



ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

No. 61 SPRING 2021

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A TIME OF CHANGE Mark Gardiner (Vice President)

The Institute's activities have continued in more or less the same form for many decades, even while the nature of archaeology has changed. Council has become concerned that the Institute was seemingly less relevant both to the study of archaeology and also to younger professionals, who no longer see membership as something useful to their career. To address this, the Institute commissioned a thorough review by Dr Gemma Tully, of what we have been doing and what we might do, which is introduced below. The full text is available on our website.

Some developments are planned for the immediate future. We have been supporting early career archaeologists through our early careers lecture programme, for example. Our website needs a major upgrade and we need to enhance our use of digital media. Council will, after the AGM, be considering appointing two new Trustees with skills and expertise in youth and early career support, and in digital media, website management and use. These appointments will be either as part of the approved implementation of the Options Review (see item immediately below and the enclosed AGM agenda) or, if not approved, as part of a separate perceived urgent need. Appointments as Council members – Trustees of the Institute – are for four years, and are regulated by the Charity Commission. It is anticipated that these positions would be advertised, to attract the best candidates. If you, as a member of the Institute, feel you have the requisite skills and experience, and could contribute to developments and champion these areas of work on Council, to register your interest and find out more about these roles, please contact our Administrator at admin@royalarchinst.org.

Preparations for the review and, if approved, planning for its implementation was undertaken by the President, Ken Smith, who stepped in to guide this work. Council have seen how he sensitively drove forward the plans for change and laid out a possible path for the future. After completing this groundwork Ken decided to step down. We are hugely grateful to him for his valuable labour in bringing the reforms forward.

Two long-serving officers will also be leaving at the AGM. Since 2014 Dr Pete Wilson has been Secretary of the RAI, a role which includes, amongst other things, the organisation of the lecture programme. He has found a remarkable array of speakers with a particular emphasis on recent discoveries from excavation. Dr Andrew Williams has served as Treasurer since 2012, and has carefully managed the Institute's finances so that we have been able to continue to make substantial grants for research. We are very grateful to both of them for their contribution to the work of the Institute.

Council is recommending for election as President Dr Lindsay Allason-Jones. A member of our Institute since the 1970s, Lindsay served as President from 2003–6. She was Director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Artefact Studies and Reader in Roman Material Culture at Newcastle University until she retired in 2011. Previously Director of Archaeological Museums for the University, she is now one of its Honorary Fellows. Lindsay is an acknowledged authority on artefacts and an author of 13 books. Council has proposed Brian Kerr for election as Secretary. He was Head of Archaeological Investigation at Historic England, undertaking numerous excavations over many years, notably at Windsor Castle.

THE ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE'S OPTIONS REVIEW – Ken Smith

Background

You will recall, from previous missives and requests for engagement with surveys seeking your views that, in March 2020, Council approved a review of the Institute, its offer to membership and to the wider archaeology sector, its management and governance, and whether and in what ways changes could and should be made – our Options Review. Dr Gemma Tully was engaged to make an assessment and her report was received on 14 December 2020.

A copy of the report is being emailed to all Members and Associate Members for whom we have an email address. **If you are not online or have not provided your email address**, to obtain a hard copy or digital version, please contact our Administrator as soon as possible either by email at admin@royalarchinst.org or by mail c/o the address on the back of this newsletter.

I ask everyone please to respect the fact that, until considered at the AGM, this report is confidential to the Institute.

Assessment

Dr Tully's report assesses the Royal Archaeological Institute as one of, if not *the* historic home of research into the archaeology and heritage of the UK. Our Institute's support has led to the study of every time period and region of the UK, helped establish the discipline of archaeology as we know it today and fostered innovative research methods. This has been achieved largely through the Institute's 'signature output', the *Archaeological Journal*, an internationally respected, peer-reviewed publication, with an extensive Reviews section, that continues to set itself apart

through its flexible format and broad range of research articles, fieldwork reports and major syntheses focused on the British Isles. Other long-standing Institute achievements include the Lecture Programme, attracting high-calibre speakers from across the sector; Grant-giving, funding a broad range of research; the Annual Congress, once the highlight of the archaeological calendar, now divided between Spring, Summer and Autumn Meetings, and regular conferences; and the popular and content-rich biannual *Newsletter*.

Positives

The Review, informed by 215 Institute members (for which thanks are owed for such a good response rate) and by 315 responses from the wider sector, has highlighted that:

- the Institute has a respected name and history
- the *Archaeological Journal* is the Institute's best-known and most highly esteemed output
- the Institute has the potential to build on its unique multi-period, UK-wide research remit
- the skills held within the Institute membership should be recognised and valued
- the Institute should be seen as a valuable partner for organisations across the sector
- the Institute is financially stable and able to invest significant funds in implementing change if it so wishes.

Issues

Positives notwithstanding, the surveys also highlighted that:

- membership numbers (700+) are stable but at their lowest in recent history
- membership is ageing and predominantly retired
- the Institute is poorly publicised, suffering from low visibility within the sector (both to professionals and to amateurs/enthusiasts)
- the Institute's purpose is unclear and its Unique Selling Point (USP) poorly defined and communicated; it is perceived to have little relevance to the modern discipline of archaeology
- the Institute has an old-fashioned ambience and blurred identity, and its membership offer is overly passive and inward-looking.
- lack of high-quality intellectual/ research support outside the university system for both the public and professionals
- lack of a dedicated archaeological body representing the research-driven career progression needs of young and early-career archaeologists
- lack of focus on the actual and potential public benefit provided by engaging wider audiences in research strategy.

The Institute has the research aims and objectives, charitable status and framework, and a core set of activities in place that could enable it to make a positive contribution to the items listed above, particularly to the last four elements.

Wider challenges

In a wider, UK context, the challenges facing UK archaeology and the wider heritage sector are identified as including:

- changes in planning law
- Brexit- and Covid-related economic impacts and funding cuts
- falling student numbers, departmental funding cuts by government and their implications for future recruitment and workforce provision
- delivering public value to ensure the public can both actively engage with and find meaning, enjoyment and connection with and through the UK's archaeology and heritage
- poor youth engagement and public communication about what archaeology and heritage are, do and mean
- competition, overcrowding and fragmentation across the sector
- lack of data synthesis

Proposal

Council has accepted Dr Tully's report and, in order to make the Institute fit-for-purpose in the twenty-first century, will propose to membership at the AGM on 22 June 2021 that the Institute implement its recommendations in order to:

- develop and highlight its role as a charity and the charitable benefits and outcomes
- project a clear identity/USP focused on its role in championing the archaeology of the UK across all time periods and regions at every stage of the research process
- enable members actively to engage with the sector to share skills and resources
- provide support to young and early-career archaeologists
- provide support to the UK's local, county and regional archaeological and heritage societies

- work with partners to share information and opportunities and to contribute to public policy
- provide a membership offer and public benefit that is open to everyone
- deliver public benefit by advancing learning about archaeology at all levels, sharing access to new knowledge and providing opportunities to contribute to future understanding about the lives of past people across the UK, by taking part in real research.

To achieve these ends, Council proposes to:

- recruit to Council specifically to fill identified skills gaps
- carry out a Skills Audit to understand, and make better use of, members' expertise
- increase the capacity of the Institute to implement change by hiring a new member of staff (Development Officer) for a period of two years
- open discussions with the Society of Antiquaries of London about the future situation at Burlington House and the implications for the Institute
- reach out to organisations with complementary aims/resources and start discussions about potential future partnerships that will enhance the Institute's visibility and ability to implement change
- restructure the Institute's essential member/public engagement methods by developing a strong publicity and digital strategy across all of the Institute's promotional platforms, and by considering new or revised membership classes – particularly for early-career archaeologists, students

and those in the commercial and museum sectors

- innovate to increase the visibility, reach and accessibility of the *Archaeological Journal*, Lecture Programme, Grants, Meetings and Newsletter, to enhance these core activities of the Institute
- review its founding Statutes and Royal Charter to ensure they are appropriate for the twenty-first century, and develop strategic aims and objectives for short- and medium-term planning to ensure continued good governance.

