

WHOSE PAST IS IT ANYWAY?

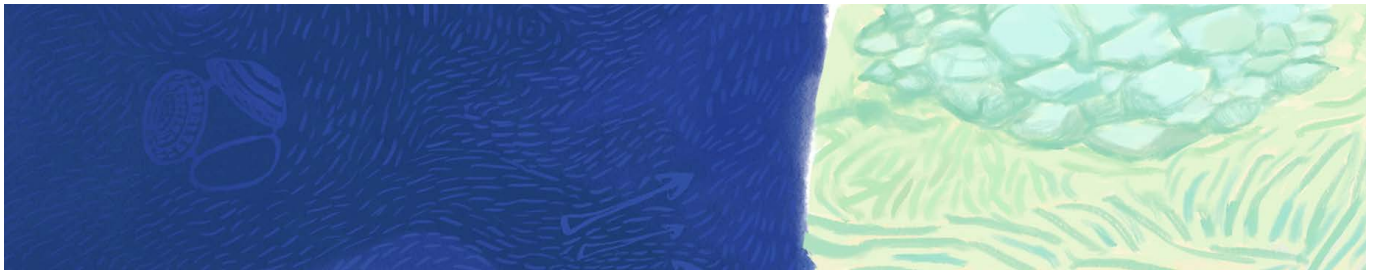
Rethinking 'insiders' and 'outsiders' in Scottish Archaeology

**28TH-29TH OCTOBER 2023
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN**



Contents

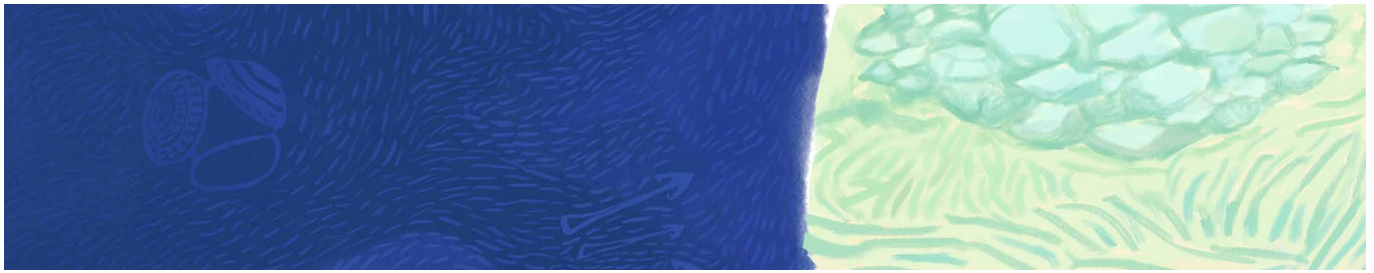
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Programme

Day 1

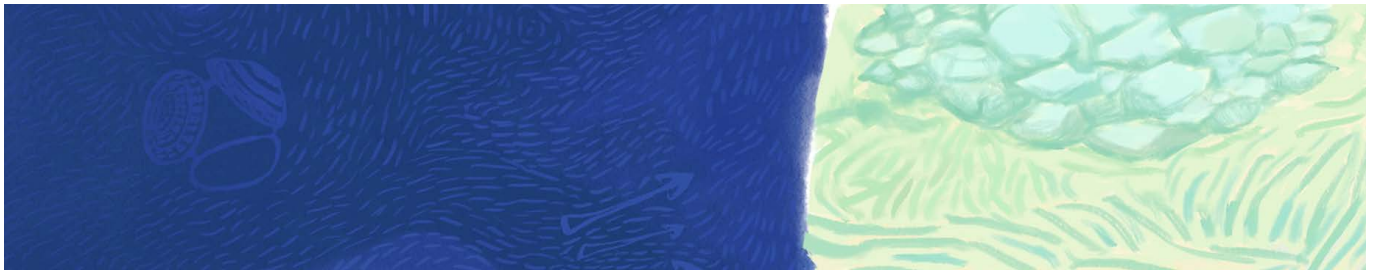
10:30-11:00	Registration
11:00-11:20	Opening
11:00-11:20	Scott McCreadie: SAF President's Welcome
11:20-12:20	Session 1: Under-Represented Histories
11:20-11:40	OT02 Ailbhe Turley National Galleries of Scotland 'Create Dangerously: Resist' - Exploring the Slave Trade Legacy of Ayrshire's Built Environment through Creative Response
11:40-12:00	OT03 Holley McCoy The Kelp Industry in Tiree 1863 - 1932: Edward Cortis-Stanford, Iodine and the Tirsidich
12:00-12:10	Session Q&A
12:10-12:20	Historic Environment Scotland speaker
12:20-13:30	LUNCH
13:30-14:45	Session 2: Crossing Physical & Conceptual Borders
13:30-13:50	OT11 Riona McMorrow, Rebecca Jones & Lesley Macinnes The Antonine Wall: using a barrier to connect communities
13:50-14:10	OT16 Russell Ó Riagáin Thinking beyond cultures and establishing the outsider in northern Britain, past and present
14:10-14:30	OT18 Scott McCreadie Encountering sacred landscapes: Viking Age Christianity in Scandinavian Scotland
14:30-14:45	Session Q&A
14:45-15:00	TEA BREAK



Programme

Day 1 continued

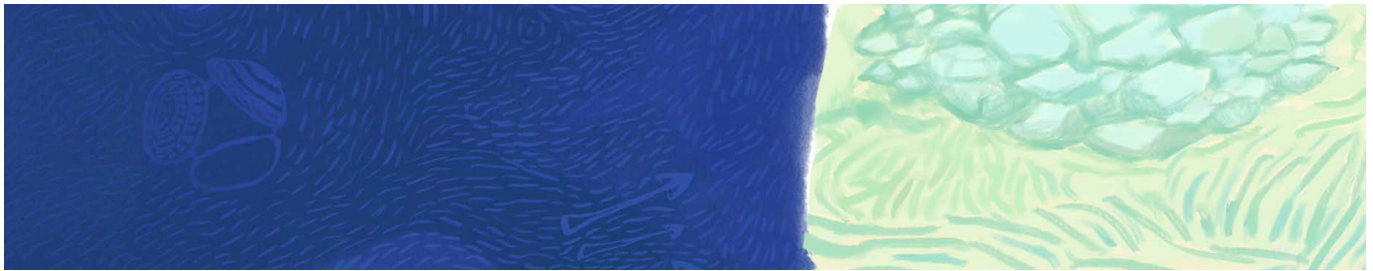
15:00-15:30	Poster Session
	Edward Stewart, Claire Gilmour, Sara Gillespie, Michael Bowry, Douglas MacMillan
15:30-16:45	Session 3: Reimagining Archaeological Method 1
15:30-15:50	OT01 Alla Kurzenkova The impact of the war in Ukraine on scientific and rescue excavations in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone: problems, and prospects considering the Scottish experience of preservation and monitoring of early medieval archaeological sites
15:50-16:10	OT04 Aileen Ogilvie Excavating Voices of the Past, Present & Future
16:10-16:30	OT09 Abigail Ford Sifting Through the Sources: Elfshot and the Material Practice of Magic in Archaeological Grey Literature
16:30-16:45	Session Q&A



Programme

Day 2

09:30-10:00	Doors Open
10:00-11:15	Session 4: Breaking Down Barriers
10:00-10:20	OT07 Sally Pentecost & Julianne McGraw Collaborating with Creatives to make Archaeology More Accessible
10:20-10:40	OT05 Evelin Erós Enhancing Accessible Archaeology: Exploring 3D Scanning and Printing for Inclusive Heritage Preservation and Education
10:40-11:00	OT14 Emily Gal & Rebecca Rennell Uist Unearthed: Digital approaches to widening participation in archaeology
11:00-11:15	Session Q&A
11:15-11:30	TEA BREAK
11:30-13:30	Session 5: Archaeological Community Today 1
11:30-11:50	OT10 Amanda Simpson & Mike Bowry Community-based learning partnership: a model for sustainable management of built 'hidden' heritage assets?
11:50-12:10	OT13 Katie O'Connell Invisible Contractors in Developer-led Archaeology
12:10-12:30	OT17 Ed Archer How Archaeological Societies can adapt to the 21st century
12:30-12:45	Session Q&A
12:45-14:00	LUNCH



