



News

Issue 224 – Spring 2025

EAFS NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Hope you are all enjoying the better weather.

Since our last Newsletter we have had our 54th AGM. At the AGM we recorded the retirement from the Committee of Ann Kerrigan. Ann has been a stalwart of the Society and Committee for many years, most recently as our Vice Chairman. Her expertise in research and her contacts in the Archaeological world have been fundamental to our work. My heartfelt thanks go to her for her support over the years of my Chairmanship. She will be missed from the Committee but will still be an active member of the Society.

Luckily we were able to persuade Doris Koeck to step into the role. Doris has a wealth of expertise in IT within Archaeology and without. She has become invaluable to bringing us gradually into the 21st Century. Our latest acquisition of a Emlid Reach RS3 RTK receiver for GIS work is part of that upgrade. It means our mapping in the field can be very accurate and fast.

To take Doris's place on the Committee we put out a call to University of Edinburgh Student ArchSoc and we are very pleased to welcome Jayden Sandys onto the Committee. Jayden has excavated at Cammo with us and also helped out with our postex work at Murrayburn. Jayden and Doris help lower the average age of Committee members considerably, bringing new ideas and enthusiastic support.

(See final paragraph for a brief synopsis of Jayden's experience to date).

In the last Newsletter I mentioned the loss of members. This time I wish to say thank you to Helen Mitchell for fulfilling Keith's wish in his will to donate to the Society that meant so much to him. We are very grateful. We will discuss the best way to use the donation and to remember Keith's input to our Society over many years.

Recently we were honoured to be invited to a 'showcase' event at Historic Environment Scotland archives. 'Revealed and Repaired: The Move Ready Project'. We were in the distinguished company of HES trustees, University and Local Government Archivists and other important guests.

The Move Ready Project was a three year project aimed at improving HES archive collections documentation, collections care, and location control. The morning included presentations on the project and a chance to visit the conservation laboratories and see the fantastic work undertaken there.

We look forward to bringing you information about other possible locations for EAFS excavations and

surveys. You will hear about possible work at Papple, East Lothian and at Tormain.

Jayden Sandys is excited to join as the newest member of the EAFS committee. He has just finished a degree in History and Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh, where his dissertation focused on Mesolithic fishing technology in Northwest Scotland, based on primary analysis of fish bones from the Ulva Cave shell midden. He is interested in a wide range of archaeological topics, including Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology, zooarchaeology, and inclusive museology. He hopes to continue academic study exploring the Scottish Mesolithic in the future. Having participated in EAFS excavations at Cammo and enjoyed being a member for some time, Jayden is looking forward to getting involved with EAFS projects, meeting more members, and lending a hand – whether that's at events, with research, or doing some digging!

CAMMO UPDATE APRIL 2025

We have returned to the Walled Garden but have been concentrating on the strange building in the Central Area of the garden. It first appears on the 1893 map of the Estate. In the 1895 'Particulars' published prior to the sale of the Estate there is mention within the Walled Garden of 'Vineries, Peach-House and a Conservatory'. We know the 100foot long Glasshouse against the North Wall contained the Vinery as we have found vine labels there. So this building is either the Peach-House or Conservatory. As is usual with Cammo there are strange anomalies within it. Yesterday we found substantial pipework entering the site from the North. The structure is brick built and glass roofed – shown on the map but also confirmed by the amount of glass being recovered. Flower pot debris – and one whole one – show that planting took place there.

We are in discussion with Friends of Cammo to plant a hedge around the outline of the Glasshouse to show it's size and importance. It would be nice if we could track down some of the rose varieties whose labels we have found to the East of the Glasshouse.

Friends of Cammo have been planting fruit bushes near the main entrance to the garden. We were asked to assist when they hit a hard area close to the surface. After investigation in the ground and on the maps we were able to tell them that it was the path that ran around the inside of the Walled Garden. The bushes therefore need to be planted further in from the East wall. Snowdrops would be an ideal short rooted alternative. There have been snowdrops in the Walled Garden since 1781 when the then Head Gardener arranged for their delivery from East Lothian.

As well as the Walled Garden work a team have been completing the clearing of the Stables. This work has shown evidence for the horse stalls and boiler and makes the area much clearer to view.

Over the last few weeks we have been privileged to be visited by Trustees of Archaeology Scotland. Alison Sheriden. Christine Schofield, Laurie Wedderburn and their President, Moira Greig. They spent a morning with us and had a tour of the Estate and talked to volunteers who were excavating. The feedback was very positive.

We just need to see if we can attract 'Digging for Britain' to visit....



