

Welcome to the autumn edition of the ARCH newsletter. There are lots of ARCH activities on offer, including many which are part of Scottish Archaeology Month and Highland Archaeology Fortnight.

Feats of Clay: An investigation into the Bronze Age in the Moray Firth

ARCH is participating in an exciting project run by North Kessock & District Local History Society focussing on Bronze Age metalworking in the Moray Firth. During recent excavations in advance of house construction at Bellfield Farm, North Kessock a number of Iron Age round houses and pits were discovered. Some of the pits contained Bronze Age pottery and metalworking debris, including fragments of baked clay moulds. Trevor Cowie at the National Museums of Scotland analysed the moulds and discovered that they were used to create sickles of a late Bronze Age type.



©Headland Archaeology, photo Trevor Cowie

This is quite exciting! The site is only one of a handful known in Scotland where late Bronze Age metalworking took place. The type of sickle itself is rare, with only five known from Scotland, including an example from Dores (right)



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The 'Feats of Clay' project will allow people to investigate and promote the context of these finds. Analysis of the moulds is being undertaken by a specialist, while at the same time local people are sharing memories of clay sources in the area and investigating old maps. On 10th and 14th September we will collect samples from possible sources. Anyone who would like to participate should contact the ARCH office.

The clay investigations will be followed by a short course on the Bronze Age in the Moray Firth run by Susan Kruse of ARCH, for three weeks beginning 18th September, meeting at the North Kessock **Mission Hall** at 7:30pm. On the 3rd October, Trevor Cowie of the National Museums of Scotland will give a talk on 'Magic Metals: glimpses of the late Bronze Age in Easter Ross' for the

North Kessock & District Local History Society at Knockbain Free Church Hall, 7:45 pm (non-members welcome).

These activities are all leading up to a **Bronze Age crafting day** on Saturday 5th October at North Kessock **Village Hall**, 10-4:30. Neil Burridge from Cornwall will produce replica sickles and other metalwork, and a range of other Bronze Age crafts will be on offer, including basket making, spoon and bowl-making, pottery, bread making and textiles. It should be an exciting day for all ages!

Later in the autumn and winter there will also be opportunities for people to help research and photograph Bronze Age metalwork from the Moray Firth area, which will be showcased in a book to be written by Trevor Cowie. And finally in 2014 the North Kessock & District Local History Society will pull all of these strands together in its annual exhibition. Altogether it adds up to an exciting programme focussing on the Bronze Age in the Moray Firth area!

Further information about the Feats of Clay project can be found on the [North Kessock & District Local History Society website](http://www.northkessockhistory.com/) (<http://www.northkessockhistory.com/>).

Highland Archaeology Fortnight

The programme for Highland Archaeology Fortnight will be out soon, available on the Highland Council [website](#) or paper copies from various libraries, museums and other venues (or directly from the Historic Environment Team Tel: 01463 702250). As usual there is a great selection of activities on offer. ARCH will again be doing a variety of events this year - talks, walks and a presentation at the HAF seminar on 13th October. See the events section in this newsletter or the ARCH website for further details.



Evanton Wartime Remains

The Evanton Wartime Remains project is nearing its end. Over the summer the final recording took place, and the tally is over 160 sites, most of them newly recorded. These will soon be submitted to the HER, the RCAHMS and SCAPE. A listing of these sites is also available now from the ARCH website.

The project finishes at the end of September with a flurry of activities. On Saturday, 28th September, Cornerstone Cafe in Evanton, 10-2, there will be another chance to see the displays created by the group. The book and leaflet produced over the summer will be launched at 1:30.

On Sunday, 29th September, 11-4, a guided walk will look at some of the buildings remaining and sites of the wartime airfield. Finally, on Monday, 30th September, the first ARCH lecture of the year will be given by Susan Kruse, and will describe the impressive results from this project. See p. 3 for details.

ARCH is grateful for funding for Evanton Wartime Remains provided by the European Community Highland LEADER 2007-2013 Programme, Kiltearn Community Council's Novar Windfarm funding (supported by RWEpower renewables), The Highland Council, the Co-operative Membership Community Fund and the Robert Kiln Trust.