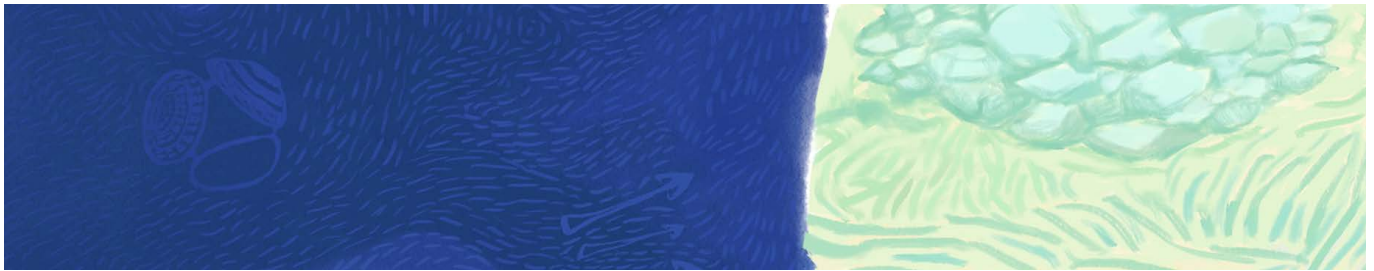
Programme

Day 2 continued

14:00-15:15	Session 5: Archaeological Community Today 2
14:00-14:20	OT06 Emily Johnston Examining Community Archaeology in Scotland Today
14:20-14:40	OT08 Karl Wennerberg How engaging is archaeology? Quality of engagement in different types of community archaeology
14:40-15:00	OT19 Jane Miller Scotland's Archaeology Strategy: Aim(ing) 4 Greater Engagement
15:00-15:15	Session Q&A
15:15-15:30	TEA BREAK
15:30-16:20	Session 6: Reimagining Archaeological Method 2
15:30-15:50	OT12 Jenny Pape & Thomas Megaw Connecting Collections at Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums
15:50-16:10	OT15 Abeer Eladany & William Risk Censer, Girdle or Treasure: A silver chain from the collection of the University of Aberdeen Museums and Special Collections
16:10-16:20	Session Q&A
16:20-16:30	Closing



Abstracts



OT02

National Galleries of Scotland 'Create Dangerously: Resist'- Exploring the Slave Trade Legacy of Ayrshire's Built Environment through Creative Responses.

Ailbhe Turley

National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Abstract

Can art inspire change in your local community?

This NGS engagement project explored legacies of the Transatlantic slave trade in Ayrshire's built environment, with RecoveryAyr (local grassroots drugs/alcohol recovery group). Inspired by artist Alberta Whittle's 'Create Dangerously' exhibition, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, it tackled the untold history behind Oswald's Temple, a folly on the Auchincruive Estate.

With themes of anti-racism, it explored how built environment and place can hold hidden histories.

Oswald's Temple reads on Canmore as "modelled on the mausoleum of the Emperor Theodoric at Ravenna..an exceptionally fine tea pavilion". Richard Oswald is described as "entrepreneur and merchant", dubbed 'the peacemaker' due to his role as British peace commissioner.

Information less available - Oswald was a prolific Scottish slave trader, owner of Bunce Island, largest British slave castle on the Rice Coast.

This is the story untold.

Oswald

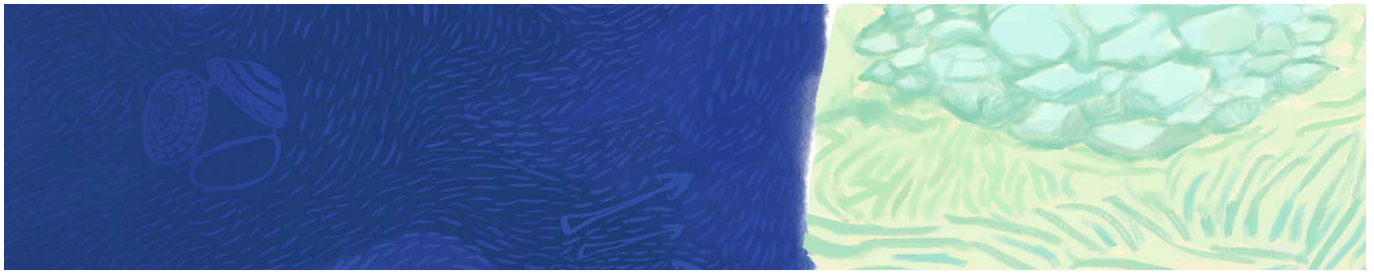
acquired Bunce Island in 1748.

bought Auchincruive in 1764.

built Oswald's Temple in 1778.

Tens of thousands of Africans shipped from Bunce to North American colonies are the ancestors of many African Americans today. Oswald's fortune and Temple were built from horrific slave trade profits.

Responding to Whittle's call to action to create dangerously and invest in love, participants were empowered to use their artistic voices: creating works confronting uncomfortable histories, raising awareness in their local community of Ayrshire's connection to Bunce Island. They explored how art can be used as a means of resistance – inspiring hope for a more compassionate future.



OT03

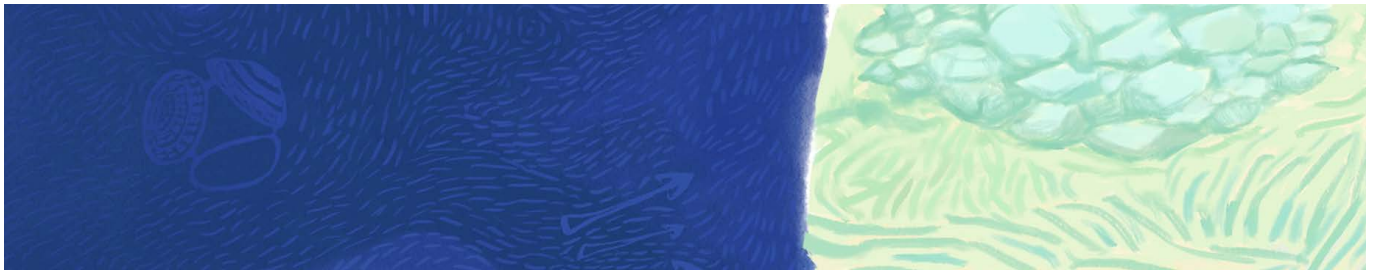
The Kelp Industry in Tiree 1863 – 1932: Edward Cortis-Stanford, Iodine and the Tirisdich

Holley McCoy

University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom; Historic Environment Scotland, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Abstract

Tiree, like many of the Hebridean islands, produced the calcined ashes of seaweed (or kelp) for alkali extraction in the latter half of the 18th century to 1830. Kelp provided a vital chemical to early industries such as glass and soap-making. After the collapse of the industry in the 1830s, the kelp industry had another revival - iodine. Iodine, discovered in 1811, is used in pharmaceuticals, disinfectants, printing inks and dyes, dietary supplements, and photographic chemicals. Edward Charles Cortis-Stanford was an early pioneer in photography and a research chemist. George Douglas Campbell, the 8th Duke of Argyll, invited Stanford to Tiree to develop seaweed for iodine production. It was in Tiree that Stanford opened The Glassary, his iodine factory, at Middleton where he developed new techniques for extracting iodine from *laminaria digitata*, or tangles. Despite the support from the Duke, setting up operations in Tiree came with its own challenges: reliance on the sea for transport and its cost, the lack of a bank on the island and initial resistance from the Tiree folk (Tirisdich). This paper aims to look at the impact of this industry on the island - environmentally, sociologically, and economically from 1863 to 1932. This will be done by examining archaeological remains associated with the iodine industry such as kelp kilns, drying walls, the kelp shed and the factory ruins along with the oral histories recorded by Eric Cregeen, and various archival documents from An Iodhlann Heritage Centre, the Stanford Papers, and the Argyll Estate.