This does not mean ignoring or removing from the Institute's purpose and offer the traditional elements that existing members demonstrably value. Instead, it means building on what exists and extending it through new offers that acknowledge the differing demands, requirements and opportunities that the twenty-first century brings and offers. Council sees this as the way to reconnect the Institute's historic research purpose, through meetings, grants, lectures, activities and publications, with the modern needs of the sector and a wider public and demographic. This involves offering to our existing membership opportunities to widen their engagement with archaeology, if they so wish, and to draw on their skills by providing them with new ways to contribute to Institute-led research and synthesis. It also means working to enhance existing and future activities, through strategic partnerships that will raise the Institute's profile and attract a wider range of members by delivering increased public benefit, in ways that are compatible with a twenty-first-century implementation of its aims, objectives, statutes and Royal Charter.

Resourcing

The Institute is extremely fortunate to have not only stable finances but also the opportunity to achieve the modernisation highlighted by the Review. Council wholeheartedly and unanimously recommends that, over the next three to five years, the ambitious but achievable programme of work described by the Options Review should be set in progress, using the most generous legacy of £180,000 from Mr Talbot Green, received in October 2019. The most significant portion (around £72,000) would be spent over two years on employing a Development Officer to support the Institute's officers and trustees (who are all volunteers) to carry out the programme of work, much of it detailed in Dr Tully's report. Other essential expenditure will see a website upgrade; support for the Archaeological Achievement Awards (formerly the British Archaeology Awards); enhancement of the Institute's research programme; funding for Open Access articles in the *Archaeological Journal*; digitisation of the Institute's archive; development of mutually beneficial relationships with other appropriate

organisations; extension of the lecture programme; and the sponsoring of partner conferences.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 22 JUNE 2021

Papers for the AGM will include further information and a resolution seeking member support for implementation of the Options Review recommendations. If you have not done so already, I urge you to read the report and the AGM papers accompanying this *Newsletter* and attend the AGM, which is your opportunity to engage in, contribute to and inform the discussion around this important proposal. I hope, of course, that Council's proposal will receive your support and we will all engage in the next exciting chapter in the life of the Royal Archaeological Institute.

If, on reading the Options Review report, there are burning issues you wish to raise, please write, as succinctly as possible, to the Institute's Administrator at one of the addresses given in the second paragraph of this article. We will endeavour to take your views into account at the AGM.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGY AWARDS 2021

At the annual *Current Archaeology Live!* Conference, which was held entirely online, the winners of the 13th annual *Current Archaeology* Awards were announced by Julian Richards. Decided entirely by public vote, the winners were:

Archaeologist of the Year: Paula Reimer

Research Project of the Year: The Problem of the Picts: Searching for a Lost People in Northern Scotland, Gordon Noble, University of Aberdeen

Rescue Project of the Year: A Unique Glimpse into the Iron Age: Excavating Clachtoll Broch, Historic Assynt/AOC Archaeology

Book of the Year: *Kindred: Neanderthal Life, Love, Death, and Art*, by Rebecca Wragg Sykes

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 download an application form at <http://www.royalarchinst.org/grants> or write to the Administrator.

Closing date for applications: 13 December 2021. Awards announced in April 2022.

RAI Cheney Bursaries

The investment of a bequest left by Frank Cheney produces 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 admin@royalarchinst.org.uk or write to the Administrator, RAI, c/o the address on the back of this *Newsletter*, 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) saying 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.

A bursary was last awarded in March 2020.

RAI Dissertation Prizes

The RAI holds two competitions for dissertations on a subject concerned with

the archaeology or architectural history of Britain, Ireland and adjacent areas of Europe. In even-numbered years, the competition is for the best dissertation submitted by an undergraduate in full-time education, the Tony Baggs Memorial



Yannik Signer on York City Wall

Award. In odd-numbered years, the prize is awarded to the best dissertation submitted by a Master's student. Nominations are made by University and College Departments. The winner receives a prize of £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 2020 Tony Baggs Memorial Award for the best undergraduate dissertation covering the years 2019 and 2020 went to Yannick Signer, University of York, for *Agricultural Change in Early Medieval Yorkshire: A Landscape Approach*. Under Covid-19 restrictions, the award was presented online by the President before Neil Mahrer's lecture on 9 December. A photo of Yannick replaces that often printed of the live presentation.

The Value of Dissertation Awards

HENRIETTA QUINNELL

For 2018, 2019 and 2020, I have been one of the three assessors of the winning dissertations. Here I offer a few comments on the value of the awards – to the winners, to the Institute and, more broadly, in archaeology. My comments cover the years from 2009, for which past *Newsletters* are available online.

The Universities of the dissertation winners were Leicester (3), Southampton (2) and Edinburgh, Newcastle, Nottingham, Queen's University Belfast, Reading, UCL and York, an even spread.

The opportunity to publish a paper in the *Archaeological Journal*, based on their essay, is offered to the winners, though only two have been published over this period. The earlier is that by the 2006 winner of the undergraduate (Tony Baggs)

award, Neil Wilkin, 'Animal Remains from Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Funerary Contexts in Wiltshire, Dorset and Oxfordshire' in Volume 168 for 2011. The later is by the 2017 winner of the MA dissertation prize, Victoria Ziegler, 'From *wic* to *burh*: A New Approach to the Question of Early Medieval London' in Volume 176 for 2019. However, most of the winners are traceable via Google as still active in archaeology, so why did so few publish? I have talked, via email or on Zoom, to the three winners I assessed.

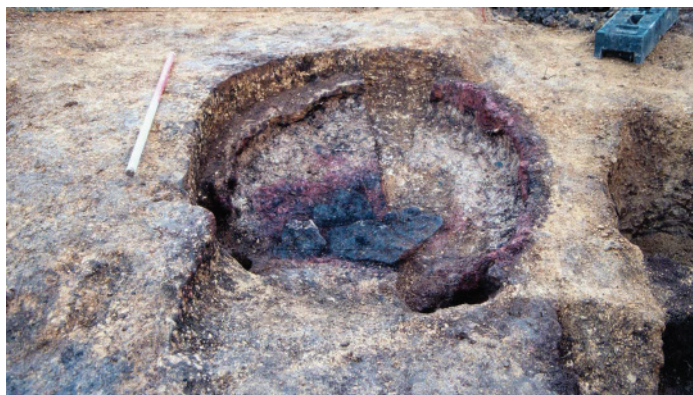
Louise Moffet's winning undergraduate essay in 2018 was 'The Late Medieval Parish Churches of Counties Antrim and Londonderry'. On graduating she worked for two years in commercial archaeology. Louise writes that she found 'this was valuable experience through which I learnt a lot, but it took a lot of time and mental energy away from writing. I think that the dissertation prize has had a positive impact for my future career. I have just started a PhD back at Queen's University Belfast, and I think the prize helped with getting funding for my project, in the same subject area as my undergraduate dissertation. I am intending to take advantage of being back in academia to work on an essay from my dissertation for publication, if the *Journal* is still willing to accept it. The prize was also very helpful for me by introducing me properly to the Royal Archaeological Institute and the benefits of membership, with the lectures, *Journal*, etc. I have kept my membership beyond the year given to me and have been enjoying watching the online lectures'. Adam Leigh's Master's dissertation in 2019 (*Newsletter* 59, 5) was entitled 'Considerable Geometric Precision: Can the Bi Type Cursus Be Considered a Regional Phenomenon?'. Graduating in history at Reading, Adam

spent time in commercial archaeology, continuing to do this from Newcastle where he did his Master's part time. He intends to publish and discussed this both with his supervisor and the Editor, who is in his Department. In 2019/20 he continued with commercial archaeology while developing ideas for a PhD. But Covid-19 prohibited both use of suitable workspace in the 'Lit & Phil' and the stimulus of personal contact. He writes, 'despite having worked in commercial archaeology for several years and been in a university department for two, I feel I don't have a full sense of how archaeology is published and distributed and how I could contribute to that. This feeling is heightened by the Covid situation and the knock to my confidence that that has effected. To that end, I've recently become a part of the Archaeologia Aeliana publishing subcommittee to see how things work there. There is certainly something of a disconnect between learning archaeology as a student and the production of non-grey literature as a professional.'

The 2020 undergraduate (Tony Baggs) winner Yannick Signer is, in contrast, now enrolled for a Master's at York, and stayed through the winter with, he says, excellent support both academically and domestically. In the six weeks between winning the award

and our discussion, he completed a draft for publication, including illustrations, although at the time of our Zoom interview he had not yet had the chance to contact the Editor, which I urged him to do. Yannick is Swiss and first came to Yorkshire to obtain archaeological experience, which caused him to look to archaeology as a career and to study at York. In the first part of his degree, he developed an interest in medieval sites, and subsequently he explored the literature on agriculture, which he found scrappy and contradictory. Once embarked on his dissertation he was surprised by its quantity, especially when 'grey', and also by the absence of any good overview. He developed a base of some 200 sources for his dissertation, in the process becoming convinced of the need for more works of synthesis. To this end, for his Master's dissertation he is addressing the question of chronology for the early medieval period in Yorkshire, based around the complex pottery production of the county.

