CARDIFF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CYMDEITHAS ARCHEOLEGOL CAERDYDD
Registered Charity No. 225579

Aug 2025/Sept 2025 Issue

CAS Trips 2025 (2)

In our last issue we covered the opening CAS visit of the season with Tom Hicks showing us around the Caer Heritage Centre and giving a demonstration of experimental metal-working. We continue this issue with more of this year's visits.

Wartime Cathays Cemetery
Saturday, May 24th 2025

Led by Paul Jones (Cardiff Archaeological Society/Chair of Friends of Cathays Cemetery).

We met at the impressive Cross of Sacrifice with its adjoining 107 Commonwealth war graves. Then we visited the Cardiff Blitz Memorial erected to remember 51 of the initial victims from the devastating German air raid of 2nd January 1941. In total 207 out of the total of 350 or so Cardiff Civilian victims were buried at Cathays.

We followed this by looking over the Chinese section at the Cemetery. As well as a Chinese section, Cathays also has a substantial Scandinavian Graves section covering both World Wars to serve Cardiff's growing Norwegian population.

A closer look at one of the 685 war graves in the Cemetery. This one to a Czech airman, a former member of the famous Czech Legion, who died in an air accident in his bomber in December 1944. He is also remembered on a special memorial built in the Prostějov Municipal Cemetery, Czech Republic.

FEATURES

Coity Castle
Thursday June 5th 2025

Led by Gareth Jones (Owain Glyndwr Society).

Gareth explaining the layout of the extensive Castle and covering its varied history. A Norman castle built by Sir Payn "the Demon" de Turberville (fl. 1126), one of the legendary Twelve Knights of Glamorgan supposed to have conquered Glamorgan under the leadership of Robert FitzHamon (d. 1107), Lord of Gloucester.

A view over the extensive remains of Coity Castle. The castle began as a late 11th-century ringwork. A rectangular stone keep and the main curtain wall were added by the Normans in the 12th century, under the de Turberville family. The three-storey keep was primarily a defensive structure. Major rebuilding took place in the 14th century and again in the 15th, after Owain Glyndŵr laid siege to the castle during his uprising against English rule.

St Mary's Chapel, Margam
Thursday June 19th 2025

Led by Jeff Lewis (Friends of Margam Mountain).

Outside Margam Abbey waiting for the start. Margam Abbey was founded in 1147 as a daughter house of Clairvaux by Robert, Earl of Gloucester, and was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary as a Cistercian monastery It lasted until the dissolution in 1536. The nave still serves as the parish church today.

The Group stops by the pond on the walk up to the Hillfort.

Chris pointing out some of the architectural features at Capel Mair, a small ruined chapel built by the monks of Margam, dating to the 14th century. The style of the west window dates it to about 1300 but the east window is in the Perpendicular style of the 15th century. In the later Middle Ages there was a famous statue of the Virgin Mary here and pilgrims came to see it.

FEATURES

Llantrithyd Place Gardens
Thursday July 3rd 2025

Led by Chris Jones-Jenkins (Chair of Cardiff Archaeological Society)

A view over the fields and countryside at Llantrithyd.

The Gardens are a Scheduled Monument with the remains of the house, dating to the 16th century, relict gardens and three covered wells that supplied water to the house via an underground pipe. The gardens of Llantrithyd Place are of exceptional, national importance, a survival unaltered from their 16th century structure and layout. Very few such Tudor gardens survive in Wales.

Next door to the ruins of Llantrithyd Place, St Illtyd Church that dates back to the 12th century, houses the spectacular Monuments to the Basset and Aubrey families. The chancel, nave and tower were rebuilt in the 14th century. In the churchyard is the base of a Norman stone cross.

Before (2010)

After (2025)

At least the weather has got better – Global Warming?

Trellech and Buckholt
Saturday 12th July 2025

Led by Katie Churchill (Churchill Archaeology).

The Tump – lookout tower or shell keep? Named as Tump Terrett Castle aka Trellech Castle, the motte an earthen steep-sided circular mound, is all that remains of this structure. It is known to have been in existence before 1231, the Norman town was planted here by the de Clares and by 1288 its population was larger than that of Chepstow. At the beginning of the 14th century Trellech was one of the eight largest towns in Wales.

Oops! One of our CAS members seems to have pushed over a Trellech standing stone. We can always rename it as the "Two standing and one-fallen-over stones" of Trellech.

A Flint blade found by Katie on the excavations at North Trellech. Katie is now a resident of Trellech and specialises in landscape archaeology, archaeological evaluations and heritage management. She has also become Wales first Heritage Crime Police Support Volunteer - an outline of her exploits can be found in the attached pdf "Operation Heritage Cymru Newsletter Summer Edition 2025".

FEATURES

A monument to washer-women everywhere in the middle of Buckholt forest. Someone pegging out the washing. Buckholt Wood is a privately owned 60 hectare woodland, open to the public, rich with flora and fauna. It also contains an Iron Age hillfort and some ruined "cottages".

Bedford Iron Works, Cefn Cribbwr. Thursday 17th July 2025

Led by John Mason, (Chair of Cefn Gwyrdd).

A view of the Ironworks Foundry buildings that remain at Cefn Cribbwr.

In 1770, industrialist John Bedford, from Birmingham came to South Wales with a dream of creating the greatest iron works in South Wales, and built a blast furnace in Cefn Criwbr. Apart from the iron works, John also opened up pits to mine for his raw materials (ironstone) for the iron works, and for coal that could also be used to feed the furnaces. As well as this he created a brickworks and the material was used in the building of much of the iron works. John Bedford didn't fully realize his dreams for his ironworks and he eventually returned to Birmingham where he died in 1791.

William Bryant, son of a Merthyr Tydfil brewer, was his successor and took over the business in 1825. To improve transport of his products he built tramways where horses would draw heavily laden wagons along on rails to the destination of Porthcawl docks. William Bryant died at the age of 85 in 1898, never realizing the fulfilment of his dream, probably due to the poor quality of the raw materials he was using. He was buried at Coity, in Bridgend. Cefn Cribwr ceased industrial activity in 1836 and Bedford Park ceased at the end of World War I.

John and his wife, who was present at the excavations, start out on our visit from the Carpark. He also owned the Community pub that we ended the night in for the Buffet.

Photos by the kind permission of Kim Iannucci, Anna Olshansky, Chris Jones-Jenkins & Nina Foley.

