



PAST

Peebles Archaeological Society Times
Autumn Issue - September 2010

Peebles Agricultural Show 2010

There has always been a good rapport between the Archaeological Society and the local farming community, and the annual Peeblesshire Agricultural Show in Hay Lodge Park gives us an opportunity to "advertise our wares" to the general public and to encourage anyone with an interest in archaeology to come along to our meetings or get involved in fieldwork.

For this year's show - held on Saturday 14 August, we decided to showcase the work we had been doing on Kilrubie, in Eddleston Parish under the auspices of the Scotland's Rural Past Project (hereafter SRP).

The Archaeological Society's distinctive edifice (Bob's gazebo) was called into action, to house our display and, very likely, protect us from the elements of a typical Peeblesshire monsoon summer.

Oh us of little faith! The day was bright, the sun shone, and the crowds arrived, eager for archaeological edification and ice creams.

We set out the SRP plane table in front of our stall, pleased that there was no one from SRP around to check our levelling skills on the lumps and bumps of our undulating pitch.



Bob takes a sighting on the Caldwell's Ice Cream van (photo: Jack Boughey)

We assembled our alidade, tape and even a pencil (6H of course) and began to look marginally professional.

Next to be set up was our display stand with a series of eight information panels.

Up went our OS location map showing Kilrubie and also a satellite image of our farmstead site (both supplied by SRP). Blown up to A2 they looked quite smart.

Next up were our plane table drawings, of both the site and of the turf buildings, a thing of beauty, the hachures* inked in with patience, archaeological expletives, and a modicum of malt whisky by Joyce. *[Hachures are a way of conveying slopes on archaeological survey drawings. They can be drawn in various ways, but basically the length of each hachure shows the length of the slope, the 'head' end indicating the top. Ed.]*

We followed this up with our historic maps - Roy 1747-1755 (no sign of Kilrubie), Armstrong 1775 (the first mention of Kilrubie), Ainslie 1821 (still there), and the OS 1st edition 1859 (Kilrubie gone) - which together form a telling part of the story of this landscape.

Then there were the photographs, firstly of the landscape - the lazy beds, the march boundary, the rig and furrow - but also photographs of people - including a training session at Kilrubie in snowy January, with Danny waxing eloquent over the joys of a plane table survey and the rest of us contemplating the icicles on our noses.

And finally we included some details of our research to date - the Hearth Tax of 1694, the Horse Tax of 1798, the 1841 census, and some notes on the possible derivation of the name "Kilrubie", including the rather prosaic "cell of the red - tonsured priest".

Then there were our finds - including part of an engraved buckle from a lady's shoe, dating to the latter part of the 18th century.



Plane table training in January

And for the interested visitor there was a flyer, telling the story of Kilrubie and setting out our contact details and Programme for next year.

The Satellite Image of Kilrubie also gave us the basis for a Treasure Hunt, which was a bit of fun, made two of our members a tiny bit richer, but will still unfortunately require to be augmented by the Annual Subs to keep the Society solvent.

Did we recruit any new members? As of the time of writing it's too early to tell. What we can say is that we created an interesting story which attracted a good deal of attention, brought people in to look, to ask questions and in turn to tell their stories.

Kilrubie, and our partnership with SRP, has hopefully been a catalyst for change within the Archaeological Society. We have achieved our primary objective in terms of the survey, but the people benefits in terms of engagement and recruitment may be even more enduring.

Jack Boughey

General Maczek's great Polish map of Scotland: campaign update

Members of the society who attended the AGM / Members Night will remember the excellent presentation by Jim Barton, in which he described the campaign to restore General Maczek's great Polish map of Scotland constructed in the grounds of the Barony Castle, Eddleston. For details see the project website at:

<http://www.makers.org.uk/place/Maczek>

Keith Burns, Secretary of the Mapa Scotland project group, has recently circulated a brief update on the progress made since the inaugural meeting on 25 April 2010.