An Introduction to Open Source GIS

The Evanton Wartime Remains was able to make use of a wide range of maps and plans: wartime plans (including keys detailing building functions), aerial photos from the 1940s through 1960s, OS maps from the 1960s onwards and google earth. Using free software, Malcolm Standing geo-referenced this material, basically creating layers of information. This proved invaluable when trying to locate structures, especially after modern rebuilding.

Malcolm will offer a taster workshop on using Open Source QGIS, providing people with an introduction to the benefits of using GIS. Cost £3 per person, free to low income. Wednesday, 11th September, 7:30-9:30 Cornerstone Cafe, Evanton.

ARCH Courses this Autumn

A number of courses have been timetabled already, including heritage overviews, a GIS workshop and collecting memories in Strathpeffer. In addition, Lynne McKeggie will be leading two more courses on textiles, in Nairn and in Tain, later in the year – details to follow. If you get the postal version of the newsletter, contact us if you would be interested in the textiles courses, and we'll send details when they are confirmed.

Bronze Age in the Moray Firth

A three week course focussing on the Bronze Age evidence in the Moray Firth – daily life, burial and ritual and metalworking. Wednesdays for 3 weeks from 18th Sept. North Kessock Mission Hall, 7:30-9:30.

Hilton Heritage

This course will present an overview of the heritage of the Inverness area, especially along the southern distributor road, as well as sessions on how to find out more about local heritage. There will also be visits to the archives and museum. Mondays, for 9 weeks from 21st October, Hilton Community Centre, 10-12:30. This course is funded by High Life Highland.

Remembering Strathpeffer 2

A chance to share memories or to learn about the buildings, sites and heritage of Strathpeffer, following on from ARCH's short course in 2011/2011. On 20th November we will produce a display which will be featured at the Strathpeffer Xmas Fair on Saturday 23rd November. Wednesdays for 5 weeks from 30th October, Strathpeffer Community Centre, 10:30-12:30.

ARCH Lecture Series

The ARCH lecture series is being finalised, and will run again on the last Monday of the month, September through May (excluding December). See the events section in this newsletter or the ARCH website for further details.

- 30th Sept: 'Evanton Wartime Remains'
- 28th Oct: 'The Development of Aerial Archaeology'
- 25th Nov: 'Russian Hemp Lead seals: a practical eye'
- 27th Jan: Ledmore & Migdale project
- 24th Feb: to be confirmed
- 31st March: Cromarty Medieval Burgh dig
- 28th April: to be confirmed
- 26th May: to be confirmed

Forestry Commission Events

The Forestry Commission has two interesting events this month:

- 14th Sept. Meet the Picts Open Day at Craig Phadrig outside Inverness. Lots of activities for all ages. 11-4pm
- 17th Sept. Creag an Fhithich (Dounie Hill) near Edderton. A tour of the hillfort, and an opportunity to witness the RCAHMS doing a detailed survey of the site. 2pm.

ARCH EVENTS

10th September: Clay Sampling Day for Feats of Clay project. Contact the ARCH office if interested.

11th September: An Introduction to Open Source GIS. Workshop presented by Malcolm Standring. Cornerstone Cafe, Evanton, 7:30-9:30. Cost £3 per person, free to low income. See p.2.

14th September, 10-1. Clay Sampling morning for Feats of Clay project. Contact the ARCH office if interested.

18th & 25th September, 2nd October: The Bronze Age in the Moray Firth
North Kessock Mission Hall, 7:30-9:30. See p.2.

20th September: Boblainy guided walk
As part of the Boblainy Forest Community Archaeology project, this walk led by Susan Kruse will look at the abandoned settlement of Instaing and remnants of a Canadian Forestry Camp. Meet at Kiltarlity Village Hall to arrange carpooling. 10-1.

28th September: Evanton Wartime Remains Open Day and Book Launch
Cornerstone Cafe, Evanton, 10-2; book launch at 1:30. See p. 2 for details.

29th September: Evanton Wartime Remains guided walk
Meet at Skiach Services, Evanton. 11-1: looking at sites in the Industrial site; 2-4: looking at remains of the accommodation camp. Waterproof footwear and clothing needed.

30th September: 'The Evanton Wartime Remains Community Project'
Dingwall Community Centre, 7:30pm, suggested donation £3. ARCH lecture by Susan Kruse, presenting the results from this project.