Highlights from the Magazines

British Archaeology July-August 2025

Theatres of Resistance – Buried Stories & Black Radicalism at London's Earliest Playhouse & Taverns

Heritage as Healing – Re-entangling Heritage, Ecology, and Psychology

Arches – A Tool for Protecting the Historic Environment & Promoting Information Access

A Long View – Archaeological Societies, their Legacy, Mission & Membership

A Cro-Magnon Painter Sells a Masterpiece – Cave Art in Prehistoric Cartoons from Punch

Hill of Dreams – Glastonbury Tor

Howells of Cardiff

The Chalke History Festival

CBAs Youth Advisory Board – A Successful 18 Months

Stratigraphy

Answers on a Postcard Please

Current Archaeology July 2025

Science Notes – Mind your own beeswax: Insights into the Composition of the Nimrud Writing Tablets

FEATURES

Finds Tray – Cloisonné late Anglo-Saxon Disc Brooch

Taking up the Tesserae - The Liberty Mosaics, Southwark

Words on the Wave – Tracing Continental Connections in Early Medieval Ireland

Fields and Farmsteads – Organising the Early Roman Frontier Region in Holme Hall Quarry, South Yorkshire

[See Open Access Book below]

Taking Stock of the Pot – Creating & Recreating the Glenfield Iron Age Cauldrons

Subterranean Skye – Exploring the Enduring Significance of High Pasture Cave

A Tale of Two Hillforts – Illuminating the inhabitants of Iron Age Leicestershire

Ancient India: Living Traditions – British Museum Exhibition

Odd Socs – Ruperra Castle Preservation Trust

Current Archaeology August 2025

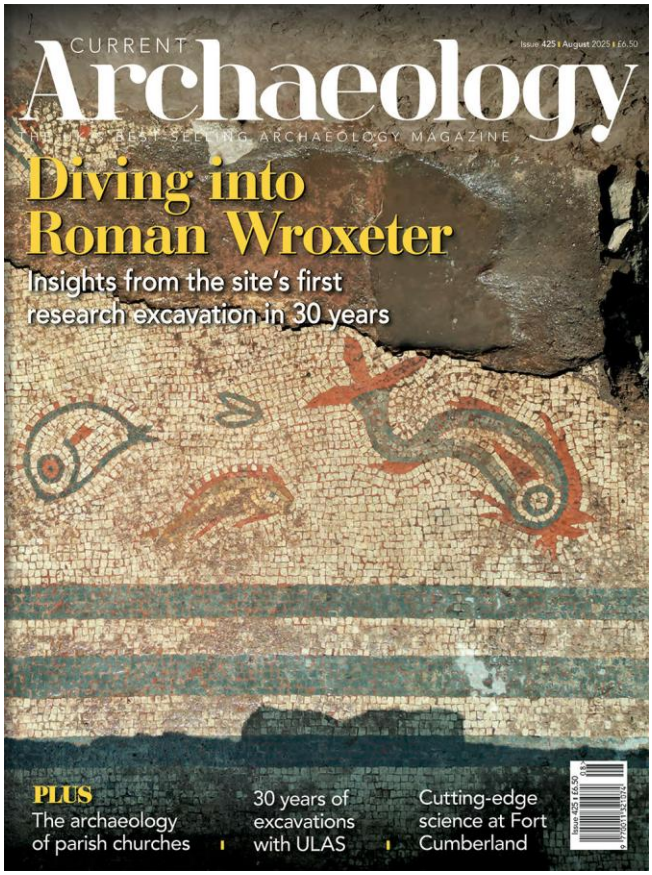
Science Notes – Analysing amino acids to ascertain Palaeolithic Chronologies

An Early Medieval Gilded Silver Cross Pendant

Victory at Vindolanda – Bardon Mill, Northumberland

Revealing Roman Wroxeter

The Future of Studying the Past – Showcasing Archaeological Science at Fort Cumberland



A Life on the Tiles – Exploring the Work of David Neal as Artists & Archaeologist

A Midlands Milestone – Marking 30 years of Excavations by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Current Church Archaeology

Cornwall Museum & Art Gallery, Truro

Holst Victorian House

World Archaeology Jun-July 2025

Germany's Stonehenge – Ritual Landscape & Settlement near Pommelte

Lapis Lazuli – The Blue Road

The Hoby Cups – Tracing Connections in Iron Ge Denmark

Thomas Ashby & Eugenie Strong – A Golden Partnership and its end

Apsaros Roman Fort – The Roman Frontier in Georgia

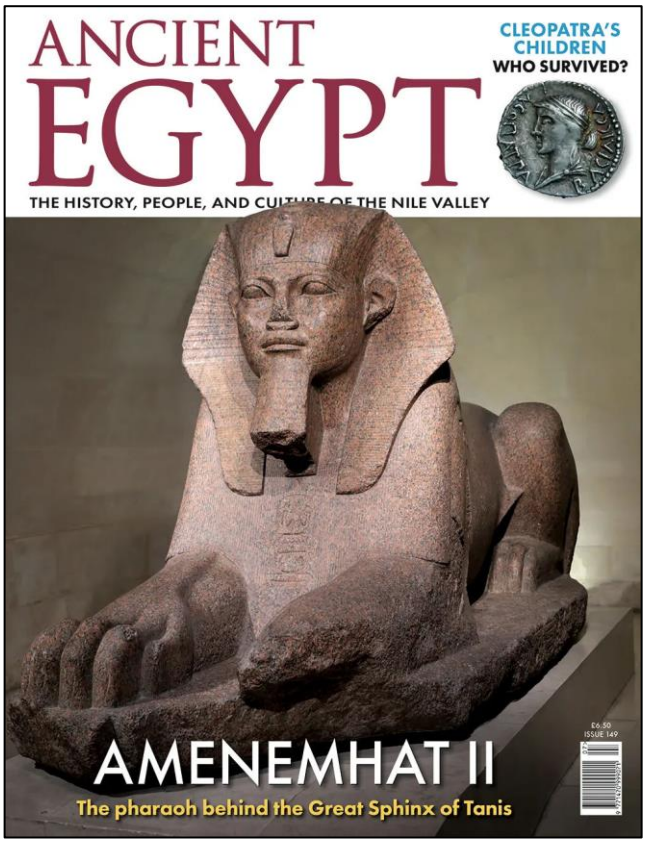
In the Grip of Gold - Exhibition in Wereldmuseum Leiden, Netherland