The group has also been active on various fronts. A major grant application has been submitted to the Landfill Communities Fund, which is now going through the assessment process. In conjunction with this, a grant application has also been submitted to Scottish Borders Council Community Grants Scheme. Letters of support have been received from 18 local and regional bodies with an interest in the restoration of the map as a community facility and a heritage site with national and international importance.

The project group has hosted meetings and visits to view the map hosted for potential sponsors and grant aid providers. One notable visitor was the brother of the map's designer, Kazimierz Trafas, currently the Polish Consul General in Edinburgh. Widespread press and media coverage has been achieved ranging from BBC Scotland TV and radio, to TV Polonia and the Polish National Press.

Finally, progress has been made on preparation of the site for repair work once grant aid has been secured, while specialist advice has been obtained regarding topics ranging from reconstruction of the map surface to techniques for its long-term protection.

If readers have any further queries about the Mapa Scotland project, the group can be contacted by email at the addresses shown below or by telephone at 01620 860257 (before 1030 pm). If you are interested in joining the group, a membership application form is enclosed (see below)

Members receive regular updates on progress and notice of working parties at the map. There will be opportunities for helping out with site clearance and later on the reconstruction and restoration work.

As far as we have been able to determine, this 3d topographic landscape model is unique in the world for its size, outdoor setting and working hydraulics. Its restoration is a vitally important project at local, national and international level. We hope you will be able to join us if have not already done so.

Keith Burns
Secretary

Mapa Scotland website:
<http://www.makers.org.uk/place/Maczek>

Mapa Scotland project email:
mapascotland@gmail.com



Eddleston Project – Darnhall - Update

Further to the information contained in the Annual Report (PAST April 2010), a group consisting of Trevor, Joyce, Gillian, Jack and Bob went back to Darnhall on Saturday 17th April and dug a series of 1 x 0.5m test pits over a number of locations indicated by Walter Elliot.



Darn all at Darnhall!

Using divining rods, Walter had come to the conclusion that there had been a temporary Roman camp in the field, and the trial trenches were excavated over what he considered to be the line of the ditch and internal features.

Each trench was excavated to the subsoil, which was uniformly about 25cms, and each was uniformly devoid of any evidence that would help explain the original soil mark. Further work is in abeyance meantime, but a watching brief will be kept on the field - and in particular we will be keeping a look out for those enigmatic soil marks which first caught our attention.

Unfortunately, the long hot summer never materialised so those parch marks made no re-appearance this year!!

Bob Knox



Training session at Kilrubic in January (photo: Trevor Cowie)

Kilrubie Hill, Eddleston

Since our last update, at the AGM, the work on Kilrubie and our partnership with SRP has been continuing apace.

Survey

We had a good turnout (12) on 27th March and made a very good start to the physical survey. This was completed on 10th April apart from the finalised drawings.

On 24th April our intrepid Metal Detecting Team found a small non-Saxon hoard, consisting of a ladies' shoe buckle and a couple of cartridges. The buckle has been dated to the 2nd half of the 18th century

On 8th May we carried out some tape-offset measuring of the lazy beds and a bit of site photography.

On 3rd July we had another visit on site to check out measurements, to look (in vain) for traces of other structures, both at Kilrubie and Pratstile Knowe, and to trace origin of March Dyke.

By end July, drawings of both Farmstead and Farm Buildings completed - big thanks to Joyce!

Training

On 20th/21st April, 3 of us attended 2 day SRP training course, based partly at RCAHMS and partly at Threipmuir in the Pentlands. Very good course - highly recommend.

Then on 23rd April, 5 of us undertook a Basic Surveying Course, again at Threipmuir. This included site interpretation, sketching, GPS and plane tabling. Again very good.

On 27th May, 3 members attended course on Presenting Materials to the Public at RCAHMS. Incl. Press Releases, Photography, leaflets, web sites etc. Got the grey matter going!

The 21st June saw 3 of us training in Drawing Skills (or lack of!). This covered both manual and computer based drawing, and while very good, was a bit "whistle stop!"

Research

We have already carried out online research looking at Historical Maps, Census returns and Horse Tax of 1798. We have also covered Hearth Tax 1694.

