

NEWS LETTER

Issue 35, Autumn 2015

Exploring the archaeology of Orkney

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Council for
British Archaeology

www.archaeologyUK.org

LATEST NEWS

Beatrice - York office visit

In August, we were privileged to receive Beatrice de Cardi, first staff member for the CBA, on a visit to our office in York.

On entering the building, we showed her the name plaque on the door: Beatrice de Cardi House. Beatrice was pleased to meet the staff here and we enjoyed hearing her stories of the CBA and its history. Beatrice is incredibly astute about our work and showed that even at 101 years old, archaeology is very much an ongoing part of her life - and she is very much part of the CBA.



Beatrice De Cardi at the CBA head office which has been named after her, opposite Jane Grenville CBA Chair.

Internet Archaeology awarded the (DOAJ) Seal



Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) only award their seal to "journals that adhere to an exceptionally high level of publishing standards and best practice". It acts as a signal to readers and authors that the journal has generous use and reuse terms, author rights and adheres to the highest level of 'openness'.

Internet Archaeology has been awarded the DOAJ Seal because it follows strict criteria related to accessibility, openness, discoverability, reuse and author rights. It is currently the only open access archaeology journal to be awarded the Seal, sitting alongside just over 100 other journals from right across the academic spectrum.

The CBA, in partnership with the University of York, has been publishing Internet Archaeology since 1996 and it is the premier e-journal for archaeology. Internet Archaeology is an open access, independent, not-for-profit journal. intarch.ac.uk



The Heritage Alliance respond to Comprehensive Spending Review

The Heritage Alliance has submitted a response to HM Treasury's Comprehensive Spending Review which asked each government department including DCMS and DCLG to outline how they would cut between 25% to 40% of their budgets to achieve the Government's ambition of eliminating the deficit by 2019-20.

As ever, The Heritage Alliance are making the case, that planning, heritage protection and historic environment services, together with the capacity of communities to shape and care for their environment, are not singled out as soft targets for further efficiencies given the huge benefits - economic, social, environmental and cultural - our heritage brings to the country. In their response, the Heritage Alliance call on the government to focus on three priorities:

- Develop Local Authority capacity and specialist advice
- Secure stable funding for Historic England
- Create a positive tax regime for independently owned heritage

The CBA are a proud member of the Heritage Alliance and fully support their position in this statement. We will work with them to support their message and try to influence the Government's detailed plans to deliver the remaining fiscal consolidations which are due out to be outlined on 25 November 2015. The full Budget statement is available at theheritagealliance.org.uk/CSR

The Festival's 25th birthday goes off with a bang!

The 25th annual Festival of Archaeology is now at an end, but what an event it was.

More than 1,000 archaeology-related events took place across the country this July. Events included living history re-enactments and demonstrations, talks and lectures on current happenings in archaeology, exhibitions and displays, guided walks and tours, finds identifications, excavation visits, and hands-on activities. We estimate that more than quarter of a million people took part in at least one Festival event.

Even for those unable to attend an event, the Festival has helped to raise the profile of archaeology across the UK with plenty of high-profile media coverage. The Guardian, Independent, BBC History Magazine, and Channel 4, amongst others, all helped to promote the Festival's aims nationwide along with a host of regional titles and local radio stations around the country.



A demonstration at Grey Point Fort, Bangor

Although there are too many to list individually, a big thank you to all of our partners, event organisers, volunteers and participants for helping to make this year's Festival a truly exceptional birthday.

Next year's Festival takes place between 16 and 31 July so put the date in your diary. If you'd like to join in and host an event, registrations open in the new year - watch this space.

archaeologyfestival.org.uk



A group explore the Thames foreshore, image courtesy of Historic Royal Palaces

LATEST NEWS

NEW STAFF JOIN THE CBA

Following staff restructuring, the CBA welcomes two new faces to its management team.

Fiona Derbyshire joins us as Resources Coordinator. Fiona will be pivotal in streamlining the CBA to make us as lean and effective as we can be and ensure that our resources are used most effectively to fight for the historic environment. She brings more than 15 years of local government and 10 years business experience to the CBA.