Members will have to await publication of Yannick's dissertation to see how he tackles his subject. They are unlikely to be disappointed. It reads well, with excellent illustrations and references. He declined to say how much work was involved, except that it had been more than he had expected,



An early medieval crop-processing kiln, Rectory Farm, Laughton-en-le-Morthen, South Yorks (© Archaeological Services WYAS)

but found this a stimulating challenge. More importantly, it has left him with strong views on the need for more works of synthesis, a trait to be fostered in early-career archaeologists. Questioned about the Institute, he was reading articles online for a while before the dissertation prize was drawn to his attention. The award has obviously increased his confidence in his archaeological potential.

Looking at these three case studies, the importance of support, both financial and mentoring, for early-career archaeologists is obvious. Louise did not get going on a publication until she was back in an academic environment, whereas Yannick was fortunate in staying at York. Adam missed out badly in pandemic conditions. Obviously the conditions this year have been, we can only hope, exceptionally challenging. But perhaps the Institute should be thinking towards some scheme for both funds and mentors to help early-career archaeologists to bridge the gap between student dissertation and publication. If this could be linked in some ways to the promotion of works of synthesis worked up from grey literature the long-term rewards would be great.

CBA 2020 Festival Of Archaeology, Episode 2

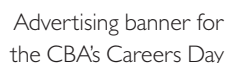
CLAIRE CORKILL, CBA DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

In 2020 the Council for British Archaeology's (CBA) Festival of Archaeology was transformed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. With plans for our usual on-the-ground activities on hold, we took the Festival online, on over nine days in July and a further nine days in October. [For our Vice-President Kathryn Stubbs' report of the July events, see Newsletter 60, pp. 5–7, Ed.]

There was a diverse mix of talks, conferences, workshops, competitions and content, as well as opportunities to get creative with archaeology through events and activities such as 'Ebb & Flow'¹ and 'The Great British Archaeology Comic Book'.² In October a small number of on the ground events were able to go ahead and we also encouraged self-led events such as 'Local Explorer Bingo'³ to help people explore the archaeology of their area on their daily walks.

In association with the Royal Archaeological Institute, we delivered 'A Day In Archaeology'.⁴ Every year, people involved in archaeology in the UK share their experiences via the Festival website. We shared blogs from all kinds of people, from commercial archaeologists, finds specialists and archivists to students and voluntary participants working on community projects. This year we also opened the blog to a fantastic group of young people taking part in our Youth Takeover Day. The 'A Day in Archaeology' blogs are accessible throughout the year and are a great resource for those interested in exploring a different area of archaeology or looking for some career inspiration.

The Institute also supported us to produce a series of career videos designed to provide information and inspiration to young people interested in working in archaeology. Each video centred around a theme – Apprenticeships, University or Different Pathways – and they were released as part of a focused Careers Day in October. To date the videos have been viewed over 1000 times and are available to watch and share via the CBA YouTube channel.⁵ We plan to expand this collection of videos over time to include a wider range of voices and to highlight more of the many career routes and destinations within archaeology.



The 2021 CBA Festival of Archaeology will take place from Saturday 17 July to Sunday

For more information about this year's CBA Festival of Archaeology and how you can get involved, please email festival@archaeologyuk.org or visit our website: <https://festival.archaeologyuk.org.>, and for Links, see over.

Links:

- 1 <https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/events/ebb-and-flow>
- 2 <https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/blog/great-british-archaeology-comic-book-here-1604147520>
- 3 <https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/events/local-explorer-bingo-challenge-1601911002>
- 4 <https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/day>
- 5 <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0jz2K7enTbQil5OYsRHriWQZ6j7EAyZH>

RAI Research Grants

The following projects which were awarded grants in 2020 were unable to take place because of Covid, and are hoping to continue in 2021:

David Brooks *Exploration of a Romano-British Site at Hagg Farm, Swaledale (N. Yorks)*

Martin Millett *Excavations at Isurium Brigantum, Aldborough (N. Yorks) (Bunnell Lewis Fund)*

Nathalie Cohen *Exploring Smallhythe, Kent*

Niall Finneran *The Archaeology of Death and Memory in Whitechapel (London)*

Nick Overton *Exploring Mesolithic Belief Systems through the Treatment and Disposal of Animal Remains*

Research grants for 2021 have been awarded to the following projects:

Robert Fry *What Lies Beneath Longis? Searching for Iron Age and Roman Alderney (including Tony Clark Memorial Fund)*

Peter Halkon *Petuarium (E. Yorks) Revisited – Looking for a Lost Roman Theatre (including Bunnell Lewis Fund)*

Steven Mithen *Rubha Port a t-Seilich: Excavating an Upper Palaeolithic Site in Western Scotland*

Ben Roberts *How Ancient are the Massive Cornish Tin Ingots Found Around St Austell?*

Beverley Still *Exploring the Prehistoric Landscape of Upper Teesdale (Co. Durham)*

Rob Wiseman *Gathering the Harvest: Collating Evidence on the Rural Economy of Iron Age and Roman Cambridgeshire*

RAI Research Grant Reports

Illustrating Bill Varley's Eddisbury assemblage

Richard Mason and Rachel Pope

Eddisbury Hillfort (Cheshire) is the largest (3.7 ha) and most architecturally complex hillfort in north-west England. The site began, on Merrick's Hill, as a small Late Bronze Age palisaded enclosure, followed by a uni-vallate Early Iron Age enclosure to the north, and ending as a bi-vallate hillfort across both sites, with continued use into the Late Iron Age period (Pope et al. 2020). Historically, Queen Æthelflæd is said to have established a burh at Eddisbury in AD 914, which recent archaeological work now supports (Garner 2016). By 1337, the Black Prince had authorised a Royal Hunting Lodge on Merrick's Hill, with occupation continuing into the post-medieval period, as the Forester's administrative centre. This important site has long deserved reappraisal.

Between 1936 and 1938, excavations were conducted by Bill Varley (University of Liverpool) and his historian wife Joan and, whilst contested by Molly Cotton (1954), the 1950 report (Varley 1950) was the basis for all subsequent work, as the Varley archive was considered lost in WWII, preventing reinterpretation. That archive, however, was subsequently located as part of the 2010–11 University of Liverpool project for excavations at Merrick's Hill (Mason and Pope 2016a). Project aims rapidly adapted to include reassessing Varley's work, in a bid to update and provide closer dating for both



Excavations at Merrick's Hill,
Eddisbury, 2010–11
(© D. Garner)

prehistoric and historic settlement along Cheshire's sandstone ridge. A typology of the hillfort gate-mechanisms discovered by Varley is now published (Pope et al. 2020).

Our 2010–11 excavations relocated Varley's section through the northern rampart, obtaining a sequence of 20 datable prehistoric events – including three palisaded enclosure phases, a final conflagration event, occupation layers, a cobbled roadway and two rampart phases. The palisade is now dated to 1210–1088 BC (68.2% confidence) with Bayesian modelling of *developed hillfort* construction at 400/380 BC: a national first, with radiocarbon dates, too, on a modest prehistoric ceramic assemblage, which is important for the region (Mason and Pope 2016b, 207; Pope et al. 2020, table 1).