On 31st Aug/2nd Sept, Gillian had a few visits to check out historical mapping at NLS in Causewayside. Mostly negative but bearing out our earlier research.

On 3rd Sept, Alan, Jeff and Self visited RCAHMS, checking out Aerial Photographs, Name Book, Parish Boxes etc. Again did not add greatly to sum of knowledge.

Next to be visited - National Archives of Scotland....

Jack Boughey



Tantallon Castle: field trip to E Lothian June 2010

A tower of strength: Applecross

In June 2005, in three days of mostly atrocious weather, a turf covered mound on a knoll on the campsite at Applecross, was the subject of a Time Team programme. During the course of the dig, the Team, along with Scottish experts Ian Armit, Noel Fojut and Andy Heald, gradually came to the conclusion that the structure which was emerging was a broch.

Brochs, which are believed to date from approximately 200 B.C. to 100 A.D. (during the Iron Age), were compact, thick walled, dry stone structures of circular ground plan, with an average diameter of 18 metres.

They had double walls constructed entirely without cement, two concentric halves forming narrow walkways and held together by horizontal rows of flat stone lintels. Stairs linked the series of galleries so formed and gave access right to the top.

Every year since the initial dig a community-led project has been uncovering the remains, building up a picture of a complex, multi-period site.

It appears from the evidence that first there was a large dun on the site and that the broch was built on top. The broch lasted only a short time before it fell down; possibly because a later souterrain built under the walls, made it unstable.

The tumbled structure was then adapted and used by later people to live and work in.

Outside the walls, to the NW, evidence was found of an extensive area of metal-working activity under which were two Bronze Age burial cists; - in one a fragment of beaker and burnt bone was found.

The inside of the broch was littered with animal bones, shells and pottery, along with more interesting finds such as antler toggles, part of a bone comb, beads, inscribed stones, a tiny fragment of Roman pottery, quern stones and iron knives.

2010 was planned to be the final year of excavation but at the present moment consideration is being given as to whether more excavation is required, how it can be consolidated and how it can be displayed to the public.

Joyce Durham

NB The Time Team programme can be seen on the Channel 4 Time Team website



Excavations at Applecross broch
(Photo: Joyce Durham)

Reminder

Please note subscriptions are now due for 2010-2011 session

£15 - individual membership

£20 - joint membership

**Please pay at meeting
or by using the form**

Subscription reminder 2010-2011

Dear member

Please pay at meeting or detach the tear-off slip and send remittance as soon as possible to:

**Peter Barclay
Peeblesshire Archaeological Society
18 South Parks
Peebles
EH45 9DS**

Thank you.

PAS Committee

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I/we wish to renew our subscription to **Peeblesshire Archaeological Society**

Please tick category

Individual £15 ☐ Couples £20 ☐

We enclose a cheque to the sum of £_____

OR

I/we do not wish to rejoin - please remove my/our names from the mailing list _____

Name(s):

Address:

Post code:

Telephone:

Email (if available):

Please send this form together with your remittance to:

Peter Barclay, PAS, 18 South Parks, Peebles EH45 9DS

Mapa Scotland

The campaign to restore General Maczek's Great Polish Map of Scotland

All proceeds will be used towards material restoration of the Great Map and its promotion.
No officials or members will be eligible for expenses (other than audited office consumables)
or payments for labour.

Membership Application Form

Name: Title _____ First name _____ Surname _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Subscription: _____

Donation (optional): _____

Signed: _____

☐ Please tick here if you are able to help with work parties or fundraising.

Membership categories and subscriptions:

Individual: £10 Family: £15 Voluntary group: £20 Public body: £50

Payment can be made by cheque to '**Mapa Scotland**' or by Internet Banking (Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-71-84, Account Number 17186768, Mapa Scotland). If you pay by Internet Banking **please remember to add your name as a reference** so that we can identify payments.

Data protection

Mapa Scotland does not share your details with anyone else. The information you have supplied will only be used to keep you informed about Mapa Scotland's work.

Please return this form to:

Nigel Rose
Membership Secretary,
39 Fox Covert Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 6UH

Tel: 0131 334 7837

Email: mapascotland@gmail.com