Deborah Anderson previously worked as senior adviser for the historic environment of the Outer Hebrides and has more than 20 years of archaeology experience. She joins us as our Partnership Manager to create opportunities for interworking with like-minded organisations and increase our national influence.



Our newest recruits: Fiona on the left and Deborah on the right.

Deborah says, "At a time when archaeology needs a strong voice, I'm excited to be able to use my experience to help the CBA speak up for our historic environment."

Oswestry campaign update

In early July CBA Director, Mike Heyworth, was able to visit the Old Oswestry hillfort and see for himself the potential impact of a new housing development in the countryside next to the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

His visit was facilitated by the local Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort group and he was able to use the visit to speak to BBC Radio Shropshire and local newspapers about the importance of the monument and its setting.

It is very clear that any housing development in the immediate area of the hillfort – as is proposed in the latest version of the County Council's housing 'master plan' for Shropshire – would have a very significant impact on the views of the hillfort from a wide area, and would also potentially damage nationally important archaeology in the area. It is hard to see how this would be in line with the sustainable planning policies for the historic environment incorporated within the National Planning Policy Framework.



CBA Director Mike Heyworth being interviewed by BBC Radio Shropshire on Old Oswestry hillfort

The CBA fully supports the local campaigners in their ongoing efforts to have the area of land in the immediate vicinity of the hillfort removed from the local housing plan. Other archaeology organisations such as Rescue and the Prehistoric Society have also voiced their disapproval. Meanwhile, Shropshire Council has stated publicly that it 'does not accept that proposed development would result in substantial harm to the significance of the hillfort.'

COMMUNITY GROUPS & ADVOCACY FOR LOCAL HERITAGE

LHEN are researching attitudes towards advocacy for the historic environment, and we are interested in how local archaeology groups are involved in advocacy work in their areas. As part of this, we would like to invite all archaeology or local heritage groups to take part in a short survey on problems and issues with planning, HER cuts and museum closures here: surveymonkey.com/r/NPQ7DFZ

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete, and all responses are confidential, and can be anonymous if you prefer. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact lhen@archaeologyuk.org



A view of Old Oswestry hillfort showing the land in the foreground which is proposed for housing

CBA encourages 'cobservation' of traditional building

The CBA has recently advised on a case from Dawlish, Devon, brought to us through our national amenity society casework role.

The Grade II listed building is a cottage built partly from brick and partly with a traditional material for the area: cob. Cob is a type of earth construction which is essentially soil, straw and water that is compacted and dried to create a hard-set wall material. The soils of Devon, containing clay and the right amount of sand, are particularly suited to cob building and thus Devon contains more cob houses than any other county in Britain, over 20,000 according to The Devon Earth Building Association.

Cob has been a building material for an extensive period of time, from possible prehistoric earth buildings right into the nineteenth century. The method fell into decline in the later nineteenth century as

bricks became cheaper; in the twentieth century, the traditional building skills were gradually lost. The loss of skills had a twofold effect: not only did it prevent new cob buildings but also the appropriate maintenance of existing cob buildings reduced. In the 1980s, conservationists realised the loss of these skills and the threat posed to the historic vernacular traditions of areas like Dawlish, and began to seek the right skills and increase training for practitioners.

In the twentieth-first century the plight of the cob house is mixed. Whilst there are terrific new cob builds going up, and skilled craftsmen who build new (see Kevin McCabe's Keppel Gate), repair old and run workshops to spread the knowledge, it seems some people are still unsure about cob maintenance. While cob is a sustainable, environmentally friendly material with good thermal efficiency, it does need a



Kevin McCabe's Keppel Gate

little maintenance attention and suffers from issues like non-breathable renders applied in the past. If inherited, these problems may seem daunting without professional assistance. This is evidenced by cases like the one recently received by the CBA, where maintenance has not been undertaken and structural repairs are now necessary. The proposal seeks to demolish the cob section of the listed building, under the auspices of poor condition, when really the building just needs some careful attention and conservation works to secure its future for decades to come.