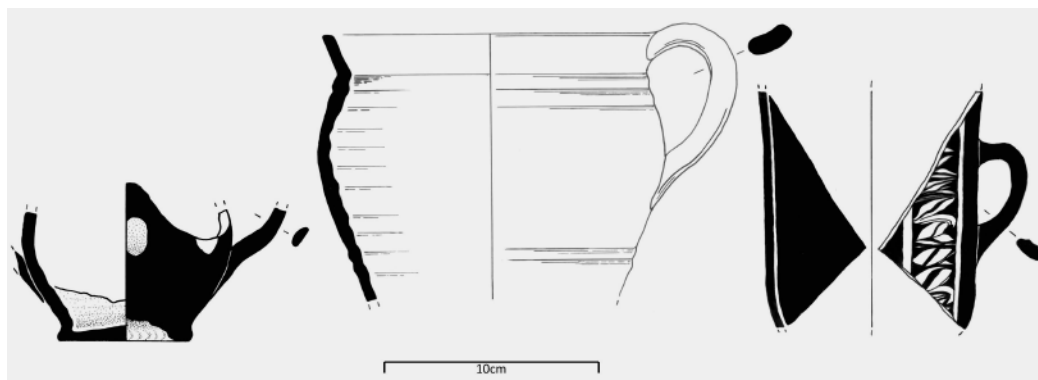
Beyond prehistory, the project also provided the opportunity to revisit the medieval and post-medieval archaeology of Merrick's Hill. In 2018, an RAI grant funded illustration of 130 objects from Varley's 'lost' archive. These include ceramics – prehistoric (15); Roman (2); medieval/

early post-medieval (88) – as well as finds made of iron (18), pewter/lead (5), flint (3) and glass (1). Medieval and post-medieval objects saw conservation by Ian Panter (York Archaeological Trust) and are now archive-ready; a specialist architectural stone assessment was also undertaken.

Previous grants had enabled: illustration of the 2010–11 finds (186 objects); integration of the 1938 and 2010–11 excavation results – combining Varley's results into our own single-context record; historic archives and map research; and production of the historic ceramics report, which now confirms Varley's suggestions – of potentially medieval settlement origins, and of Merrick's Hill as a post-medieval Royal site.

With the post-ex programme now complete, final monograph production is poised and ready to begin. The objective is a fully illustrated publication, in line with *Beeston Castle* – Eddisbury's neighbouring high-status site (Ellis 1993).

Cotton, M.A. 1954, 'British Camps with Timber-Laced Ramparts', *Archaeol. J.* **111**, 26–105



Ceramics from Varley's archive: 16th-century Cistercian-ware cup; 17th-century yellow-ware handled jar; early 18th-century Staffordshire slip-and-combed-ware mug (© R. Mason/UoL)

Ellis, P. 1993, *Beeston Castle, Cheshire: Excavations by Laurence Keen and Peter Hough, 1968–85*, English Heritage Archaeol. Rep. 23

Garner, D. 2016, 'Excavations at Eddisbury Hillfort', in Garner (ed.), 139–200

Garner, D. (ed.), 2016, *Hillforts of the Cheshire Ridge: Investigations undertaken by The Habitats and Hillforts Landscape Partnership Scheme 2009–2012*, Oxford

Mason, R.G. and Pope, R.E. 2016a, 'The Lost Archive of Eddisbury: Rediscovering Finds and Records from the 1936–38 Varley Excavations', in Garner (ed.), 29–36

Mason, R.G. and Pope, R.E. 2016b, 'Rescuing a Scheduled Ancient Monument: Recent Work at Merrick's Hill, Eddisbury Hillfort', in Garner (ed.), 201–16

Pope, R.E., Mason, R.G., Rule, E., Hamilton, D. and Swogger, J. 2020, 'Hillfort Gate-Mechanisms: A Contextual, Architectural Re-assessment of Eddisbury, Hembury, and Cadbury Hillforts', *Archaeol. J.* 177(2), 339–407

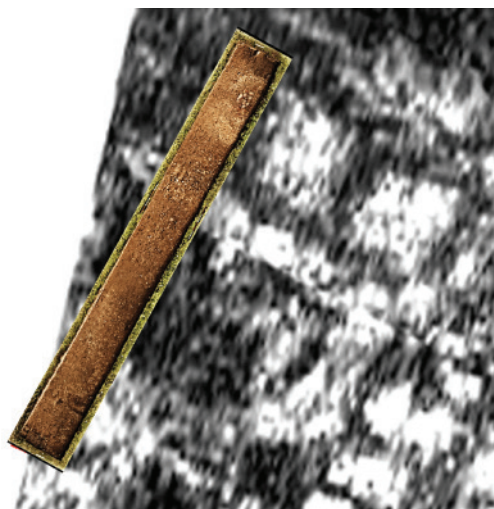
Varley, W.J. 1950, 'Excavations of the Castle Ditch, Eddisbury 1935–1938', *Trans. Hist. Soc. Lancs. and Cheshire* 102, 1–68

Petuaria Revisited – Excavations at Brough in 2020

Peter Halkon and James Lyall

Evidence of Roman activity has been recorded in Brough-on-Humber (E. Yorks) since the seventeenth century, though it was not until the 1930s that any significant fieldwork was undertaken. Excavations between 1933 and 1937, directed by Philip Corder and Revd Thomas Romans, on the Burrs Playing Field (formerly known as Bozzes Field), revealed a sequence of forts, a stone wall with bastions and an inscription (RIB 707) recording the presentation of a *prosaenium* by Marcus Ulpius Januarius, an *aedile*, around AD 140. Apart from a resistivity survey in 1988 by Steve Jallands of Durham University which located structures and a roadway, and some developer-funded excavations in its environs, little more was done on the Burrs until 2014, when a magnetometer survey by James Lyall, instigated by Peter Halkon, began to show the true complexity and extensive nature of the Roman site, though the definition of the features was somewhat blurred.

Such was the interest of the Elloughton-cum-Brough Playing Fields Association (PFA), the playing field's owners, that a



Orthophoto (T. Sparrow) of the excavation trench, laid over the GPR (J. Lyall). Note the close match between them, particularly for the courtyard building

community heritage project, 'Petuaria ReVisited', was established and Peter Halkon was asked to lead the archaeological investigation. Funding from local businesses and interested members of the public enabled a Ground Penetrating Radar survey (GPR) of the Burrs by David Staveley, in November 2018 and April 2019. This revealed the changing outlines of the Roman structures with much greater clarity, some matching features excavated by Corder, particularly the line of the defences and some rectilinear buildings. The remains detected were impressive and extensive. A road flanked by substantial buildings ran roughly south-west–north-east across the field. In the southern corner were the outlines of a series of rooms around a courtyard, at the centre of which was a D-shaped anomaly, resembling a Roman theatre.

After Scheduled Monument Consent was granted by Historic England, a 25m × 3m trench was excavated across the D-shaped anomaly between 21 August and 6

September 2020. Under the turf and topsoil was a crushed limestone layer, put down in 1972 to protect the underlying archaeology during the field's conversion from arable land to a playing field, and this was the cause of the blurring effect on the magnetometer survey. The limestone layer overlay plough soil and it is likely that Roman pottery including Crambeck painted parchment and Huntcliff wares, local greywares, a stamped samian base and several medieval and post-medieval sherds recovered during machine topsoil stripping were derived from this.

At the north end of the excavation, the first Roman feature encountered was a hearth in the centre of a floor, in which there was a burnt coin dating to around AD 330. Surrounding the floor on three sides were slots which had once contained walls, coinciding with a room of the courtyard building visible in the GPR survey. Excavation showed that the building had been remodelled several times. Removal of rubble over the southernmost room revealed a layer of painted wall plaster, which had fallen face down onto a lower floor surface. The back of the plaster bore wattle indentations. The best-preserved section was lifted and is cream with red and black lines. Other painted plaster including purple, blue and flesh tones, showed that the courtyard building had been of considerable status, confirmed by ceramic and stone roof tiles and tiles from a hypocaust. The walls of the courtyard building had cut through the core of a substantial wall, running north–south across the centre of the trench.

Beyond the southernmost robber trench, a thick rubble spread extended for around 4m. Only a single block of facing stone remained, and it was clear that a considerable effort had been made to remove building material. To the south of the rubble was an ashy deposit,



Looking north-east
across the Burrs trench
(P. Halkon)

probably dumped here from an industrial process which was taking place elsewhere on the site. Under the rubble spread in the centre of the trench, a regular layer of stones ran at an angle, coinciding with the rear of the D-shaped anomaly in the GPR plots. However, the later third- and fourth-century coins and pottery associated with it make it unlikely that this structure relates to the mid-second-century theatre. Underlying this feature were stony layers provisionally interpreted as successive courtyard surfaces. Finds here included roof tiles and iron nails, large quantities of oyster shell and a well-preserved copper-alloy buckle.

At the southern end of our excavation, the limestone protective layer was shallow, overlying large pieces of disturbed Roman stone. Sealed by the protective layer, but cutting through the plough soil, was a narrow trench belonging to Corder's or another unrecorded investigation. Finds, including a crossbow-type brooch and coins, indicated later Roman activity here, though some had been redeposited after being missed by earlier excavators.