Figure 2 Archaeology Scotland President, Moira Greig and Laurie Wederburn with Michael Haris at Cammo

Christine McPherson

Figure 1 Trustees Alison Sheriden and Christine Schofield with Christine McPherson at Cammo

PAPPLE: HISTORY OF AN EAST LOTHIAN FARM

Just outside Haddington lies Papple Estate, where EAFS carried out a geophysical survey in 2023 in collaboration with Haddington's History Society. The results (Fig. 2 below) suggest a possible buried structure and have opened up exciting possibilities for future investigation. We're currently exploring the archaeological potential of the area and are working with the landowners on a plan to move forward with further work. The estate has a rich and complex history, with records stretching back to the medieval period.

A small team from EAFS took the new GIS equipment out to Papple to make a good map of the site we hope to investigate and to give us practice at using the new Emlid Reach RS3.RTK. The day was fine and the equipment was very successful. It plotted points on the ground and transformed the information to the EAFS iPad. The subsequent will be worked on and shared with you all soon.

Drawing on research by local historian Eric Glendinning, we're pleased to share an excerpt that sheds light on Papple's layered past – both monastic and secular, and always evolving.

Doris Koeck

The following is an extract from a paper recently written by Joy Dodds and Eric Glendinning for the East Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalists' Society in which "Papple Hall" is mentioned.

EAFS are extremely grateful to the authors for this information.

"In 1710 David Ogill sold 'the lands of Papple Hall with the mill and mill lands and the lands of

Hyndheugh mansion house, which are part of the ten pound land of old extent of Harham wood', to William Begbie of 'Sunniesyd' for £11,500 Scots (£1,917 sterling, around £220,000 today). Ogill owed £3,783 Scots on heritable bonds, in effect a mortgage on the property. Begbie, his largest creditor, paid off the other bond holders as part of the purchase price (SIG1/15/41).

One link with the Ogills remains. The wall fragment (Fig. 4) is likely to be a remnant of their home, Papple Hall. It survives because it supported cisterns fed at one time by a force pump from the Whittingehame Water, possibly installed in 1855. A resistivity survey by Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society in 2023, with assistance from Haddington's History Society, detected foundation walls 1.3m in width behind the wall remnant. The evidence suggests a tower house, but excavation would be required to confirm this. Papple Hall would have been substantial. 'The Lady of Poplaw' was recorded in the Hearth Tax of 1692 as paying for 8 hearths (E69/9/1/15). From here in 1679, Margaret, the widow of George Ogill, wrote to an Edinburgh friend asking support for her son David's candidacy as reader in Bolton Kirk (GD150/3521/f25). He was not appointed.

In October 1717 'the presbytery (of Haddington) being informed of the distressed condition of Jean Lockhart, relict of the deceased David Ogle late of Poppel-Hall and her four small children, appoints the several brethren to bring in a collection for her to their next meeting' (CH2/185/11 p14); a sad ending to almost 300 years of Ogills at Papple. “

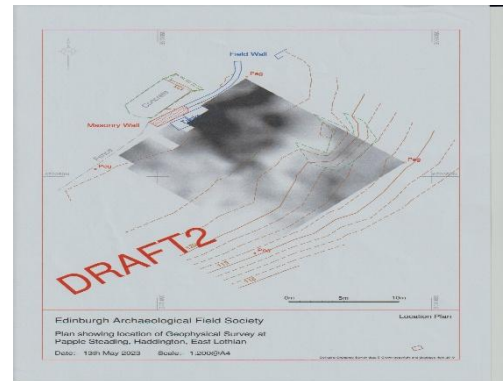


Figure 1 Extract from a map c1780, showing the location of Geophysical Survey ruins of Papple Hall. Courtesy of John Kinnaird by EAFS in 2023

Figure 2 Plan showing made at Papple Steading



Figure 3 Tim Holden of Haddington Natural History Society with Doris Koeck and Jayden Sandys conducting a Recent Survey at Papple.



*Figure 4
(A window*

VISIT TO HES ARCHIVES AT JOHN SINCLAIR HOUSE, 16 BERNARD TERRACE

On Monday 24th February a group of EAFS members were given a warm welcome by staff at the HES Archives in John Sinclair House. There is a huge wealth of material stored there (and more stored off-site), so we knew we were in for an interesting afternoon.

