

EDINBURGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SOCIETY

News

Issue 176 – January 2010



Stop Press – Torcs exhibition ends 10 February



The four Iron Age solid gold torcs found by metal detectorist David Booth in Stirlingshire are currently on display at Hawthornden Court in the National Museum of Scotland, where they are on loan from the Crown, which owns them as treasure trove. The future location for the torcs is undecided, and this may represent the last opportunity to see them for some time. So if you have not already done so, make the trip to Chambers Street without delay!

Society lectures

The remaining lectures in the spring series are as follows:

Wednesday 10 February	Cara Jones <i>CFA Archaeology Ltd</i>	"Ardnamurchan Field Survey"
Tuesday 9 March	Dr John H. Reid <i>The Trimontium Trust</i>	"Newstead: Imperial Gateway to Roman Scotland"
Wednesday 14 April	Derek Hall <i>Freelance Archaeologist</i>	"Scottish Monastic Landscape"
Tuesday 11 May	Tam Ward <i>Biggar Archaeology Group</i>	"The Earliest People in Scotland"

AGM 2009

There was a respectable turn-out of members at the 2009 AGM on 9 December. Dr Hugh Dinwoodie retired from the Committee after more years than he cares to remember. Christine McPherson was elected to the vacancy.

Whither EAFS?

Dave Jones, a long-standing member and former chairman of the Society, invites us to examine the nature of the Society's future activities

At the turn of the decade, if you agree that January 2010 starts a new one, it is interesting to look back over the past and forward to the next decade. What will we be doing in ten years' time? Should we attempt to plan our activities well in advance – follow a particular theme – or is it better ((and easier) to sit back and wait for serendipitous happenings to drop some jewels into our laps?

The start of the last decade saw the completion of the long, in two senses of the word, dig at Cramond. It ran from just inside the north wall of the Roman Severan fort over 100m to the south wall of the bath house.

Early in 2003 we made the first area resistance survey, at Castlehill, Penicuik, followed immediately by excavation in Trench 1. It took a while to confirm that the Minister of Penicuik, writing his section of the First Statistical Account in 1795, was correct in comparing Castlehill with other Iron Age remains in the vicinity.

In parallel with the Penicuik excavation, which lasted for six years, we became more involved with geophysical surveys, on a wide variety of sites, at the invitation of a number of different organisations. There are currently twenty-four geophysical reports on file, and more to come.

Having completed the work at Penicuik, we do not now have an excavation that can be considered our own. Does it matter? Elsewhere in this issue, you will find a list of eleven prospective 2010 projects. In the coming months, we will be involved in digs with David Connolly at Cousland, and at churches at Old Pentland, Newton (Dalkeith) and Temple. In addition, it will be surprising if Geoff Bailey does not offer a Roman dig at Falkirk; and after a bit more geophysics, a dig at Gormyre Hill is a possibility. Is a mixture of different period sites more interesting than a single period Iron Age dig, like we had at Penicuik, with its very limited number of finds?

We have developed a reputation for geophysical surveys, boosted by the extra techniques which have come with the co-operation of Dr Peter Morris. This reputation is bringing in more requests for surveys and, as with Cousland and Gormyre, these often lead to further excavations. Unless we make a clear and different choice it looks as though our future path will be along the serendipity route. As long as that route continues to produce varied period and interesting projects, are we content to follow it?

Editorial note: What do you feel about the future direction of the Society? The Editor welcomes comments for publication in the next issue.

Likely projects for 2010

Newton Old Church: The church stands to the north of Dalkeith Park within sight of the A720 Edinburgh Bypass. The building remains were reported in DES 1995 when AOC (T Rees) removed rubble from within the church tower so that the foundation of the tower could be repaired. The original church and graveyard date from the 11th century. Geophysical survey is required before excavation can take place.

White Castle Fort: This fort occupies a steep-flanked promontory beside the road from Garvald to the Whiteadder Reservoir. David Connolly will run a survey and dig as a training project for students from 1 to 14 August, and we are invited to join. (For more on White Castle see RW Feachem *Guide to Prehistoric Scotland*).

