

PAS Newsletter

Peeblesshire Archaeological Society

November 2025

A Meeting in Marble - Caroline McDonald at Rome's Capitoline Museum

A Viking Feasting Hall and Church in Northern Iceland - Anthony Newton reports

Kenmure Castle, New Galloway - Colin McLean revisits his past

Newhall South - Trevor Cowie & Piers Dixon return

2025-26 Lecture Programme + Other Events

Welcome

Colin McLean, Newsletter Editor

Since the October edition, the Society has held its first major fundraising venture; the talk in the Eastgate Theatre on the Peebles Hoard. Richard Welander covers this elsewhere in this issue, but suffice to say it seems to have been a financial success, so we are pretty pleased with that. Thank you to all of you (and many others) who came along and supported it.

Those who recall the Society's guided visit to Burnswark in May 2024, led by John Reid, Chair of the Trimontium Trust, may be interested to learn that the proposed siege site excavations have recently been cleared to go ahead. Scheduled Monument Consent was required, and it has been decided that Scottish Ministers do not need to further scrutinise the proposals, and that Historic Environment Scotland can take the decision, which it has now done.

The dig will attempt to establish whether the siege works at Burnswark were for a genuine military engagement or for a training exercise. The origins of human presence at Burnswark lie in the Iron Age, c800BC, when it contained timber round houses and was defended by earth ramparts.

John Reid said, "Community archaeology volunteers from the Trust, led by Prof. Stuart Campbell were delighted to collaborate with a team from Glasgow University led by Dr James O'Driscoll, in a combined survey and excavation at Burnswark Hill in East Dumfriesshire. The hillfort lies at the centre of the Roman siege complex, which was extensively investigated by the Trust in collaboration with Andrew Nicholson of

Dumfries Archaeology Service back in 2015-17.

The latest campaign, which includes detailed geophysical and metal detector surveys and targeted excavations (already producing impressive results), focuses on the indigenous occupation of the hillfort itself. Next year's work is scheduled to take this line of enquiry to a new level. It is also hoped next year to carry out further investigations in the south Roman Camp to gain insight into some of the conundrums posed by previous work on the historic site, which took place during the Victorian era and the 1960s."

The Trimontium Trust has been leading on investigations at Burnswark for some years. New technologies have been used to interpret the Roman siege, using crime scene forensics to recreate it. The Trust used drone imagery to recreate a 3D model of the hill, employed modern forensics to calculate the trajectories of weapons, and added 8,000 digital characters to create the virtual walkthrough. This will supplement the Museum's existing Virtual Reality interpretation of Newstead.

This Newsletter depends totally on the contribution of articles by members and friends, and I wanted to pay tribute to the individuals who have submitted articles and/or offered advice for this issue: Caroline McDonald, Anthony Newton, Trevor Cowie, Piers Dixon and Richard Welander. My own contribution is primarily to compile and lay-out the Newsletter, but I occasionally write something or contribute a photograph. Do take up the challenge and put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard. I can send you guidelines on how to submit, and give you a hand if you get stuck. You can do it! ■



A Meeting in Marble

Caroline McDonald

Having invested one coin in the Trevi fountain some decades ago, I can attest that the legend is true! The magic clearly works, and I have been lucky enough to return to Rome a couple of times over the years. Most recently in September, when the eternal city was enjoying an extended and very hot summer, and the fountain was at least six people deep, trying to ensure their own return date with destiny.

its doors. It is not an exaggeration to say it houses an embarrassment of Roman riches and Renaissance art. But I was here to see one artwork in particular, or the marble figure of one person in particular – the Dying Gaul.

For anyone interested in archaeology, this sculpture is perhaps one of the most interesting windows into the past, not merely a famous and compelling work of art, but evidence of ancient material culture caught in stone, and a portrait of cultural identity - though clearly viewed through the gaze of the oppressor.

THE DYING GAUL CAROLINE McDONALD



The city was busy. The tourist crush at the Colosseum ironically provided a real sense of what a day at the games must have felt like, the Pantheon hummed with awed visitors, noisy building works abutted Trajan's column and people crowded through the Forum. The sense of Rome cheek by jowl with its ancient self was palpable and energetic.

Ironically (or luckily?) the one destination I was particularly set on was quiet, cool and far from the madding crowd. Which is a shame, as they were missing a rare treat (and the best roof top cafe in Rome).

The Capitoline Museum is one of the world's oldest public museums. With the collection's origins dating from the late 1400s, it was opened to the public in 1734, nineteen years before the British Museum opened

The dying man here is not seen in his first iteration. The Romans were great antique collectors, and loved all things Greek. The original figure was probably made in the Greek world of Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) around 230-220 BC, and most likely in bronze. Then he was probably made to celebrate a Greek victory over invading Celtic tribes.

