



## Digging for Britain

### 2024 S11 E01

### North of Britain



#### **1 Carlisle Cricket Club - Roman Emperor's Lost Bathhouse**

The Largest Roman building ever discovered along Hadrian's Wall, revealing links to a Roman Emperor in Great Britain. After flooding of the River Eden in 2005, the Cricket Club wanted to build a new pavilion on higher ground. Frank Giocco from the archaeology firm Wardell Armstrong has conducted excavations over the past six years. Roman plaster and glass was found in a two-story bathhouse complex measuring over 50 metres by 50 metres with

underfloor heating or hypocaust. Many engraved gemstones or Intaglios were uncovered from Roman finger rings that had become unstuck from the vegetable glue mountings in the steamy sauna rooms. There were also finds of terracotta curved-rib tubes supporting the vaulted roof, there being only four examples of their use elsewhere in Britain and of North African design. An Imperial tile stamped "IMP" commissioned for the Imperial court by the Emperor Lucius Septimius Severus, a Libyan, was discovered at the site. Purple pigment may also have been found, representing an imperial connection. The most monumental discovery however was of two strangely-styled sculptured female heads.

#### **2 Mither Tap, Bennachie Hills, NW of Aberdeen - A Picts Stone Fortress**

Standing 500 metres above sea-level, perched on top is a stone fortress, consisting of two formidable ramparts, built by the Picts in the Early Medieval period. These ramparts encircle an upper and a lower citadel, around a rocky outcrop in the centre, accessed by a curvy stairway. Students from the University of Aberdeen undertook an excavation on the lower citadel in this inhospitable location. Was it a temporary military camp? Gordon Noble lead the dig. Flint shards were amongst the finds along with a quern stone. Evidence of the milling of grain on site, maybe at a more permanent settlement. Pig and cow bones gave evidence of the Picts daily lifestyle. Burnt clay was also

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amongst the finds, probably used in the metal-working process for production of penannular broaches, etc. Some gaming pieces and Pictish pottery were found.

### 3 River Wear, Durham - Pilgrim Ampullae and Pilgrim Finds



Pilgrim merchandise found at a bridge site near Durham Cathedral, home of the shrine of St Cuthbert, an early Anglo-Saxon saint of England. A prior and bishop of the Cathedral, becoming famous for his miracles after his death. The Cathedral became an important pilgrim site dating from the 12th century. The Bridge allowed pilgrims to cross the River on their way to the Cathedral. Gary Bankhead, a scuba diver, has been working for over 15 years on the site with the University of Durham, excavating the riverbed. Over 13,500 small metal finds have been recovered including pilgrim badges and rare lead or pewter ampullae, souvenirs of medieval pilgrimage that had been deposited as an offering in the river. A St Cuthbert's necklace cross was found.

### 4. East Hestlerton, Scarborough - Anglo-Saxon Abandoned Early Medieval Settlement

Investigating the reasons for the disappearance of the settlement, a Dig was undertaken by a

team of students from University of York, led by Dominic Powlesland, University of Cambridge. Geophysics results indicated the presence of a village. Objects found include decorated Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds and composite bone combs. The abandonment may have been linked to a change in climate in the 5th/6th Century and due to distant volcanic activity in Iceland was investigated by Nicky Milner, University of York. The use of Tephra sediment samples, volcanic ash and cinders, is used in a new piece of technological research which is sent for sampling at Royal Holloway University by Simon Blockley. It was concluded that the Tephra came from the Askja Volcano.

### 5 Lowther Castle, South of Penrith - An Early Norman Castle



The present Castle was built in 1806, by William Lowther, the First Earl of Lonsdale (1757 - 1844). Today a Castle restoration has led to work undertaken by University of Central Lancashire in the grounds, lead by Jim Morris. In 1957, due to financial difficulties, the owner took the roof off and destroyed some of the walls. The name Lowther dates back to the 13th century and was taken from the River Lowther running through the estate. Investigations took place on a ditch and bank earthwork in the woods, 10 metres across and 10 metres high, predating the historic records for the area. A

cobbled-floor yard was first uncovered surrounded on four sides by rampart mounds - a possible early Norman castle, not mentioned in the Domesday Book. Dr Sophie Ambler, a Lancaster University Lecturer in Later Medieval British and European History, looked through the historical documents for clues on the castles origins.

