

EDINBURGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SOCIETY

News

Issue 185 – September 2011

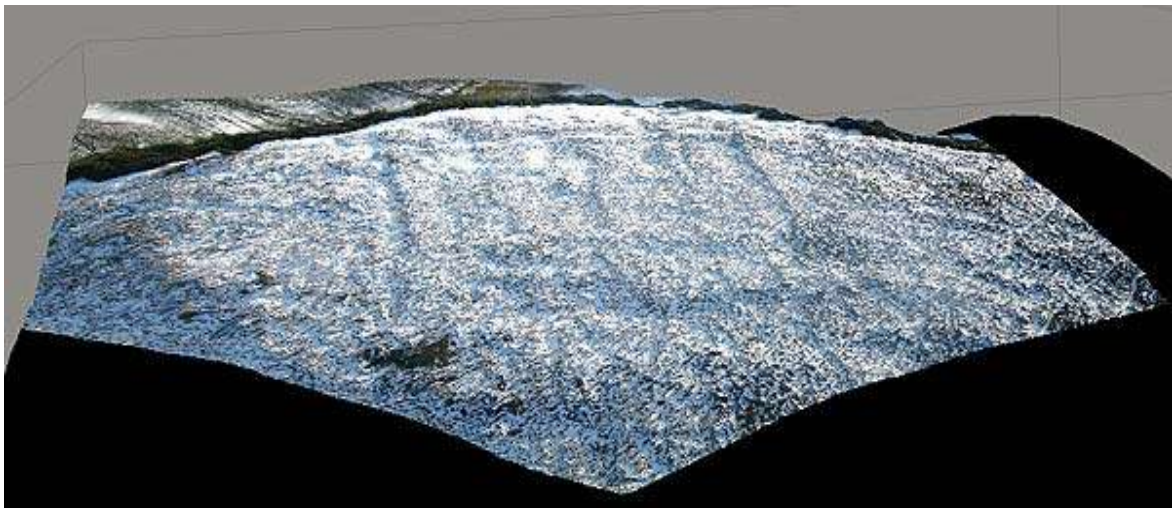


SOCIETY LECTURES

Our autumn/winter programme gets under way on Wednesday 12 October, when our guest speaker is Derek Alexander, recently confirmed as Head of Archaeology at the National Trust for Scotland. Derek's subject is, unsurprisingly, "Archaeology at the National Trust" and we can expect to see some familiar territory and faces, as the Society has carried out geophysics projects for the Trust recently, at Culzean Castle, St Abb's Head and Newhailes House. Our developing partnership with NTS is therefore proving beneficial as a source of interesting work for the Society.

The following month, on Tuesday 8 November, we have Magnus Kirby of CFA Archaeology, speaking on "New Discoveries at Musselburgh". These are rumoured to include headless burials, so the lecture has been awarded an "X" certificate!

GORMYRE



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If this image of Gormyre Hill looks familiar to you, it is because a version of it appeared in Newsletter 180, as an example of John and Rosie Wells' kite photography. John and Rosie are now experimenting with new software called PhotoScan, by Agisoft, which allows them to re-model photographs into rotatable images that have a three-dimensional appearance. John says he has found the free trial version of PhotoScan very easy to use. You can check it out at <http://www.armadale.org.uk/kite04.htm>. We intend to go back to Gormyre to carry out some test pitting, possibly in late October. Notification of the date will be issued by e-mail in the usual way.

CORSTORPHINE HILL

Following the publication of Dr Tom Welsh's letter in the last issue, he was kind enough to let the Society have details of the locations of features he describes. Some members have already made a preliminary visit, and further investigation is planned. Watch this space!

LIBRARY

Arrangements are now in place for EAFS members to use the former Society library, now donated to the Society of Writers to the Signet, and housed in the Signet Library in Parliament Square, where it will be far more accessible to members wishing to use it for research and reference purposes than it has been in the past. The entrance to the Signet Library is on your right as you face the main door of St Giles'.

Study seats at the Signet Library have to be reserved in advance. Any member wishing to access the collection should contact the Signet Library to book a time. The Library opening hours are 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Friday. To book space, you should telephone 0131 220 3249 (select 1) or e-mail library@wssociety.co.uk to arrange a time. When you arrive at the appointed time, you must produce your EAFS membership card as proof of entitlement to access, and for identification.