Around 150 years later, the Romans translated him into marble (probably painted) and knew him as a Gaul, their name for the 'barbarians' from the north. This new version may have been created to celebrate Julius Caesar's victories in Gaul, a nation that spread across what is now modern France and other parts of northern Europe. He was rediscovered in Rome during building work in the early 1600s, and was acquired for



THE DYING GAUL CAROLINE McDONALD

the Capitoline collections.

The paintwork long gone, he is undoubtedly beautiful in white marble. The fine details of his hands, his vulnerable long toes, the veins in his arms and the pain frozen in the lines of his forehead make him human, fragile, heroic and tragic. This is what I see. We can't know for sure what the Roman (and Greek) sculptors intended, but knowing what we know about Roman Imperial culture, we can conjecture what this art was intended to say.

The Dying Gaul is shown as a physically perfect warrior, representative of a fearsome people, a worthy adversary, and of course defeated. He is naked and hairy. Barbaric, barbarian. But heroic too - a 'noble savage'. His dignity in death somehow reflecting well on the 'civilised' men who killed him. Mighty, but not mighty enough in the face of the Roman army.

Propaganda aside, the sculptors left us with a tantalising glimpse into some of the materiality of Gaulish culture. We can see the favouring of facial hair and a long, matted hairstyle, possibly washed with lime. In the 1st century BC, the Greek historian Diodorus

Siculus wrote that the Gauls 'often wash their hair in a water boiled with lime, and turn it backward from the forehead to the crown of the head' and that 'persons of quality shave their chins close, but their mustachios they let fall so low, that they even cover their mouths'.

The man leans on a distinctive oval shield, his sword dropped by his side has a clear blade fuller (groove),



THE DYING GAUL CAROLINE McDONALD

and a distinctive lion head pommel with S-shaped hilt guard. A broken leather strap with a large buckle is seen, alongside his broken trumpet. Similar warrior trappings are seen on a 220-180 BC terracotta figure of a Gaulish warrior in the British Museum (https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/G_1994-1001-2). Here again is the oval shield, leather waist belt and sword with a domed pommel.

GAUL TERRACOTTA STATUE © TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM



As blood drips from the cleanly delivered and fatal stab wound in his side, his head droops as his energy palpably ebbs away. Around his bent neck is a classic Iron Age status symbol, a twisted metal torc with rounded terminals.

THE DYING GAUL
© CAROLINE McDONALD



Whilst a distinct people in their own right, the population of ancient Britain and Ireland shared some connection and cultural touch points with peoples over the channel. The ancient materiality of the Dying Gaul can also be seen in archaeological discoveries closer to home.

The Battersea shield (though almost certainly ceremonial) is perhaps the greatest surviving example of an oval Iron Age shield (https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H_1857-0715-1). There are clear, shared echoes found in the Loughnashade trumpet (<https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Collections-Research/>

[Collection/The-Treasury/Artefact/Loughnashade-Horn/8178d988-064f-4640-8fe1-4171e226955f](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H_1857-0715-1))

Whilst there are spectacular torcs in museums across the UK and Ireland, including the Stirling torcs (<https://www.artfund.org/our-purpose/art-funded-by-you/iron-age-torcs>).

The statue is a startling window into the past. A visit to see the Dying Gaul (Galatian, trumpeter, gladiator as he has also been known) should be on everyone's archaeological bucket list. He was certainly a fixture on the 18th century Grand Tour, and may



THE BATTERSEA SHIELD
© TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM



TRUMPET © THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

even have inspired Lord Byron in his poem *The Dying Gladiator*:

*'I see before me the Gladiator lie:
He leans upon his hand - his manly brow
Consents to death, but conquers agony,
And his drooped head sinks gradually low -
And through his side the last drops, ebbing slow...'*

I do hope you get to visit him one day.

The Dying Gaul has been endlessly written about, but a neat commentary about him and Celtic identity, with further examples of swords, shields, trumpets and torcs, can be found in the publication *Celts: Art and Identity* that accompanied the 2015 joint exhibition between the British Museum and National Museum of Scotland. It can still be found second hand, if not through your library. There is also an interesting video about the exhibition looking at Celtic material culture, specifically torcs and trumpets, on Youtube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hp9psiaoRK8>

And if you are ever in Rome, don't forget to visit the museum: <https://capitolinemuseums.com/> ■



THE STIRLING TORCS © THE ART FUND

A Viking Feasting Hall and Church in Northern Iceland

Anthony Newton

I am based in the School of GeoSciences at the University of Edinburgh and, along with my PhD student Emily Topness, travelled to Iceland in July 2025. Emily's aim is to better understand landscape change and human environment interactions in the Mývatn area of northern Iceland since the Norse settlement of Iceland in the late 9th century AD.

modern farmhouse and land of the modern Hofstaðir farm were left by the late owners for archaeological and other scientific research.

