



ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

No. 60 AUGUST 2020



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WINDSOR CASTLE

12th May, 2020.

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you for your letter of 6th April with regard to your new position as President and for enclosing a copy of the Royal Archaeological Institute's Newsletter, Council Report and Financial Statements.

I have shown your letter and the documents to The Queen who, as Patron, was grateful to be kept informed. This message comes to you, and to all those at the Royal Archaeological Institute, with Her Majesty's warmest good wishes during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Magee

Matt Magee
Assistant Private Secretary to The Queen

Ken Smith, Esq.

The Government has published 'Planning for the future', aimed at economic recovery through infrastructure spending and housebuilding. Christopher Pincher MP replied to a written question in Parliament that 'The Government is committed to the protection of the historic environment. Heritage considerations, including the need for archaeological surveys, will continue to be taken into account in bringing forward any planning reforms'.

Members of the Archaeology Forum wrote to the PM and relevant Ministers, about Archaeology's contribution to construction-led recovery ... by effective investigation, leading to greater understanding and conservation of heritage assets before and during development. The planning process [works] to protect our historic environment, put it to work for public benefit, minimise costs and delays, and contribute to good place-making, local distinctiveness, and community identity. ... archaeologists can enable well-balanced and informed planning decisions by assessing how heritage assets can be protected from needless harm, and how their investigation can add value to the development, to local people and the wider community.

They asked for assurance 'that new approaches will maintain existing planning safeguards for the historic environment, ensure that our nation's unique cultural heritage is conserved, investigated and interpreted so that everyone gains from the economic, social and environmental benefits it offers'.

Earlier proposals, to remove the requirement for planning permission to demolish and rebuild vacant residential and commercial buildings if they are rebuilt as homes, were restated. This is an opportunity to propose extending requirements for planning permission to demolish historic buildings, supporting the regeneration of existing buildings, and a reform of VAT which penalises refurbishment with 20% VAT but zero-rates new build.

There are two open consultations: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-current-planning-system> (closes 1 Oct. 2020) and [/planning-for-the-future](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future) (closes 29 Oct. 2020).

ATTENDING LECTURES AT BURLINGTON HOUSE AND USING THE ANTIQUARIES' LIBRARY P. Wilson, Hon. Secretary

In the light of continuing Covid-19 precautions and the requirements of social distancing, the Society of Antiquaries has introduced a requirement for their own lectures that those wishing to attend pre-book. Other bodies such as ours using their premises will need to follow similar procedures to ensure that 'safe limits' are not exceeded. Anyone wishing to attend a lecture should email the Institute's Administrator (admin@royalarchinst.org); at the present

time it is not known what the cap on numbers will be.

The Antiquaries' Library is re-opening to users and, in common with Antiquaries Fellows and others, Institute members must pre-book a two-hour 'slot'. The Antiquaries will be providing information on the number of slots available and the booking process when both are in place. We will reproduce that information on the Institute's website: <https://www.royalarchinst.org>.

In addition, care will also need to be exercised while accessing the cloakrooms and other facilities. At present the wearing of facemasks in Burlington House is not mandatory, but members who wish to wear a mask are free to do so.

The above information is subject to change and *in extremis* it may be necessary to cancel meetings if circumstances change or Government Guidance so demands. For enquiries, the Institute's mobile number is 07847 600756.

RAI OPTIONS REVIEW

As our President mentioned in his introductory letter of 6 April 2020 (circulated with the last Newsletter), one of the requirements of his election to office was to oversee a review of the aims and objectives of the Institute and the provision of an options appraisal for consideration by Council.

Following approval by Council of the brief for the work, tenders have been received, considered and a consultant appointed to undertake the work. Dr Gemma Tully (University of Cambridge) will begin the review at the end of July.

It had been hoped that a membership questionnaire would be available for circulation with this Newsletter but the timetabling has not quite worked. This brief note is to forewarn members that a questionnaire will be circulated in early autumn as a hard copy but with a digital link for those who prefer that medium of response.

The questionnaire will seek to identify what you like about what is provided for you, as members of the Institute, what could be improved, discarded, or what additional provision might be made to improve the benefits of your membership. However, the primary objective of the review is to suggest how the Institute might best position itself in the current archaeological world to deliver better its charitable objectives, and members' suggestions and views via the anticipated questions to this end will be welcomed.

Our President exhorts you to complete the questionnaire in due course, to inform Dr Tully's work and her report and, ultimately, to guide the decisions that Council will be making about the future direction of the Institute and the benefits that we, its members, will receive.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Current Archaeology Awards 2020

The winners of the twelfth annual awards were announced on Friday 28 February, at Senate House, University of London, during '*Current Archaeology Live! 2020*'. Voted for entirely by the public – there are no panels of judges – the awards celebrate the projects and publications that made the pages of the magazine over the vpast year, and the people judged to have made outstanding contributions to archaeology.

The winners were:

Archaeologist of the Year: Prof. Alison Sheridan

Research Project of the Year: Life beside the lake: opening a new window on the Mesolithic at Star Carr by Universities of York, Newcastle and Chester

Rescue Project of the Year: Roman writing on the wall: recording inscriptions at a Hadrian's Wall quarry by Jon Allison

Book of the Year: *Life and Death in the Countryside of Roman Britain* by Alexander Smith *et al.*

Current Archaeology Live! 2021 may be held at Senate House in February 2021, subject to prevailing guidelines.

British Archaeological Awards 2020

Although this scheme has now resumed under the umbrella of the Council for British Archaeology (CBA), it has been postponed until March 2021, primarily as a result of the dramatically reduced archaeological activity predicted for this year. The BAA website should be updated in the coming weeks with details including when nominations reopen.

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY FESTIVAL JULY 2020

Kathryn Stubbs

The CBA annual Festival of Archaeology was, this year, a 'Digital Week', and its theme was Climate and Environment. For those emerging from lockdown and becoming (or not) used to different ways of working, online and virtual events are valuable ways for communities and individuals to communicate and to experience other places.



Excavating the 18th-century water feature at Trinity College (D. Radford)



DIY intertidal erosion
(© CITiZAN)

There were 127 events held as part of the Festival which, as usual, covered a wide area of sites, activities and topics. There were talks, tours, blogs, workshops, how to do an archaeological dig in your garden, recording graveyard monuments, behind-the-scenes visits to museum collections, competitions, video games and many more. One webinar had the City Archaeologist for Oxford, David Radford, describing recent archaeological excavations in advance of new development around Oxford. These ranged from a Roman pottery manufactory via Norman buildings to the rediscovery of remains of lost eighteenth-century formal gardens at Trinity College. Most events were free, or available for a modest charge, and some are still available to view on YouTube. 'Crafting with CITiZAN' explores the impact of climate change on the environment through experiment, including how to build your own intertidal archaeology site, with guided study of what coastal erosion looks like, and the pros and cons of coastal archaeology being revealed.