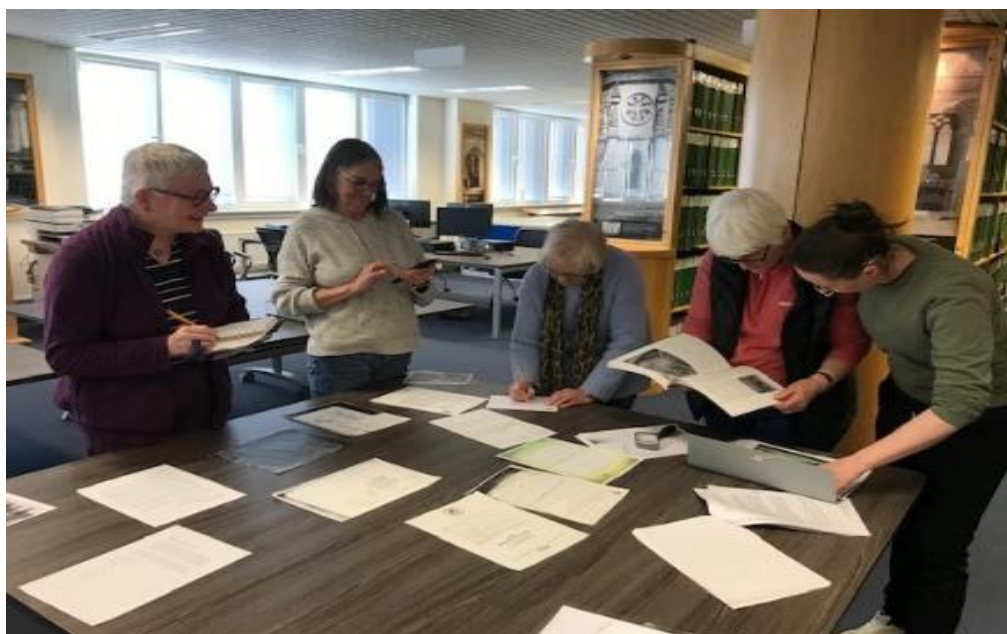
We were especially keen to see any resources they had relating to the Cammo Estate and, with advance warning, 4 large tables of fascinating information had been looked out for us. It included estate plans and maps, photographs, drawings and texts. Frederick, our host, had taken some time to learn about Cammo and its owners before we arrived in order to make the selection really relevant. He gave us a short introduction to the sources on each table and then we spent more than an hour poring over the items and asking questions. In addition to the Cammo specific documents, we learnt about other aspects of the work done in the Archives, caring for their collection - for example, finding out about how paper is conserved.

The session ended with a short presentation about the new and exciting website:

<https://www.trove.scot> launched in February, which will bring together data currently found on the Historic Environment Portal, Canmore, SCRAN and Property Care Collections (the existing websites will still be available while development continues on [trove.scot](https://www.trove.scot)).

John Sinclair House is open from Tuesday to Friday between 10am and 4pm (Mondays are for pre-booked group visits only). It is possible for anyone to visit, free of charge, and to browse the library there, but to view archive material you need to book in advance. Check the website for more details: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/hes-archives-and-library/>

Maggie Wilson March 2025



THE TORMAIN PROJECT

After the work in 2024, there were new questions raised, such as ‘Why is there no midden where the stones are in the woods?’ (Hatton Mains). What will a higher resolution resistivity survey reveal over the mounds in Knock-about field (Bonnington Mains)? Where are the missing enclosures, from Ratho Mains and Hatton Mains? More research over the first three months of 2025 revealed rectangular crop marks, a cremation cemetery with Hulled Barley (shouldn’t be here) in a pit deposit, and the Ratho Bog was found to be Wilkes Basin, but that doesn’t explain how a copper Axehead was buried under 4 feet of clay. We also discovered that 450m west of the cremation cemetery and 300m southeast of Wilkes Basin is a non-defensive enclosure, a scheduled monument that has never been explored.

There are sixteen known archaeological sites, three of which are scheduled monuments associated with Tormain Hill, and several others that can be considered part of the archaeological landscape. One of the sites was a rare double burial. There are nine hillforts within a three mile radius, but nothing on Tormain. In addition, the project has found eight new areas of interest. However, the elusive Ratho Barrow location is still a mystery.

With a high degree of confidence, we have evidence of the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze, Iron, and Roman Ages, with possible Scandinavian activity.

We need to develop a plan for 2025 and speak with landowners to determine whether we can continue working on their land; again, our work is limited by their harvest schedule in most areas.