The advice from the CBA is: cob conservation does not have to be difficult! Turn to the freely available guidance online and traditional skills organisations. Conserve cob, carry out basic maintenance to avoid larger problems and help continue a vernacular tradition while living in a wonderful home!



Playing in the mud: a new cob building is created.

Celebrating the archaeology of Orkney



Mid Howe Tomb together with ingenious cover building.

In August, a group of CBA Members and staff enjoyed five days in Orkney, exploring the rich archaeology of the Islands, in partnership with Orkney Archaeology Tours.

Based at the Ayre Hotel, Kirkwall, we were blessed with sunny weather for much of the trip – as Andrew Smith, one of our tour members later said, we were “blown away by the archaeology, rather than the wind.”

Guided by experts in the local archaeology, we explored the monuments that make up Orkney’s World Heritage Site including the Ring of Brodgar and the Stones of Stenness. At Skara Brae, we were lucky to enjoy the beautiful coastal scenery in wonderful weather, even spotting a few seals.

We visited Earl’s Bu and the Round Kirk, mentioned in the Orkneyinga Saga and enjoyed investigating Maeshowe, a fine example of a Neolithic chambered tomb, along with its Norse runic inscriptions. Our tour took us by ferry to the Island of Rousay, where we explored Midhowe Broch, an Iron Age settlement, Midhowe Cairn, the largest of Orkney’s Neolithic stalled cairns and Taversøe Tuick Cairn, an unusual two stone burial mound.

Again Andrew speaks for most of the group, “I do not think that I was the only one to be surprised when what I thought (from the dropping off point some eighty metres above) was an extremely substantial farmer’s barn, turned out to be the cover building for the Mid Howe tomb on Rousay. It allowed access along one side and there was an overhead walkway from which



One of the doors at St Magnus' Cathedral



CBA Members explore the Stones of Stenness.

it was possible to get some idea of the complexity of the construction and the scale of the tomb.”

Back on the mainland, we enjoyed a tour of St. Magnus’ Cathedral, founded in 1137 by the Viking Earl Rognvald, in honour of his Uncle. One victim of the sinking of the ‘Royal Oak’ in Scapa Flow in October, 1939, was the uncle of one of our group and, in a moving moment, the appropriate page in the Book of Remembrance in St Magnus’ Cathedral was specially opened for him. We also visited the Italian Chapel and the Churchill Barriers, which offered yet more reminders of the Second World War’s impact on the area.



Site director Nick Card leads our tour around the Ness of Brodgar.

A visit to Kircbuster Farm Museum provided an insight into the last un-restored ‘firehouse’ with a central hearth and a stone neuk bed, followed by a trip to Barony Mill, the last working water mill in Orkney, grinding bere barley. Other sites visited included the Broch of Gurness and the Brough of Birsay.



A highlight of the trip was a tour around the Ness of Brodgar site, where Andrew continues “we were privileged that Nick Card, the site director, personally gave us a very informative tour of the extensive excavation, and did not stint on the time. There is more to be revealed, according to geophysical reports. In some parts of the present work it was very noticeable that

“Just to say how much I enjoyed the Orkney Tour – a wonderful sample of the riches, excellently organised, and all very friendly.”

PD, Dingwall

plasterers’ “leaf and square” tools were being used to excavate, rather than conventional trowels.”

The programme also included evening lectures by Dr. David Lawrence on *Life and Death on the edge of Neolithic Europe*, Professor Donna Heddle on *Orkney’s Viking & Norse connections*, Caroline Wickham-Jones on *Mesolithic Orkney and prehistoric sea level research* and Julie Gibson on *Rising Tides: Orkney’s archaeology and coastal erosion*.

CBA Members and staff came away from the trip with extensive knowledge of the local archaeology, as well as having the chance to talk to local archaeologists and experience in full the amazing archaeology and scenery of Orkney.