OT11

The Antonine Wall: using a barrier to connect communities

Riona McMorrow¹, Rebecca Jones², Lesley Macinnes³

¹ Historic Environment Scotland, Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

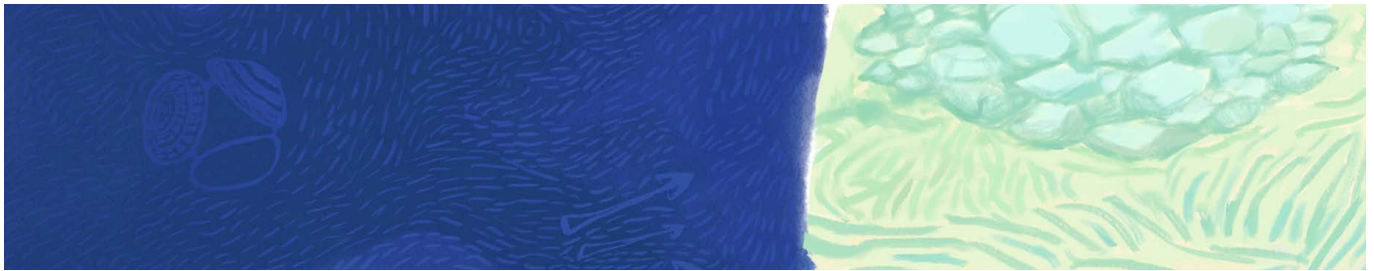
² Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

³ Independent Researcher, Stirling, United Kingdom

Abstract

The Antonine Wall was Rome's north-west frontier for a generation in the mid-2nd century. Surviving iconography presents the all-conquering Roman forces; research tells us something about the lives of the Roman communities at the time. Almost 2,000 years later, archaeologists are using the Wall's status as a World Heritage property (part of a multi-national site) to connect communities and tell more diverse histories, bringing the monument to a relevance to its contemporary population.

This paper will present three aspects of work on the Wall: i) the Rediscovering the Antonine Wall project, an award-winning initiative to increase awareness of the monument within local communities and use it to connect the diverse population now living along the Wall's 40 mile corridor, exploring creative and educational opportunities to work with different groups, from young children to the elderly with mobility challenges, from new refugee communities to long established former industrial villages; ii) the connection of the Wall to communities around the perimeter of the Roman Empire, from Scotland to Romania, the middle east and north Africa and the ways in which international cooperation can help a range of interpretations of our shared past; iii) the importance of research for the management and presentation of information on the Wall, including the newly created Research Agenda (available through ScARF).



OT16

Thinking beyond cultures and establishing the outsider in northern Britain, past and present

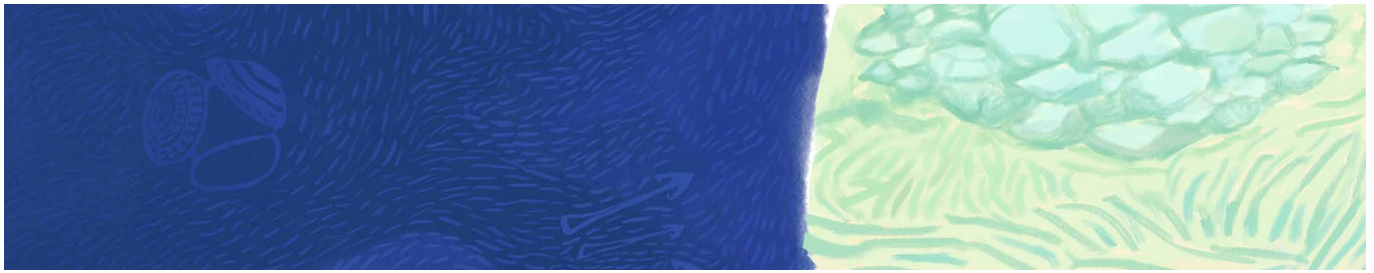
Russell Ó Riagáin

University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

Abstract

This paper will take up the reins from Elias's application of insider-outsider relations to academia to think about how longer-established disciplines, particularly historiography, have shaped the interpretation of the past in northern Britain, by shaping the parameters of both academic and popular discourse on the past. The paper will then consider how scholars from Scotland's established speech-communities have detextualised several words from other languages and (mis)applied them to classify archaeological monuments, with little consideration of the useful semantics of those terms within their speech-community of origin. The approach is also useful for thinking about the problematic colonialist term 'prehistory', an insider term that sets humans living in different forms of social structure as somehow outside time.

Having done that, the paper will combine Elias's critique of the existence of closed individuals and social groups, Mann's critique on the existence of societies in the plural, and the lessons of the transcultural perspective, which has taught us to set aside the notion of closed cultures somehow existing separately from one another in the human past and present. Such thinking should be familiar to archaeologists, especially considering the critique of the culture-historical association of pots with people. However, it might be asked if we have ever managed to move beyond this sort of thinking, especially seeing as it is also the foundation upon which post-colonial thought is based', and scholarly literature continues to be full of terms like 'Pictish culture', 'Viking culture' or 'Scottish culture'.



OT18

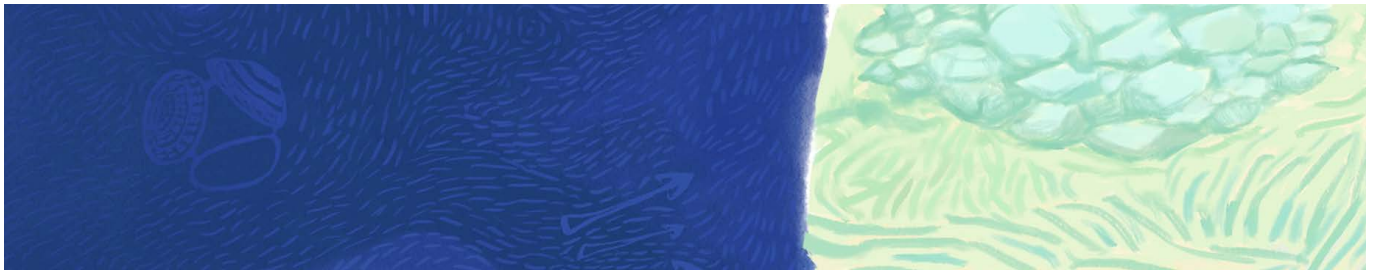
Encountering sacred landscapes: Viking Age Christianity in Scandinavian Scotland

Scott McCreadie

University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Abstract

This paper will explore aspects of native/Norse interaction in Viking Age and Late Norse Scandinavian Scotland, particularly the nature of Norse Christianisation and conversion in these areas. This will form the preliminary findings of my PhD research, including three seasons of fieldwork, which has examined the processes and methods of the Christianisation of the incoming Norse to Shetland, Orkney, and the Outer Hebrides during the Viking Age. It is clear that the arriving Norse encountered and engaged with rich Christian landscapes in these regions, though the nature and extent of this interaction appears to differ significantly between each study area. This research focusses on the role of chapel sites, and associated ecclesiastical sculpture, within these landscapes during both the initial phase of Norse settlement and the subsequent expression of Norse Christianity. Key sites will be used as case studies to demonstrate the persistence of Christianity through the Viking Age, notably in Shetland, which will challenge the traditional narrative of a wave of pagan Norse land-taking that extinguishes Christianity in these islands.



OT01

The Impact of the War in Ukraine on Scientific and Rescue Excavations in The Chernobyl Exclusion Zone: Problems, and Prospects Considering the Scottish Experience of Preservation and Monitoring of Early Medieval Archaeological Sites

Alla Kurzenkova

University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

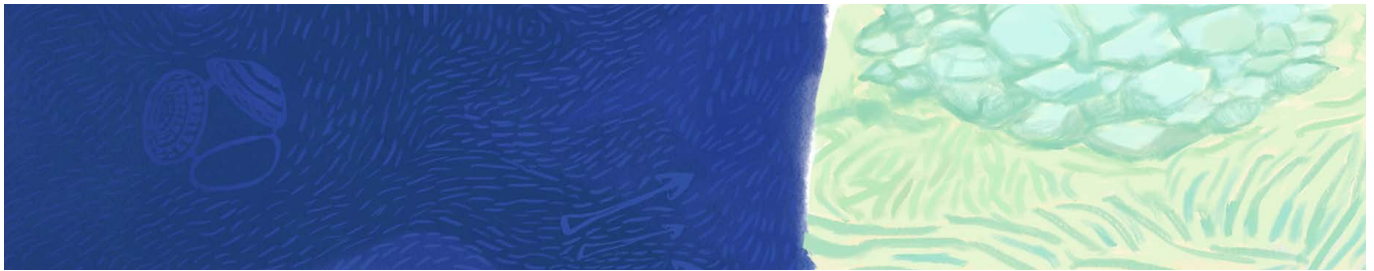
Abstract

The Chernobyl Exclusion Zone (CEZ) is under discussion because it has broad sets of medieval archaeological sites (Rus, Lithuanian period) that are affected by the full-scale war in Ukraine. The archaeological potential of the ancient settlements of Chernobyl is ideally suited for examining the complete reconstruction of the history of the Rus in the light of medieval state formation. The preservation of cultural heritage in the context of the war in the CEZ is essential for insight into what approaches might be implemented after the end of the war. I would also like to consider the relevance of the archaeological experience from Scotland regarding access, preservation, and monitoring of early medieval archaeological sites.