Other finds included a bone needle case with ring and dot decoration and jet items typical of late Roman assemblages. Most coins dated from the mid-third and fourth

centuries. The crossbow brooch, buckle and a possible scale-armour fragment hint at some kind of military association, perhaps supporting the theory that the walled enclosure with bastions was a naval base protecting the Humber. Pottery included Nene Valley colour-coated sherds from the late fourth-century kilns at Stibbington, and the bulk of the greyware came from the Holme-on-Spalding Moor industries. Perhaps the most remarkable find was an oyster shell, the inside of which had been scored with a chequer and diamond pattern and, depending on its orientation, either an IX or XI. Animal bone was both plentiful and well preserved, some bearing butchery marks.

The absence of first- and second-century AD material and Corder's observation that the natural sandy subsoil was almost 2m below the surface, shows that there was still some way to go before these levels were reached, so the D-shaped feature in the GPR may still relate to a theatre, although no conclusive evidence for this was found in the 2020 assessment.

Around 60 people participated in the fieldwork, with over a third of these coming from the immediate area; it was undertaken within strict Covid-19 pandemic health

and safety guidelines. The success of the excavation in achieving its goals, the quality of the archaeological remains, and the strong community involvement all contribute to providing an impetus for future work.

Financial and other in-kind support was gratefully received from a number of donors. Lastly, without the hard work and enthusiasm of our digging team, Martin Credland and the rest of the PFA and Petuaria ReVisited committee, this project would not have been possible.

Research News

Recording and Researching Scotland's Prehistoric Rock Art

J. Valdez-Tullett,* T. Barnett,* L. Bjerketvedt,* S. Jeffrey[#] and G. Robin[§]

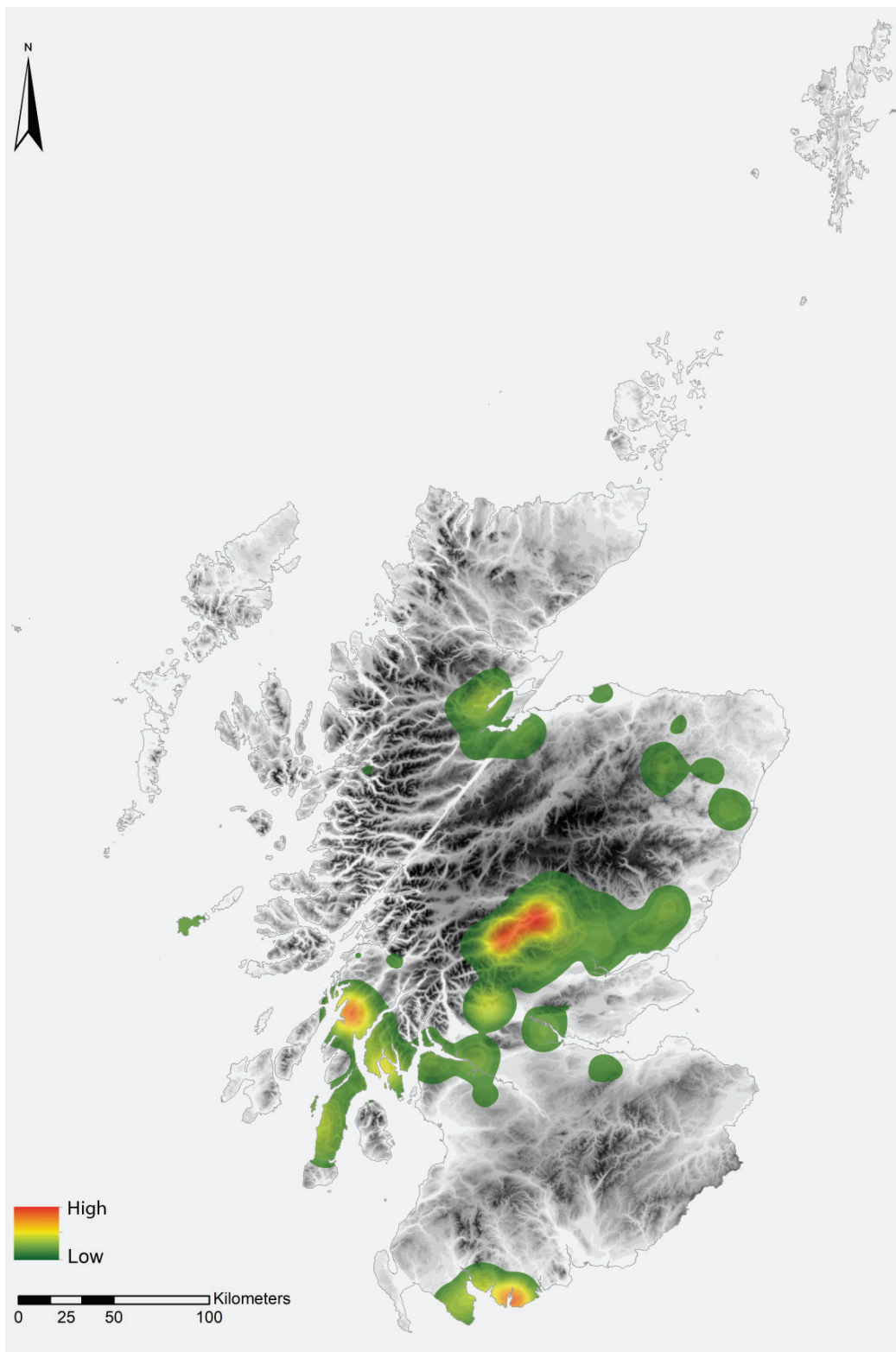
Scotland is home to 40% of Britain's prehistoric rock art, with over 3000 carved rocks known from the Outer Hebrides to Galloway. The characteristic Neolithic cup-and-ring motifs and other variations of circular imagery are found widely across the landscape, albeit unevenly distributed. The majority were created on outcrops and boulders of varying sizes, with a tendency towards horizontal surfaces, often flush with the ground. In the transition to the Early Bronze Age, some rock art was re-used in funerary monuments, denoting a change of perception, perhaps precipitated by the arrival of the Beaker Phenomenon.

Apart from a few sporadic references in the late eighteenth century, the first official rock art discoveries in Scotland date back to the nineteenth century, with a publication by Archibald Currie in 1830, reporting the carved stones around Cairnbaan in Kilmartin (Argyll). Soon after, Greenwell mentioned a 'great number of the small

pits which are found so often associated with concentric circles' on standing stones at Nether Largie and Ballymeanoch in Kilmartin, and other rocks 'with the enigmatic circular motifs' (Greenwell 1866, 337–8). It was, however, Sir James Young Simpson who first reported a larger group of 77 rock-art sites on Scotland's 'ancient sculpturings', describing the carvings and their contexts in great depth, with detailed and beautiful illustrations (Simpson 1866). The interest in rock art in Scotland fluctuated and experienced periods of research hiatus. It was mostly during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s that rock art studies were conducted more systematically with the work of Marion Campbell (e.g. Campbell and Sandeman 1962) in Argyll, and of Ronald Morris. The latter surveyed extensive parts of the country, publishing gazetteers that are still important references today (e.g. Morris 1977, 1979, 1981). In the 1980s and 1990s, following in Morris's footsteps, the work of Maarten van Hoek added many new sites to the national record (e.g. Van Hoek 1995). These sites and many others discovered by researchers, projects, institutions and the general public are catalogued in Canmore, Scotland's National Record of the Historic Environment. However, the record contains various anomalies, from duplication, inaccurate descriptions and grid references to natural features identified as prehistoric carvings, and there are few publicly accessible illustrations.

Scotland's Rock Art Project (ScRAP) – an update

ScRAP was initiated to address the low level of knowledge, value and awareness of prehistoric rock carvings. At the root of this lay the need to standardise a large rock-art dataset and make it accurate,



comprehensive and detailed enough to serve multiple purposes. The five-year project (2017–21) is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and hosted by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh and Glasgow School of Art. Its overarching aim is to enhance understanding and appreciation of rock art in Scotland through community co-production and research.