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## Wales & The West

### 1 Goldcliff, Newport - Human Footprints in the Severn Estuary



Martin Bell, Reading University, has conducted investigations in the inter-tidal range of the Estuary bed for over 30 years. He and a small group have been recording what the sea has exposed. Evidence is found of the Prehistoric hunter-gathers dating from around 10,000 BC to 4,000 BC in the Mesolithic period. The appearance at this date was very different from what we see now and camps and over 300 footprints have been found. In 2023 the

wooden stakes of a four-metre fish-trap were uncovered.

### 2 Siston, South Gloucestershire

A Community dig led by Zillah and David Savage found a building hidden in Glebe field, the remains of a foundation wall from the medieval period with 10,000 small finds. Finds included a whetstone, a cooking pot foot, lead cane, horseshoes, a strap-end Norman spurs, arrow head and a buckle. Stuart Pryor visited the site to examine the finds. A circular enclosure in the geophysics indicated a religious establishment but the finds pointed to a settlement or farmstead.

### 3 The Cotswolds, South of Cheltenham - A Mysterious Burial

A road development project uncovers iron age activity, including a banjo enclosure. Jim Kite from National Highways led the excavation. 200 metres away is a small settlement, and Critchley hillfort is situated towards the west. The western boundary ditch of the enclosure contained a skull of a cow, possibly of feasting. A terraced area produced finds of plates, clay vessels and a hook. In the centre of the enclosure a crouched burial was found. Jim & Sharon Clough an Osteoarchaeologist from Cotswold Archaeology examined the male adolescent's skeleton.

### 4. Tintern Abbey, Monmouthshire

At the ruins of Tintern Abbey, a Cistercian Monastery founded in the 12th century, in the wooded Wye valley, a five-year restoration and consolidation project is now underway. By the 14th century it had a large magnificent church which when in ruins inspired many artists.

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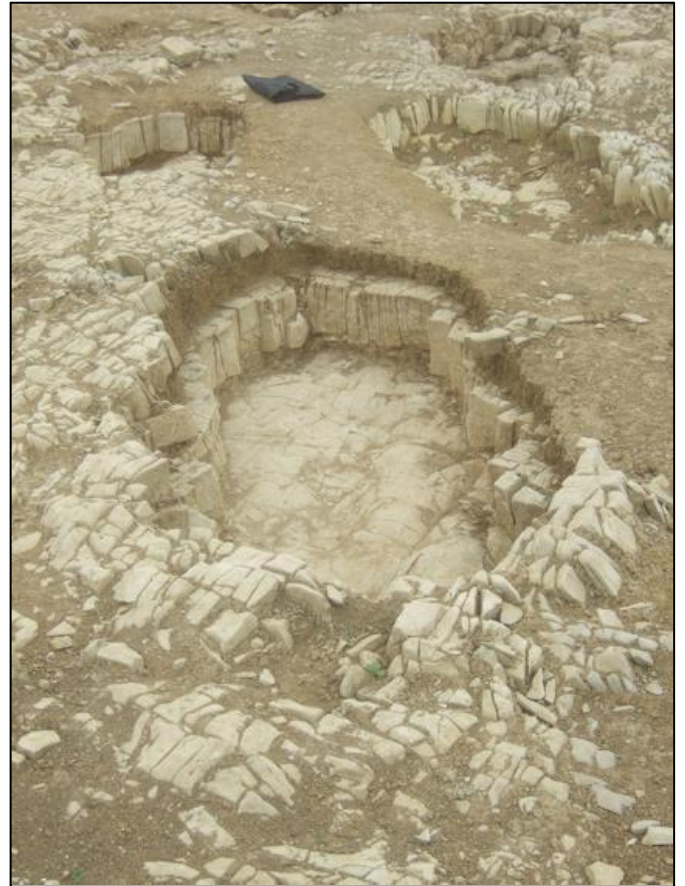
Richard Lewis from Black Mountains Archaeology is one of the Project leaders, to stabilize the masonry. The 1534 dissolution of the Monasteries sounded the end for Tintern Abbey. The land was purchased by the Marquis of Worcester, who stripped the roof along with its lead for sale. Investigations now extended below the floor of the Abbey. Many medieval tiles were found, re-laid over a hundred years after the Dissolution. Window glass was also found even though the windows were sold at Dissolution. 24 burials were excavated from the Medieval period when the Abbey was active cemetery, including a double child burial in the east end. Near the south entrance of the Abbey an adult was found in a shallow grave in a crouched position. The human remains were examined by osteoarchaeologists Kiera O'Brien Butler and Richard Madgwick, Cardiff University.