Well-dated volcanic ash (tephra) layers, along with radiocarbon dating, provide precise dating in many Icelandic archaeological sites. The distinctive Settlement Layer (or Landnám Layer) is found across much of Iceland and has been precisely dated in Greenland ice cores to 877 AD. Virtually all Icelandic archaeological remains are found above this layer, confirming that the Norse settlement of Iceland began in the 870s.

The long house, which is 28 metres long and 12-16

Fig 1: EXCAVATION OF THE HOFSTAÐIR LONGHOUSE (SKÁLI) IN 2001 © ANTHONY NEWTON



We stayed in the 20th century farmhouse at Hofstaðir, which is the site of one of the most important archaeological sites in Iceland. Hofstaðir has been the focus of archaeological research since the turn of the 20th century, beginning with the pioneering work of Danish archaeologist Daniel Bruun (1856-1931). He partially excavated a Viking Age long house (skáli), the largest in Iceland and as big as any found in Scandinavia.

He interpreted this as a pagan temple and the “Hof” element of the farm’s name also means temple. Further excavations have been undertaken, with the most recent between 1997 and 2013 and included an annual international archaeological field school. The long house was completely excavated, as was a second Viking Age settlement site, a Medieval church and cemetery. Hofstaðir also had an unexcavated mid-10th to 20th century farm mound and associated midden. The

metres wide, is now interpreted as a pagan feasting hall and was in use from after 940 to about 1030 AD. This is a complex site, with ancillary buildings including smithies and store rooms. Its ritual abandonment included the sacrifice of a sheep, which was placed on the skáli’s floor, bulls’ heads were left at each of the doorways and the skáli’s roof and walls were deliberately collapsed (after removing timbers, that were presumably reused). Surprisingly, the church, 70 metres to the south of the skáli, was in use from the mid-10th century, meaning that both pagans and Christians lived at Hofstaðir. This emphasises the different beliefs of Iceland settlers from Scandinavia, Britain and Ireland and also confirms that the “official” adoption of Christianity in 1000 AD did not mean pagan beliefs and practices disappeared overnight. The excavation of 169 Christian graves has provided valuable information about the age, diet

Fig 2: THE HOFSTADIR LONG HOUSE IN 2025
ANTHONY NEWTON



The field school is currently excavating the midden associated with the 10th to mid-20th century farm mound. The upper layers of farm mound were bulldozed by the former farmers, but older deposits are well preserved. When we were present, the excavations had just exposed a volcanic ash layer erupted from Veidivötn in 1477, which provides an important marker horizon across this part of Iceland. Other volcanic ash layers found in soils and archaeological sites

and health of Icelanders during this period (mid-10th century to around 1300 AD).

The current field school began in 2024 and is a collaboration between the Icelandic Archaeological Institute (Fornleifastofnun Íslands), universities of Iceland and Hólar, and The Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland (Minjastofnun Íslands). Around 10 students take part in the field school each year and in 2025 they came from Iceland, the US, UK and Norway. Emily and I gave talks to the students about the research we are carrying out in the area and also on how volcanic ash layers can be used for dating archaeology and palaeoenvironmental sediments and help us to understand the rates of environmental change.

around lake Mývatn include those from eruptions of Hekla in 1104 and 1300 AD, Öraefajökull in 1362 AD and Veidivötn in 877, 939 and 1717 AD. These provide excellent dating controls which also connect archaeological sites with the surrounding landscape.

Emily's research combines studies of the soils across this region with interviews with farmers, archival data (including early 18th century farm census data), climate data and the incorporation of zooarchaeological finds from excavations across the region.

[Dr Anthony Newton](#) is a lecturer in the School of GeoSciences at the University of Edinburgh and much of his research is in Iceland. For a couple of weeks in the summer, he was based at this archaeological site



Fig 3: SMITHY AND STORE ROOM
ANTHONY NEWTON

Fig 4: THE 2025 FIELD SCHOOL ANTHONY NEWTON



and also contributed to the archaeological field school. More information about the site is available [here](#).

Photographs

Fig 1: Excavation of the Hofstaðir long house (skáli) in 2001. The stone foundations on which the turf walls were built can be clearly seen. The modern home field, recently mowed, can be seen in the background.