Temple: The Knights Templar were at Temple from the mid 12th century until their suppression in 1312. The existing church probably dates from the 14th-15th centuries but earlier remains are believed to lie close by, conveniently under grass. There should be a church and cloister, probably overlain by a house that disappeared before the first OS maps were drawn. David Connolly wishes to see geophysical results before digging. A group from USA plus Dr Louise Yeoman will be involved.

Cousland Windmill Hill: Further survey is required to confirm that the circular early cemetery had a surrounding wall. Ground resistances to the north and west point to this likelihood.

Cousland Pottery: A curving brick foundation found in the 21 November 2009 dig confirms the kiln site shown in the geophysical surveys. After photographing and drawing it was backfilled and will be reopened for a "Big Dig" in September 2010.

Old Pentland Church: The excavation, based on our ground resistance survey, that found the curved apse of the church, will be reopened, it is hoped, to uncover the complete east end. The second resistance survey showed a similar feature to the south, and this will be excavated to see whether it is an earlier church.

Sunderland Cottages, nr Selkirk: We will return to the cottages and Sunderland Estate for two days after 28 March when BST begins. This should complete the surveys on both sides of the A707. We record our thanks to Borders Council for grant aid for this project.

Gormyre Hill: We found that the high resistances in the "castle" do not extend outside it, so they seem unlikely to be due to igneous glacial erratics. Further geophysical survey using other techniques would help identify features before possible excavation.

Cramond Fort: Identification of possible Antonine ditches south of the kennels would be helped by further resistive linear array measurements.

Cramond Linear Cropmarks 1 and 2: The field between Cramond and Silverknowes contains linear and curving cropmarks that John Lawson was keen to have geophysically surveyed. It is currently under cereal crop but could be available after the autumn harvest.

Castle Greg: We want to finish our survey at Castle Greg in the spring before vegetation growth makes it impracticable.

Vindolanda Report 2009

From Ian HcHaffie



2009 find at Vindolanda – an altar dedicated to Jupiter Dolichenus

Vindolanda, a mile south of Hadrian's Wall, was occupied throughout the Roman period by a succession of forts. Excavation in 2009 was in three areas: the north-west quarter of the visible stone fort, the area to the west where workshops and an earlier gateway have been identified, and to the north of the Stanegate on hitherto unexcavated farm land.

Within the stone fort, 22 buildings were uncovered. In addition, 560 coins were found, 102 whetstones, and over 200 circular lids or counters, making this one of the richest seasons yet in terms of small finds.

Vindolanda usually turns up surprises, and in 2009 it was a shrine built into the north rampart wall. In it was the altar pictured above. From the inscription we learn that it was dedicated to Jupiter Dolichenus by Sulpicius Pudens, commander of the Fourth Cohort of Gauls. The god is shown standing on a bull, waving axe and thunderbolt. Doliche (now called Dülük) is in Southern Turkey, west of the River Euphrates. The full inscription reads:

I.O.M. DOLOCHENO SVLPICIVS PU DENS PRAEF COH III GALL V. S. L. M.
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(To Jupiter Best and Greatest of Doliche, Sulpicius Pudens, Prefect of the Fourth Cohort of Gauls, fulfilled his vow gladly and deservedly).

Excavation north of the Stanegate revealed a massive rectangular building with two rows of internal column bases. An earlier structure was beneath.

In 2010 more work on each of the areas is planned. Excavation will investigate below the floors of the 22 buildings where, presumably, 3rd century barracks will be found. Consolidation is being undertaken on the main buildings which will be left open to public inspection.

The Vindolanda Trust has obtained a £6.3 million Lottery grant to revamp the facilities at Vindolanda and at the Roman Army Museum at Carvoran. The work is taking place over the next two years, and will involve a complete reorganisation of the two museums, as well as the construction of better storage and research buildings, and some accommodation for student excavators.