Garden Cities

Forging Ahead – Metalworking of the Nebra Sky Disc

Object – Roman Miniature Padlock

Ancient Egypt July-Aug 2025



Another Nefertiti

Tattooing in the Ancient Nile Valley

Amenemhat II – Golden are the Souls of Ra

Ani's Life after Death – Hathor and Opet

Cleopatra's Children – The Last of the Ptolemies

Egypt in Constaninople

Christiane Desroches Noblecourt – A Legendary Life

The Nile Perch - The King of Fish

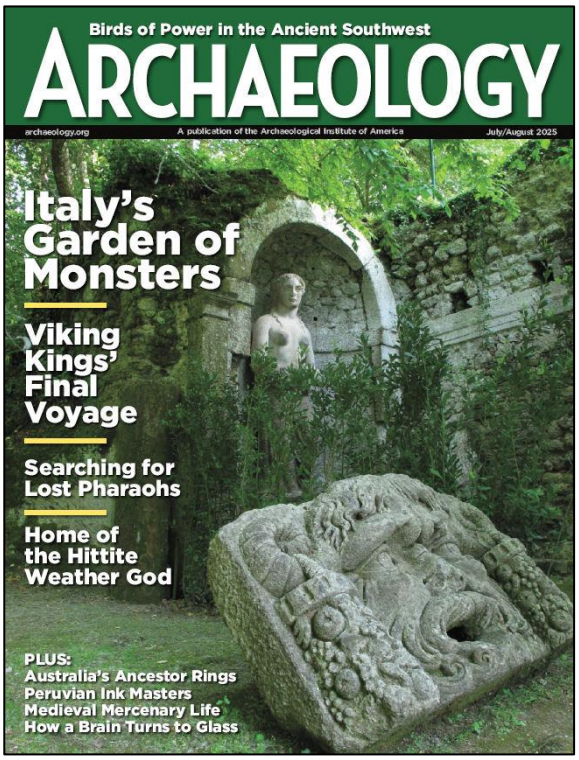
Hidden Treasures – the Tomb of Ankhtify at Mo'alla & the Temple to Montu at Tod

Object – Bust of Ankhhaf

FEATURES

And in America:

Archaeology July-August 2025



Italy's Renaissance garden of monsters

The home of the Hittite weather god

Setting sail for Valhalla

In search of lost pharaohs on Anubis Mountain

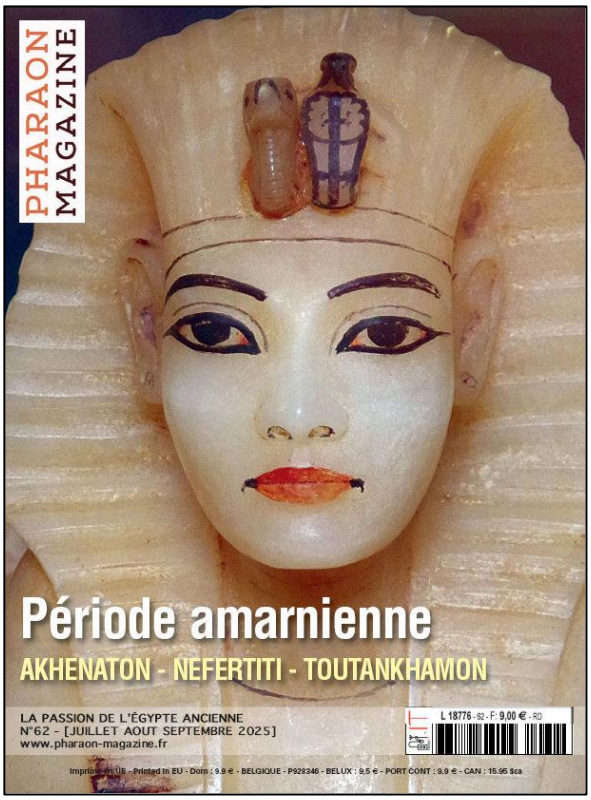
Birds of a feather – Inspiration for Utah Basketmaker People

A new look at an old city – Williamsburg, Virginia

Artefact: A Mayan Ceramic Figurine

Finally from France:

Pharaon Magazine July-August 2025



New data on the succession of Amenhotep III and the beginning of Akhenaten's reign

A little known royal family: Tutankhamun, Baketaton, Beneretmout & Nefertiti

The chief sculptor, Bek, son of Men

The Amarna construction site

Behind-the-scenes documentary of a synthesis on the Amarna site

The Amarna Reign

The bust of Nefertiti in Berlin

Smenkhkare: A king without a crown?

Ankh(et)kheperoure Neferneferouaton:

The difficult succession of Akhenaten

The Reign of Tutankhamun: Continuity and Disruption

The Amarna revolution in the tombs

The codes for reading Amarna iconography

A Tomb for Tutankhamun: The Valley of the Kings in the Amarna and Post-Amarna Periods

The enigma of the four chapels

Quiz

1. Name given to a standard bearer in a Roman Legion

2. Mesolithic settlement in the Vale of Pickering, Yorkshire

3. Lightly armed soldiers of ancient Greece

4. Name of Jason's ship in Greek mythology

5. British archaeologist who wrote Scythians and Greeks in 1913

6. Port now in Israel conquered by Alexander in 332 BC

7. Germanic people defeated by the Huns

8. African country, location of Grand Bassam, a UNESCO World Heritage site

9. Site in Meath of the seat of Irish Kings

10. Capital of Persia founded by Darius I

Links to Open-Access Books

ARCHAEOPRESS
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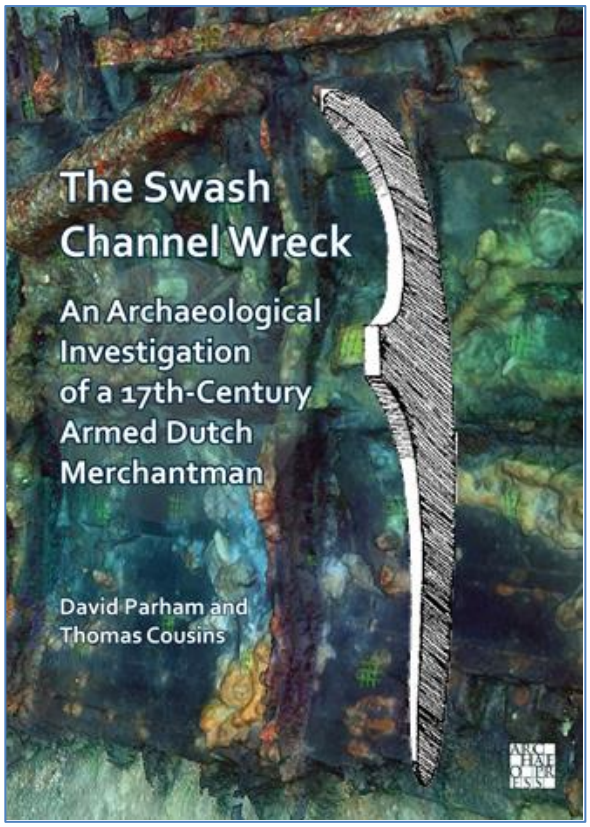
The Swash Channel Wreck