5th October: Bronze Age Crafting Day
North Kessock Village Hall, 10-4:30. See p. 1 for details.

8th October: Ross-shire Chambered Cairns 1: Kilcoy
A guided walk taking in some of the Neolithic/Bronze Age cairns at Kilcoy on the Black isle. Meet at Redcastle (old) Station (Grid ref NH 582 511). Please wear stout footwear and bring waterproofs. Joint event with North Kessock & District Local History Society.

9th October: Ross-shire Chambered Cairns 2: Heights of Brae

A guided walk in a prehistoric landscape, looking at a chambered cairn and other sites. Meet at Neil Gunn Monument (Grid ref NH5191 6103), 10-1. Please wear stout footwear and bring waterproofs.



9th October: Telford@Dingwall

A guided walk looking at the remains of Telford's other canal in the Highlands, as well as a few other sites in Dingwall. Meet at Cromartie Car Park, Dingwall (Grid ref NH 5493 5895) 2:30-4. Please wear stout footwear and bring waterproofs. Suitable for wheelchair access – the walk is on paths although they may be a bit muddy depending on the weather.

11th October: Telford@Redcastle

A guided walk looking at the remains of Telford's pier at Redcastle and other historic remains in the area. Meet at Killearnan Church Hall car park, 10-12:30 (Grid ref NH 576 495). Please wear stout footwear and bring waterproofs.

12th and 13th October: Recent Archaeological Discoveries and Research Seminar

Council Headquarters, Inverness. ARCH will have a stall with books for sale and other information. Susan Kruse will give a talk on Sunday morning on the Evanton Wartime Remains project.

21st October for 9 weeks: Hilton Heritage
Hilton Community Centre, 10-12:30
See p. 2 for details.



28th October: The Development of Aerial Archaeology
Dingwall Community Centre, 7:30pm. ARCH lecture by Jim Bone who will present an illustrated talk outlining the progress of aviation from the early years, and how

aerial photography began. The ways in which archaeological sites can be identified from the air will be examined, using examples from the local area and further afield. Suggested donation £3



30th October, 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th November:

Remembering Strathpeffer 2

Strathpeffer Community Centre, 10:30-12:30. See p. 2 for details.

25th November: Russian Hemp Seals made in Lead: a practical eye's view

Dingwall Community Centre, 7:30pm. ARCH lecture by Ian Hammond who provides a demonstration and talk about Russian hemp seals made in lead found at Cromarty - and then an opportunity to have a go if you wish. Suggested donation £3.

September Digs

Two community excavations are taking place this month, both focussed on Iron Age settlement in the area. Fraser Hunter, familiar to many from his work at Birnie, is now looking at Clarkly Hill near Burghead (1st – 21st September). The University of Aberdeen is now looking at Tarrell Dun near Portmahomack (7th-13th September). Further details about both digs are available on the ARCH website.



Can ARCH help your organisation?

Do you have a good idea for a project, but need help with planning or delivery? ARCH can provide courses, walks, skills training or even provide advice on how to apply for funding. If you have an idea you want to explore, contact the ARCH office

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Friends of ARCH

If you enjoy what ARCH provides, please consider becoming a 'Friend of ARCH'. The Friends are a group of supporters who help ARCH in many diverse ways – by assisting at events, by offering specific skills or just by donating a small financial contribution to sustain ARCH's work. Friends of ARCH are requested to give an annual donation of £10 (or more if you wish). There is an annual Friends' invitational event, a presentation or a visit. To become a Friend—or to renew -contact the ARCH office or fill in the form below.

Name :

Address :

Email :

Phone :

Gift aid : Please tick if you are happy for your details to be used to allow ARCH to reclaim gift aid

I would also be happy to help ARCH by :

Offering practical help at ARCH events (e.g. stewarding, setting-up, etc.)

Helping to organise fund-raising activities

Contributing to fund-raising activities (e.g. baking, hosting, providing a talk or presentation, etc.)

Please tell us how you would like to help:

.....

Offering skills (e.g. crafts, admin, design, etc.)

Please specify

Please make cheques payable to 'Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands'

Forms should be returned to the address to the left.