As one of the Festival partners, the RAI sponsored 'A Day in Archaeology'. This blog

has been a popular feature of previous festivals and is an incredible insight of a typical day, although typical does not, perhaps, describe most days in archaeology. This year, some contributions were from people who had been furloughed, and demonstrated how they were adjusting to a different daily pattern and juggling home demands, or schooling, whilst, for example, carrying out personal research, volunteering, or catching up on CPD (Continuing Professional Development) with webchat, webinars, and 'Tea Room chats'. There are insights into the digital world, about archiving, digital data and HERs (Historic Environment Records), community work and volunteering, accompanied in some cases by a supporting dog or cat. Whether getting wet and muddy outside or poring over digital maps, it is all part of the interest and enjoyment.

Another theme of the blog was about how an interest in archaeology was sparked and then developed. From reading historic fiction, belonging to a Young Archaeologists' Club, visiting sites, going to talks, meeting those working in archaeology, going on digs and

building recording workshops, the passion and enthusiasm in discovering archaeology is inspiring. One session gave information and advice on studying archaeology, and its diverse skills which might be applied in other areas such as theatre studies. Several blogs were from people awaiting A-level results and keenly anticipating studying archaeology at University; we must hope they will contribute to a future blog!

Several museums hosted events about their collections or held workshops and were an incentive to visit or re-visit when we can get out and about again. Rutland County Museum produced an online booklet, focused on Roman sites and their associated objects: the plaque or inlay, probably depicting the goddess Roma, is from Great Casterton. The most mundane object, or rare find, brought vividly to life by digitisation, provides a window into many objects which are carefully stored in the archive. There were events and activities about people, what they wore, ate or how they lived – you can find out how to make a Celtic Roundhouse (from paper or card), learn how to curse like a Roman or make mosaics.



Ox-bone plaque (OS486,
© Rutland County Museum)

The digital format of the Festival was very successful and has the added bonus of our being able to catch up or view again on YouTube. This year, for the first time, it is part of European Archaeology Days. There will be a second series of on-the-ground events, planned for 14 October–1 November including talks, walks, activities and skills training.

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE RESEARCH GRANTS

The Institute awards the following grants annually:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Tony Clark Fund | Up to £500 for archaeological work and dating |
| Bunnell Lewis Fund | Up to £750 towards archaeology of the Roman period in the UK |
| RAI Award | Up to £5000 towards archaeological work in the UK |

Please write to the Administrator at RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London W1J 0BE for an application form, or visit our website, www.royalarchinst.org

Closing date for applications: 14 December 2020. Awards announced in April 2021.

RAI Dissertation Prizes

The RAI awards prizes for dissertations on a subject concerned with the archaeology or architectural history of Britain, Ireland and adjacent areas of Europe. In odd-numbered years, the competition is for the best dissertation submitted by a Master's student. In even-numbered years, the Tony Baggs Award is given to the best dissertation submitted by an undergraduate in full-time education. Nominations are made by University and College Departments. The winner will receive £500 and the opportunity for a paper based on the dissertation to be published in the *Archaeological Journal*. The chief criteria considered are (a) quality of work and (b) appropriateness to the interests of the RAI as reflected in the *Journal*. The prize will be presented at the Institute's December meeting.

RAI Cheney Bursaries

As a result of a bequest left by Frank Cheney, the Institute has a small fund of money to enable students to attend conferences or RAI meetings. An allocation is available annually from which individuals can apply for a maximum sum of £200. Please check with the Administrator that money remains in the yearly fund before you apply. Students who wish to apply for a bursary should email to admin@royalarchinst.org.uk or write to the Administrator, RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BE, at least six weeks before the event they wish to attend, stating: the institution in which they study, the event they wish to attend, the sum of money requested, a breakdown of how the money would be spent and a summary (up to 250 words) of why they would like to attend the event and in what way this would be useful to them. Successful

applicants may be asked to produce a brief report of the event for the Institute.

Research and Reports

Seven projects were awarded Institute research grants for 2020, but at the time of writing all except one had been postponed to 2021. In the meantime, one project reports on a continuing though very different aspect of their work; a Past President brings us up-to-date with the state-of-the-art presentation of a World Heritage Site; and a regular contributor has sent a note about the material that inspired her present academic studies.

Mrs Eliza McGeagh and the Witchampton Chess Pieces Gill Vickery

Sometime in the early 1900s, a gardener, John Cave, was following instructions to remove the roots of a walnut tree from an atypical stony mound in the marshy floodplain of the river Allen, just north of Wimborne in Dorset. He needed to dig deeply, and to his amazement he came across a 'brick span' which he thought might be a mausoleum. He was instructed to re-bury it straightaway, so he did not bother to mention the human arm bone and iron arm ring which appeared on another side of the mound.

Mrs Eliza McGeagh took the tenancy of The Manor at Witchampton around 1915 and stayed there until her death in 1939. An energetic and inquisitive person, she was soon investigating an imposing barn in the next field. This building, now a conserved ruin, is considered to have originated as a thirteenth-century manor house of flint and ashlar. It was outside the curtilage of her tenure but ignited a keen interest both in the history of her beautiful sixteenth-century home and in the mound where John Cave had dug up the arm bone, which was within her territory.

Overseeing excavations
at Witchampton
(© Dorset Natural
History and
Archaeological Society,
courtesy of Dorset
County Museum)



Excavations began here in 1923 and continued sporadically (winters, after all, were spent in the south of France) until 1927. The new gardener, Frank Beaven, was principal excavator, with assistance from Mrs McGeagh's brother and son. The surviving correspondence, finds and photographs suggest evidence of Iron Age and Roman domestic occupation; the flint foundations of an associated solid circular building with a flimsier annex; the vestiges of a late or post-Roman planned cemetery; and a small, well-built rectangular building. On the floor of this last structure were high-status artefacts from the twelfth century, including some chess pieces made of whale flipper bone, so unusual that Ormonde Dalton (Keeper of British and Medieval Antiquities) came personally to escort these pieces to London as a gift to the British Museum.

As the excavation progressed interest from the archaeological world grew, and Mrs McGeagh gradually enlisted local and wider support and assistance. In 1924 her niece was despatched to Chedworth Villa, acquired that

year by the National Trust, where she reported back enthusiastically on the large tesserae surrounding the fine mosaics, exactly like the few that were found at Witchampton. A report on the Roman remains was published in the *Journal of Roman Studies* by Heywood Sumner who, transported from Cuckoo Hill in Mrs McGeagh's 'fiery chariot', advised on excavation techniques and interpretation. Miss M. V. Taylor, then editor of the journal, visited and refined the report for publication. She gave a presentation on the excavation at Burlington House in December 1926, and the principal artefacts were displayed to the Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries in March 1927.

The post-Roman and medieval finds were considered superfluous to Roman remains and the correspondence does not throw much light on their discovery. Leonard Dudley Buxton excavated the human remains and took the skulls, at least, to his laboratory at Oxford University for his crania collection: they have since been discarded. The remaining finds were taken to Poole Museum

on Mrs McGeagh's death and included over 30 kg of large unabraded sherds of medieval scratch ware. In 1949 this collection was examined by Gerald Dunning, who declared 'The Poole collection of Norman English scratch ware pottery is as fine a collection as any in the country' (PM 18).