An Archaeological Investigation of a 17th-Century Armed Dutch Merchantman

By David Parham, Thomas Cousin



This volume details the discovery, excavation, and analysis of a 17th-century Dutch shipwreck, likely the Fame of Hoorn. Found in 1990 and re-discovered in 2006, it underwent extensive excavation. It is one of the most complete shipwrecks of its kind outside the Baltic, offering insights into its construction and life on board.

The Swash Channel Wreck is an account of the discovery, excavation and analysis of an early 17th-century Dutch shipwreck. The wreck is most likely the Dutch West Indiaman Fame of Hoorn, lost in the Swash Channel in the approaches to Poole Harbour in February 1631. The site was initially found during dredging operations in the channel in 1990. In 2006, it was re-discovered by Wessex Archaeology, and Poole Harbour Commissioners partnered with Bournemouth University to undertake the monitoring and recording of the site. The remains are of a large c. 40m structure consisting of the port side of the ship from the turn of the bilge to the top of the upperworks, with associated wreckage which includes the ship's rudder, a multitude of rigging items, and a small collection of finds that consist mainly of domestic and provisioning items and the ship's armament.

By 2009, it was clear that the site was rapidly eroding and English Heritage commissioned Bournemouth University to conduct one of the largest underwater excavations in the UK since the excavation of the Mary Rose in the 1980s. This occurred between 2010 and 2013 and involved the excavation and recording of the first 18m of the bow and the last 12m of the stern, leaving the 12m midship section unexcavated. In addition, a large section of the upperworks and the first 6m of the bow were deemed to be too exposed to protect in situ and therefore were raised and recorded in high detail between 2014 and 2015.

The wreck proved to be the largest survival of the hull of any 17th-century ship in UK waters and one of the most complete 17th-century Dutch shipwrecks outside of the Baltic. The ship's construction and material culture confirm its origin as a Dutch vessel lost in the early part of the 17th century. The hull has immediate parallels with the wreck of the Swedish warship Vasa, lost in Sweden in 1628, and the Dutch East Indiaman Batavia, lost in Western Australia in 1629, and exhibits characteristics of both. The circumstances of the Swash wreck provided the opportunity to dismantle the structure and study in greater detail the timbers from which it was constructed.

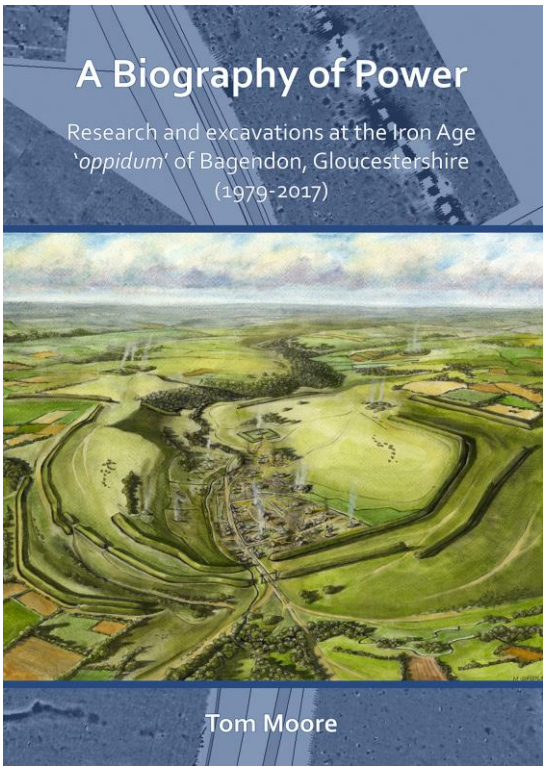
Contemporary clearance work and probably salvage meant that with the site did not yield a large number of finds but those that remained provide an insight into life on board, the makeup of the crew, and the ship's armament, as well as allowing the reconstruction of sections of the ship's rigging.

https://www.archaeopress.com/Archaeopress/Products/9781803277875

A Biography of Power

Research and Excavations at the Iron Age 'oppidum' of Bagendon, Gloucestershire (1979-2017)

Tom Moore



This book explores the changing nature of power and identity from the Iron Age to the

Roman period in Britain. It provides fresh insights into the origins and nature of one of the lesser-known, but perhaps most significant, Late Iron Age 'oppida' in Britain: Bagendon in Gloucestershire.

A Biography of Power explores the changing nature of power and identity from the Iron Age to Roman period in Britain. Presenting detailed excavation results and integrating a range of comprehensive specialist studies, the book provides fresh insights into the origins and nature of one of the lesser-known, but perhaps most significant, Late Iron Age oppida in Britain: Bagendon in Gloucestershire.