The excavations are due to resume in April, so there will be plenty going on. If you haven't been to Vindolanda it is well worth a visit. More information is on www.vindolanda.com

Dates for your diary

8 February at 6.00 p.m.	Into the Ice Age: new light on Scotland's earliest prehistory <i>Lecture</i>	Society of Antiquaries of Scotland www.socantscot.org
20 February 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	Uncovering Egypt's Secrets: 20 years of the Saqqara geophysical survey project <i>One-day school</i>	University of Glasgow www.gla.ac.uk/dace
26-28 February	Archaeology 2010 <i>Two-day conference</i>	British Museum www.archaeology.co.uk

The Knights Templar and the Knights Hospitaller

With excavations at Old Pentland and Temple in prospect, Dave Jones looks at the history of the orders in Scotland

The Templar order received Papal recognition soon after the Council of Troyes in 1128-29. In the next decade, endorsed by Henry I in England and prominent nobles in Europe, their numbers, and donations of land, goods and money, increased greatly. David I of Scotland welcomed the establishment of the Order and granted lands at Balantradoch, now called Temple, for their Scottish headquarters. With Scotland unified under Kenneth McAlpin, a Gaelic speaker, place names with Scots Gaelic roots appear in the Lothians from the tenth to twelfth centuries. Balantradoch translates as “farm or stead of the warriors”, with the implication that the land only took that name after the grant to the Templars.

The Order became powerful and well-endowed in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, especially in Europe, but in 1291 the port of Acre fell to the Saracens, and the Templars lost their base in the Holy Land, and with it much of their *raison d'être*. In 1306 Pope Clement V suggested to the Masters of the Temple and the Hospital that the Orders be amalgamated, but the Templar Grand Master objected to the plan. It appears that the King of France and the Papacy did not get on well and the Templars were in the middle of the disagreement: they owed allegiance to the Pope and were under his protection, but a majority lived in France.

On 13 October 1307 King Philip IV of France ordered the arrest of all Templars and implied he had Papal support; but this was strongly denied by Clement V. By 22 November, however, the Pope issued a bull requiring the kings of England, Ireland, Portugal, Germany, Aragon and Cyprus to arrest Templars in the name of the Pope. As Robert the Bruce had been excommunicated in 1306 for his role in the murder of John Comyn, the Papacy had no contact with Scotland and no bull was sent.

On 17 November 1309, Walter Clifton, Preceptor at Balantradoch, and William Middleton, Preceptor at Culter, the only other Templar site in Scotland, were tried before the Bishop of St Andrews and a Papal Nuncio. It is reported that fifty hostile witnesses, including Henry and William St Clair of Roslin, gave evidence. The Preceptors were admonished and sent to a Cistercian monastery in the Borders. The preceptories and land owned by the Templars were granted to the Hospitallers and administered for some 200 years from Torphichen. At the end of the sixteenth century, 519 sites are listed as “Terrae Templariae” – lands of the Templars. No wanton destruction of the buildings at Temple should have taken place under these circumstances.

Roslin Chapel was built by a later William Sinclair, in 1447, replacing an earlier chapel. The lapse of 138 years between the trial of the Preceptors and the completion of Roslin suggests no simple connection between the Templars and Roslin.

The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF)

The Scottish Archaeological research Framework is an initiative of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland) with financial support from Historic Scotland. The project is managed by Dr Jeff Sanders. Its aim is to identify the topics within Scottish archaeology that offer opportunities for the highest quality of research, involving all sectors of the archaeological community, including the voluntary sector. See www.socantscot.org for further details.

Five panels (Paleolithic and Mesolithic; Neolithic; Iron Age (including Roman); Medieval; Marine and Maritime) are already up and running, with two more coming into being – Modern; and Archaeological Sciences. It is in the latter that the Society has become involved. Jeff Sanders is interested in our use of a variety of geophysical techniques on very different sites over the past few years, and in our mixed programme for the forthcoming months.