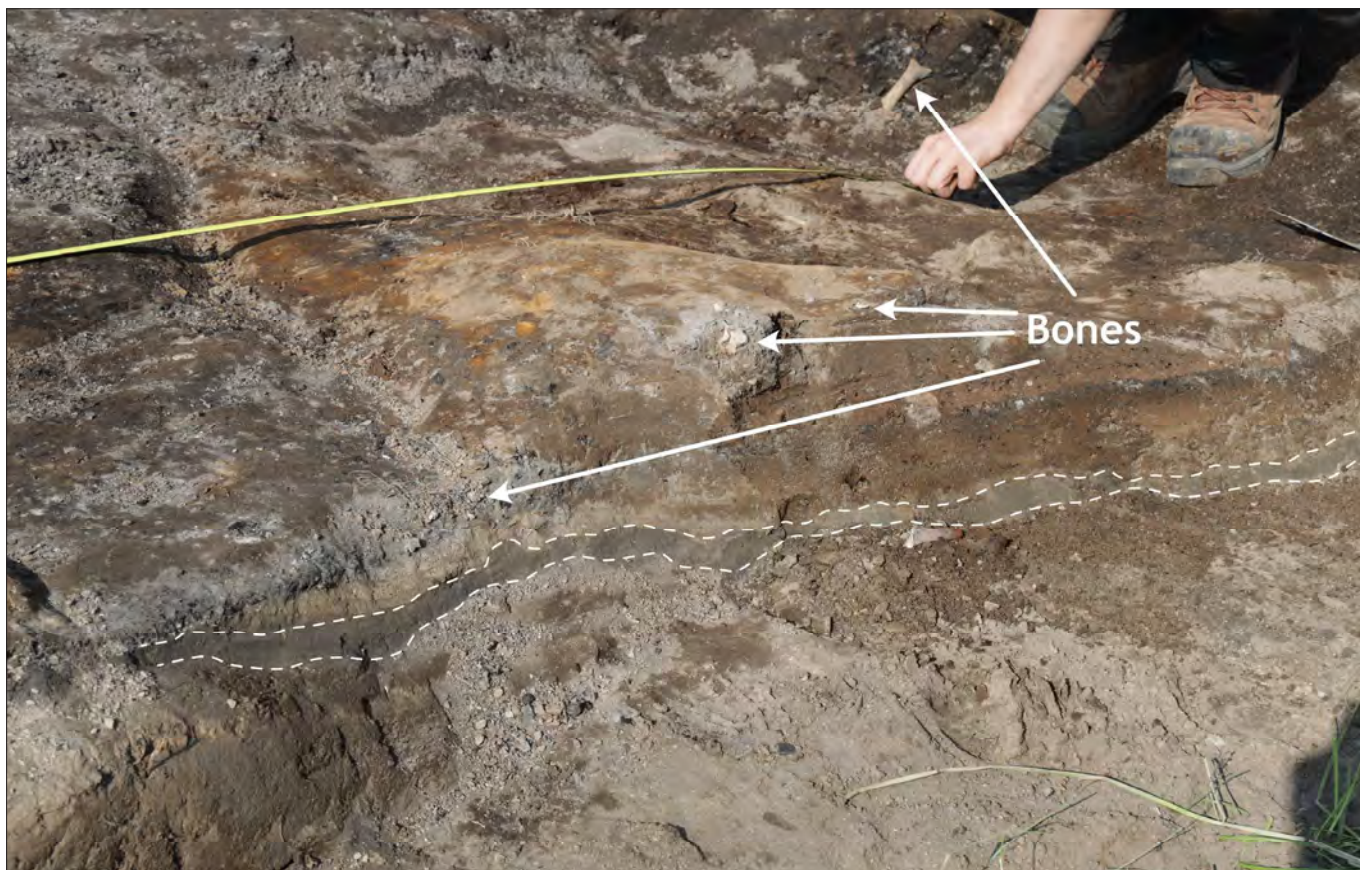
Fig 2: The Hofstaðir long house in 2025.

Fig 3: Other buildings next to the long house interpreted as a smithy and store room.

Fig 4: The 2025 Field School on the farm mound, being shown how to use a total station. The 20th century farm house can be seen in the background.

Fig 5: The 2025 excavation of the farm mound, showing the Veidivötn 1477 AD volcanic ash layer (highlighted by dashed white lines) and the locations of several animal bones. ■

Fig 5: 2025 EXCAVATION OF THE FARM MOUND ANTHONY NEWTON



Kenmure Castle, Galloway

Colin McLean

Kenmure Castle sits on a partly natural mound just south of New Galloway, by the head of Loch Ken (the scale of which is likely to have increased as a result of the Galloway Hydro-Electric Scheme). I lived nearby in my early teens and visited the castle regularly, probably oblivious to the dangers of going near it or, perish the thought, inside. One certainly wouldn't do that now; the interior looks extremely perilous. Passing it this September, I was prompted to revisit, and was able to fly my drone from a nearby clearing.

The approach is from the A762, about a mile south of New Galloway, along an impressive tree-lined avenue towards the mound. The access bends north to climb the mound on its north-east side via a slope and stairs, into what would have been the courtyard.

The site appears to have been occupied from the Middle Ages and may have been a local stronghold of the Lords of Galloway. There are records of the Gordon family of Lochinvar having acquired Kenmuir Castle in 1297, and a Gordon is still recorded as the current owner. There are records too of James IV visiting in 1508, and of Mary Queen of Scots staying there in 1563. This latter brought disapproval in the form of an attack on the castle in 1568, during the disturbances that followed her downfall. The castle appears on Joan Blaeu's map of Scotland (Galloway) of 1654.