At the outset of the project all existing rock-art records were compiled into a ScRAP database, including around 2400 records from Canmore, and a few hundred from local Historic Environment Records (HERs) and private catalogues. In total, ScRAP's database initially contained 2795 entries. A bespoke methodology was designed to record a significant proportion of these at various levels – motifs, type of rock on which these were carved and landscape locations – through quantitative and descriptive accounts, photographic documentation and 3D modelling with Structure from Motion (SfM) photogrammetry of each panel. Part of the fieldwork was carried out by eleven

community teams spread across Scotland, trained by the project's staff. Despite Covid-19 halting most fieldwork in 2020, the ScRAP database comprised 3266 records by January 2021. Of these, 1405 are fully documented and validated according to the project's methodology and standards. The records are all publicly accessible on the project's website, www.rockart.scot, and 3D models can be viewed in the online platform Sketchfab, www.sketchfab.com/ScottishRockArt and www.sketchfab.com/ScRAPCommunityTeams.

A new insight into Atlantic Rock Art in Scotland

The recorded data confirms the inconsistency of the previous dataset. Of the 1405 rock art sites investigated, 176 have either been relocated in recent constructions such as field walls, or re-used in prehistoric and historic monuments, including funerary structures, brochs, souterrains or Pictish standing stones. Some have been lost or destroyed, and 276 carvings were not located, largely due to the nature of the rock art, typically created on rocks flush with the ground and often overgrown by vegetation.



Detail of a carved rock in Kirkcudbright (Dumfries and Galloway)
(© ScRAP)



Community-team member Christine cleaning and finding a cup-and-ring motif at Corrycharmaig (Perthshire) (© Association of Certified Field Archaeologists (ACFA))

The frequently inaccurate grid references are also a difficult issue to navigate. In addition, 146 sites, previously mistaken for rock art, were reclassified as natural features. The new body of data is providing unprecedented insights into the rock art, given the large number of records, but also the level of detail. This enables us to analyse Scotland's prehistoric rock art at two levels. First, we can situate the carvings within the wider tradition, commonly known as Atlantic Rock Art (ARA) (e.g. Bradley 1997, 2020; Valdez-Tullett 2019), found in several countries of western Europe. ScRAP's dataset

is compatible with those resulting from the work of Blaze O'Connor for Ireland (2006), Valdez-Tullett for Iberia, Britain and Ireland (2019) and England's Rock Art database. Second, recording rock art across Scotland is providing a better understanding of its uneven distribution, and regional variations. Even in areas with increased demographic pressure and development, such as the south-east region of Scotland, there have been surprising new discoveries of rock art.

The methodology comprises a multiscalar approach focusing at a small scale on the rock-art motifs, then the type of rocks on which they were carved, and lastly the landscape contexts. Each scale of analysis includes a number of categories and variables that characterise the rock art and its physical components, the way they interact with each other, and their associations with other features, both natural (e.g. vegetation, geology, land use) and cultural (e.g. funerary monuments, standing stones, find spots). We are now able to deliver a renewed characterisation of prehistoric rock art in Scotland, with an enhanced understanding of variation and regional preferences.

The study of motifs, their making and the way they interact with the rock surface is providing particularly interesting insights, such as the intimate relationship between the carvings and the natural features of the rock. Cracks, fissures, solution holes and even the edges of the rocks are often enhanced, carved over or around, transformed into motifs, and are in general an integral part of the compositions. Furthermore, each category of motifs (e.g. cupmarks, cup-and-rings, spirals, rosettes, keyholes) can be deconstructed in many variations, and the manipulation of 3D models enables the observation of details that are pivotal for

new interpretations. Such is the case for superimpositions, only recently confirmed to exist in the ARA tradition (Valdez-Tullett 2019), and of which several examples have been found throughout ScRAP's work. These small details are central to the identification of regional preferences and prehistoric connectivity within Scotland and with other Atlantic regions (e.g. Valdez-Tullett 2019).

With another year before the end of ScRAP, we continue working on the large body of data co-produced with our Community Teams over the last four years, which is offering us endless possibilities for analysis, and opening many new avenues of investigation. ScRAP's key legacy, however, is its impact on social value and awareness, promoting the preservation and sustainability of Scotland's prehistoric carvings. Furthermore, our database, comprising thousands of records, will be deposited with regional and national databases and will be publicly accessible in perpetuity. An important resource for awareness, management, education and indeed general interest, the available data will, we hope, inspire future research.

* Historic Environment Scotland, # Glasgow School of Art, § University of Edinburgh

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A Bustum Burial from Brooklyn House, Norton, North Yorkshire

Janet Phillips and Pete Wilson

Norton, a suburb of Malton (Roman *Delgovicia*), is already well known as the location for Roman-period occupation near the river crossing. In addition there is evidence for substantial cemeteries and extensive industrial activity, notably pottery manufacture and also metal-working, with a goldsmith's workshop evidenced/indicated by an inscription.

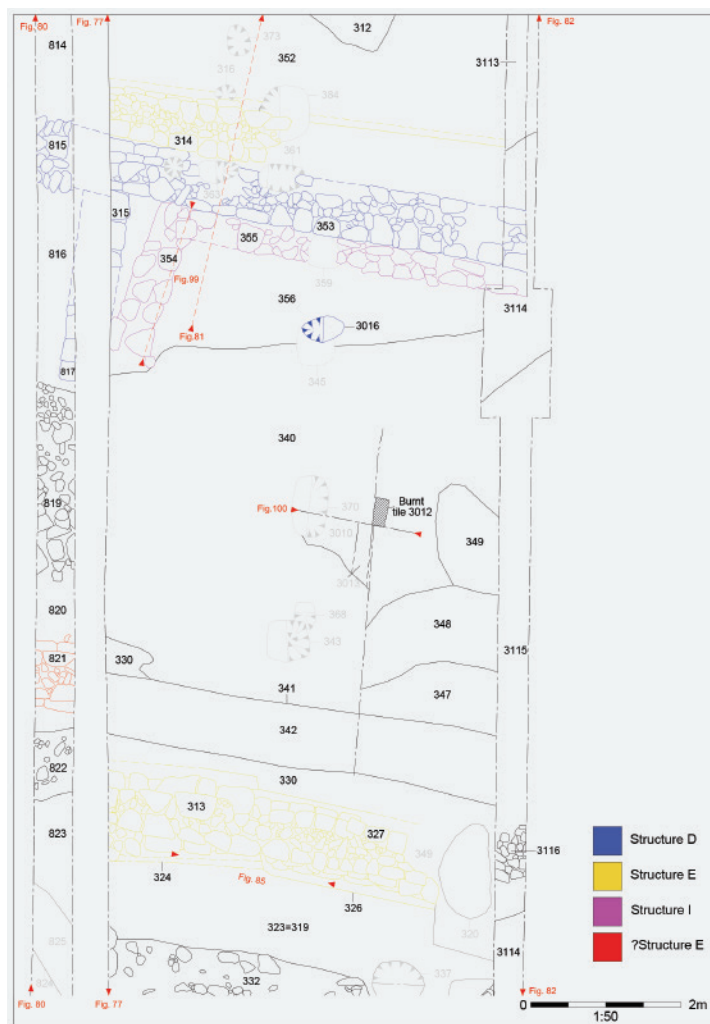
The Brooklyn House site is located close to the line of the main Roman road to York and the crossing of the River Humber at Brough, and within an area close to known cemetery and pottery-production sites. Excavations by JB Archaeology Ltd in 2015–16, in advance of the construction of a school, were, following

evaluation excavations, expected to find evidence of burials and possibly industrial activity, located on the edge of the urban area, or within areas of field systems. What was discovered was of far greater interest.

In the north-eastern part of the site, at least three phases of well-built stone-founded or stone-constructed buildings, represented by four superimposed structures, extended eastwards under gardens neighbouring the site and towards the Roman road. These structures, along with other buildings found on the site, demonstrated that, in the third century at

least, ribbon development extending south along the Roman road was more extensive than previously understood.

However, it appears that the ribbon development may not have been continuous, with areas of burial interspersed between groups of buildings. A service trench along the access road to the site provided a section through the Roman road and, on its eastern side, revealed a *bustum* burial. *Busta* are cremation burials where the body was burnt over a pit and the burnt remains are, at least partially, swept into the pit and/or cremation vessels within it.