Thank you for all of the feedback and photos that our Members’ have sent in. Watch this space for details of the 2016 Members’ Tour, due to be announced soon. It will be difficult to top Orkney but we are confident that it won’t disappoint.

The foundations of a CBA student forum

For students thinking of studying archaeology it can be daunting to make sense of the diverse nature of the discipline and the different potential career paths available.

Jamie Davies - currently working towards a PhD in Education at World Heritage Sites - outlines the challenges we face and suggests a way we can come together to support future archaeologists.

"You may be starting as an archaeology undergraduate fresher, a postgraduate working towards a taught or research masters or the big one, the PhD. Perhaps you are continuing with your studies in higher education, undertaking an archaeology course in further education, or considering taking an archaeology course in the future. If this sounds familiar, I'm sure you would welcome any kind of support as a student starting out this new chapter of your life during your final years in education and the transition into becoming a professional.

As someone who is in their fifth year as a student, after an archaeology undergraduate degree and masters in International Cultural Heritage Management, I know how important it is to access support, advice and opportunities related to the study of and wider world of archaeology and heritage. I am also thankful to have discovered the many opportunities that



A day off exploring the prehistoric monuments of Pembrokeshire during the 3 Week Durham University and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park excavation at Nevern Castle.

the world of archaeology can offer, given that it is a small tight-knit community which strives to share opportunities, best practice and the latest news.

The CBA has over 70 years of experience in bringing together members, supporters and partners to give archaeology a voice and safeguard it for future generations, which is why we are proposing the creation of a CBA Student Forum. The future of archaeology is in the hands of those studying and entering the profession. The CBA wants to work more closely with all its members, including students.

Unlike existing networks, this would not be limited to young professionals, graduates or certain educational institutions, it would be an inclusive

network for students with an interest in or studying archaeology, heritage and related courses at secondary, further and higher education institutions.

We aim to provide a network to share information about local field schools and open days, workshops, day schools, conferences, publishing opportunities and bursaries and grants. We could provide the link between local archaeology societies and educational institutions (especially university archaeology societies) across the UK. One way would be to develop a network of student representatives from universities who could join the CBA's network of regional groups."

If you are interested in getting involved as a student representative or have ideas about what form and shape the forum should take please get in touch: jgd475@bham.ac.uk



"Whose Past? An Interdisciplinary debate on the repatriation of artefacts and reburial of human remains" Durham University Archaeology Society Conference 2012

A NEW CULTURAL VISION

In September the Culture Minister (in England) Ed Vaizey MP announced that the Government is working on a culture White Paper to be published in spring 2016 (see <http://dcmsblog.uk/2015/09/share-your-ideas-for-a-new-cultural-programme/>).

This will be the first time for some fifty years that the Government has taken an overview of the cultural sectors and the Government's role in supporting them, and published an overall vision and agenda for the future.

There are four key themes to be included in the White Paper: the role that culture plays in creating places that people want to live, work and visit; building financial resilience in cultural organisations; how people engage with culture; and working with cultural institutions to promote Britain abroad. It is encouraging that the Minister has explicitly flagged up that heritage is a key area to be covered by the White Paper and this is an important opportunity to promote the role that the historic environment can play in place-making and enriching people's lives.

The Government is keen to encourage contributions and debate around the themes of the White Paper and the CBA is working to ensure that we show what archaeology and heritage has to offer the country. We would encourage all our members to get involved in the development of the White Paper dcms.dialogue-app.com



CBA Director Mike Heyworth visiting The Hive in Worcester in September with Victoria Bryant, Archive & Archaeology Service Manager, and Cllr Ian Hopwood, Chair of Worcestershire County Council.