The outstanding artefacts from the excavation are undoubtedly the chess pieces. Excellent photographs of most of these are available to view in the British Museum online catalogue: [searchhttps://www.britishmuseum.org/collection](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection) for 'Witchampton'. Some of these pieces are presently on display there in Room 41: Sutton Hoo and Europe: AD 300–1100. Try to ignore the Sutton Hoo stuff and turn right. On this wall is a cabinet depicting Anglo-Saxon design and craftwork. Displayed here are some of the exceptional Witchampton chess pieces and, although stylised rather than figurative, in my opinion, they are equally as enigmatic and characterful as the Other Ones in Room 40. The next time you are allowed into the museum you should immediately go and look for yourself.

Although the catalogue describes them as chess pieces, the interpretation description explains them as 'gaming pieces made for playing chess-like board games', and this is one of a number of reasons why the Witchampton chess pieces are so interesting. In summary:

- They are the only English medieval pieces, as far as I know, made of whale bone (Riddler 1995). In medieval contexts this material is usually associated with high-status sites (Gardiner 1997).
- They are large: the *aufin*, bishop, is 10.4 cm high. A huge board would have been needed to accommodate the pieces. These boards were status symbols, often highly ornate and displayed on a wall.



The Witchampton Rook (Ht 10.2 cm; G. Vickery)

- Despite their apparent high-status size and material, they have been naively carved, and indeed the horsemen appear as unfinished. The designs reflect a medieval style of chess pieces but there are some unique elements which indicate they were a remarkable set.
- Some pieces have been inscribed; this is unique for any medieval chess piece. The partial words are not decipherable: CL and ATRAS. John Hines (pers. comm.) has suggested that the latter may be preceded by an R, P or D, not an S as suggested by Dalton (1928).
- The type of script was in use in late Anglo Saxon and early post-Conquest Britain (Okasha 1971, 126). They are

thus displayed in the early medieval room as an example of craft skill in Anglo-Saxon England. For this reason, the pieces are described as 'gaming pieces' rather than chess pieces.

- The *aufin* or bishop has a standard two-headed design, but these are represented anthropomorphically. This treatment along with the lettering style and possible wording led Dalton (1927; 1928) tentatively to suggest a tenth-century date, which is controversial as chess appears to arrive in Britain with the Normans (Riddler 1995). However, here they are in the early medieval room.

Dalton later wrote to Mrs McGeagh admitting that he had been rather hasty in ascribing the pieces to the early medieval period. Chess pieces are usually found singly and often residual, so finding at least seven together, with associated twelfth-century items, seems to clinch the later date.

At the start of my research, in 2016, when I examined the pieces at the British Museum, I realised one had been described erroneously. Piece 8 was called a pawn, but, after consulting Andy Chapman (2005), I wrote to the British Museum to suggest a change of description to rook. Its presence suggests to me that these are the remains of a set for playing chess.

There are many questions to ask about these pieces. What story is around the use of whale bone? Are they heirlooms? Were they carved as a one-off set? What do the letters represent? Why were they discarded in Witchampton? This is why the Witchampton chess pieces are so fascinating.

PM 18. Witchampton archive, Poole Museum
Chapman, A. 2005, *Medieval Stylised Chess Pieces*, The Finds Research Group AD 700–1700, Datasheet 35
Dalton, O.M. 1927, 'Early Chessmen from Dorset', *BMQ* 1: 4, 90–1

Dalton, O.M. 1928, 'Early Chessmen of Whale's Bone Excavated in Dorset', *Archaeologia* 77, 77–86
Gardiner, M. 1997, 'The Exploitation of Sea Mammals in Medieval England: Bones and their Social Context', *Archaeol. J.* 154, 173–95
Okasha, E., 1971, *Hand-List of Anglo-Saxon Non-Runic Inscriptions*, Cambridge University Press
Riddler, I. 1995, 'Anglo Norman Chess', in A.J. De Voogt, *New Approaches to Board Games Research: Asian Origins and Future Perspectives*, Leiden: International Institute for Asian Studies: Working Pap. Ser. 3, 99–110
Taylor, M.V. (ed.), 1924, 'Roman Britain in 1924', *JRS* XIV, 235–7
Taylor, M.V. (ed.), 1925, 'Roman Britain in 1925', *JRS* XV, 238

The Antonine Wall David Breeze

The Antonine Wall, the Roman frontier in Scotland, was the most northerly frontier of the Roman Empire for a generation from AD 142. It is a World Heritage Site and Scotland's largest ancient monument. Today, it cuts across the densely populated central belt between Forth and Clyde. The Institute visited the Antonine Wall in 2007 as part of its Summer Meeting based in Glasgow (see 2007 Summer Meeting Report and *Newsletter* 34). The following year, the monument was inscribed as a World Heritage Site. It joined Hadrian's Wall and the Upper-German and Raetian Limes (visited by the Institute in 2013) as part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site (WHS). The inscription of the Antonine Wall in 2008 was the end of a sustained programme of work to identify the proposed WHS site and its buffer zones, to ensure that all parties were content with the proposals and to create a Management Plan. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland was invited to prepare the maps and as part of this exercise Historic Scotland funded the creation of a new GIS for the



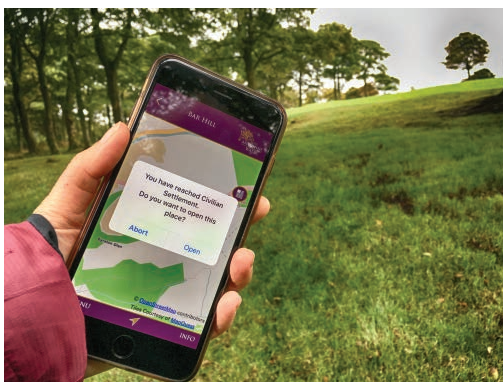
New signage for
Bearsden (© Historic
Environment Scotland)

monument to aid improved understanding and protection. Out of this came a new map of the Antonine Wall at 1:25000. The whole process took four years and with the successful inscription everyone breathed a huge sigh of relief.

That moment was short-lived because expectations had been raised ... to improve access, provide more parking, signing and tourist information. The new map was a start and Historic Environment Scotland updated and upgraded their interpretative panels at the several sections in state care. As part of the nomination process the Hunterian Museum (Glasgow University) had moved into digital

technology, providing information online and on smartphone applications – apps – about the fort at Bar Hill and the artefactual material in the museum, building on the work of Erik Dobat and Sandra Walkshofer. Now, it was time for another step forward.

A workshop of interested bodies along the Antonine Wall met in 2015 and agreed the framework of a project to improve awareness and understanding of the frontier in the local community. An application was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund and was approved, as was additional funding from LEADER (an EU-funded rural grant programme). The aim of the project is to reach out to communities along the Wall who are less engaged with it, particularly in areas of deprivation. A suite of capital and community projects include: erecting a replica Distance Slab in each of the five local authority areas along the Wall, creating a Roman-themed play park in each area based on local schoolchildren's designs, forming a volunteer group – a 21st-century Legion – and undertaking community-led projects such as Roman gardens, sculptures, and theatre and creative writing workshops. These projects are designed both to raise





AR: displaying a 3-D reconstruction onto a panel (E. Dobat, S. Walkshofer)

the profile of the Wall, ensuring its local appreciation and protection, and to use it to contribute to wider regeneration and well-being agendas. There is a project manager, supported by an officer and administrative assistant.