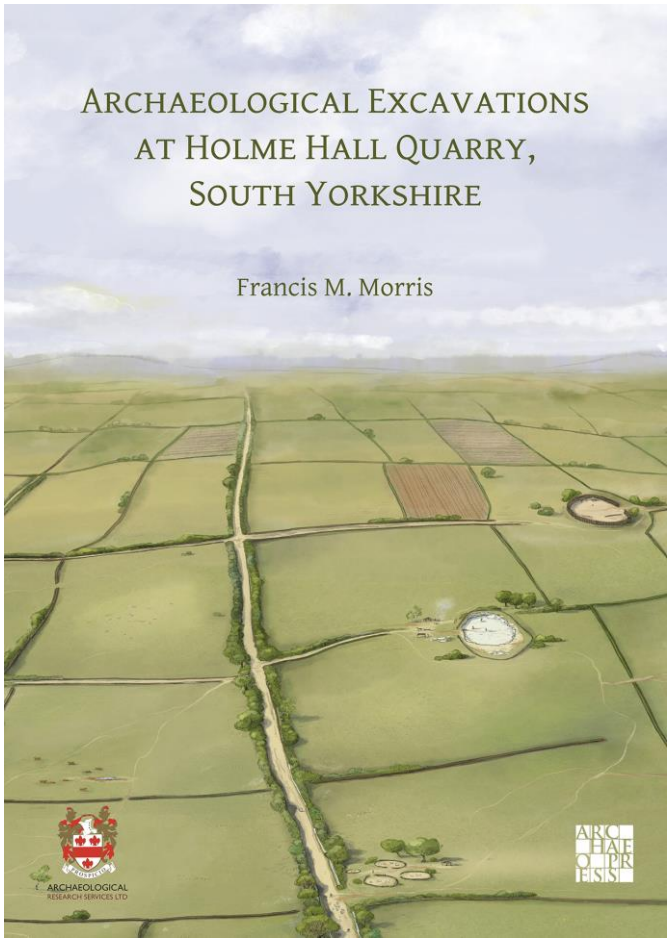
Combining the results of a large-scale geophysical survey with analysis of both historic and new excavations, this volume reassesses Iron Age occupation at Bagendon. It reveals evidence for diverse artisanal activities and complex regional exchange networks that saw livestock, and people, travelling to Bagendon from west of the Severn. The results of the excavation of two morphologically unusual, banjo-like enclosures, and of one of the previously unexamined dykes, has revealed that the Bagendon oppidum had earlier origins and more complex roles than previously envisaged. The volume also provides new insights into the nature of the Iron Age and Roman landscape in which Bagendon was situated. Detailing the discovery of two, previously unknown, Roman villas at Bagendon demonstrates the continued significance of this landscape in the early Roman province.

This volume redefines Bagendon as a landscape of power, offering important insights into the changing nature of societies from the Middle Iron Age to the Roman period. It calls for a radical reassessment of how we define oppida complexes and their socio-political importance at the turn of the 1st millennium BC.

https://www.archaeopress.com/Archaeopress/Products/9781789695342

Archaeological Excavations at Holme Hall Quarry, South Yorkshire

Francis M. Morris



This volume documents the results from large-scale archaeological investigations at Holme Hall Quarry on the Magnesian Limestone ridge, South Yorkshire. The main occupation of the site occurred during the Roman period when two rural farmsteads were constructed and a field system with associated droveways and enclosures imposed across the landscape.

This volume documents the results from large-scale archaeological investigations at Holme Hall Quarry on the Magnesian Limestone ridge in South Yorkshire. The excavations were preceded by extensive fieldwalking and geophysical surveys which together have revealed multiperiod archaeological remains across an area of landscape where very little

archaeology had previously been known. The work set out in this volume adds an important dimension to the archaeology of South Yorkshire and reveals how strip, map and sample excavation can help to fill gaps in knowledge and give a more detailed understanding of the organisation of the early Roman frontier region in Britannia.

Scatters of chipped lithics dating to the Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age were uncovered, and also pits and a possible Middle Iron Age structure, but the main occupation of the site occurred during the Roman period when two rural farmsteads were constructed and a field system with associated droveways and enclosures imposed across the landscape. The field system was probably established in the mid-late 1st century AD, early in the Roman military occupation, as a planned reorganisation of the landscape which served to intensify agricultural production of livestock and crops, presumably for both local consumption and export to the Roman military. Numerous late Roman pits and postholes within the two farmsteads suggest the area was occupied until at least the late 3rd century AD, but virtually no evidence was found for Roman activity in or after the early/mid 4th-century, perhaps due to disruption of the previous system of military supply and unrest at this time across Britannia and other parts of the Roman Empire.

Features dating to the Anglo-Saxon period were also present, but there is little evidence for activity thereafter until the 18th and 19th centuries. During this period local limestone was quarried and burnt to produce lime for 'marling' the fields to support the increase in agricultural production needed to support the Napoleonic war effort and growing urbanisation.

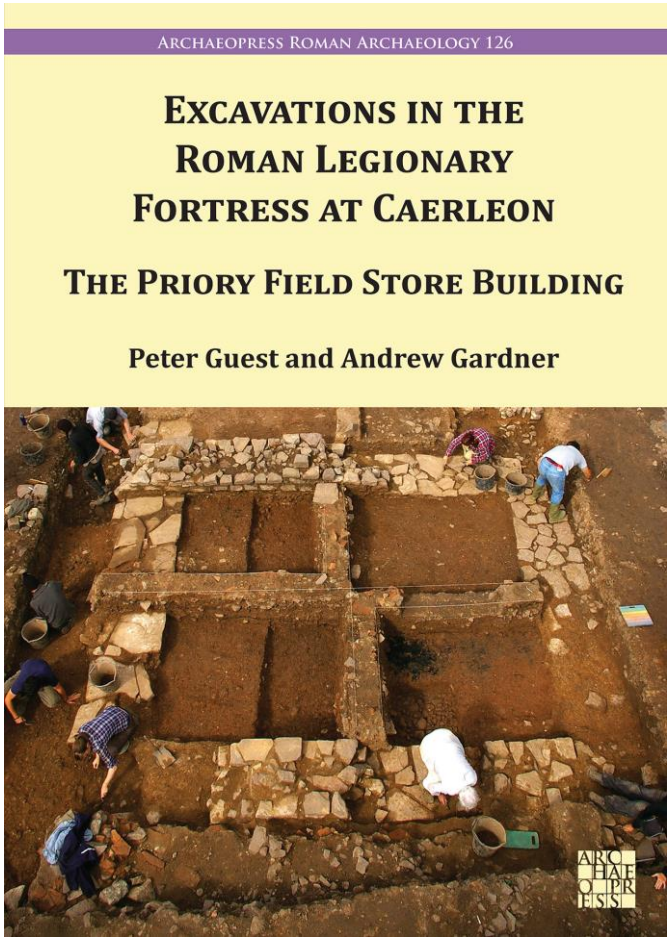
https://www.archaeopress.com/Archaeopress/Products/9781803279251

Excavation in the Roman Legionary Fortress at Caerleon

The Priory Field Store, 2007-2010

By Peter Guest, Andrew Gardner

Published May 2025



Excavation at Caerleon (South Wales) revealed the first legionary store in the Roman Empire excavated to modern standards. Built c. AD 90–110, it served until the late 3rd century. Finds include coins, pottery, and rare military gear, offering insight into Roman military logistics and life in Isca before its post-Roman transformation.