Inevitably our contribution will rely to a considerable extent on the continuation of local authority archaeology services and the Historic Environment Records across the country which are vital not just in relation to planning, but also for informed management of the historic environment and for education and outreach. We have to look at creative opportunities to sustain these services - and new ways of working are emerging, such as the integrated archaeology and archive service of Worcestershire County Council delivered through The Hive thehive.worcester.org

We will also want to cover the important role of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (<http://finds.org.uk>) which provides an invaluable record of finds and new discoveries to add to our knowledge. It is a major concern that funding cuts are also threatening the future of the Scheme across England and Wales.

The latest guidance for the new version of the Government's Countryside Stewardship Scheme in England - which incentivises farmers and landowners

to look after their environment - states that any metal detecting on stewardship land must comply with the Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales finds.org.uk/get-involved/guides/codeofpractice. This makes it clear that all finds resulting from metal detecting must be reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme through their network of Finds Liaison Officers. Adequate resources are needed to ensure that the FLOs can work with local groups and individuals - and reach out to those who do not yet report their finds - otherwise the current unacceptable loss of knowledge will continue and the situation will deteriorate.

Our heritage plays a major role in place-making and contributes in a major way to wellbeing, as well as its contribution to the economy of the country. It is to be hoped that these contributions will be recognised and encouraged in the proposed culture White Paper, but this will only happen if we all make representations to Government to ensure they have the evidence.

The Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group

The Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology group (SWAAG), founded in 2009, now has over 60 members involved in documentary research, excavation and landscape and geophysical surveying.

A progressive group, SWAAG submit their records to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) of the Archaeological Data Service, to make them accessible to the wider archaeological and academic community. Peter Denison-Edson, their Chairman, shares their experience in the hope it may inspire other groups to do the same.

"The key for a community volunteer group preparing material for OASIS is a willing and capable volunteer to familiarise themselves with the system, its submission requirements and processes, then to process any existing reports (25 in our case) and be available for future work.

Our coordinator, Mike Keenan, was helped enormously by Mark Barratt, the Historic England OASIS Project Officer, who was readily available to provide advice and support. We also gratefully attended a Historic England training session.

It may be helpful to outline the OASIS submission process from the new user's point of view:

- We signed the OASIS Licence and logged our group's description and logo



Peter explaining Maiden Castle on one of SWAAG's public walks

- Two relatively straightforward Watching Briefs were submitted at first, before we moved to more complex reports and research papers, excavation reports and geophysics surveys.
- Mike assesses our reports against the OASIS database requirements, creates a new project entry on the OASIS system and completes a first draft of the OASIS entry form based on the information in our report. He then consults within SWAAG on the project in question.
- To facilitate the consultation process and serve as a checklist, we've created a spreadsheet mirroring the sections of the OASIS form and incorporating the responses and drop down options which we are most likely to encounter. We find the Historic England Thesauri of Monument Types and Archaeological Objects to be useful tools for the relevant sections of the form.

- Importantly, whilst relevant people can access forms during preparation, only the coordinator actually edits or makes changes: otherwise the scope for mistakes, misunderstandings and duplication of effort is huge.
- Finally Mike completes the OASIS material, uploads the associated grey literature report(s) together where appropriate with a boundary file, then submits the form for validation.
- Mike will now be part of report planning and writing for future projects with the aim of simplifying the procedure and enhancing our OASIS submissions and HER compliance. The next challenge is to index the report being written on The Swaledale Big Dig, a 2 two year HLF funded project involving 50 test pits plus various associated activities.

It may sound complex, but we recommend the effort, to make sure your reports can contribute fully to the wider archaeological knowledge base."

SWAAG's comprehensive website swaag.org includes a database of their archaeological reports and a showcase of their work.



SWAAG members during geophysics training

CITIZAN track Cleethorpes' prehistoric past

Close to the mouth of the River Humber estuary; at the northern end of Cleethorpes beach, is a submerged forest that consists of the preserved remains of tree stumps and fallen trees.

The submerged forest has been known about for at least a hundred years. In 1954 the mayors and mayoresses of Cleethorpes and Sheffield visited the preserved forest and sawed off a section of tree which was returned to Sheffield, carved with the Cleethorpes coat of arms and hung in Weston Park Museum. When the Queen and Prince Phillip visited in 1958, the Queen was presented with two caskets made from wood of the preserved forest, which was described as 3000 year old oak. Several polished stone and flint axe and adze heads have been recovered from the surrounding beach in recent years, some of which were recovered during our recent work.