Work is now well underway on all these schemes. I have participated in some and it is enormously encouraging to see the enthusiasm which is being brought to all aspects. I spent many years excavating at the fort at Bearsden, part of which underlies the grounds of the local Baptist church. New Roman-themed features have been added to its garden, including the sound of Roman soldiers tramping round, and their voices in both Latin and English.

The international element of the project continues. Historic Environment Scotland has been working with the Bavarian Museums Service to create a new smartphone application platform – app – for the wider Limes (including content for Scotland and Germany), a project funded by Creative Europe. The technical work of creating the platform has been undertaken by Dobat and Walkshofer and the app offers 3D models and augmented reality (AR) alongside more traditional interpretation. It

can be used remotely, but functions best on site, where visitors can stand on, say, Bar Hill, and not only see objects found there but also explore a reconstructed landscape. Now that it is complete, the technology can be shared freely with other Limes countries, creating a valuable resource for visitors touring the wider frontier.

In the meantime, traditional activities continued with a Wall-focused Festschrift presented earlier this year to Professor Lawrence Keppie, formerly of the Hunterian Museum.

Aldborough Roman Town Project: Podcasts and Creative Programmes

Rose Ferraby and Martin Millett

The strange events of this past year have challenged all of us to find ways of telling stories and engaging communities with past, underground worlds off-site. At Aldborough, we have spent the last few years developing a creative programme to diversify the ways in which people might engage with the processes and ideas behind researching archaeological landscapes, and how archaeologists' creative practice can form new ways of thinking about the past.



Detail from 'Amphitheatre and Enclosures' by Rose Ferraby, 2019, for Soundmarks

Last year, we began making podcasts each week,¹ to trace the story of our excavation, and give space for different voices on site. They attracted both local and far-afield listeners, allowing a sense of immediacy and proximity to the process of excavation that is often hard to conjure without being on site. The background accompaniment of Aldborough's rich birdsong became legendary: swallows, swifts, blackbirds and thrushes resonating across the flood plain, washing across the open trench. We were able to draw in a weekly narrative of the trench: the voices of specialists, volunteers and

different parts of the archaeological process. More recently, the site featured on BBC Radio 4's 'Open Country',² with Rose taking listeners for a walk, discussing the hidden archaeological world during lockdown. These audio explorations allow the immediacy of discovery and the atmosphere of place at a particular moment to be captured for perpetuity. Listeners all around the world can tune into the flump of soil hitting a wheelbarrow, the resonance of laughter on site.

The podcasts were part of a wider programme of work to use creative and



Post-hole dug through the floor of a Roman building in the north of Isurium Brigantum, from the 2019 excavations at Aldborough (R. Ferraby)

diverse methods to tell different kinds of story about the site. The creative programme at Aldborough began in 2017 with an event on site exploring processes of stonework:³ quarrying, masonry and lettercutting. The ring and chunk rhythms of stoneworking sang out across the site, animating the excavated town walls and great quarry void. The next phase of work ventured to communicate the vast archaeological richness in the landscape around Aldborough. Rose collaborated with artist Rob St John to create Arts Council England-funded 'Soundmarks',⁴ using sound

and visual art to explore and communicate the sub-surface. The project explored ways of stimulating people's imagination about past features beneath the ground, creating an art trail⁵ with eight 'soundmarks' giving focus to different elements of the archaeological landscape. The soundtracks, visual art and map were all made available online, so they could be explored on location, or from afar, making the archaeology open to all. Rose and Rob also created a documentary film,⁶ book⁷ and podcast⁸ to share their creative practice, and the processes involved in the

work. A series of workshops also encouraged participants to play with new ways of being in the landscape, listening to the rumble of a trailer through contact mics, the hum of wind through wire fence, drawing sound and making marks.

At Aldborough we will be continuing to develop our arts programme in the coming years. We will be creating more podcasts covering a diverse range of archaeological processes at the site in the coming year. What the recent lockdown has revealed is the increasing need to devise innovative, accessible and multiple narratives of sites, that create a sense of immediacy and attentiveness to place, and that offer an alternative to physically experiencing sites.

By creating a diverse array of media through which to communicate archaeological ideas, it is increasingly likely that we will attract new audiences, and stimulate new ways of telling stories about the past.

Links:

- 1 Podcasts: <https://aldboroughromantown.wordpress.com/podcasts/>
- 2 Open Country: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/moookqob>
- 3 Celebration of stone: <https://aldboroughromantown.wordpress.com/arts/>
- 4 Soundmarks: www.soundmarks.co.uk
- 5 Soundmarks art trail: www.soundmarks.co.uk/map
- 6 Soundmarks film: www.soundmarks.co.uk/film
- 7 Soundmarks book: www.soundmarks.co.uk/book
- 8 Soundmarks podcast: www.soundmarks.co.uk/podcast-page

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All events are provisional, and confirmation will depend on pandemic constraints and the reaction to them of organisations and venues we are due to visit.

Places are limited, so please book promptly.

2020

Autumn Day Meeting at Newark, led by Mark Gardner, **postponed to 2021**

There will be no Annual Conference in 2020

Forthcoming in 2021 (postponed from 2020)

Spring Meeting 14–16 May at Dover, led by Jonathan Coad

Summer Meeting 10–17 July to Malmö and Copenhagen, led by Hedley Swain

Once events are confirmed, full details and booking forms will be on the Meetings Programme page <http://www.royalarchinst.org/meetings>. If you would like further details of any meetings sent to you, please send your email or postal details to the Administrator, RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, London W1J 0BE or admin@royalarchinst.org or to Caroline Raison, RAI Assistant Meetings Secretary, 48 Park Avenue, Princes Avenue, Kingston upon Hull HU5 3ES, or csraison@gmail.com.

Please note that non-members are **not** covered by the Royal Archaeological Institute's Public Liability Insurance and they must arrange their own insurance to enable them to attend Institute Meetings.

MEETINGS NOTES

MEMORIES

CAROLINE RAISON

The fiery side of the Institute's trip to the Isle of Man (2001)

We were booked into a hotel just off the promenade in Douglas – a bit ropery, with three town houses joined together. After everyone had been checked in and ventured into the labyrinth to find their rooms, Brian Dix (Hon. Meetings Secretary) and I (then Asst Treasurer) were taken to one side. There were not quite enough rooms for us all, but they would be delighted to offer us, as group leaders, a suite – we were thrilled. A sitting room and two bedrooms – how good was this! Many twists and turns later we ended up at the suite door; inside were a double bedroom whose window faced the light-well, a room with a double bunk whose window faced a wall and off this was the bathroom – with one chair between the two rooms! I took the bunk. Supper was fairly dire with food served on aeroplane trays – we never really found out what it was from day to day – but luckily only for four days.

I was back in our 'suite' on the first night and getting ready for bed (Brian had gone to see a local archaeologist) when there was a knock at the door from a middle-aged lady from a nearby room – in some distress, as they could smell smoke. Two friends had brought a third who was recovering from a stroke and could not get about easily. I went to their room and indeed there was a smoke smell – but they did have a view of a street. I offered to go and get some information and to help them in the event of an evacuation.