This paper will introduce the early medieval archaeology of the CEZ and consider three main issues:

- Access to archaeological sites: mines, forest fires, remoteness
- Survival of archaeological sites: the impact of the war on the monitoring of areas in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone and the potential relevance of the Scottish experience (for example, the Scottish catalogue of the National Record of the Historic Environment).
- Challenges for further excavation: demining, surface survey methods, human potential of qualified archaeologists.

This discussion will assess how the material culture of the CEZ is being affected by the war and emphasizes the potential importance of the Scottish experience in the future recording and preservation of early medieval sites.



OT04

Excavating Voices of the Past, Present & Future

Aileen Ogilvie

University of The Highlands & Islands, Orkney, United Kingdom

Abstract

Lichen covered light grey markers of the past form part of the earth's vast archive (Nichols 2022), at first glance their original reddish-brown appearance is as hidden from view as the intangible things experienced by place over time. Landscapes are traversed as much by stories as they are by footsteps (Dean & Millar 2005), but how do we uncover the many voices that contribute to the complex biographies of places?

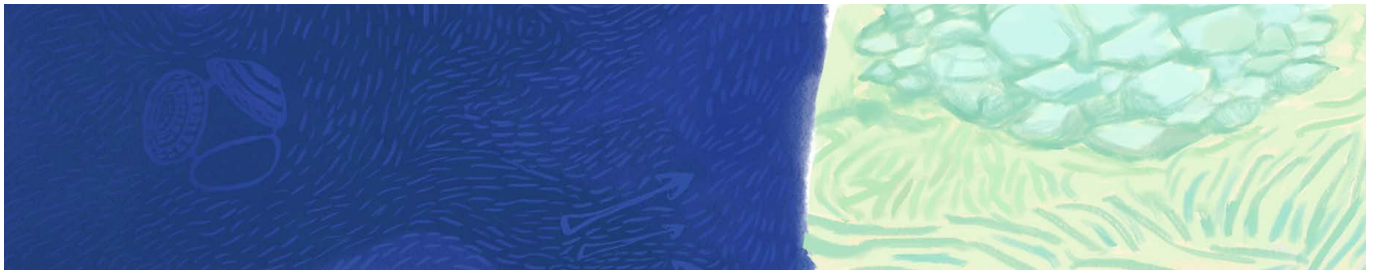
This paper will discuss the process of Croft No.4: An Aural Biography of Place, a creative practice-led contemporary art and archaeology project focused on excavating the sounds one place has experienced over time. Using a combined methodological approach, it explores how learning with the landscape can uncover both human and non-human sound interactions with place. It also demonstrates how qualitative research gathered can inform creative responses to place and contribute to the interpretation and reimagining of place. The paper will be accompanied by fragments of a sonic artefact produced during this research.

The sonic artefact can be listened to at the following link:-

https://soundcloud.com/croftno4-aabop/dt-part-2/s-7D7sU0B8ljp?si=6a2fd0aaf9744f658008560dcb72bff2&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

Dean, T & Millar, J. (2005) Place. London:Thames & Hudson.

Nichols, B. (2022) ECHTRAI JOURNAL OVERVIEW & SUBMISSION GUIDELINES [online]. Available from [28 Dec 2022]



OT09

Sifting Through the Sources: Elfshot and the Material Practice of Magic in Archaeological Grey Literature

Abigail Ford

University of Leicester, Leicester, United Kingdom

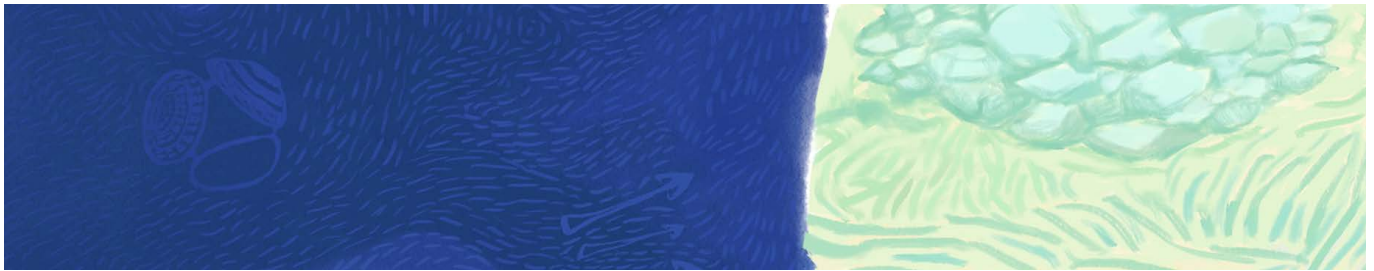
Abstract

The focus of this paper is to consider variation in how finds are recorded and interpreted, and how commercially collected data makes a strong resource for broad survey and re-evaluation.

My doctoral project *Hallowed Objects: the boundaries between magic and religion in Scotland c. AD 1400-1700* seeks to evaluate the archaeological evidence of magical practice in late medieval and early modern Scotland, using commercial excavation data accessible through the Archaeological Data Service's grey literature database. This has involved re-evaluating some traditional academic approaches and conceptions of archaeological data, and efforts to incorporate multi-disciplinary, multi-source strategies.

Using a case study of elfshot - one of the names given to prehistoric lithics when found in pre-modern Scotland and elsewhere, which were commonly interpreted as weapons used and left behind by supernatural beings - I will discuss examples of prehistoric lithics that have been recorded during commercial excavations in recent years and their agency in shaping human beliefs and emotions through the popular practices of a Christian society.

The aim of this paper is to further explore our understanding of these finds and how they are recorded and interpreted in the processes of commercial data collecting. More broadly, I will consider the ways in which further evaluation of this data can contribute to supporting and building new connections between academic, commercial, and public archaeology, and to raise some questions about how we can rethink traditional boundaries of differentiation between these 'sectors'.



OT07

Collaborating with Creatives to Make Archaeology More Accessible

Sally Pentecost & Julianne McGraw

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (Dig It!), Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Abstract

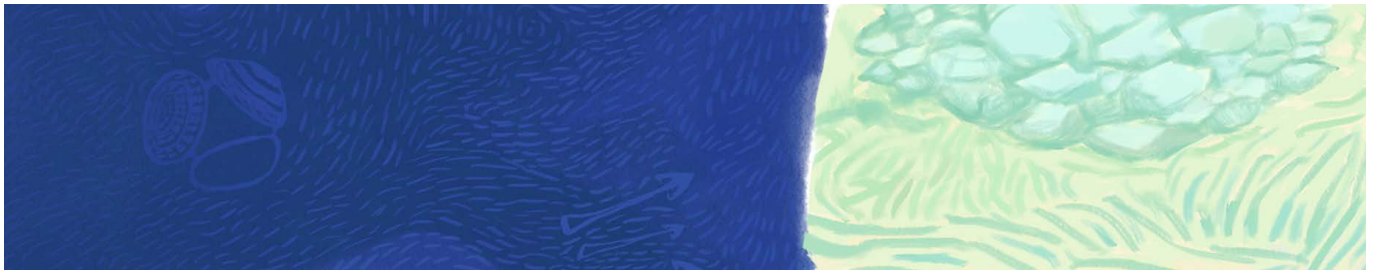
Since 2019, the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland's Dig It! project has commissioned a tattoo artist, storyteller, spoken word artist, designers, illustrators, and photographers to lead on innovative approaches to presenting Scotland's archaeological stories.

In 2021, for example, the team commissioned spoken word artist and performer Mae Diansangu to produce a poem in Doric inspired by a site investigated by the Can You Dig It community archaeology program. One year later, Dig It! commissioned non-binary artist Jem Milton to explore connections between folklore and archaeology by depicting the journey of a trans-femme selkie, inspired by a pendant uncovered at the Knowe of Swandro.

From the outset, these creative initiatives were designed to challenge pre-conceptions and forefront marginalised voices with the aim of making archaeology more accessible to the wider community and breaking down barriers to engagement.

Sally Pentecost FSAScot, Dig It! Communications & Events Officer, will share examples of Dig It!'s creative commissions, which involved working with Scotland's academic and community sectors, along with suggestions for best practice when it comes to making content inclusive and accessible.

Sally and Julianne will also talk about the unexpected intangible benefits that these creatives brought to Dig It! and to the archaeologists involved in the development of the work.