As part of Historic England's Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment for Lincolnshire three radiocarbon (C14) dates were taken from a tree stump, an un-worked branch and a possible worked timber, these features returned dates from the late-Neolithic/early-Bronze Age and the late-Neolithic respectively. Analysis of an environmental sample taken at the same time suggested that a dense oak forest was present when the surrounding peatshelf was laid down.



One of the many tree stumps that forms part of the submerged forest at Cleethorpes.

During a CITIZAN guided walk around the forest a short section of prehistoric trackway was noticed eroding out of the peatshelf. The exposed portion consists of an east-west orientated timber, overlain by six north-south timbers forming a small walkway. The presence of the trackway suggests it was built in a wetter, marshier landscape and therefore pre-dates the oak forest present when the peat was created. A second visit identified a small area of wattle-work being exposed in the peatshelf slightly closer to the beach, which may have been part of a fishtrap, again pre-dating the oak forest.

The next step is to take groups of volunteers out on to the foreshore to record what has currently been exposed and take samples for dating. Hopefully while we explore the forest with our volunteers we can identify more structures and help create a clearer

picture of Cleethorpes' early prehistoric past.

To find out more about CITIZAN's work or to join them as a volunteer go to: citzan.org.uk



The newly exposed prehistoric trackway at Cleethorpes.

Events calendar

- **October 13, York**

Critical mass: Working together for a better archaeology

Joint conference hosted by ClfA and CBA:

archaeologists.net/events/criticalmass

- **October 17, Winchester**

Home Front Legacy Day School

Hosted with CBA Wessex:

homefrontlegacy.org.uk

- **October 31, Exeter**

Home Front Legacy Day School

Hosted with CBA South West:

homefrontlegacy.org.uk

- **November 14, Worcester**

Local Heritage Network Training:

Advocacy, activism and supporting your heritage

Gain the skills and confidence to begin to engage in local advocacy and activism to support your local historic environment, or to gain greater impact from your present advocacy work: www.bit.ly/1iml5IA

- **November 14, Taunton**

Home Front Legacy Day School

Hosted with CBA South West:

homefrontlegacy.org.uk

- **November 21, Milton Keynes**

Home Front Legacy Day School

Hosted with CBA South Midlands and the Arts and Heritage Alliance, Milton Keynes:

homefrontlegacy.org.uk

- **December 5, Sittingbourne**

Home Front Legacy Day School

Hosted with CBA South East and Kent County Council:

homefrontlegacy.org.uk

- **Spring 2016, London**

CBA Winter General Meeting

Details still TBC, to express your interest email

info@archaeologyuk.org

MEMBER OFFER!

Celts: art and identity

This is the first major exhibition to examine the full history of Celtic art and identity, and is organised in partnership between the British Museum and National Museums Scotland.

The story unfolds over 2,500 years, from the first recorded mention of 'Celts' to an exploration of contemporary Celtic influences. Discover how this identity has been revived and reinvented over the centuries, across Britain, Europe and beyond.

CBA Members can benefit from 25% off the normal ticket price. To benefit from this discount you must book online at: britishmuseum.org/celts quoting the code: **CBAMember** at the checkout (please note that this code is case sensitive).

The exhibition runs 24 September 2015 - 31 January 2016 at the British Museum.

Organised with National Museums Scotland. Supported by: In memory of Melvin R Seiden, Sheila M Streek, Stephen and Julie Fitzgerald, Fund for the Future donors.

The Battersea shield. Iron Age, c. 350-50 BC. Found in the River Thames, London, England. © The Trustees of the British Museum.



Beatrice De Cardi House
66 Bootham, York
YO30 7BZ
Tel. 01904 671417
Fax. 01904 671384

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www.archaeologyUK.org