Outside, I met some of our group. There was indeed a fire down the road, and in another hotel, but we at least were safe. I went to reassure the three ladies and told them that if anything worsened Brian and I would help evacuate their friend. I left a note on Brian's pillow to that effect – so he woke me at 2 am to ask me what this meant and what we should be doing now!

In the morning we helped the ladies with suggestions of where they should go. And eighteen months later, 'our' hotel burnt down!

Our recce to Scilly (2018)

I was to fly out of Penzance, then held up by fog, and I had to check in at the Land's End Hotel (and check out the shopping experience). It was filthy weather so I stopped walking the coastal



On the cliff at Land's End (CSR)

path when I realised I could fall or be pushed over the edge and no one would ever really know. I left at six the next morning to sit in the tiny airport, but eventually got away on a plane that took just twelve people; I had a bolted-down dog kennel at my feet. I arrived in Scilly to that fabulous sun after twenty-four hours at the edge of a cliff!

A VIRTUAL MEETING IN THE TIME OF COVID

ANTHONY QUINEY

Old habits die hard. As a former Meetings Secretary, I scrutinise everywhere I go for its potential – for a day, for a weekend, for a whole week. Rotherhithe would give the Institute a good day out, and, bar sorting out a few details, where we shall go next autumn is solved.

The Covid pandemic sent me there in June. Lately, my wife Ginnie has had to visit London Bridge. Normally, this is a fifteen-minute journey by train; but in lockdown this wouldn't do. My plan was to drive her nearly there, set her down, and then drive back to park in Rotherhithe, where, after a short walk, she could easily find me, and also our dog, who needs plenty of walking every day.

While this plan would admirably kill two birds, there was also a third. In 1882 my grandfather and a younger brother set up in Rotherhithe, manufacturing and trading in 'iron and steel bars, angles, tees, channels, sheets and plates, nails, rivets, nuts and bolts and engineering tools'. This was perfectly timed to supply the expanding and modernising shipping industry along the Thames. It remained thus, despite the Blitz, until long after the war. Indeed, it sealed their position among Britain's middling sort, and brought affluence to their lives and to two generations of their offspring, of which I am the last.

I readily found a parking space in Paradise Street, the very street in which W.M. & A. Quiney had their premises. I parked beside the Roman Catholic church, a Gothic barn of a place built in 1902, which may well have served my grandfather's Irish employees. Who knows? For certain, though, nothing else of what he knew remains in the street, his premises long since gone. It is all now parkland, laid out as part of the London Docklands Development



Remains of the
manor at Rotherhithe
(A. Quiney)

Corporation's regeneration programme of the 1980s and 1990s. Nevertheless, he did know The Angel public house; it lies by the river, a stone's throw away. Ancient in origin, its nineteenth-century stucco front and partly weather-boarded river side happily sit among the surviving warehouses up and down what is now the long and often disrupted Thames Path, which, along its route, incorporates Rotherhithe Street. My grandfather and his brother would sit outside, checking the ships on the river and discussing work and their growing families over a pint. No pint for me, of course, but I and my diminutive terrier were already happily set on exploration.

Almost in front of The Angel are the excavated lower walls of a moated manor house, expanded by Edward III to look, perhaps, a bit like Igham Mote in Kent, with a wharf by the river. My grandfather might have seen it, in his day in commercial use and once a pottery making delftware, before it made way for a now-vanished warehouse at the start of the twentieth century.

Warehouses and granaries still give Rotherhithe Street its riverside character, although I must qualify this as heritage character, and, from what I can see, it works well. Sheer stock-brick walls, bays devoted to loading doors, storey by storey, some still with their hinged loading platforms fixed up, winches below the parapet, occasional cast-iron piers at ground level, in fact all that you expect of industrial archaeology, and all now converted into desirable flats and craft studios with enticing views of the river from within. Hope Sufferance Wharf and Grice's Granary (of the late 1790s and Rotherhithe's oldest) were the first to set this trend; they and many others contain intriguing relics of their past use inside. But beware: a few of these blocks are not the real thing, but modern housing in retro style. Even so, there are treasures along the way, notably the barge-building works that Charles Hay established in the later eighteenth century. Rebuilt in the mid-nineteenth century, its thriving business must have depended on my grandfather for iron and steel bars and angles.

These works are less than half a kilometre eastwards from The Angel, close to the heart of what once was Rotherhithe village. Here the streets narrow and take on the winding course around the parish church and its burial ground that indicates a greater antiquity than elsewhere, up and down river. The medieval church was slowly rebuilt after 1714 to designs by John James, whose extensive later work in London includes the steeple of Hawksmoor's rebuilt Greenwich parish church. James did not, however, live to see the steeple of Rotherhithe church built. As so often happens, it went up much later, in 1747–8, though perhaps to his design. The church has a rewarding interior, the most notable of its monuments commemorating Christopher Jones, the master of the *Mayflower*, which set sail from here in 1620 to found the first permanent British colony in the New World. Jones returned to die here, two years later, hence the monument; and, by the river, in a mere slip of a park, said to overlook the



The barge-building works (right) (A. Quiney)

Mayflower's berth, there is another monument, modern and bronze, depicting a Pilgrim Father standing guard over a Bermondsey Boy, reading about the modern United States in the *Sunbeam* children's annual.

Not surprisingly, the public house next door is called The Mayflower Inn. It has a nice collection of Rotherhithe memorabilia inside, and, generally, all the appearance of shipmaster Jones's time, but appearances are all: it is a clever rebuilding, after bomb damage, of what had been the unpretentious, nineteenth-century Spread Eagle and Crown. Our Bermondsey Boy, or, at least his ancestors, might well have attended Peter Hills School. Founded in 1613 next to the church, it ended up, in 1795, south of the church in a fine, three-bay house of about 1700, marked by two schoolchildren standing on brackets. The stately houses built rather later for sea captains in Mayflower Street have all now gone, though St Mary's rectory and a few other houses carry the story of domestic architecture forward in time to the benevolent housing of the later nineteenth century and onwards. The five blocks between where Swan Road and Railway Avenue run off Rotherhithe Street are imposing offspring of the Prince Consort's Model Lodge, which was built by the Society for Improving the Conditions of the Labouring Classes for the Great Exhibition of 1851.

Most famously, Rotherhithe is the home of the south end of the world's first great underwater tunnel, a wonder of the Industrial Revolution that made the elder Brunel's name. Such famed engineers as Richard Trevithick began work that was aborted early in the nineteenth century before Marc Isambard Brunel drove a tunnelling shield, which he patented in 1818, under the river to construct the tunnel. It opened in 1843 to deserved acclaim but not to sustaining profit. Hence, in 1865–9 the tunnel was converted to take the trains of the East London Railway. Perhaps less than sublimely, these happily allowed my grandfather and his brother to set up house away from Rotherhithe at Hatcham, as the terminus of the line was but a step away at

New Cross Gate. Today, Brunel's engine house that contained a steam pump to keep the tunnel from flooding has been restored as a museum, marked by a wrought-iron replica, perhaps not quite accurate, of its chimneystack.