OT05

Enhancing Accessible Archaeology: Exploring 3D Scanning and Printing for Inclusive Heritage Preservation and Education

Evelin Erős

The Rocket Group Ltd., Dundee, United Kingdom

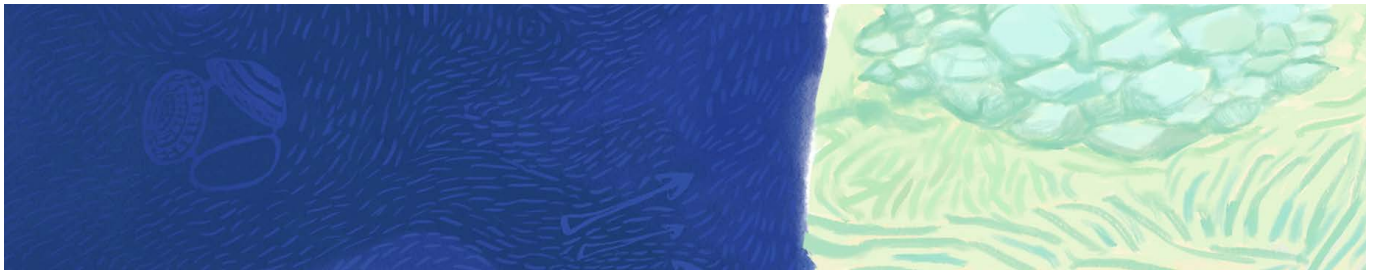
Abstract

This session has two objectives. Firstly, I explore the transformative potential of 3D scanning and printing in archaeology, focusing on innovative practices and approaches in the historic environment sector. Emphasising inclusivity, the session explores how these technologies can enable individuals with learning difficulties and disabilities to access archaeological artifacts. Through 3D scanning, high-resolution digital replicas can be created, allowing for tactile exploration and interactive learning experiences.

Secondly, I examine the diverse range of materials that can be used in the 3D printing process to recreate precise copies of original objects. Attendees will gain insights into the challenges and considerations involved in selecting appropriate materials to ensure the preservation of replicas' fidelity, durability, and aesthetic qualities, thus maintaining the integrity and historical significance of the original artifacts.

The session will demonstrate the transformative potential that these technologies possess for making archaeology more inclusive, engaging, and accessible for diverse audiences. To that end, an open discussion welcomes participants who wish to share their experiences, exchange ideas, and identify solutions to obstacles encountered when deploying 3D scanning and printing in archaeology.

Join us for this thought-provoking session, as we revolutionise the field of archaeology through 3D scanning and printing, and reshape the study, preservation, and presentation of our cultural heritage.



OT14

Uist Unearthed: Digital approaches to widening participation in archaeology

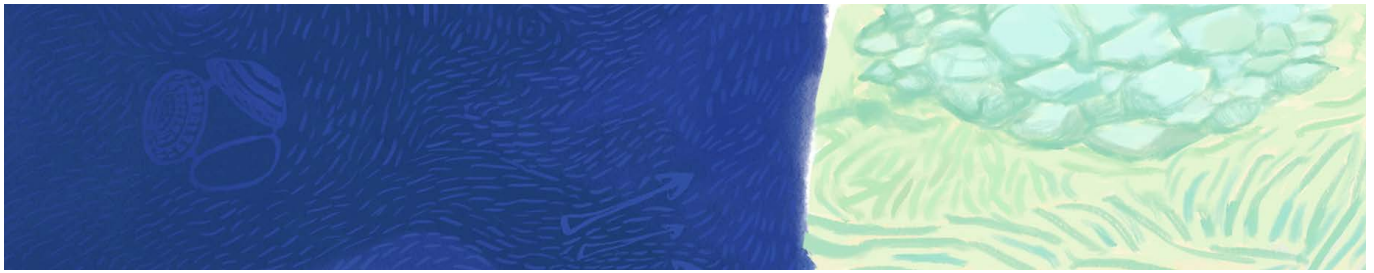
Emily Gal, Rebecca Rennell

UHI North, West and Hebrides/UHI Archaeology Institute, South Uist, United Kingdom

Abstract

The archaeology of Uist in the Outer Hebrides is internationally significant, generating an extensive body of academic research and publication. However, historically there have been several challenges when it comes to effectively communicating this archaeology and its significance to a wider audience. A combination of minimal or damaged on-site interpretation compounded by few upstanding remains, a lack of diverse audiences, and nominal use of Gaelic language ensured that Uist's rich heritage resources were relatively poorly understood by our diverse communities and visitors.

The award-winning Uist Virtual Archaeology Project (2020-2023) sought to deliver innovative digital routes into Uist's rich heritage and to raise awareness of the islands' unique heritage assets to wider and more diverse audiences. We created the Uist Unearthed app, which contains location-triggered augmented reality reconstructions of five archaeological sites along the Hebridean Way in Uist. The app is complemented by multimedia exhibition which has been displayed across the Outer Hebrides and further afield. By co-creating digital assets with schools and community groups and exploring bilingual multimedia presentations of archaeological data, the project has successfully brought heritage information and resources to Uist's harder to reach audiences: local children, young people, and families. This paper will highlight key achievements of this recently completed project, while reflecting on evaluation data and key lessons learned.



OT10

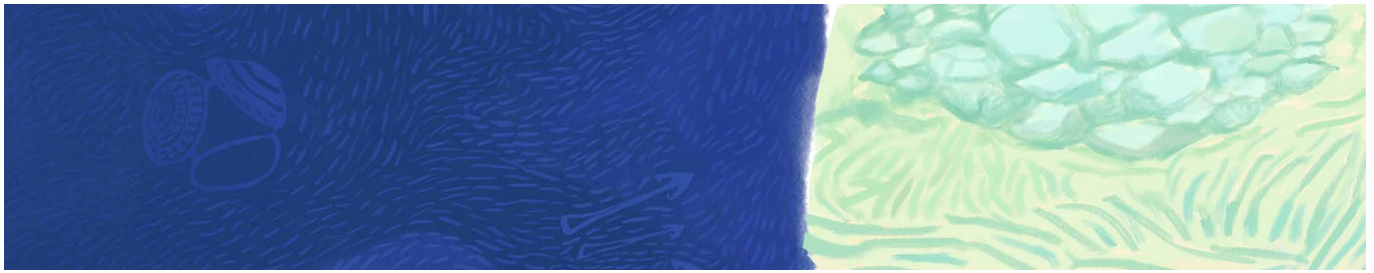
Community-based learning partnership: a model for sustainable management of built 'hidden' heritage assets?

Amanda Simpson, Mike Bowry

University of the West of Scotland, Paisley, United Kingdom

Abstract

Community-based archaeology typically incorporates partnerships between local communities and archaeologists. This provides local people with opportunities to get involved in discovering and re-discovering past histories of people and place, and offers potential benefits to the individual; including, but not limited to, improved well-being and skills development. Inspired, in part, by Scotland's Archaeology Strategy, in particular Aims 4 (Encouraging Greater Engagement) and 5 (Innovation & Skills), we present a case study of a community-based learning partnership at Ardrossan Castle between University of the West of Scotland researchers Dr Amanda Simpson (Psychology) and Dr Mike Bowry (Nuclear Physics), and local volunteers from Ardrossan Castle Heritage Society and North Ayrshire Council's Heritage and Cultural Service. The partnership aims to improve the capacity of local heritage organisations via opportunities to develop scientific and digital literacies and skills that may be useful in their efforts to understand, preserve and connect to the historic environment. Exploring the question of whether thermal-infrared imaging can be used to discern between different building materials and phases of construction, community volunteers collected thermal and digital images at Ardrossan Castle which were processed, and data compared with pre-existing surveys of the site. Volunteers also participated in onsite interviews and a focus group. Our presentation will consider the findings from the thermal data alongside exploration of community volunteers' expectations, aspirations and evaluation of the partnership model and potential as a data-driven predictive maintenance approach to the management and preservation of small and 'hidden' historic sites in Scotland.