Sir John Gordon was created Viscount Kenmure in 1633. The estate and castle suffered in the mid-17th century; burned by Cromwellian forces around 1650



JOAN BLAEU'S ATLAS OF SCOTLAND, 1654
© NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

because of the family's Royalist sympathies. The sixth Viscount was executed for supporting the 1715 Jacobite uprising and his estates were forfeited, though later restored.

The oldest portion of the building is the west range from c1630, facing east into the former courtyard: three stories high with a four-storey tower at its north end. At its southern end is a stair tower with three sides visible to the courtyard; likely from later that century. *The Buildings of Scotland: Dumfries & Galloway* (p355) describes the tower as octagonal, but with the advantage of my drone photographs I think that may not be quite right.



AERIAL VIEW FROM NORTH EAST LOOKING INTO THE FORMER COURTYARD



The principal range was extended with the addition of the south range, facing north. This may have commenced in the C18, but more likely c1840. Architecturally, the most interesting facade is the east face of the west range. It has fine rope mouldings draped over the first and second floor windows. On the upper floor the moulding drops below one window opening to form an inverted ogee arch, purely for decorative purposes. On the east side of the tower, the rope moulding round the second

floor window drops to have its ends playfully clutched in the hands of two sculpted figures. Over the doorway on the south side of the north tower is a fine heraldic panel, with a shield containing the heads of three dogs (wolves?), flanked by two figures holding weapons aloft. A second heraldic panel over the door on the north



ROPE MOULDING TERMINATING IN TWO SCULPTED FIGURES



HERALDIC PANELS OVER DOORS ON (LEFT) NORTH TOWER AND (RIGHT) SOUTH RANGE

front of the south range contains the same elements of three dogs/wolves flanked by two figures but in more restful poses.

The interior looked so dangerous I did not enter (there are warning signs), so I cannot comment. The vertical drone shots do not reveal much of the interior as there is so much vegetation. Interestingly, I could see no remains of a roof that might have collapsed in a fire. In fact, very little woodwork at all survives, other than remnants of a window high up on the west facade.

Though evidence of the other two sides of the courtyard is scant today, two engravings published by Francis Grose in his *Antiquities of Scotland* of 1790 give us an impression of what was. The tall chimney stacks and gables seen in the aerial photographs reveal what must have been a high-pitched roof on both ranges, as does Grose's engraving. Historic records and



KENMURE CASTLE: VERTICAL AERIAL (NORTH TO TOP OF PHOTOGRAPH)



photographs show details such as an enriched doorway and a heraldic panel above the principal entrance, as do my own photographs. During the 19th-century remodelling, the courtyard wall and at least one tower were removed, and the south range was rebuilt around 1840; further extensions were added to the south into the early 20th century.

By the late 18th century, parts were already described as ruinous, but the building was substantially remodelled and modernised in the 19th century, by various architects and builders including William McCandlish, Hugh Maclure and M. E. Hadfield.

The house remained in use into the early 20th century

- as a hotel in the 1940s and '50s - but it is reported that the interior fittings were removed and the roof taken off in the late 1950s, leaving the building a ruin. There is some controversy over this as local papers report a major fire at this time which damaged the roof (I couldn't get to the absolute facts). The site was recorded/listed mid-20th century and is now a Scheduled Monument. A sundial dated 1623 from Kenmure is now in Dumfries Museum.

Kenmure Castle is a marvelous ruin to visit and view its exterior, but do keep a safe distance.

