mid seventh century.

8 May The President's lecture:

Wade's Causeway: A road to nowhere?

Blaise Vyner

The linear feature which crosses Wheeldale Moor, North Yorkshire, has long been promoted as an exemplar of a Roman road surviving untrammelled by turnpike or tarmac. As such, it has been in Guardianship for over a century. Considered since it was discovered in the eighteenth century to be part of a Roman road which extended from the fort at Malton to somewhere in the vicinity of Whitby by way of Cawthorn Camps and Lease Rigg Roman fort, there has been little critical review of the evidence. Fenton's slightly exasperated comment, applied to another linear feature, far distant, holds equally good here: 'ascribed like all old roads and dykes to the Romans or the Flemings, let them take what direction they may ...' (Fenton 1811, 131). There are questions still to be asked about Wade's Causeway: 'What is its route' and 'Is it Roman?' might be a good start, 'Is it a road?' may be even more to the point.

Fenton, R., 1811 *A Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire*, London

British Archaeological Association Programme of Meetings

RAI members are invited to attend the meetings of the British Archaeological Association; please see <https://thebaa.org/meetings-events/lectures/annual-lecture-series/> for the 2018/19 programme. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from October to May, at 5.00 pm in the

rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. Tea will be served before each meeting at 4.30 pm. Non-members are asked to make themselves known to the Hon. Director on arrival and to sign the visitors' book.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the RAI

TIM CHAMPION

We have to collect, store and use a variety of personal data about our members, and we take very seriously our obligation to keep this information secure in the interests of your privacy. New regulations for the processing of personal data, the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), came into force in May 2018, replacing the old Data Protection Act. We carried out a detailed audit of all the personal information that we keep about members and some categories of non-members, such as those attending conferences, and the uses we make of these records. At its May meeting, Council approved the methods, and the accompanying documentation, by which the Institute will meet the requirements of the GDPR.

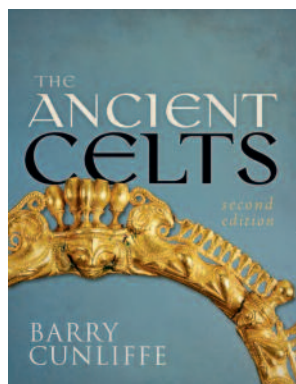
One important decision was to agree the lawful basis for our processing of personal data. Many of you who are members of other organisations will have had emails from them last May asking you to confirm your willingness to go on receiving material from them. That was because those organisations, in the light of the way they use the information about you, had chosen to rely on the basis of ‘consent’ for their storage of your details, and therefore had to seek positive agreement from everyone. We did not go down that route, but chose the basis of ‘legitimate interests’ because the personal details we keep about you and the way we use them are comparatively simple. All the details we keep about you are supplied by yourself, and we use them to manage membership and

subscription records and to send you the Journal, the newsletter and details of our meetings. This is precisely what you would expect on becoming a member, and we do not use the details for any other purpose.

To carry out our business efficiently, we need to give some of this personal information to other people. We supply names and addresses to printers and publishers for all our publications and mailings, and for those of you who pay subscriptions by direct debit, we send details to a specialist financial agency. All members have the right to use the library of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and we give them a list of members’ names so you can enjoy that privilege. All of these arrangements have to be covered by a written contract to ensure the security of your details.

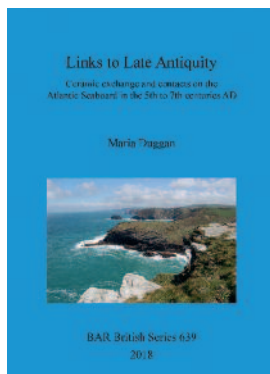
One important innovation of the GDPR was to require us to produce and publish a ‘privacy statement’ setting out in detail our procedure for managing personal data. You will find this statement on our website. It gives full details of the information we keep about members and non-members, how long we keep it, how and where it is kept, and the other organisations to whom we may give it. The statement also includes the important question of your rights, to see and correct the details we keep, and how to complain if you should ever feel that we have misused the personal details we keep about you. <http://www.royalarchinst.org/about/privacy-statement>

MISCELLANY



Book news

Barry Cunliffe’s classic study *The Ancient Celts* has been revised and updated with twenty years’ new findings and research, including DNA evidence. Cunliffe contrasts the view of the classical writers with current archaeological opinion, and assesses the disparity between the traditional story and the most recent historical and archaeological evidence. He also examines the cultural diversity of the tribes, their social and religious systems, art, language and law. From the picture that emerges, we are – crucially – able to distinguish between the original Celts, and those tribes which were ‘Celtized’. 496 pp., 100 colour illus., ISBN 9780198752936, £20. Save 30% off the paperback, with code AAFLYG6 (valid only at www.oup.com/academic)



Links to Late Antiquity: Ceramic exchange and contacts on the Atlantic Seaboard in the 5th to 7th centuries AD, by Maria Duggan.

'This is the first major study of Mediterranean material culture in early medieval Britain since Campbell's 2007 study, and is unique in that it situates British finds within a wider Atlantic coast context [and] challenges the received wisdom in this area and presents an alternative model of coastal trade in the period.' Ben Jervis, Cardiff University

236 pp., 76 illus., ISBN: 9781407316390, £43. 15% discount till 31 Oct quoting code RAS18 online at www.barpublishing.com or tel +44 (0)1865 310431.

Free public lecture

The Second Annual Pitt Rivers Lecture, 'Long before Brexit: Reflections on cross-channel connections between the fifth and second millennia BC' will be given by Dr Alison Sheridan (National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh) on 30 October 2018 in the Fusion Building, Talbot Campus, Bournemouth University, BH12 5BB at 7:00 pm. There will be displays and a welcome reception from 6:30 pm. Further information and arrangements to book your place can be found at: <https://pittiverslecture2018.eventbrite.co.uk>

Sponsored Young Student Membership of the RAI

A year's membership of the Institute, sponsored by volunteer existing members, has been given to some second- or third-year degree students under 26, nominated by their archaeology department, and to winners of dissertation prizes. Thank you to those members who have been sponsors, and it would be a great help if you'd like to continue. New sponsors are always welcome – £20 pays for a year's membership for one. In 2014, there were fifteen such members. If you can help us to expand the scheme, either with funds or by proposing

more candidates, please contact the Administrator at the address below.

The RAI office

The telephone number for the Administrator is 07847 600756, the email is admin@royalarchinst.org and the postal address is RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE. The RAI has no office in London, but the Administrator will usually be at this address on the second Wednesday of each month from October to May, between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm.

Members' e-mail addresses

We are still seeking e-mail addresses from members, so that when we have sufficient we could mitigate the impact of increased costs of distribution. Council would like to make more information digitally available. The impact of high postage costs would be reduced if we could send out material as attachments to as many members as possible. These might include the notices of forthcoming meetings, the Accounts, the programme card, and possibly the Newsletter. If you would be willing to receive information digitally, please send your e-mail address to admin@royalarchinst.org

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR Katherine Barclay, Williamsgate, Governor's Green, Pembroke Road, Portsmouth, Hants. PO1 2NS. Email: newsletter@royalarchinst.org

NEXT ISSUE Copy for the next issue must reach the editor by the end of January 2019 for publication in April 2019.

THIS ISSUE'S COVER PICTURE: Goodrich's keep, taken at the Hereford Meeting (M. O'Brien)