After this heady climax, a perambulation of Rotherhithe might continue down river to Rotherhithe Pier and over Surrey Lock. Beyond, the whole character changes. Why? Ten years after my grandfather died, my father, needing to purchase a washer for a leaking tap, took us for a spin. It was a fine Saturday afternoon in late summer and Woolworths would still be open – perfect for a family outing. Within seconds of his disappearance into the shop, air-raid sirens began their up-and-down wailing. Unconcerned, he emerged ten minutes later to the sound of anti-aircraft fire. Ten more minutes later we were huddled in our shelter. Eventually, I was first out.



Brunel's engine house (A. Quiney)

‘Can you see anything?’ my mother called.
‘Yes’, I said. It was 7 September 1940.

The Surrey Docks were ablaze, a black and white and flickering orange conflagration I shall never forget. My grandfather’s Rotherhithe got off comparatively lightly that time. Now I look back from the time of Covid. Already within the last four months it has killed as many people in Britain as the Luftwaffe killed during the six-and-a-half years of the Second World War. When I last attended an Institute event on 11 March we were considering the appointment of a new president and our future arrangements. I look back as though on a different age.

As for my grandfather’s Rotherhithe, gone are the filth and hardship of lives he knew, spent profitably or miserably in the docks – one of his uncles fell to his death into the hold of a cargo ship. It’s easier now, or perhaps it isn’t.



The riverfront at Rotherhithe (A. Quiney)

SUMMER MEETING YET TO COME: 11 JULY 2020

WILLIAM HUSBAND

Today is the day when we should have been going to Copenhagen for the start of our Summer Meeting. It is small consolation, but this is the rose ‘Copenhagen’, which I planted forty-four years ago. It is having a good year, despite its age. ‘Copenhagen’ is a modern shrub rose, repeat flowering, with a strong scent, introduced in 1964 by Poulsen of Denmark. 2020/21 will be the 100th year of the Husband family’s membership of the Institute. My grandfather was part of the local organising committee for the 1921 Summer Meeting at Ripon. He was followed by my grandmother and then my father. I joined in 1973 or 1974 on my father’s death.



‘Copenhagen’ (W. Husband)

All being well, we’ll be going to Malmo and Copenhagen in July next year.

LECTURES

Access to Lectures Online

To view the Institute's lectures online you will need to log in to our members' area. If you haven't yet got a username and password to log in, please contact the Administrator with your email address at admin@royalarchinst.org.

Royal Archaeological Institute Lecture Programme and Abstracts: 2019/20

Meetings are held from October to May, on the second Wednesday of the month, at 5.00 pm in the Rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BE. In October (exceptionally) and May, the lecture will be preceded at 4.45 pm by the Institute's Annual General Meeting; in November and April, the lecture will be preceded at 3.00 pm by short presentations. Government guidance permitting, tea will be served at 4.30 pm, or 4.15 pm before the AGM.

Anyone wishing to attend a lecture should email the Institute's Administrator (admin@royalarchinst.org). For enquiries, the Institute's mobile number is 07847 600756.

2020

14 October

Legend, Lordship and Landscape: Understanding the Queen's Gate, Caernarfon Castle, N. Wales

Dr Rachel Swallow

The late thirteenth- to early fourteenth-century Caernarfon Castle, and its associated townscape in Gwynedd, North Wales, has been the subject of detailed academic historical, archaeological and architectural scrutiny for a considerable time.

re-examines the fortification's architecture in the light of tangible traces of Caernarfon's pre-medieval fortified and elite settlement, as well as the intangible memory represented in the Romance legend of 'The Dream of Macsen Wledig' in the Mabinogion. With a particular focus on the Queen's Gate, this paper introduces the new interpretation of a royal, designed landscape beyond the walls of Caernarfon's town, arguing that King Edward I and Queen Eleanor deliberately combined symbolic elements of Roman heritage and Arthurian-type Romance along an ancient route way below Queen's Gate. The paper concludes that Edward's and Eleanor's castle and private landscape was intended to reflect the persistent memory of Caernarfon's powerful male and female ancestors.

The lecture will be preceded at 4.45 pm by the postponed 2020 Annual General Meeting, with tea at 4.15 pm.

11 November

3.00 pm: Current Post-Graduate research presentations, University of Birmingham

David Marsh: The Trade and Use of Glass in Roman Times

As archaeology reveals more material evidence about the ancient world, so the interpretation of the material culture becomes a significant component in the quest to tell the story of life in the Roman world across a chronology that saw dramatic changes to society, commerce and the state itself. The Romans used more glass than any other previous civilisation, and, from 50 BCE, the glass industry rapidly expanded across the Empire and glass changed from just being luxury objects to also common domestic products. Like pottery, glass can survive

for long periods in the ground and can be a valuable source of archaeological dated data. This presentation discusses particular aspects of consumerism, trading and the Roman economy to further our understanding of life in Roman times with a focus on the consumer culture of sites revealed by patterns of the consumption over time and space.

Theo Reeves: **Iron Age Marsh-Forts as a Distinct Category of Archaeological Site**

The British Iron Age is known for its hillforts. Grouped within these is currently a relatively under-researched sub-category known as 'marsh-forts', defined by their setting in wetland environments. This has derived from the descriptive way in which we distinguish other categories of hillfort, such as promontory or contour forts. The research presented in this paper focused on moving from such descriptive definitions of marsh-forts to analytical categorisations based on the relationships between site and landscape architecture. Through the application of GIS modelling to a range of marsh-fort sites, the unique characteristics of each site were examined in relation to their affordances. The conclusions from this research highlight a new and distinct category of marsh-fort that contradict what would appear to be more logical approaches to hillfort construction and hint at an alternate purpose.

Abigail Taylor: **Unstructured Data and Archaeology: the use of large datasets in archaeological research**

Finds made by members of the public are often ignored or denigrated by archaeologists but represent an extensive body of archaeological data. If these data are not useful, then why continue to fund their recording? If they are useful, then how are they best used and on what scale? Using primary data from the

Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) to show how the data can be used at micro- and macro-levels, a methodology for study has been put forward. Contrary to some views, PAS data appear more useful for macro- than micro-level analysis. All data have limitations and those of PAS data become more prevalent the smaller the dataset. At a nationwide level the PAS can provide vital analysis of countrywide and long-term trends. Understanding the use of PAS data could, therefore, add vital context to other archaeological investigations as well as representing a research topic in and of itself.

5.00 pm lecture: **The Genesis of Northumbria: reconsidering the origins of an 'English' kingdom in light of new data**

Dr Rob Collins

Northumbria and its golden age have a firm place in the history of the heptarchy of early English kingdoms, but Northumbria has always been a bit different. Over the past twenty years, new evidence has come to light through developer-funded archaeology and the advent of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. This new information has substantially added to our knowledge of Northumbria, though it also further highlights the differences between early Northumbria and the nascent kingdoms of southern England.

9 December

Le Catillon II: investigating and conserving the world's largest Iron Age hoard

Neil Mahrer

In early 2012, two Jersey detectorists discovered the Catillon II Iron Age hoard. This contained nearly 70,000 coins, eight complete gold torques and numerous other pieces of jewellery, apparently buried around 30–40 BCE by the Coriosolitae tribe from the nearby French coast. Having excavated

it intact, it was decided to disassemble the hoard and record its contents at a level of detail never attempted before. A computer-controlled metrology arm was used to record the position of every coin and other item to a sub-centimetre accuracy before removal. A laser scanner was also used to record the entire hoard at various stages of disassembly. In this way, a complete three-dimensional virtual map of the hoard contents was created. Work is currently underway to link this map to the object database of coin type, age, and so forth and this is already leading new discoveries about the hoard's origins and burial.