Third-century buildings extending eastwards towards the Roman road (to left of excavation area). North at top (© JB Archaeological Services Ltd)

The military belt from the bustum – reconstruction and drawing
(© Hilary Cool)



Busta are often, but not exclusively, associated with the military. In the case of the Brooklyn House burial, analysis of the finds by Hilary Cool and Stephen Greep demonstrates unequivocally that the burial was that of a soldier, or former soldier. Finds from the grave included fittings from both a military belt and a baldric – a strap worn over the shoulder to carry a sword and scabbard. There was no evidence that a sword and scabbard had been cremated with the deceased, but there were fragments of a blade and scabbard that may represent a military dagger. Clothing was represented

by hobnails and a leaded bronze plate brooch, featuring red and blue enamel, that would have held a cloak in place. Other finds included fragments of bone inlay from a small casket or box and bone terminals from a scroll holder. Analysis of the cremated bone by Katie Keefe and Malin Holst suggests that the cremated person was a male in his late 30s or older, and, based on their consideration of the pottery, Ian Rowlandson and Hugh Fiske date the *bustum* to the third century.

For details of the excavation report and a Special Offer, see Book News, p. 31.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

More details will be made available on our website as soon as they have been finalised.

2021

Summer Meeting planned to Copenhagen and Malmo, led by Hedley Swain, has been postponed until July 2022.

Autumn Meeting 2–9 October, for part of the week, on Anglesey, led by Rachel Swallow, is being considered, details to be confirmed.

Autumn Day Meeting 17 October at Newark, led by Mark Gardner, details to be confirmed.

In 2021 there will be no Annual Conference

For news and early details, please check our website at www.royalarchinst.org/events.

As soon as they are confirmed, full details and booking forms for meetings will be made available on the Meetings Programme page, <http://www.royalarchinst.org/meetings>. Places are limited, so please book promptly. If you would like further details of any of these meetings sent to you, please send your email or postal details to the Administrator, RAI, c/o the address on the back of this *Newsletter* or admin@royalarchinst.org or to Caroline Raison, RAI Assistant Meetings Secretary, 48 Park Avenue, Princes Avenue, Kingston upon Hull HU5 3ES, or csraison@gmail.com.

MEETINGS NOTES

Sadly, there are none. The next contribution was inspired by a look in the archive:

EXETER'S MAYORAL COLLAR

CAROLINE RAISON

The Institute's Annual Meeting in 1873 was held at Exeter. In our honour, the Mayor had ordered the principal streets to be lined with flags. The bells of the cathedral rang continuously throughout the day. The opening of the meeting was held in the Guildhall, attended by various dignitaries, and a lunch was held with very empire-style addresses – mentioning men, not women, though the meeting was mixed. The Town Clerk read an address assuring the Institute of a most cordial welcome. The address was written on vellum with illuminated letters, surmounted by the arms of Exeter bearing the motto of the city – *Semper Fidelis*. The Institute's President for the Meeting, Lord Talbot de Malahide, said in response that he and the Institute were flattered to hear the sentiments expressed. Members must have enjoyed their visit, for the following year this was reported:

The municipal decoration of a chain and badge was on Saturday formally presented to the Mayor and Corporation of Exeter by a deputation from the Royal Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland. The Institute held its annual meeting for 1873

at Exeter. It was decided by the members that a suitable acknowledgment should be made of the handsome entertainment which was then provided for them by the Mayor, Mr. C. J. Follett, who has since been re-elected, and by the municipality generally. It was found that the Exeter Corporation possessed no civic badge of office since their historical one was sacrificed, in old days to the Royalist cause.

A chain and badge were therefore selected as the most appropriate form of compliment. This was manufactured from the design of Mr. W. Burges the well-known architect, by Mr. W. Page, goldsmith, of Great Portland Street. It is in the style of the thirteenth century. The chain, which weighs 22oz., consists of sixteen links, the principal one representing castles, which are the city insignia. The badge represents, in enamel, the city arms. The presentation was made by the Earl of Devon, who was president of last year's meeting. His Lordship, making a suitable speech, invested the Mayor with the chain and badge. The Mayor responded with well-chosen words, and was followed by Sir Stafford Northcote.

Illustrated London News 401,
24 October 1874

In Exeter's Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery, there is an 1875 portrait of the then Mayor, Charles John Follett, wearing regalia, including the Institute's chain and badge, or collar. This gives an idea of the considerable size of the badge, which is c. 4in (100mm) in diameter. The collar is still worn by mayors today.



Exeter's Mayoral Collar (© Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter City Council)

Please note the following amendment:

22 June Following the AGM, in place of the President's lecture, will now be

THE STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD AND THE HISTORY OF SEVENTH-CENTURY ENGLAND

Professor Barbara Yorke

(An illustration appears on p. 32, the back cover.)

The publication of *The Staffordshire Hoard: An Anglo-Saxon Treasure* (C. Fern, T. Dickinson and L. Webster (eds), Society of Antiquaries, 2019) was a milestone in the study of the hoard, some ten years after its discovery by a metal-detectorist. The volume is first and foremost a catalogue of the remarkable finds. Some background chapters were provided, but there here was not room to explore fully its potential for illuminating the history of seventh-century England. This talk will give an historian's perspective on how the hoard develops our understanding of topics such as kingship, overlordship, warfare, assemblies, the impact of Christianity and the world of heroic verse. Many mysteries will remain and often a range of possible interpretations has to be kept in mind, but the hoard has much to add to the dialogue between written sources and archaeological evidence for the formative and fast-moving period of the seventh century.

Barbara Yorke, who is retiring as a Vice-President of the Institute, is Professor Emeritus in Early Medieval History at the University of Winchester and Honorary Professor of the Institute of Archaeology, University of London. Barbara was on the

Advisory Board for the Staffordshire Hoard,

and contributed a chapter on the historical background to the publication.

ONLINE ACCESS

Presentation of the Institute's lecture series has continued virtually during Covid-19 restrictions, with live broadcast available, and there have been audiences of about 60 people each month. In advance of lectures our Administrator sends the live-stream link or Zoom details to members who have provided their email address. Our speaker for 9 December 2020 has kindly made available the text of his lecture, in case you missed it. There is not room here to include all his illustrations; you can still watch the lecture via our website's Events page.

The following lectures are still available to view on our website. Because they too were recent amendments to our published programme, details are included here:

12 May lecture (replacing AGM and President's lecture)

The Archaeology of the Greenwich World Heritage Site

Dr Jane Sidell

This talk outlined the key archaeological interest of the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage site, starting with a Romano-Celtic temple first excavated over a century ago, and touching on a Saxon barrow cemetery, sadly excavated in the eighteenth century with little record, but the subject of a mid-nineteenth-century public outcry. The medieval hunting park, Tudor Palace and the formal Baroque landscape associated with the Queen's House, a masterpiece of Stuart architecture, were discussed and the talk concluded with the new Lottery Fund project starting this spring,

which will further enhance the archaeology of the site. Much of the World Heritage Site is free to visit and out in the safe fresh air for those who would like to plan a trip.

15 May lecture evening (in place of the postponed Spring Meeting)

Dover's Environs

Three speakers guided us, to set Dover in context in preparation for our visit in person to Dover Castle and other city locations, when Covid-19 restrictions allow. Their lectures, each of 40–45 minutes, were followed by Questions & Answers with Dr Brian Kerr in the Chair, and were:

Julius Caesar's Landing Sites by
Dr Andrew Fitzpatrick

*Roman Richborough: Some New
Insights* by Dr Tony Willmott

*The Archaeology of Hellfire Corner:
National Trust Sites at the White Cliffs*
by Dr Nathalie Cohen

This online event was our first virtual meeting. The evening was deftly organised by Dr Rachel Swallow, the Institute's

Meetings Secretary since May 2020, with technical assistance by Matthew Papworth. Dr Hedley Swain will still lead us on our visit to Copenhagen in 2022.

THE EXCAVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE CATILLON II IRON AGE HOARD

NEIL MAHRER, *Jersey Heritage*

Early in 2012 two local metal-detectorists, Reg Mead and Richard Miles, contacted Jersey Heritage to report that they had found around 200 first-century BCE Armorican coins, scattered by ploughing in a field in the east of the island. As museum conservator, I cleaned the coins and we were all pleased with the discovery of another nice Iron Age hoard (Jersey had previously produced numerous Armorican hoards, of up to 12,000 coins).

Assuming this to be end of the matter, we were surprised therefore a few months later when Reg and Richard told us they had returned to the field and had seen a very strong signal in the centre of the scattered hoard's location. They dug a small hole down to the source of the signal and a scrape of the



Aerial photo of the
Richborough Roman site
(T. Willmott)



The Catillon II hoard before lifting (© Jersey Heritage)

spade revealed five more Armorican coins. To their immense credit they immediately backfilled the hole and informed us of the find.