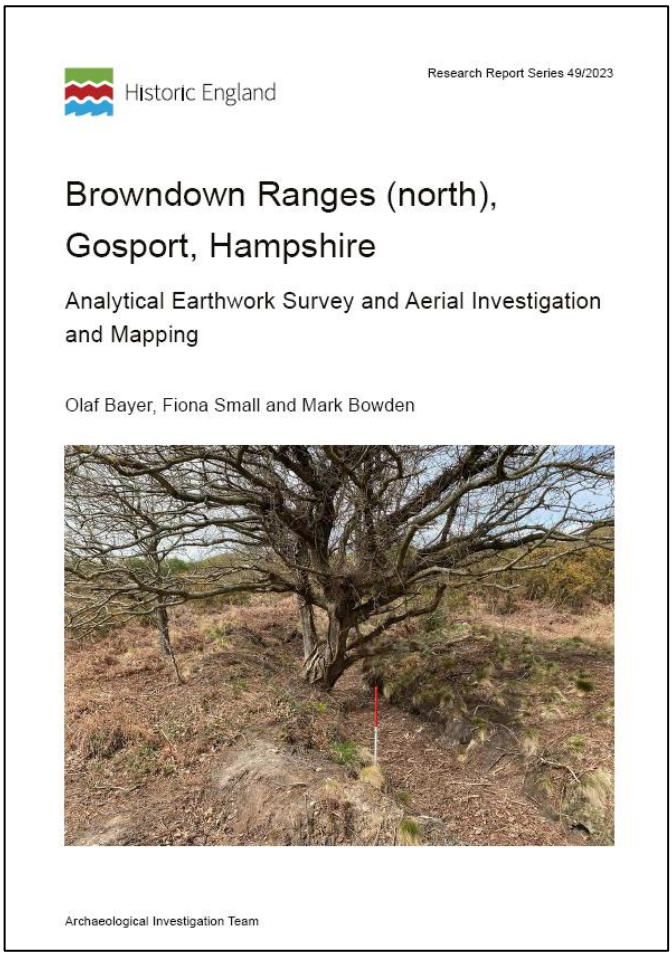
The Priory Field excavation was a research, training and engagement project that investigated a large courtyard store-building in the legionary fortress of Isca at Caerleon. This

was the first legionary store excavated to modern standards in the Roman Empire. The excavation exposed the building's main entranceway and two small adjoining rooms, as well as four squarer storerooms. The coins and pottery provide an excellent chronological sequence for the store, which was constructed around AD 90-110 and remained in use until the end of the 3rd century, after which it fell into a derelict state before being partially demolished and levelled by around 350. Debris from the building's collapse and demolition sealed the floors of two store rooms, one of which was littered with military finds, many of which survived in a very fragile condition. These included the highly fragmentary remains of a rare example of an elaborately decorated horse's headpiece, at least one set of dismantled lorica segmentata body armour, as well as another set of unusual scale armour. Two new buildings were constructed among the ruins of the old and partially demolished legionary store, including one 3 room cottage-like building. Radiocarbon dates demonstrate this building was constructed and in use between 430 and 600. This is the first new structure at a Roman site definitively dated to the post-Roman 5th and 6th centuries from Wales (and, arguably, from Britain), and it has an important story to tell about life in Isca after the ending of Britannia, c. 410.

https://www.archaeopress.com/Archaeopress/Products/9781803276908

Historic England

Browndown Training Trench Ranges (north) Gosport, Hampshire



As part of the Gosport Heritage Action Zone Historic England's Archaeological Investigation Team undertook a detailed study of Browndown Ranges (north). The project's principal aim was to better understand the extent and layout of a series of recently discovered First World War practice trenches. Analytical earthwork survey and aerial investigation and mapping took place between 2019 and 2022. Features recorded include a probable round barrow of presumed early Bronze Age date, an extensive area of First World War practice trenches, a Second World War Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, and a series of Second World War and later grenade ranges. The First World War trenches at Browndown Ranges (north) stand out as one of the best preserved and most complex examples in England. They represent at least two phases of trench digging and reflect two distinct activities: the practice excavation of trenches for troops to learn trench construction techniques, as well as to build individual fitness

and group cohesion; and the provision of 'text book' training environments, mimicking sections of the Western Front, where troops learned to live and fight in trenches.

https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/8945/BrowndownRanges(north)GosportHampshire

Links to Recorded Lectures

Cotswold Archaeology

Mick Aston Annual Lecture 2025: "Stonehenge: Old Rocks, New Theories"

Dr Julian Richards

In this talk, Julian Richards explores Stonehenge, arguably the most famous stone circle in the world. Beginning with an examination of its unique structure, he delves into the big questions: how it was built, who built it and, perhaps most intriguingly, why.

While reflecting on past ideas, Julian draws on recent discoveries and the results of new scientific analysis to share our current understanding of this enigmatic monument to the beliefs and ingenuity of our ancient ancestors.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zo1zPqKFUgM

Cambrian Archaeological Association
Cymdeithas Hynafiaethau Cymru
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Darganfod 2025:

Working Stone and Making Places in Neolithic Wales

Becky Vickers, CDA PhD researcher, University of Sheffield and Eryri National Park Authority

It has been long demonstrated that Group VII axes came from a source known as Graig Lwyd, located above Penmaenmawr in North Wales. Lesser known, is that evidence for axe production can be found over a much wider landscape, including craggy upland environments with expansive views over Traeth Lafan and the Carneddau, to the sheltered plateau of a moorland basin. Despite an interesting history of work at Graig Lwyd, this wider landscape has been overlooked for a century. In 2019 the Landscape of Neolithic Axes Project (LNAP) funded and facilitated by the Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme, was established to plug this gap with a programme of fieldwork. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (now Heneb) and Eryri National Park (ENPA) managed excavations undertaken by staff and volunteers. 150 test-pits and several trenches uncovered an extensive assemblage of axe material centred around outcrops of fine-grained microdiorite and scree. Evidence for axe working was uncovered away from the stone source, alongside potential contemporary settlements.