OT13

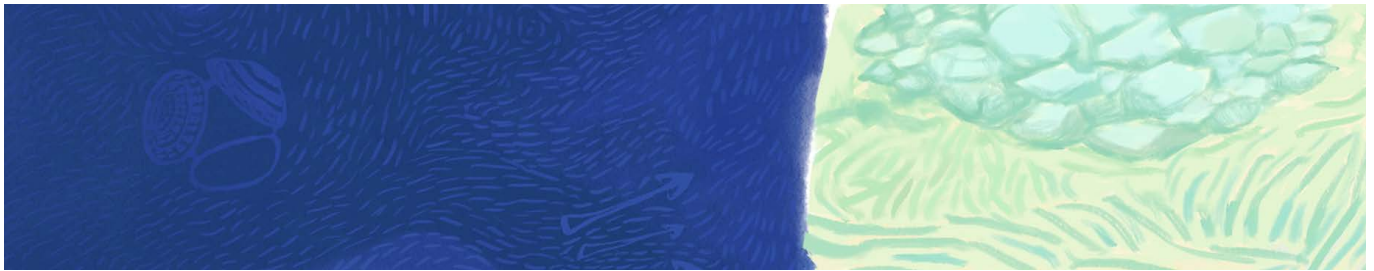
Invisible Contractors in Developer-led Archaeology

Katie O'Connell

AOC Archaeology, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Abstract

Developer-led archaeology is vitally integrated with construction. Whatever the scale of the project, the majority of programmes involve contractors whether that is a single plant operator, a group of operators, or we are working within an ongoing construction site. During monitoring works, we work side-by-side with the construction team from site managers and engineers to the labourers on the ground. Communication, enthusiasm and a positive attitude when working with these teams can greatly affect the success of an archaeological project. A skilled plant operator is indispensable; not only directly affecting the archaeology itself but budgets and timelines of a project. Yet these are participants in archaeological projects that are rarely officially acknowledged. Furthermore, when looking for audiences with whom to engage, we are often focused on looking locally but beyond the site boundaries. Should we be more deliberate about engagement with our colleagues in construction? How can we acknowledge their role in the creation of archaeological narratives?



OT17

How Archaeological Societies can adapt to the 21st century

Ed Archer

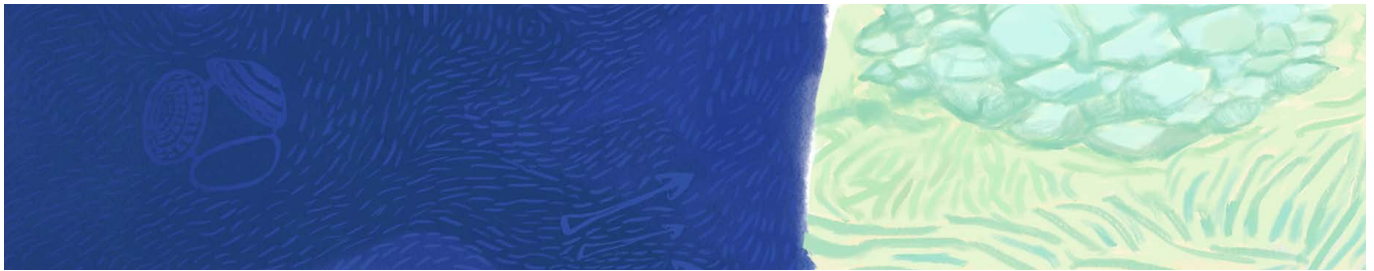
Lanark and District Archaeological Society, Lanark, United Kingdom

Abstract

The narrative will cover the period that I have been involved in Archaeology in Scotland. The period 1973-1999 will cover how I broke down the barriers with both the public and local authority. It was then that I found just how valuable Education and Extra Mural lectures were to spread an interest in Archaeology. It was also at this time that I started an association with the local press that I have maintained to today.

In 1999 I did two excavations Lanark Greyfriars and St Nicholas Lanark. It was at this time I found that working both with Local Authority and other professional groups was becoming more difficult. The political climate of cooperative working was disappearing. At this time we left the excavation work to the late Tam Ward and the Biggar Archaeological Group.

The last part of my presentation shows how the Archaeological Society has entered the world of publication with the greatest success being Clydesdale's Heritage. However the Society has benefited over the past six years from establishing a presence on Facebook with 4500 followers and an Internet site. We have made very good use of this site and have adapted new ideas such as the use of LIDAR images. It is also in the past ten years that we have improved our links with Archaeology Scotland and the Clyde and Avon Landscape Project.



OT06

Examining Community Archaeology in Scotland Today

Emily Johnston

The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

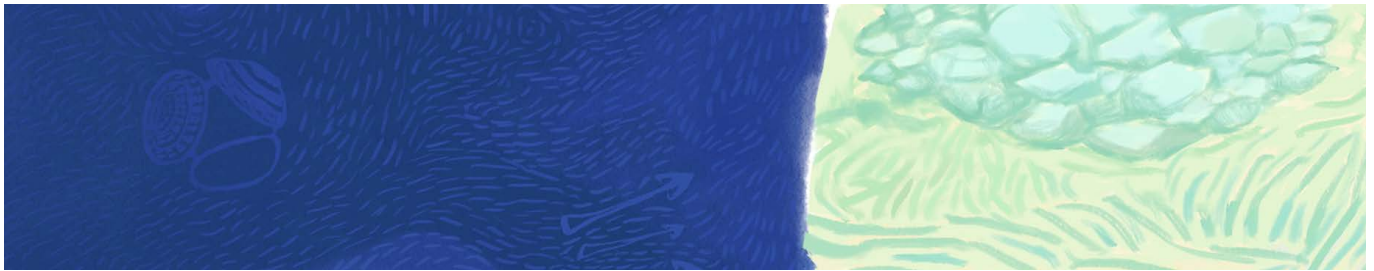
Abstract

Although there is a breadth of community archaeology activities across Scotland, there is a lack of literature interrogating community archaeology in a Scottish context. This presentation will examine the current state of community archaeology in Scotland, drawing upon research which forms my doctoral thesis.

Current national and international goals for the historic environment place an emphasis on community engagement; within Scotland, strategies encourage wider participation for both the commercial and wider archaeology sector. In practice, there are variations in the uptake of community engagement, depending on setting, region and organiser. This presentation will explore data collected as part of my doctoral research on community archaeology practices for the past 20 years. By highlighting trends in the data, it is possible to discern regional patterns, yearly trends and key outputs of projects. As a result, it is possible to gain a clearer image of community archaeology in Scotland today.

Additionally, this presentation will highlight the work of my doctoral research, in creating a framework for community engagement for development-led archaeology. My framework shows awareness of value to different stakeholders, and provides a theory-driven approach to the practice of archaeological outreach. This will highlight innovative approaches towards increasing participation in archaeology and widening audiences of development-led archaeology.

Overall, this presentation highlights the need for reflexive practices and standardisation in reporting, which will contribute to discussions of current practices. Combining analysis of the current state and theory driven research, it becomes possible to develop future practices across the archaeology sector as a whole.



OT08

How engaging is archaeology? Quality of engagement in different types of community archaeology.

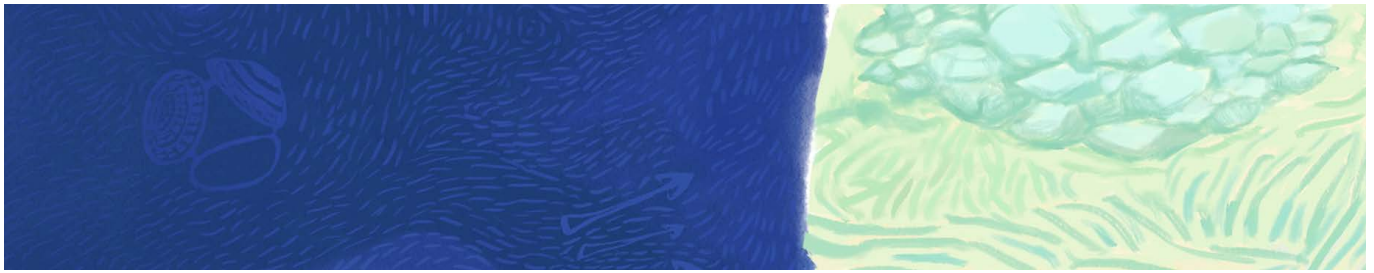
Karl Wennerberg

Independent researcher, Aberdeen/Nottingham, United Kingdom

Abstract

This study investigates what makes community engagement in archaeology successful and how project structure influences success of engagement. The project aims to answer this question through the results of qualitative interviews with both professional and volunteer stakeholders in community archaeology. The study also investigates the suitability and implications of the concepts of 'community' and 'community archaeology'. The research project shows that the success of community engagement in archaeology depends mainly on the suitability of the goals set out for the project, rather than on specific structural elements such as funding, timeframes, and hierarchies.