***CAS visited Tintern Abbey on Monday 27 November 2023.***

### **5 Fonmon, Glamorgan - Burials**

A 12th century fortified castle marks the spot of an early medieval site. In the summer of 2022, a team from Cardiff University investigated the landscape around the castle, discovering some medieval burials. Finds included charred bone and animal bone and evidence of feasting. Andy Sea man led the Dig. Geophysics showed a small square enclosure encircled by a larger enclosure with up to 80 inhumation graves. The graves have included some crouched burials and side burials, when burials lying on their backs would be more usual for the period of the cemetery. Some rare pottery was found amongst the remains.

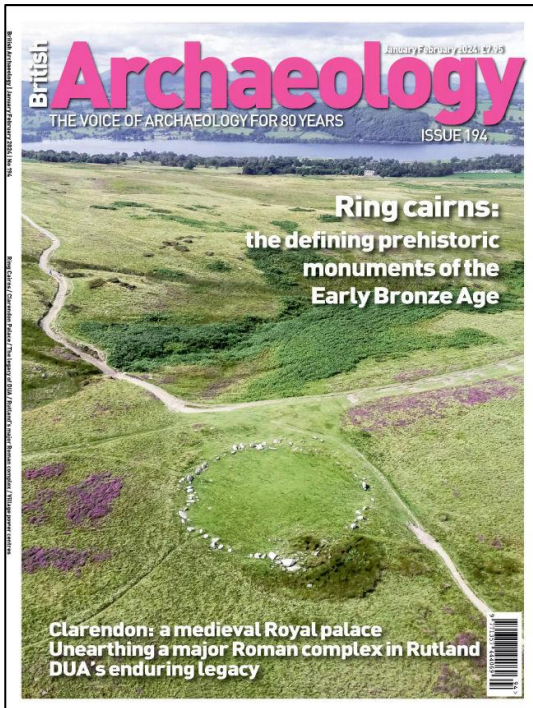
Imported glass from the Bordeaux region was also present from a cone beaker, 6th century. Slag from industrial use was also found, probably from concurrent metal-working activities.



***CAS visited Fonmon Castle on Thursday 14 September 2023.***

## Highlights from the Magazines

**British Archaeology Jan-Feb 2024**



Uncovering the Rutland Roman Mosaic

Clarendon Palace - A Medieval Power Centre

The Missing Link - Ring Cairns

50 Years of London-based Department of Urban Archaeology

That's Rich - The Material Origins of the English Aristocracy

Art and Archaeology

The Crypt of St Leonard's Church, Hythe, Kent

17-21 Cathedral Road, Cardiff

Public User Needs Survey

What Links Archaeology & the Concept of Power

[Current Archaeology January 2024](#)

Searching for Seaweed Consumption in the Past

Monastic Memories - Continuing the Hunt for Hyde Abbey

Conserving a Snapshot of the Past - Sutton Hoo, Suffolk

The Klein Hollandia - Discovering a 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Dutch Warship off Eastbourne

Imperial Impact - Illuminating Icenian Interactions with Rome at Caistor St Edmund