This paper presents the context, aims and preliminary results of a collaborative PhD between the University of Sheffield and ENPA. The project will undertake an extensive programme of lithic analysis of the assemblage generated by the LNAP. Museum collections and the HER has also been explored to shed light on

the movement of axes in the immediate region. The PhD aims to explore variation and structure in axe working within the wider landscape. This paper will present preliminary results and discuss potential directions for inferring the social significance of these variations.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8BrW2ssqAs

Trying to Make Sense of why some Coastal Mesolithic and Early Neolithic People chose Movement into the (Neglected) Landscape of Inland Pembrokeshire

Bill Powell, PhD researcher, Birkbeck, University of London

This talk suggests that the prolific fishing resources of the Daugleddau and Cleddau waterways induced some Mesolithic populations to leave Pembrokeshire's south-west coast. Movement included small groups seeking new food and material stratagems, with Early Neolithic people using the rivers as a routeway following in the wake of roaming ungulates.

Prolific clusters of Pembrokeshire's later Mesolithic and Early Neolithic south-west coastal surface finds, recorded by Leach (1913) and Cantrill (1915), are encapsulated in recent coastal surveys (Murphy 1997). Early Mesolithic activity seems mostly absent, probably a result of progressively submerged landscapes over 8000 years ago (Garrow 2017). By comparison, researching Pembrokeshire's inland Mesolithic and Neolithic activity has largely remained neglected until recently (David 2014), particularly up-river from the Milford Haven Sound along the Daugleddau and the Cleddaus.

This presentation utilises Historic Environment Records (HERs) to trace multiple surface lithic finds, with occasional diagnostic material, as indicators of past activity offering explanations as to why some groups chose to leave the coast either seasonally or permanently. The fertile coastal plains provided marine and terrestrial resources for generations supporting small encampments. However, some groups chose riverine routeways into Pembrokeshire's interior which for the unwary must have risked encounters with darkened woodland landscapes.

The talk proposes that sourcing subsistence and lithic material strategies remained a major factor. The impact of eustatic rising sea levels could be another, reducing circa 50% of the available coastal hinterland by 6000 cal. BC (Bell 2007) between the sea and the east-west Milford Haven Sound. Maintaining a subsistence stratagem remained key.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvQmebv6w0o

A Roman Villa in Northeast Wales: discovery and implications

Dr Caroline Pudney, University of Chester

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sN0Telc50kg

Little men, who had been burnt, and their heads deposited in pots

Cat Rees, CDP PhD researcher, University of Manchester and Amgueddfa Cymru

Using Welsh Myths, Traditions and Folklore to Enhance Interpretation of Pre-Roman Mortuary Sites.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-VgQUM9f9c

Chewing on the Past: what can dental microwear and calculus tell us about life in Early Medieval Llandough

Hannah Lycett-Smith, Archaeology Wales, formerly Cardiff University

Although often applied in British palaeontology and zooarchaeology, dental microwear texture analysis (DMTA) is an underutilised tool in British human osteoarchaeology. Additionally,

calculus microdebris analysis (CMA) is a developing field, which is beginning to be applied to British remains. Neither DMTA or CMA, prior to this study, have yet been used collaboratively against one another; and neither analysis method had yet been used on Welsh remains.

During this project, dental microwear analysis followed existing methodologies, whilst a new methodology was established for CMA based on previous publications. These methods were applied to a sample of human teeth (n=31) from the Llandough collection at Amgueddfa Cymru. DMTA was carried out on second molars (n=24), preferably right mandibular but other M2s were used where this tooth was unavailable. CMA was carried out on teeth where moderate or abundant calculus was present (n=28).

Microdebris found within calculus includes fabric fibres, highlighting the prominence of wool spinning among women, and the importance of similar 'cottage industry' practices to the rural economies of medieval Glamorgan. Further, microcharcoal and soot suggests a prominence of fire-based trades such as smithing, while cooked food residues show consumption of leafy vegetables such as cabbage and leek.

DMTA revealed evidence for softer, potentially medicinal diets for chronically ill individuals; and raises questions of palliative care. DMTA also suggests a sex-based dietary discrepancy, with women on average having harder and more brittle diets – perhaps due to the prevalence of monks within males who would have had richer and more homogenised diets.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h164FVDASfk

The Prehistoric World of the Buckholt

[See CAS Trips – Trellech & Buckholt above]

Kate Churchill, Churchill Archaeology

In June 2024, Churchill Archaeology organised a community archaeological evaluation on the Iron Age hilltop enclosure in Buckholt Woods near Monmouth on behalf of Buckholt Bryngaer CIC. Prior to the dig, very little was known about the site, despite its designation as a scheduled monument. With assistance from Amgueddfa Cymru, Churchill Archaeology welcomed seventy-four participants over five days.

It soon became apparent that the enclosure was much more substantial than previously thought, but it may not have been completed. The ramparts consisted of a c.5m high coursed stone wall, but not a single artefact was identified. In contrast, on a neighbouring summit, a local volunteer, who had been researching the area for 30 years, revealed the location of a large Early Neolithic flint scatter. Based on the assemblage and the earthworks present on the site, it appeared to be a 'new' Early Neolithic enclosure.

Additional funding to investigate both enclosures was acquired from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the evaluation took place in early October 2024. This talk will present the results of the excavation and discuss where we go from here.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJuaeLXJ2Jc

Dietary Diversity in Medieval Wales: a high-resolution case study from Five Mile Lane, Barry

Katie Faillace, Cardiff University

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bwHGCj4BsU

Houses in the Hills: dendrochronology and the farmhouses of upland Gwent

Paul Davis

The Cambrian Archaeological Association's grant was used to enable a selection of houses in upland Monmouthshire to be sampled by the process of dendrochronology, so that hitherto estimated construction dates can be confirmed by scientific methods, rather than estimates based on comparable analysis. Despite some initial caution on the part of Dr Dan Miles of Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, the results have been, overall, very successful, and turned out to be very surprising in one particular case.

Samples were obtained from three separate house site by Dr Miles with the assistance of Richard Suggett (former investigator with the RCAHMW). Several other houses were also examined by Dr Andy Moir (Tree-Ring Services of Gloucester).

Sufficient samples were obtained from each house to enable the architectural development to be understood. The successful samples gave either precise dates (where bark was present) or an estimated felling range of about 30 years or so (where sapwood was present). Only a few of the samples taken proved insufficient to reach a date or indicate a phase of construction.