The initiative will run at least until 2012, and result in reports, both in print and online. It is hoped that these will lead to recommendations for areas of research with a much more interdisciplinary outlook, and greater pooling of information, than has taken place in previous years.

Norah Carlin's new book published

Society member Norah Carlin has published *Holy Cross Academy Edinburgh – the Life and Times of a Catholic School 1907-1969* (New Cut Press 2009 £15.00) Norah taught history for many years at Middlesex University, London, and is the author of *The Causes of the English Civil War*. Her latest work was inspired by the centenary reunion of staff and pupils in 2007. It places the history of the school in the context of Scottish educational and social history, and includes an examination of the place of women and girls in a Catholic co-educational secondary school. It refers to the several famous former pupils who have contributed to Scottish life, and includes personal memoirs by eight former pupils on their "Holy Cross experience".

West Lothian interest group

Society member Nick Davis writes:

"I live in Linlithgow, and having only moved here two years ago from Leicestershire where I helped establish and source funding for a local archaeological/ field walking group, I have now identified that West Lothian District does not have a full time archaeologist and therefore the local heritage is at risk due to a lack of awareness and vigilance during construction work across the area. After conversations with senior council officers, and as Linlithgow is designated in the local plan as a "Heritage Town", I have been asked to help establish an archaeological/field walking interest group. I would like to identify any EAFS members in the area who would be interested in passing on any research/practical skills/training to a new group."

Interested members can contact Nick at hospitality2u@talk21.com

Multiplexer Add-on for TRCIA Resistance Meter (from Ian Hawkins)

We may soon have the opportunity to upgrade the resistivity meter we use for our geophysics surveys. The Council for Independent Archaeology (CIA) and TR Systems have prototyped a multiplexer add-on for their resistivity meter involving new electronics and a fibreglass four-probe frame enabling measuring at 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 meter probe spacing. The device will attach to the frame under the existing meter and act like a set of switches allowing the meter to log readings from one set of probes, and then automatically switch to another set and log again. This offers a number of possibilities and allows a variety of reading to be taken from a single location of the frame, offering quicker, easier or deeper resistance surveys at higher resolution. Up to three traverses can be recorded simultaneously.

Parallel twin-probe mode allows the surveyor to log two readings from adjacent traverses before moving the frame to the next position. For a normal 20m survey grid, the number of traverses walked is halved from 20 to 10, but 20 traverses are still logged, reducing the time taken and the effort involved. With our existing meter and frame a 20x20 survey takes around 22 minutes, but with the new multiplexer this could reduce to about 14 minutes.

Triple twin mode uses the same four-probe frame, allowing three adjacent traverses to be logged at 0.5m pitch, giving a higher sampling rate and a corresponding increase in image quality and resolution, but without the excessive time and effort the existing kit requires. This option may prove particularly useful when surveying ephemeral features, such as formal garden remains or narrow walls, where the higher resolution is essential to produce clear images.

The multi depth mode allows a variety of twin probe separations to be recorded at one reading position. This allows the resistance at different depths (0.5m, 1m and 1.5m) to be plotted, producing three separate grids when the data is downloaded, allowing us to compare plots at the different depths. Twin probe is normally quoted as penetrating to a depth of 1 to 1.5 times the mobile probe separation, thus, in ideal conditions, we get a maximum depth of 0.75m for the first, 1.5m for the second and 2.25m for the third reading logged. The benefits of comparative plots from different depths are clear, especially if intrusive investigations are not planned or possible.

The price of the new kit will depend on the numbers manufactured and returns are awaited from CIA members. The Committee has agreed that the Society should advise an initial interest at this stage.

Editor's Note

Thanks to all contributors, and apologies to those whose submissions have been held over for reasons of space. The deadline for Issue 177 is 24 March.

Editor: J. Urquhart, 91 Milton Road, Kirkcaldy KY1 1TP 01592 644710 john.urquhart1001@btinternet.com

(Views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society, its Committee and Members, or the Editor).