All photographs by Colin McLean ■

Newhall South Revisited

Piers Dixon & Trevor Cowie

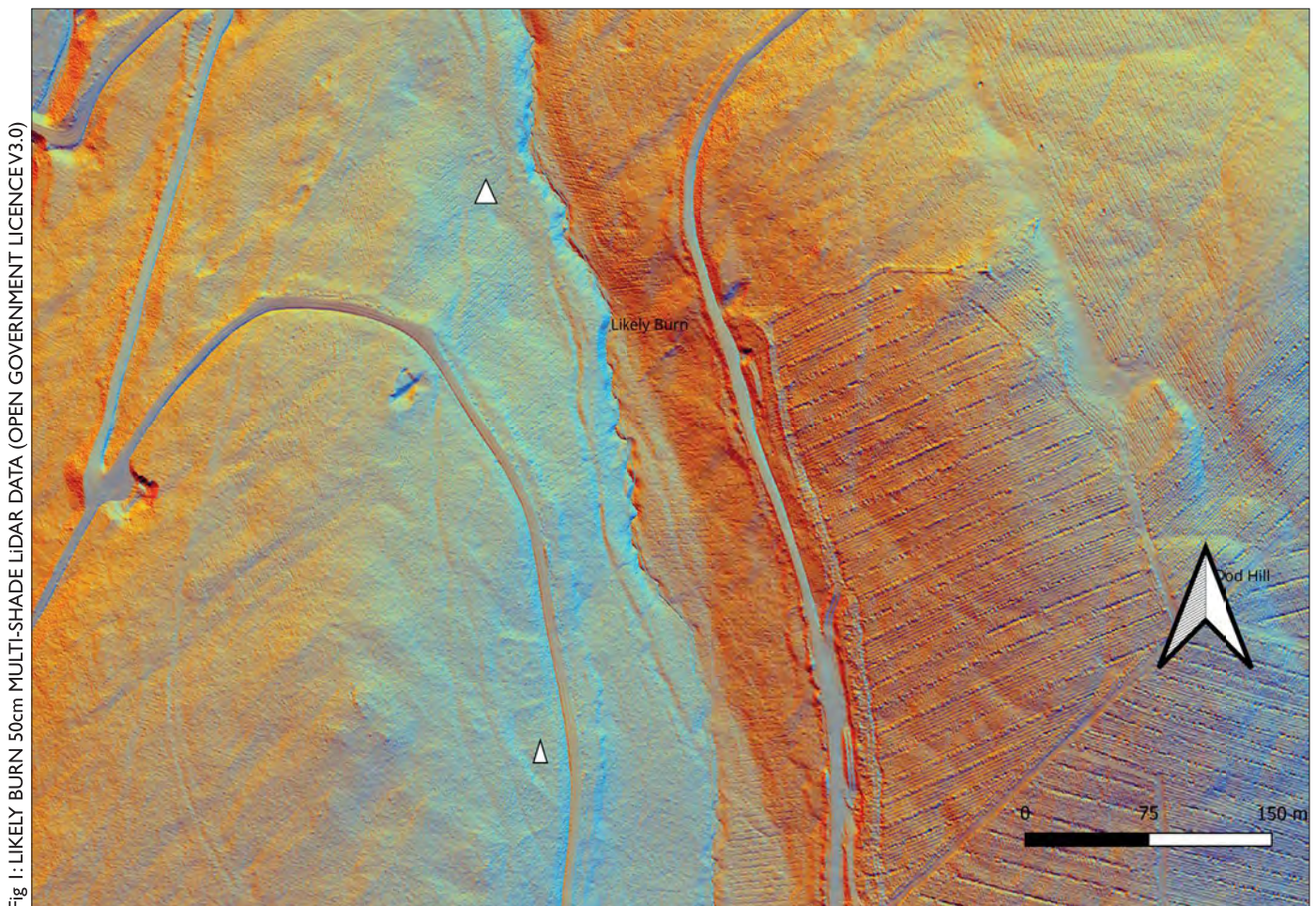
In September's Newsletter, we described the results of a field visit we had made during the summer to assess various discoveries which had been brought to our attention in an extensive area of forestry at Newhall, near Traquair. At the end of our article, we noted that our own inspection of the LiDAR coverage of the area had revealed further features of archaeological interest but, as there had not been sufficient time to check these out, a further visit would be required. Eventually, one morning in October, favourable weather conditions and a free day in our diaries finally enabled us to make that return visit. Our immediate aim was to check out two possible sites visible on the LiDAR data and, in the event, we were able to confirm both (Figure 1).

the old forestry plough furrows, the growth of vegetation and the remains of the post-felling spread of brash made it very difficult to pick out any definite features at the time of this visit, apart from a short length of stony bank aligned NW-SE. A further site visit is in the pipeline, probably when the vegetation has died back further!

Likely Burn: scooped settlement (see Fig 1, lower triangle)

On the LiDAR coverage, the truncated remains of a large enclosure, with some form of internal subdivision, appeared to lie beside the present forest road. Despite having been severely damaged by the road's construction, it was possible to identify this site on the ground as the remains of a scooped settlement.

The surviving western side is terraced into the slope to a depth of about 2m. The walls comprise stony rubble banks spread to 3-4m across and about 0.75m in height



Likely Burn: building(s), square enclosure, hollow-way (see Fig 1, upper triangle)

Just west of the Likely Burn in an area that had been clear-felled, the LiDAR coverage suggests the presence of two buildings at right angles to each other with a square enclosure to the north, all located near the line of an old track or hollow-way running up to it from the south. Measured from LiDAR, the better-defined of the buildings is 13m by 7.5m overall, divided by a transverse wall into two compartments. Based on the common axes of the buildings and the square enclosure, these features are interpreted as a small post-medieval settlement.

However, on the ground, the awkward alignment of

where their course runs downslope. Much stone is spread across parts of the interior that have been dragged up by the plough, and at least one subsidiary hollow area was located on the eastern side where it is cut by the road in the middle of the site. Measured on LiDAR, the enclosure extends 105m NNW-SSE with a surviving maximum width of 28m and appears to be divided in two by a later(?) bank running down the slope.