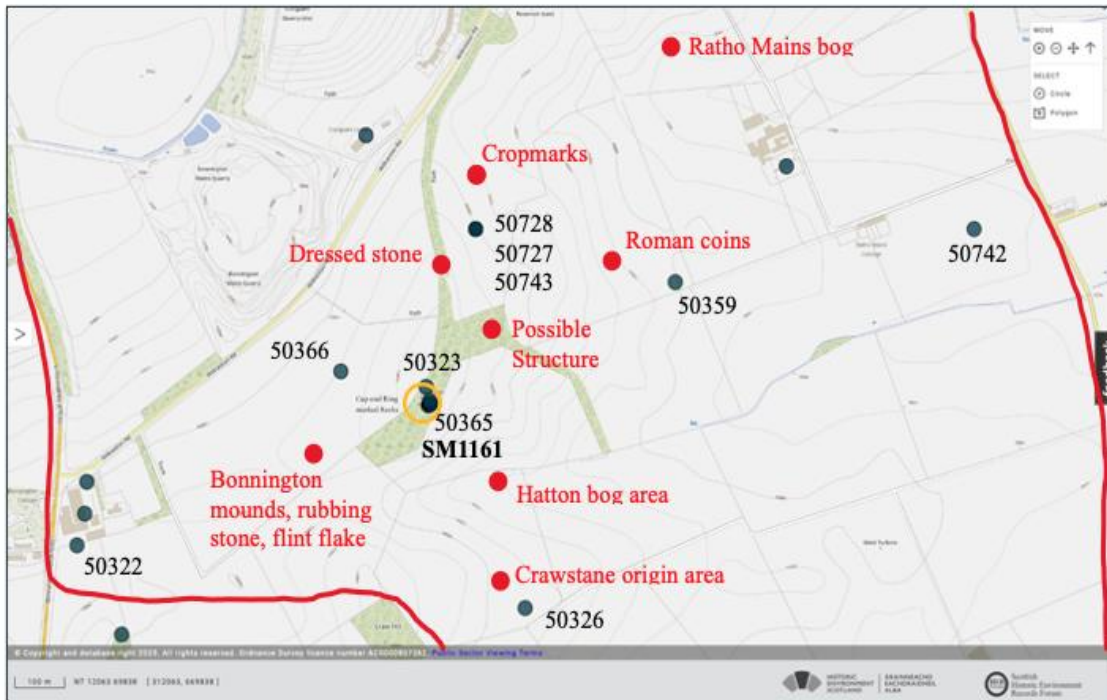


Figure 3 This map shows the majority of the area. Red lines show the boundry of the area of interest. The green dots are known Canmore sites, the yellow circle is a scheduled monument and the red dots indicate new areas of interest.

ROMAN BATH HOUSE AT CRAMOND

This year is the 50th anniversary of the discovery of Cramond's Roman Bath House during creation of the public car park. It was excavated during 1975 and 1976 by City of Edinburgh Council - and it offered an opportunity for EAFS members and many other people to assist. The Roman Fort itself was located during 1954-1966 by Alan and Viola Rae. Since then, EAFS members have added considerably to the archaeological record around Cramond.

The Bath House had many surprises – it contained what at the time was considered to be the highest-standing Roman wall in Scotland, the latrine pit held skeletons dated to the time of St Columba, the plunge bath still retained its plaster coating and the recreation room's concrete floor was impressed with footprints prior to being overlain by a wooden floor.

Following the excavation the building was covered over and backfilled for its protection. Checks made some 25 years later showed that there had been little or no deterioration.

Although there has long been a desire to uncover the Bath House and to have it on display to the public, the difficulties involved have so far proved too great. But still we live in hope.....

Val Dean



COMING EVENTS

Rhind Lectures 2025 – Scotland's Place-Names

by

Dr Simon Taylor

Date: Friday 20 to Sunday 22 June 2025

Dr Taylor is reader in Scottish Name Studies at the University of Glasgow. He has worked in the field of Scottish place-names since the early 1990s, and has published widely on the subject, including several in-depth regional surveys.

Archaeology Scotland Summer School will be held between the 20-23 May 2025.

This year the Summer School will explore the area of Easter Ross and the Black Isle.

Based in Strathpeffer at the Ben Wyvis Hotel, coaches will take participants as close as possible to each site. Sturdy boots and waterproof clothing are to be recommended.

Non- members are welcome!

The Summer School is led by Rod McCullagh and enquiries should be directed to

OPEN DAYS

Cammo – July 12th, August 16th and 27th September 2025

Papple – 13th August 2025

(In conjunction with East Lothian Archaeology and Heritage fortnight)

EAFS LECTURE PROGRAMME FOR 2025/2026

ALL MEETINGS WILL COMMENCE AT 1900 IN ROOM LQ34 PATERSON'S

LAND

HOLYROOD ROAD

EH8 8AQ

<i>Anthony Lee</i>	<i>Treasure Trove</i>	<i>Wednesday</i> <i>8th October 2025</i>
<i>Graeme Cavers</i>	<i>Dunsapie Hillfort</i>	<i>Wednesday</i> <i>12th November 2025</i>
<i>Members</i>	<i>Round-up of activities for</i> <i>2025 and Social Event</i>	<i>Wednesday</i> <i>10th December 2025</i>

*This Newsletter was compiled by Alan Calder, member of the EAFS
Committee, with contributions from Committee Members.*

*(Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the
Society,*

its Committee and Members)

Next Newsletter will be issued later this year.

All Contributions welcomed.

EDINBURGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SOCIETY

SCOTTISH CHARITY No. SC006520