It took about a month to get a team of local archaeologists together from Jersey and Guernsey, and when we began the dig we anticipated it being a one-day exercise to recover perhaps a broken pot full of coins. Once we reached the surface of the coins, however, it became clear that this was a much larger hoard and in fact it was the third day of digging before the entire hoard was revealed. It proved to be about $140 \times 70 \times 15\text{cm}$ deep.

At this stage the excitement of its discovery gave over to anxiety about what we would do with it next. We were working there only by permission of the landowner and were under some time pressure. Ironically, it was this pace that resulted in our excavation of the hoard intact. Had we had the leisure to consult with colleagues we would have found out that no similarly sized hoard had been excavated intact and the apparent pressure for us to do so would have dissipated. Not knowing that, however, we quickly came up with a plan for lifting it intact.

We dug down another 20cm below the bottom of the hoard and then undercut the pillar supporting the hoard as far as we dared. This left the hoard resting on an inverted pyramid of hard loess and broken shale. We then dug four parallel tunnels through this base. Nylon straps with ratchet tighteners were then passed through the tunnels and over a scaffold structure constructed around the hoard. With these four straps supporting the hoard as evenly as possible, the hoard could be lifted by a crane with chains fixed to the scaffold's corners. This was done and once the hoard had been lifted 30cm it was lowered again onto a foam-covered wooden base. The final lift onto a flatbed vehicle was then done with the hoard supported from the underneath by the wooden base.

There was then a period of deliberation between the island government and the Crown about how to proceed. Only limited surface cleaning of the hoard was done until early 2014 when it was agreed that Jersey Heritage would disassemble and conserve the hoard. Work began that summer. We were conscious that no similar hoard had been recovered intact before, still damp and full of soil and organic material in addition to the metal contents. We were determined

therefore to record the hoard's composition to a level that had, as far as we knew, never been attempted before, making its disassembly a second excavation.

We obtained a Faro Edge six-axis metrology arm, which when linked to a computer allows the position of any object to be recorded to sub-cm accuracy in three dimensions, so that we could log the position of each coin before removing it. Each coin was then given an accession number, both in the computer model and for use during the actual coin's conservation and recording. At the end of the disassembly, we had one database showing the position of each coin and any other artefact in three dimensions within the hoard and another database with images, tribe, type, date and so forth, for each item. We are currently linking the two databases so that future researchers can interrogate the computer model to see, for example, the distribution of different materials by tribe, date or metallurgy.

The actual conservation of the coins was comparatively simple. British Museum conservators had worked on the Bure Street Roman coin hoard which had coins of a similar (silver/copper) composition; I consulted them and we followed their

cleaning process. Essentially this was immersion of the coins in 15% formic acid to remove the bulk of the copper corrosion products, in order to reveal more of the original silver surface. No attempt was made to clean all coins back to a perfect appearance, it being thought sufficient to clean them to a point where they could be identified. The only complication in their treatment was that each coin's accession number had to follow it through the various steps of the process. This was done using repurposed ice cube trays in which coins could be contained and identified and yet be treated together in the acid and subsequent wash baths. Paper records and an Excel database would then record that, for example, coin CATII/H/34521 was in Tray Y, cell 6. This worked well and our team of three Jersey Heritage staff, soon joined by a larger group of volunteers, routinely cleaned and recorded 150 to 200 coins a day.

In addition to coins, the hoard contained a number of gold torques and other jewellery. These were generally in very good condition except that to varying degrees they were coated in copper corrosion products from the surrounding coins. It had

Screen-shot of 3-D coin map produced each day when removing coins
(© Jersey Heritage)





Showing a newly removed torque to the public (© Jersey Heritage)

been decided to limit the use of chemical cleaning of the metals as far as possible in order not to skew future metallurgical research, and so to a large extent they were cleaned mechanically. We followed a tip from the team who had worked on the Staffordshire hoard and used *Berberis* thorns for the cleaning. The thorns proved ideal, being soft enough not to scratch the gold surface but resilient enough to break apart the overlying corrosion.

Another decision made at the beginning of the project was that all the work on the hoard was to be visible to the public. In the middle of our museum exhibition space, a lab was created, and this was fitted with large windows and interpretation panels explaining our work. This attracted great interest and worked so well that we began to advertise when various events would take place – like the week when the gold torques would be lifted from the hoard.

The disassembly work finished in 2017, and while this had originally been viewed as the end of the project it is now seen only as the end of phase one, largely because we had greatly underestimated the research potential of the project. Almost as soon as the disassembly began we realised there was a huge variety of material present. In the

end we collected over 900 organic samples, including much plant material and animal remains such as various intact arthropods. We realised, too, that the sheer size of the hoard – over 69,000 coins – meant that we had the luxury of leaving 1500 coins untreated for future analysis. We have even been able to leave one 15cm cube of the hoard untouched, still with its earth and organic material between the coins, now sealed airtight and frozen for whatever work future researchers might propose.

This has led to our planning for a second phase of the work, that of ongoing research both into the hoard material itself and into its context within the landscape. From the range of coin types, we think that the hoard was buried in the second half of the first century BCE, probably by the Coriosolitae tribe from neighbouring Brittany, but further fieldwork is needed to learn more about the place where it was buried, and whether it was intended to be recovered, or if it was a religious offering. Research has begun on the hoard's metallurgy and the distribution of material within it, but wider work on the landscape is still awaiting a resolution of the hoard's purchase by the island and permissions to return to the burial site for geophysics and other work. These matters

currently appear to be reaching a resolution and so we hope future work may begin in earnest soon.

Further reading

Excavation: Waterhouse, R. 2014, revised March 2016, *Two Iron Age and Roman Coin Hoards from Le Catillon, Grouville, Jersey, Interim Archaeological Report*,

<http://www.christopherlong.co.uk/aanna/papers/WaterhouseR/LeCatillonCoinHoards2012.pdf>

Conservation and recording:

Mahrer, N., Kelly, G. and Le Quelenec, V. 2019, 'Le Catillon II: Conserving the World's Largest Iron Age Hoard', in B. Callegher (ed.), *Too Big to Study?*, Trieste, EUT/Edizioni Università di Trieste, 45–62.

MISCELLANY

Book News

Special Offer

See p. 21 for a vignette from *Life, Death and Rubbish Disposal in Roman Norton, North Yorkshire. Excavations at Brooklyn House, 2015–16*, by J. Phillips and P. Wilson, (2021), *Archaeopress Roman Archaeology* 77, 296 pp., 209 figures, 54 tables. Print edn: ISBN 9781789698381, e-Pdf: ISBN 9781789698398. Hardcopy £48 plus p&p, e-Pdf £16 plus VAT, direct from www.archaeopress.com. Offer price, **£36.00** until 31 December 2021, via their website, using the code BROOKLYNHOUSE.



Wilson Norton: the bustum during excavation
(© JB Archaeological Services Ltd)

Contact information for Members

Please provide your email address in case it should be necessary to cancel any more meetings or events. We could at least contact those whose email addresses we hold; if you have not yet told our Administrator your address, please send it to admin@royalarchinst.org.

Measuring, maximising, and transforming public benefit from UK Government infrastructure investment in archaeology is a four-year UKRI Future Leaders project led by MOLA's Dr Sadie Watson, assessing whether public spending on archaeology leads to meaningful, relevant research and genuine community participation. Please complete this survey about public benefit from developer-led archaeology: https://mola.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bfSzjFXNkXW2S6a

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THE STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD AND THE HISTORY OF SEVENTH-CENTURY ENGLAND

Professor Barbara Yorke

22 June 2021

This lecture will follow the Institute's AGM; for more details, see above, p. 26.

The lecture is to be live-streamed, and will also be filmed to be available afterwards on our website.



Decoration on cross arm from the Staffordshire Hoard (© Chris Fern)

The drawing is by Chris Fern (one of the main authors of Staffordshire Hoard volume and freelance). It shows the design of the decoration on the transecting arm of the great gold cross (catalogue no. K655) from the hoard. It is seventh century in date and one of the earliest pieces of early medieval church metalwork in England; the decoration has close parallels with the metal decoration of the cups from the Sutton Hoo ship-burial.

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.

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 June 2021 for publication in September 2021.

THIS ISSUE'S COVER PICTURE: Gold torques from the Catillon II (Jersey) hoard, buried c. 30–40 BCE, from the Institute's December 2020 lecture (see above, pp. 27–31;

© Jersey Heritage)