2021

13 January

Life on the Margins: glass working in Roman London

Dr Angela Wardle

Excavations in the Upper Walbrook valley, a marginal area in the north-west of the city of Londinium, recovered over 70 kg of broken vessel glass and production waste from a nearby workshop dating from the second century, giving new insights into the workings of the Roman glass industry and its craftsmen. The comprehensive nature of the glass-working waste has made it possible to study the various processes involved in production, from the initial preparation of the raw material, much of it recycled broken vessel glass, to the blowing and finishing of the vessel, some aspects of which suggest individual techniques. The lecture discusses this major study and reviews the current evidence for glass working in Roman London, showing how we are gradually beginning to understand its organisation and perhaps catching a glimpse of the people behind a flourishing industry.

10 February

Fortifying Rulership: the emergence and development of Pictish power centres in north-east Scotland, c. AD 300–1000

Professor Gordon Noble

One of the most significant changes visible in early medieval northern Britain was the re-emergence of fortified enclosures and settlements. As in Ireland and western England and Wales, the hillfort formed the material manifestation of power, a northern alternative (or addition) to the hall as symbol of more developed social hierarchies in a post-Roman context. In this talk I will outline the types of fortified sites that emerged in the early medieval period in northern Britain and explore some of the important roles they played in early medieval society, notably in terms of establishing and reinforcing new and emergent forms of elite society. The talk will focus on the Picts – first mentioned in the later third century AD by late Roman writers, the Picts went on to become the dominant polity in northern Britain till the ninth century AD. At the height of Pictish cultural expansion, Pictish influence was felt across a remarkably large area that stretched from the Firth of Forth in the south to Orkney and Shetland in the north and from the east coast to the northern Hebrides in western Scotland. The talk will draw directly on the results of the University of Aberdeen Northern Picts and Leverhulme-funded Comparative Kingship projects that have identified a whole series of hitherto unknown Pictish power centres and shed new light on long-discussed, but poorly understood sites, helping reveal the pathways to power that Pictish rulers followed to create the powerful polities that dominated this region for over 600 years.

10 March

Re-Discovering Ava: the Achavanich Beaker Burial project

Maya Hoole

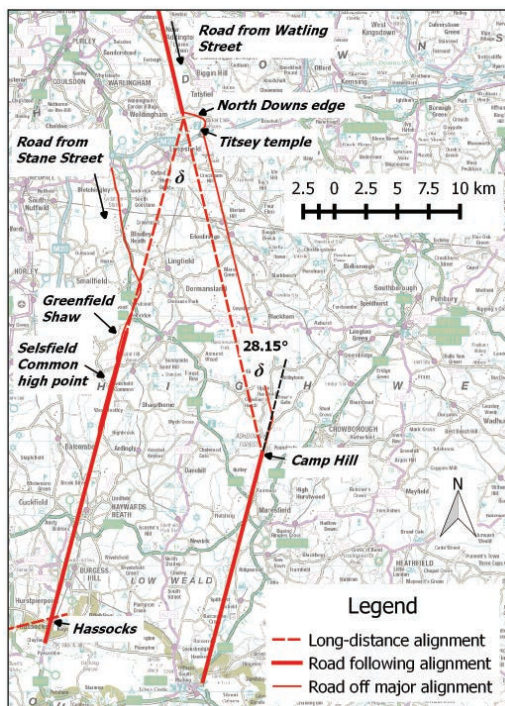
Discovered in 1987, the beaker burial cist from Craig-na-feich, Achavanich, Caithness was mostly forgotten about for nearly thirty years until its chance rediscovery in 2014. Over the following few years, a wide range of research was undertaken to try and better understand the individual interred in the burial, including: ancient DNA analysis, radiocarbon dating, bone histology, stable isotope analysis, pollen residue analysis, as well as pottery and osteological reports and a facial reconstruction. The results have revealed remarkable detail about Copper Age/Early Bronze Age Caithness and have been successfully disseminated to engage people across the globe. This research was published in the 2017/18 *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, and won the coveted R.B.K. Stevenson award.

14 April

3.00 pm: Presentations of work by the Roman Roads Research Association

David Ratledge: Changing the Map: how LiDAR data is transforming our understanding of the Roman road network in north-west England

Until recently, the network of Roman roads serving the dense concentration of Roman forts in north-western England was only poorly understood, with long stretches where routes were lost. Traditional research methods, such as field walking and aerial photography, had just about been exhausted. Fortunately, imagery derived from LiDAR data can often reveal the surviving remains of the agger, terraces, side ditches and cuttings, where they cannot be easily identified

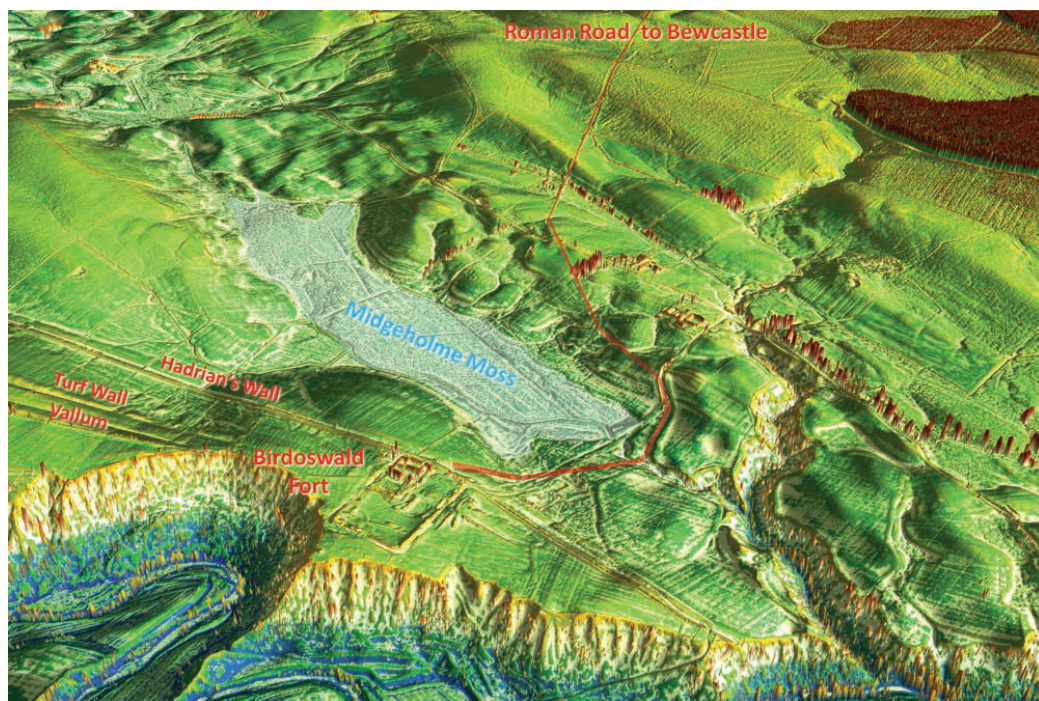


Two Wealden roads laid out as part of a wider Roman planning framework (drawn: R. Entwistle; contains OS data, © and database right 2019)

through traditional fieldwork. Using LiDAR, many missing pieces have now been found, along with previously unknown roads and some major surprises. In one instance, the destination of a supposedly well-known major road was shown to be incorrect and, in another, a fort believed to be at the end of a cul-de-sac was found to be on two previously unknown routes into Scotland. Clearly, without an understanding of the Roman road network, establishing the roles of forts can be fraught with errors.