Christianity and Continuity - Discovering Life in Early Medieval Wales

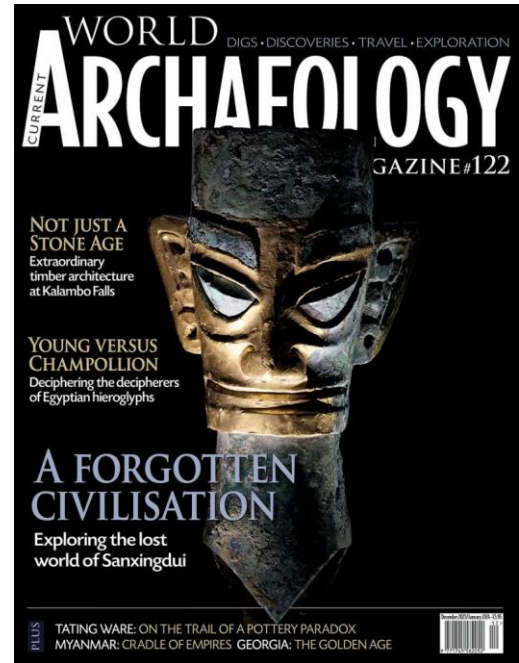
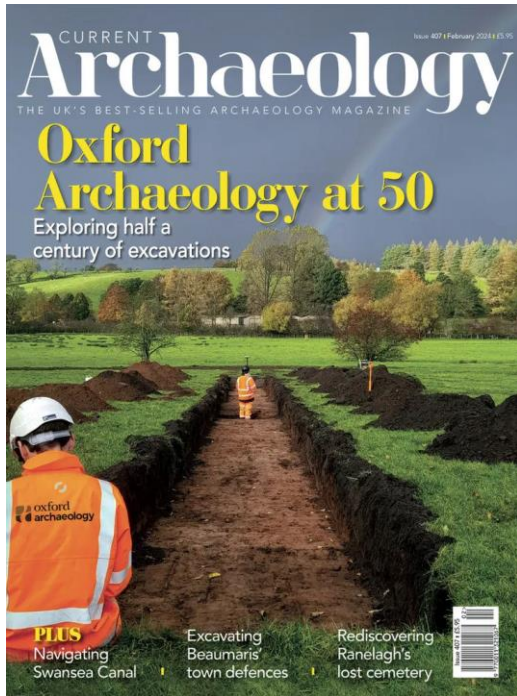
Hard Times - Investigating the Archaeology of a 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Workhouse

Horizon of Khufu

Odd Socs - Welwyn Archaeological Society

[Current Archaeology February 2024](#)

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Developing a Collective Osteobiographical Approach to Cemetery Analysis

Colliery Headstock & Winding House Listed - Swanwick, Derbyshire

The Swansea Canal - Navigating the History of an Industrial Artery

Oxford Archaeology at 50 - Exploring Half a Century of Excavations

People of Ranelagh - Repopulating a Forgotten Settlement-Cemetery in Co. Roscommon

If Walls could Talk - Tracing the Lost Defences of Beaumaris

Living with Land and Sea at the British Museum - the Cultures of Peru and the Andes

Odd Socs - British Sauna Society

[World Archaeology Dec-Jan 2024](#)

Footprints in Stone

Built to Last - Extraordinary Ancient Architecture at Kalambo Falls, Zambia

The Lost World of Sanxingdui - Fabulous Finds from a Forgotten Civilisation

People power - Understanding the Making of Myanmar

Deciphering the Decipherers - Young versus Champollion

In Praise of Tating Ware

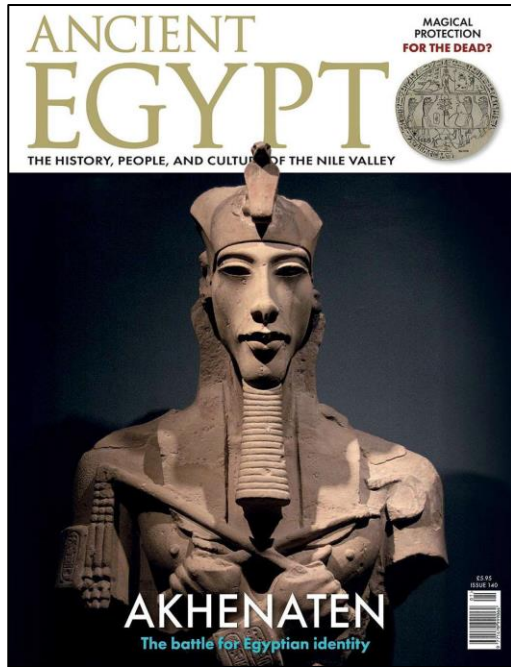
The Golden Age of the Kingdom of Georgia