Furthermore, these goals need to be centred around the community that the project is aiming to engage. Through questioning how project structure influences quality of engagement, the study elaborates on the existing discussion about hierarchy in discourse about community archaeology, where 'bottom-up' projects are often favoured over 'top-down' projects. While a weariness towards imposing unnecessary top-down hierarchy is healthy for any project, the study shows that the distinction between projects based on the concepts of 'top-down' and 'bottom-up', and especially favouring the latter, is unhelpful and could potentially contribute to further inaccessibility of community archaeology to certain communities. In discussing these themes, it is argued that by favouring such bottom-up projects over professionally initiated projects we risk limiting community archaeology to areas and communities that have pre-established archaeology and history societies. Furthermore, it is argued that community archaeology could benefit from a more nuanced and critical understanding of hierarchy, leaving behind the concepts of 'top-down' and 'bottom-up'.



OT19

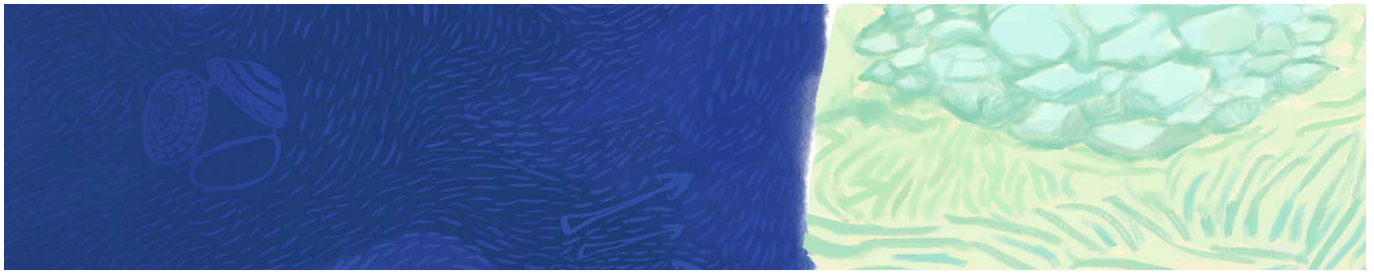
Scotland's Archaeology Strategy: Aim(ing) 4 Greater Engagement

Jane Miller

Archaeology Scotland

Abstract

What has the delivery of Aim 4 achieved to date and how can we work in partnership across the sector, and beyond, to encourage greater engagement? And is encouraging greater engagement enough?



OT12

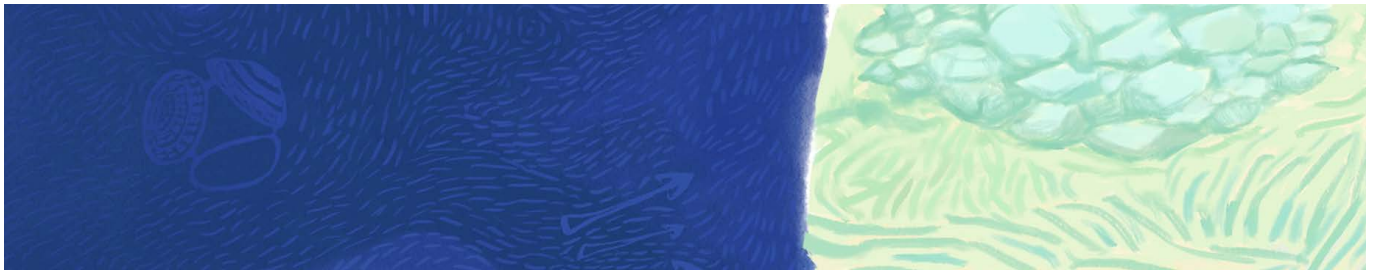
Connecting Collections at Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums

Jenny Pape, Thomas Megaw

Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums, Aberdeen,
United Kingdom

Abstract

Making connections between archaeological sites and excavated material can be extremely difficult. At Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums, we have launched a new project to improve the overall documentation of the archaeology collection and ensure that all information is clear and publicly accessible. We have enhanced the 'Sites' feature on our collections management system to help the public and researchers connect the finds in our collections with their contexts and give a comprehensive overview of the city of Aberdeen's archaeological heritage. This paper will present the work that the team has undertaken to link our collections to their excavation sites. The information listed in 'Sites' was historically inconsistent, as a result, this potentially important means of connecting objects to their find locations was underused. To redress this challenge, we have revisited 'Sites' and developed it to present an overview of the site alongside the full catalogue of related finds. The primary outcome of this stage of the project is to promote the Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums collection and provide an accessible resource to the archaeological community.



OT15

Censer, Girdle or Treasure: A silver chain from the collection of the University of Aberdeen Museums and Special Collections

Abeer Eladany, William Risk

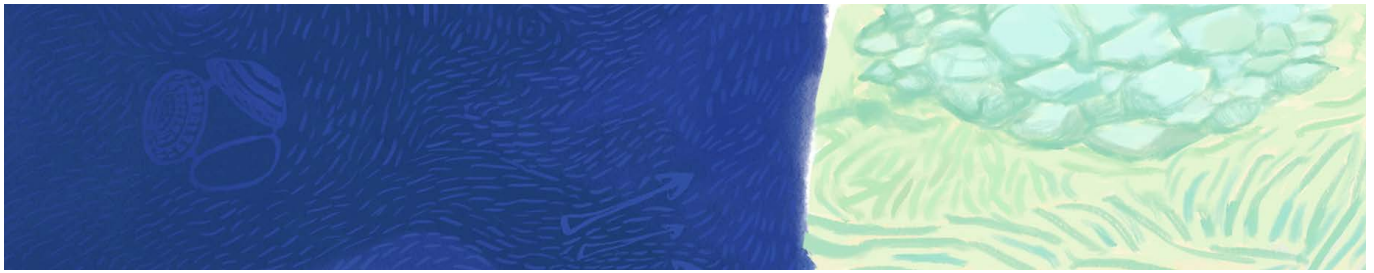
University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, United Kingdom

Abstract

This paper will discuss the recent research into the history of what has been recorded as a silver chain (ABDUA:17625) that was found under the flooring of the old library in Marischal College in 1735. The chain was described by John Alexander Smith in 1872 as “Silver square-sided Chain with Gilt Ornaments”. Smith suggested that it is possible that the chain was made in Spain, but no confirmed manufacturing centre has been determined with any certainty.

This paper will discuss the history of the chain since its discovery, how it was recorded in different museum catalogues and where it was displayed. A comparison with one similar artefact, Midside Maggie’s Girdle, which is now housed at the National Museum of Scotland and was made by Adam Allan of Edinburgh between 1608 – 1610.

The research will highlight the results of the XRF analysis that was conducted to determine the purity of the silver in the hope that this would suggest a manufacturing centre, most probably in Europe (based on the silver mark).



PO01

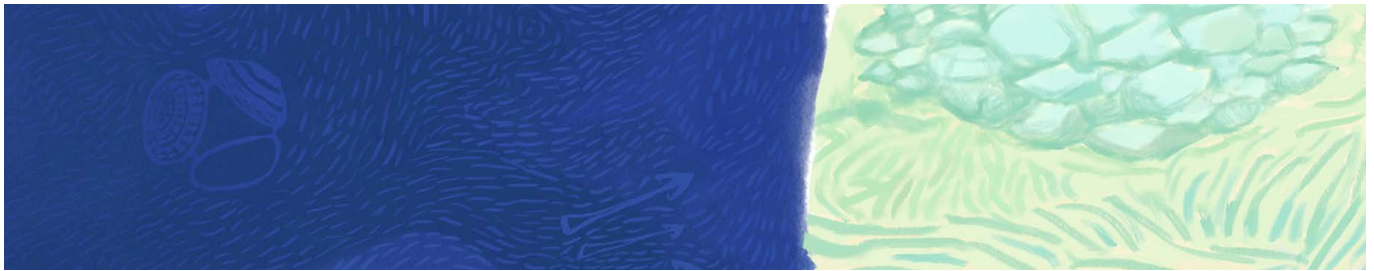
Setting Fire to the Sea: An assessment of cremation thermal intensity with fucus seaweed

Sara Gillespie

University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, United Kingdom

Abstract

Studies on cremation and associated mortuary practices often fail to connect to scientific experimental studies of pyre technology and thermally induced modification. This study reimagines archaeological methods to bridge this gap with an experimental approach to understanding the nuances of how the body burns in a cremation and the impact of seaweed on thermal intensity. Taking a broader look at the role of seaweed in archaeology and cremation practices in North Scotland, the results of this study are applied to enhance our understanding of the production and purpose of cramp in cremation and death, assessing the two schools of thought: intentional cramp production for collecting small bone fragments, or intentional use of seaweed as fuel and unintentional creation of cramp. From the results of this study a third consideration is included: intentional use of seaweed to prevent loss of liquified tissue from the cremation process contaminating the pyre site and preventing achievement of completeness in post-cremation burial. Following cremation, macroscopic changes to seaweed, sand and some bone changes were visually confirmed to indicate increased thermal modification when bones are cremated atop a bed of sand and seaweed. Not all aspects of thermal modification to bone could be confirmed however, nor were all results able to be verified through microscopic assessment with Raman spectroscopy. There is still much to be studied on archaeological cremations and cramp but this study has provided the foundation for further studies and encourages the ongoing application of Raman spectroscopy on cremated bone.