Rob Entwistle: New Light on Old Roads: Watling Street, Stane Street and their children

No Roman roads in Britain are better known than Watling Street from Canterbury to London, and Stane Street from London to Chichester. This lecture explores the evidence



Oblique LIDAR image of the Roman road to Bewcastle from Birdoswald skirting around – not through – Midgeholme Moss (Cumbria) (D. Ratledge: raw LiDAR data Crown Copyright 2020)

for planning lines underpinning their routes, and what those may have to say about Roman strategic intentions in the earliest days of the new province. We examine and offer an explanation for the fabled accuracy of Watling Street in leading to Westminster, and of Stane Street in leading to Chichester East Gate, suggesting that both may be best understood as part of a network. If the analysis is correct it implies strategic planning that, from an unexpectedly early date, gave a role to the future site of London as the gateway to imperial control of Britain.

Mike Haken: Pushing Forwards: new evidence for pre-Flavian Roman penetration into Brigantia

Until recently, it was generally accepted that, apart from occasional incursions into the kingdom of the Brigantes to assist Queen Cartimandua, the Romans had no

permanent presence in northern Britain until Brigantia was absorbed into the Empire in approximately AD 71. However, the discovery of a substantial pre-Flavian settlement at Scotch Corner in North Yorkshire, during the recent A1 widening scheme, suggests that Imperial interaction with Brigantia whilst it was still a client kingdom of Rome might have been more intensive and complex than previously thought.

This lecture will examine ongoing research by the Roman Roads Research Association, which includes broad-scale geophysical survey and analysis of both recent aerial photography and LiDAR data. The research has already provided tantalising suggestions of a pre-Flavian Roman military presence within Brigantia along a corridor stretching from the so-called vexillation fortress at Rossington, near Doncaster, towards the oppidum at Stanwick, north of Richmond.

5.00 pm lecture: **M.R. James's East Anglia**

Dr Richard Hoggett

Best known as the writer of some of the finest ghost stories ever published, M.R. James was also the foremost medieval scholar of his day and had a strong academic and personal interest in East Anglia's landscape and history. This lecture examines James's East Anglian connections, from his childhood in Suffolk to his involvement with excavations at St Edmund's Abbey in Bury, and looks at the influence which the region had on the development of his ghost stories.

12 May The President's lecture

Knowing the Cost of Everything but the Value of Nothing: how (and why) do we value the contribution made by the historic environment?

Ken Smith

This paper, drawing on recent work in the Lake District, Peak District and Gloucestershire, will summarise analyses of the value of the contribution the historic environment makes in terms of ecosystem services and natural capital accounting. It will outline the context within

which this work has taken place; consider why establishing value is deemed to be desirable; consider whether the use of the essentially natural environment terminology confuses rather than clarifies and whether cultural capital might be a more appropriate term; and conclude by considering the outputs of this work and what outcomes might be achieved.

The lecture will be preceded at 4.45 pm by the 2021 Annual General Meeting, with tea at 4.15 pm.

British Archaeological Association Meetings

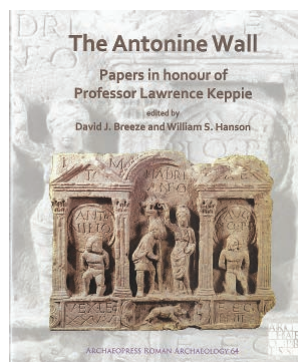
Royal Archaeological Institute members are invited to attend the meetings of the BAA; please see <https://thebaa.org/meetings-events/lectures/annual-lecture-series/> for the 2020/21 programme. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from October to May, at 5.00 pm in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

Please check the website for any restrictions at present. Non-members are asked to make themselves known to the Hon. Director on arrival and to sign the visitors' book.

MISCELLANY

Book News

The Antonine Wall. Papers in honour of Professor Lawrence Keppie, edited by David J. Breeze and William S. Hanson. Archaeopress. 32 papers by 39 contributors; 494 pp.; 166 figs; 15 tables. Paperback: £30.00, eBook: FREE to down-load in Open Access www.archaeopress.com 32 papers cover the environmental and prehistoric background to the Wall, its structure, planning and construction, military deployment on its line, associated artefacts and inscriptions, the logistics of its supply, and its history. Aspects include developments in recording, interpretation and presentation of the Wall to visitors. and modern scientific techniques, from pollen, soil and spectrographic analysis to geophysical survey and airborne laser scanning.

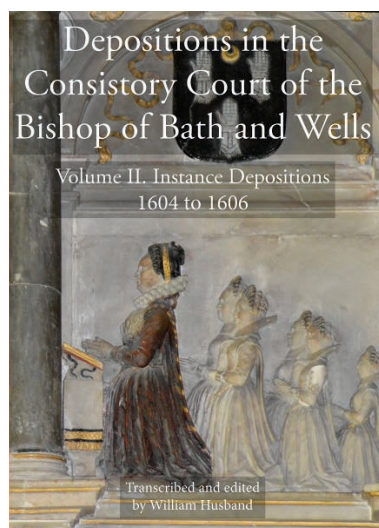


Special Offer

Depositions in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, transcribed and edited by William Husband, 2 vols, 620 pp. From 10 Sept. to 31 Oct. only **£75** including UK p&p, from the List and Index Society, www.listandindexsociety.org.uk.

Two volumes make available transcripts from documents from the early 17th-century Consistory of the Bishops of Bath and Wells. These unusual texts can be read for pleasure and insight but equally can form the basis of research or be used in teaching. Their immediacy – taken down at dictation – is remarkable, as are their descriptions of the grind of daily life, of chance encounters and conversations, of friendships, enmities and love.

These two substantial volumes of transcripts from the deposition books, which are available nowhere else, give us insights into the tangled lives of Somerset people. We see their courtships, affairs and failed marriages as well as their mundane and daily business.



The RAI office

The telephone number for the Administrator is 07847 600756, the email is admin@royalarchinst.org and the postal address is RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London W1J 0BE. The RAI has no office in London, but the Administrator will usually be at this address on the second Wednesday of each month from October to May, between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm.

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR Katherine Barclay, Williamsgate, Governor's Green, Pembroke Road, Portsmouth, Hants. PO1 2NS. Email: newsletter@royalarchinst.org

NEXT ISSUE Copy for the next issue must reach the editor by the end of January 2021 for publication in April 2021.

THIS ISSUE'S COVER PICTURE: The drone image, showing cropmarks of the Roman forts at Newton Kyme, N. Yorks, is by M. Haken, who will be one of the speakers at the Institute's meeting on 14 April.