The main target of this project was the unit system site of Gwrhyd-mawr (Abertillery), although in the event, permission to sample the second house was not secured. Nevertheless, cores taken from the main house produced an exceptional and unexpectedly early date ('nationally significant' in the words of Dr Miles). One of the roof trusses was a reused medieval cruck with a date range of 1380-1410. Not only is this one of the earliest cruck halls recorded in Wales, but it had been constructed at a time when the country was wracked by revolt of Owain Glyndŵr. Someone, at this seemingly inappropriate time, decided to build a house and cut down a huge oak tree that had been growing before the Norman Conquest in order to do so. It is astonishing that this sole relic should have survived the reconstruction of the house in 1574, and again in the seventeenth century.

Other samples produced unexpectedly early dates, notably a cruck at Pistyll-gwyn (Pontypool) which gave a felling range of 1513-33, and at Ty-llwyd (Llanhilleth) precisely dated to 1485 (yet another significant time in Welsh, and indeed, English history). In both cases the crucks appear to have been retained from an early phase of the house, preserved in the cowsheds while the dwelling end of the buildings were 'modernised' with inserted upper floors and chimneys.

The outcome of the initial testing was highly successful and indicates that there is great potential in obtaining further dates, which will elucidate the development of post-medieval architecture in this region. Dr Miles has indicated that it may be possible to narrow down the felling date-range at Gwrhyd-mawr by further selective sampling. It is clear that these modest upland Gwent farmhouses are generally earlier than might be thought, and that some incorporate rare fragments of very earlier precursors.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHx2rXH-AJ4

Maritime Archaeology in Wales.

Ian Cundy Nautical Archaeology Society Regional co-ordinator for Wales

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KdEy35xgck

St. Cybi's Fort and Church

Robert Evans, Archaeologist

Our Summer Lecture will delve into the results of the excavations at St Cybi's Roman Fort and medieval and post-medieval churchyard.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvbfavU4SeA

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

Archaeological Research in Progress 2025:

Ness of Brodgar: Saving the Best till Last

Nick Card FSAScot, UHI Archaeology Institute and Ness of Brodgar Trust

This talk will look in more detail at Structure 27 at the Ness of Brodgar, which even in terms of this spectacular site, stands apart due to its unique appearance, spectacular masonry, and construction techniques which rivals the best architecture in Neolithic Britain.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2qf1DchWxM

Discovering a Neolithic Passage Grave at Blomuir, Holm, Orkney

Dr Hugo Anderson-Whymark FSAScot, National Museums Scotland

This talk will provide an overview of excavations at a Neolithic Maes Howe-type passage grave, discovered in 1896 but subsequently lost from memory and the archaeological record.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eK2x2xowdjo

Untangling the Knot: Rediscovery of a Bronze Age Hoard at Rosemarkie

Rachel Buckley, GUARD Archaeology Ltd

This talk summarises recent post-excavation analyses of a Bronze Age hoard recovered from within a settlement, providing a rare insight into the production of these artefacts, the significance of their disposal and their potential connection to wider Bronze Age Europe.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ub3uXcOlFxE

The Tale of a Tail (or Two): The Late Bronze Age Horsehair Hat from Kirtomy

Dr Alison Sheridan FSAScot, National Museums Scotland; Dr Susanna Harris FSAScot, University of Glasgow; and Lilja Husmo, costumier

This talk explores current research into, and the replication of, the only Late Bronze Age hat from Britain and Ireland, which is among the earliest evidence for domesticated horse in these islands.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDqSk1mxxh8

Govan Old: 'Dig Where You Stand'

Professor Stephen Driscoll FSAScot, Rob Ferro, Michael Hogg, Luca McCall, Alexander McClure, Rachel MacDonald and Moira Piazzoli FSAScot, University of Glasgow

This talk, introduced by Prof. Stephen Driscoll, will explore the recent excavations at Govan Old by the University of Glasgow students involved in the project.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CrxV2yU7ckU

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Update

Dr Jennifer Thoms, DES Editor, Archaeology Scotland

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OE4CGV-zJnY

Special Treatment? Investigating Juvenile Burials in Early Medieval Mortuary Spaces

Darcey Spenner, Headland Archaeology

This talk will present research on the burials of 22 children at the the Kirk of St Nicholas in Aberdeen, exploring their lived experiences, deaths and the way they are perceived by adults. This study hopes to contribute to the growing field of the archaeology of children, by shedding light on the treatment of juveniles in medieval mortuary landscapes.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=puoV0zJqELY

Illuminating the Vale of Virtue: New Light on Perth's Lost Charterhouse

Dr Lucy Dean FSAScot, University of the Highlands and Islands

This talk will discuss recent work to locate and better understand Perth's Carthusian priory – known as the Charterhouse – one of Scotland's least understood but most historically significant medieval monastic sites.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwYk1ytWERU

The Glencoe Project

Dr Gareth Beale, University of Glasgow
This talk will summarise the last two years of research of the Glencoe Project co-organised by the University of Glasgow and the National Trust for Scotland which seek to understand the Post-Medieval and Early Modern history of the glen as a populated and busy landscape.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVsptxu3kfo

The Industrial Archaeology of Leith from the 1600s

Steven Watt FSAScot, AOC Archaeology

This talk presents a whistlestop tour of excavations from across Leith by AOC Archaeology exhibiting the area's wealth of industrial archaeology.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csnm-leaW4M

PS Comet, Craignish Point, Argyll: A Forerunner of the Clydeside Shipbuilding Industry

Stephanie Said, Wessex Archaeology

This talk discusses the underwater survey of the remains of the PS Comet - Europe's first commercial steamship and now a scheduled monument - and what this can tell us about early steamships.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fKsts_mGwk

Sharing the Past

This session was a panel discussion with Joshua Ogunmola, Archaeology Scotland; Lucille Rodrigues, University of the Highlands and Islands; Dr Joana Valdez-Tullett FSAScot, Wessex Archaeology/University of Durham; and Iain Ross Wallace FSAScot, Scottish Stonemasons' Marks Project.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPDKHOrv4t8

Answers to Quiz

1. Signifer 2. Star Carr 3. Peltasts 4. Argo 5. Ellis Minns 6. Acre 7. Ostrogoths 8. Ivory Coast 9. Tara 10. Persepolis