Access is to the former EAFS collection only. We are not entitled to the other facilities and services offered by the WS Society. The collection will not normally be available for borrowing purposes as it will not be added to the Signet Library computer system. In due course it is hoped to list the inventory of the collection on the Society's website, so that you will know what is available.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Organiser
18 October	Workshop: "Introduction to maps at NLS" NLS, Causeyside	National Library of Scotland www.nls.uk/events
22-23 October	Conference: "The Experience of Technology". Keynote speaker Prof. Olivier Gosselain Glasgow University	Scottish Archaeological Forum www.scottisharchaeologicalforum.org.uk/conferences.html .
1 November	"Discovering Cé: Rhynie, an undocumented Pictish power centre of the 5th-6th centuries AD" by Gordon Noble Meadows Lecture Theatre, Archaeology Department, Edinburgh University	First Millennium Studies Group roderick.mccullagh@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
5 November	Annual Conference Dundee	TAFAC johnsherriff@hotmail.co.uk
19 November	Edinburgh, Lothians & Borders Archaeology Conference Queen Margaret University, Musselburgh	East Lothian Council www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/Edinburgh Lothians and Borders 2011 programme 72999.pdf
19 November	Conference: "Prehistoric social networks in north-eastern England and south-eastern Scotland" Great North Museum, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.	Tyne-Forth Prehistory Forum Booking essential by 1 November Rachel Crellin: r.j.crellin@ncl.ac.uk

SCOTLAND'S RURAL PAST –PENTLAND HILLS PROJECT

The SRP project formally ended on 30th September. All the Pentland sites (Dreghorn and Little Vantage will be done separately) that have been put into Canmore are listed below with links - or you can search for them directly on Canmore. Jill Strobridge, who managed this project and carried out a huge amount of work, received a very nice thank you letter from Professor John Hume, Chairman of RCAHMS. Jill has kept a plane table, alidade, tapes etc. on loan from RCAHMS, so if anyone finds a site they want to survey just let her know!



The “old” SRP website <http://www.scotlandsruralpast.org.uk> will be maintained by RCAHMS and the Data Input Form remains open so additional sites can be submitted for inclusion to Canmore at any time, although no new Projects can be started. Training videos and guides will also be found on the website. You might recognise Threipmuir (above) in the training video! There will also be a Community Archaeology Team at RCAHMS headed up by Steve Boyle as Community Liaison Manager (e-mail address: communities@rcahms.gov.uk). So if you find any new sites don't hesitate to record them!

Fala Knowe:	http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/313172/details/fala+knowe/
Upper Friarton:	http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/313162/details/upper+friarton/
Gutterford:	http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/313161/details/gutterford/
Leips:	http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/313141/details/leips/
Logan Burn:	http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/181354/details/logan+burn/
Boghall Burn:	http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/181405/details/boghall+burn/
River North Esk:	http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/181489/details/river+north+esk/
Capelaw:	http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/263884/details/capelaw/
BackSpittal:	http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/50164/details/back+spittal/
Grain Burn:	http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/51900/details/grain+burn/
Saltersyke:	http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/80546/details/saltersyke/
Redford Farm:	http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/50379/details/redford+wood+farmstead/
Threipmuir Farm:	http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/306371/details/threipmuir/
Craigentarrie:	http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/307407/details/craigentarrie/
Kirkton Cottage:	http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/300409/details/kirkton+cottage/
Acreheads of Bavelaw:	http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/50377/details/wester+bavelaw/

SCOTLAND'S COASTAL HERITAGE AT RISK PROJECT (SCH@RP)

You may remember that a few years ago the Society assisted in a survey of coastal areas along the Firth of Forth under the auspices of SCAPE – Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion. The SCAPE Trust are now launching a new project called SCH@RP which will:

- recruit and provide training for a network of volunteer Coastal Heritage Stewards to update information about the condition of coastal heritage sites in their areas;
- provide funding, training and support for groups to carry out fieldwork to improve information about threatened sites;
- bring all this information together in a Coastal Heritage at Risk Strategy for Scotland.

This sounds like a project which the Society might like to get involved in next year, so Joanna Hambley of the SCAPE Trust will be coming to our AGM in December to tell us more about it.

DONATIONS

The Society has recently received some very generous donations in recognition of work carried out by members on a number of projects. Our thanks are due to Time Trackers International Inc for £400 for our work at Temple, to Peter Potter Galleries (£250 for Sheriffside) and Rampart Scotland (£250 for Chesters). These donations enable us to meet costs incurred by members in travelling to participate in projects, as well as contributing to the Society's general expenditure. Our grateful thanks to all our donors!

EQUIPMENT

Some of our surveying equipment has been looking the worse for wear, so we have invested in 175 metres of rope and new canes for marking out our geophysics grids. Thanks to Christine McPherson for marking the one-metre spacings on the new ropes.

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

We currently have no fixed dates for field activities, but there are a number of projects in the pipeline before the end of the year, including field-walking at Cramond, geophysics on a Roman fortlet, and some test-pitting at Gormyre Hill. As soon as dates are confirmed, members will be notified by e-mail in the usual way.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is the last Newsletter of 2011, although members will of course receive the Society's Annual Report and the other AGM papers late next month. The AGM is on Wednesday 14 December at 23a Fettes Row as usual. The next Newsletter will be issued about 31 January 2012.