PO02

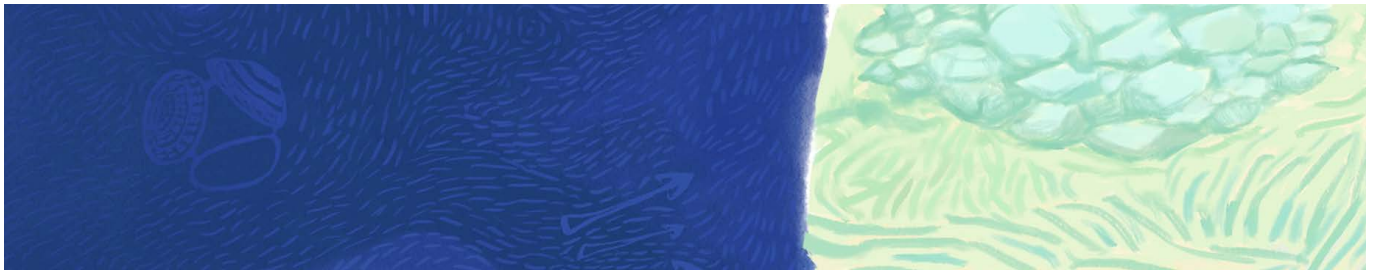
Thermal-infrared survey of Ardrossan Castle

Mike Bowry, Amanda Simpson

University of the West of Scotland, Paisley, United Kingdom

Abstract

Scotland's historic landscape includes many scheduled monuments and buildings, forming an irreplaceable contribution to the UK's cultural heritage. The stewardship of built heritage must involve efforts to both preserve and understand these assets for the benefit of future generations and necessitates a detailed knowledge of their structure and composition. It is critical that the methods used in these investigations are non-destructive and their aims considered in the context of the potential impact upon the integrity of the asset. In recent years, the accessibility of suitable non-destructive remote-sensing technologies has greatly improved and may empower stewardship at a local level. This is especially important in the case of local charities and governments which operate with limited resources. Access to academic and technical expertise is also essential to fully realise this approach. In the current work, thermal-infrared images were captured at Ardrossan Castle (North Ayrshire, Scotland) and used to create thermal maps of the exterior of the castle. The data are interpreted in terms of the micro-structure of historic lime mortars and the retention of moisture within the fabric of the castle. This presentation will focus on the scientific results of a pilot project undertaken by the University of the West of Scotland led by Dr Amanda Simpson (Lecturer in Psychology, School of Education and Social Sciences) in partnership with Ardrossan Castle Heritage Society and North Ayrshire Council's Heritage and Cultural Service.



PO03

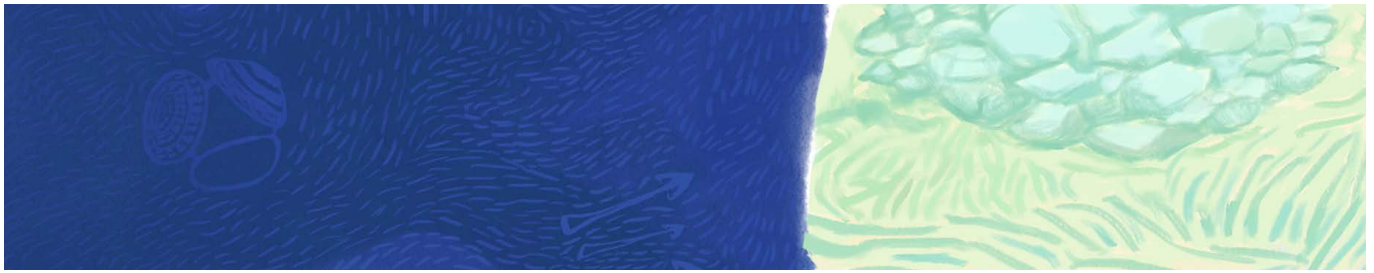
The chief among the milkmaids: Investigating the expression of chiefly power in the upland shieling landscapes of Glencoe

Edward Stewart

University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Abstract

The interpretation of shieling grounds in Scottish archaeology has often focused on the liminal, marginal and isolated nature of these female spaces in the early modern periods. The role of these locations as places of female education, empowerment and expression has been recognised. The supposed liminal nature of these landscapes in parts of the Highlands has brought about suggestions that they existed outwith the traditional controls and mores of society and placename and ethnographic evidence has been used to suggest a degree of sexual liberation and religious freedom was enjoyed by the shieling community. There has also been a recognition of the negotiation of male and female power in the uplands through such acts as the construction of the shielings, transplanting of the home fire embers, and specific foundational deposits, as well as the interaction produced through activities associated with men within the shieling landscape such as peat cutting, charcoal burning, forestry and hunting. This poster will explore the archaeology of a possible chiefly dwelling site, the so-called 'Summerhouse of Maclain', in Gleann Leac-na-Muidhe, Glencoe, in order to investigate the more explicit ways chiefly patriarchal power could be expressed within the upland landscape, and thus perhaps challenge the view that the shieling grounds and their community existed outside of these networks of power.



PO04

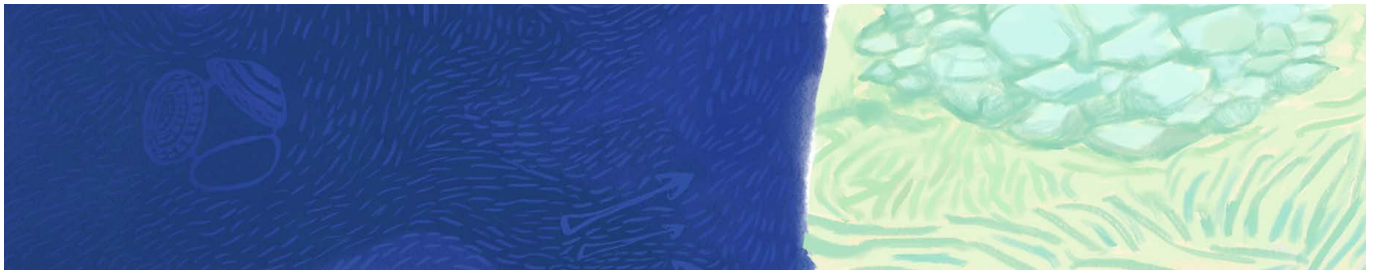
Using decision-making heuristics to understand the creation, persistence and adherence to narratives that have little demonstrable engagement with data.

Douglas MacMillan

University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom

Abstract

My research explores the interrelationship between geography, politics, anthropology and militarism during Roman incursions into Scotland in the 1st Century AD. Using learning and theory from a range of disciplines and a contemporary understanding of war (politics and spin) I use decision-making heuristics to understand the creation, persistence and adherence to narratives that have little demonstrable engagement with data. As a case study I will examine the contextualising narrative and evidence regarding the the Battle of Mons Graupis in AD83.



PO05

The emergence and impact of the study of Ancient Egypt in Scotland

Claire Isabella Gilmour

University of Bristol

Abstract

This research examines the impact of the emergence and development of the study of Ancient Egypt in Scotland, from early times down to 1990, following the first 'blockbuster' international exhibition of Egyptian material to be shown at a Scottish venue. It assesses the establishment of the field of Egyptology in relation to Scotland, and the paths it took in different areas. Inter-disciplinary research examines the formation and growth of public and private collections of Egyptian material in Scotland, and how discoveries made in Egypt were received by Scottish society. Patterns of collecting are examined to assess the impact of industry, travel, military activity, and academia, as well as major movements such as the Scottish Enlightenment. The establishment of museums and institutions such as the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and the Glasgow Egypt Society, and involvement in UK and international archaeological bodies, are considered alongside literary and artistic circles to analyse how Ancient Egypt has been presented and received in Scotland and the wider UK and Europe.