Despite the severity of the damage, the features of this enclosure are in keeping with the scooped settlements known from across Southern Scotland. Dating broadly to the later Iron Age (c200BC-400AD), these farming settlements tend to occupy non-defensive positions situated, as here, on hill slopes above a valley floor.

Their name derives from the way in which the interior is typically dug into the slope, with the resulting upcast used to construct a substantial enclosing bank or wall. Within the enclosed area, there are often level platforms which would have provided foundations for roundhouses, usually associated with yards for domestic activities and penning livestock.

Members who attended the September lecture by Dr Graeme Cavers may recall Graeme describing the results of excavations undertaken by AOC Archaeology on a scooped settlement at Adie's Brae just north of Moffat, as part of the programme of fieldwork associated with the Uncovering the Tweed Project. For an easily accessible summary of the results, with further background information about this type of site, see <https://destinationtweed.org/archaeology/excavations-at-adies-brae/>

Acknowledgement: We are grateful to Charlotte Cavey-Wilcox, Scottish Woodlands Regional Manager for SE Scotland, for enabling us to access and record these sites, and for originally alerting us to the presence of features of possible archaeological interest at Newhall South. ■



Fig 2: LIKELY BURN SCOOPED SETTLEMENT: PIERS RECORDING, WITH THE TERRACE OF THE ENCLOSURE VISIBLE IN THE BACKGROUND © TREVOR COWIE



Fig 3: LIKELY BURN SCOOPED SETTLEMENT - VIEW OF THE INTERIOR © TREVOR COWIE

Lecture Programme & Events

Richard Welander

Before introducing our speaker for this month, a big thank you to all of you who came to Matt Knight and Bethan Bryan's Unearthing and Conserving the Peebles Hoard lecture at the Eastgate Theatre last month. Our National Museums Scotland friends were delighted to have a full house, and I'm pleased to report that the Society's project funds are now better off by a little over £2,000! Thanks for your support!

TREVOR COWIE WITH MATT KNIGHT & BETHAN BRYAN AT THE EASTGATE LECTURE © COLIN MCLEAN



Given the success of this venture and the evident wider public interest, committee members are considering organising another public lecture next autumn and possibly even making this an annual event. What do you think about this suggestion? Please voice your views at our next meeting on 20th November.

Our November lecture, the third in our series, is being given by Dr Murray Cook, Stirling Council's archaeologist. Originally from Leith, he now lives in Stirling 'with a very supportive wife, three daughters and three cats!' giving advice not only to Stirling but also to Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and North Lanarkshire Councils. A great believer in public archaeology, he has published more than 60 articles and books and led numerous walks and excavations, as publicised in his Substack blog [Stirling Archaeology](#).

In his talk 'New Light on Dumyat Hillfort: Results of

New Survey & Excavation' Murray will tell us about recent work at Dumyat, a hillfort in the Ochil Hills to the



PICTISH STONE DISCOVERED AT OLD KILMADOCK IN 2019 © STIRLING COUNCIL

south of Stirling. Dumyat means the Fort of Maeatae.

The Maeatae are one of the few people from what is now Scotland, as named by the Romans. They appear to have been the main population of Manau. They feature in what might be Britain's only attempted genocide, ordered by Emperor Septimius Severus (145-211 CE) on his death bed. It seems likely that they survived but this intervention is linked to the eventual emergence of the Picts. It is not clear if the Maeatae (or Miathi as they become known) were Pictish or not. Until recently there were no recorded Pictish symbols stones in Stirlingshire or Clackmannanshire, but the recent discovery of one at Old Kilmadock introduces intriguing complications. In addition, recent research into the so-called southern brochs indicates they may also have been contemporary with the Maeatae. This lecture will link new survey and key-hole excavation at Dumyat with other research round Stirling to explore the form of Manau and the relationship of the Picts and the Maeatae and the nature of the possible genocide.

Intrigued? Do come and join us at St Joseph's Neighbourhood Centre at 7.30pm. on Thursday November 20th and find out more about the Maeatae.

PAS Lectures 2025-26

Unless otherwise indicated, all lectures start at 7.30pm, and are held in St Joseph's Neighbourhood Centre, Rosetta Road, Peebles.

November 20th 2025: New Light on Dumyat Hillfort: Results of New Survey & Excavation – Dr Murray Cook, Stirling Council

December 9th 2025: The Lost Royal Lodgings in Edinburgh Castle & the Birthplace of Great Britain – Peter Yeoman (*NB: Eastgate Theatre*)

January 15th 2026: The Archaeological Landscape & Historical Context of the Galloway Hoard – Dr Orla Craig, Historic Environment Scotland

February 19th 2026: Hillforts, Settlements & Ancient Geography – Strat Halliday

March 19th 2026: Recent Work on Lindisfarne: New Light on a Central British Monastery – Professor David Petts, University of Durham

April 16th 2026: Annual General Meeting & Members' Evening.

DR MURRAY COOK © STIRLING COUNCIL



Other Events

Saturday 15 November

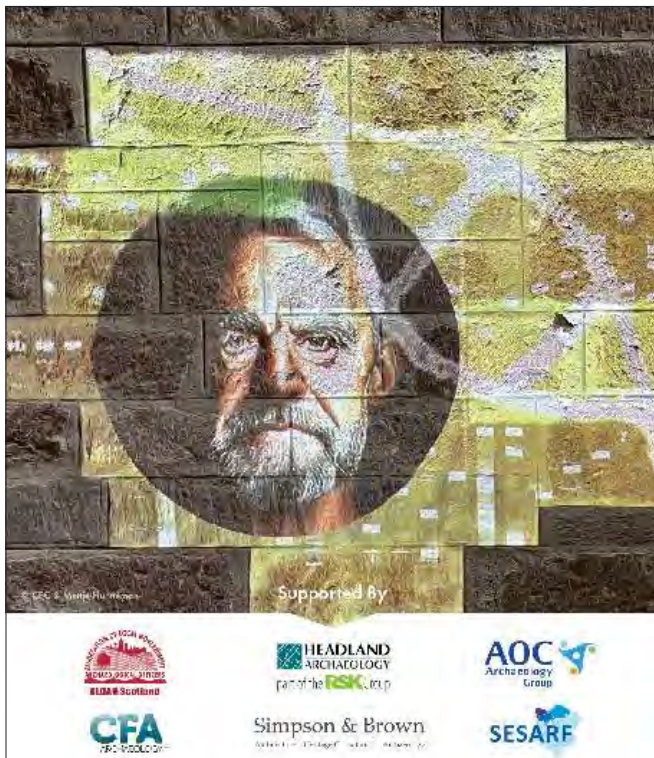
Edinburgh, Lothians & Borders Archaeology Conference

This year's Conference is to be held on Saturday, November 15th 2025 at Queen Margaret University (QMU) in Musselburgh.

As ever there is a range of speakers covering a selection of periods, themes and topics from across southeast Scotland. For the Scottish Borders in particular, there will be reports on the following:

- The results of metal-detecting and fieldwalking at Trimontium (Newstead) Roman Fort;
- Varied fieldwork at a number of Medieval and Post-Medieval sites in Towers of Rule for the Rule Valley (located between Hawick and Jedburgh)
- Excavations at a possible Medieval hospital at Horndean undertaken as part of the [*Uncovering the Tweed*](#) project.
- The Scottish Borders will also feature in the presentation launching the [*South East Scotland Archaeological Research Framework \(SESARF\)*](#).

Between the conference talks there will be breaks, and of course time for lunch, when you can visit a wide range of displays, stalls and stands from the many organisations, societies and other groups with interests in South East Scotland.



The programme can be downloaded from [here](#) and you can book your tickets [here](#). If you wish to have the buffet lunch (£13), then you will need to book for this in advance. Talks-only tickets can also be bought on the day itself.

Uncovering the Tweed

Get Involved - Lithics at Paxton, November 10-13th [tickets here](#)

University of Glasgow: The Dalrymple Lectures

This year's Dalrymple lecture series will mark Glasgow 850 with a pair of lectures exploring the contribution of archaeology to telling the story of Glasgow's first 850 years – and what came before Glasgow. The lectures will be delivered by Stephen Driscoll, Professor of Historical Archaeology at the University of Glasgow. The series will be entitled *Stones, Saints, Ships and Slaves: an archaeology of Glasgow for 850*

Thursday 20 November 2025 Part 1: Medieval Conceptions (AD 500-1600)

Friday 21 November 2025 Part 2: Modern Movements (AD 1600-present)

Both lectures will take place in the Sir Charles Wilson lecture theatre, from 6.30pm. Entry is free to all, and the lectures will also be livestreamed and recorded. You can find out more [here](#).

Stephen Driscoll is the Professor of Historical Archaeology at the University of Glasgow.

His main research interest is the archaeology of the Insular Celtic peoples and exploring the early medieval social foundations of the British state, particularly in Scotland. A native of Washington DC he had the good fortune to come to Glasgow in 1982 and apart from a stint excavating in Edinburgh he has never left. Early in his career he set up the field unit GUARD and undertook a series of large infrastructure projects, before becoming a full-time academic.

A long-standing member of the Glasgow Archaeological Society, he served as the first editor of the Scottish Archaeological Journal. An equally long-stand fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, he has served on their editorial board for many years. He has had the privilege of serving on the Historic Scotland Advisory Committee (2012-15) and chairing the committee that developed the Scottish Archaeology Strategy (2013-19). He had the honour of co-ordinating the team that delivered the largest archaeology conference in Scotland, the European Archaeology Association meeting in Glasgow (2015).

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