Tas Tepeler : The Land of Great Transformation

Making Money in 18<sup>th</sup>-Century America

Object Lesson - Neolithic Necklace

[Ancient Egypt Jan-Feb 2024](#)



The Rescue of Abu Simbel

Breaking Ma'at - Akhenaten & the Battle for  
Egyptian Tradition & Identity

Ancient Egyptian Surgery

Pyramid Man - Charles Piazzi Smyth

Cleopatra III, The Female King

Carter's Linen Tunic

The Sidelock of Youth

The Royal Road to Meroe

Object Highlight - Hypocephalus

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### Quiz

1. Name used by all but one of the pharaohs of the 20th Dynasty
2. Common name of the giant deer of the Pleistocene
3. Name given to a large stone such as a menhir
4. City of Minoan Crete
5. Roman goddess of the heath
6. City-state that defeated Athens in the Peloponnesian War
7. Soft mineral used to make plaster of Paris
8. British antiquary and author of Avebury
9. Culture of the Late Hallstatt in north-eastern France
10. Green mineral once used as a cosmetic and ointment

### Past Events

**30th November 2023**

#### **Putting Knossos on show.**

Dr. Andrew Shapland, Sir Arthur Evans Curator of Bronze Age and Classical Greece, Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford.

In this lecture Andrew outlined the early history and rediscovery of the site of Knossos, known from ancient myth as the home of the Labyrinth, where the bull-headed Minotaur was imprisoned in a maze and placated with human sacrifices.

By the 19<sup>th</sup> century the city of Knossos had long disappeared, but excavations by Minos Kalokairinos in 1878 identified the palace building. A decorated pithoi from one the storerooms was sent to the British Museum. Along came Sir Arthur Thomas who purchased a

share in the land and started his own excavations in 1900.

Dating the site from an Egyptian statue of User to 1900-1800 BCE Thomas went on to reconstruct parts of the Palace in concrete from his finds. Discoveries included a throne room, frescoes and a grand stairway.

The Ashmolean's exhibition "Labyrinth: Knossos, Myth and Reality" brought together the finds made by Sir Arthur Evans and other archaeologists to show how Knossos has come to be understood today.

Recent work has uncovered the harbour town of Knossos at Poros-Katsambas, along with the Minoan Peak Sanctuary at Mount Juktas. From 2014 to 2019 rescue excavations at the Venizeleion Hospital has uncovered finds in the area of the North Cemetery.

Andrew presented excellent images of the Kamares Cups, Double Axes, Octopus-design jars, a stone triton shell-shaped vessel & a bull's headed rhyton - drinking vessel, from the excavations.

This exceptionally interesting talk concluded with developments in digital technology on recent work on the Lower Gypsades.

**14th December 2023**

#### **A Different Type of 'Viking': Life in Ireland's Viking-Age Towns**

Dr. Rebecca Boyd. Senior Research Archaeologist, IAC Archaeology.

Using the Viking age towns of Cork, Waterford and Dublin, Rebecca constructed an image of daily life along the crowded streets of the time, the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. She outlined the shaping of the towns, based on waterways and



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surrounding landscape, illustrating the urban habitat from botanical evidence.

The towns were a far cry from the typical longhouses, instead being clusters of small rectangular huts with entrances on their shorter sides.

The streets were cluttered with debris and the sound of children and animals. Rebecca explained the conditions encountered by walking along these streets by looking through the eyes of imaginary Viking visitors and townsfolk,

She concluded with a look at the Viking household - was it a family, kinship-based, a political allegiance or combination of all three?

**11th January 2024**

**The 'Trelai Dig 2022/23' - An update on the site and findings.**

Dr. Oliver Davis Senior Lecturer in Archaeology and Civic Mission, Co- director CAER Heritage Project. & Prof. Niall Sharples Professor of Archaeology, SHARE, Cardiff University.

A comprehensive up-to-date detailed summary of the 10 year history of Caerau hillfort and its relationship with CAER Heritage to excavations at the nearby site of Trelai Park and its Roman Villa.

Olly outlined the earlier excavations at Trelai Park by Storrie and Wheeler, and their conclusions of the history of the Roman Villa on the former Cardiff Racecourse track.

Tim Young's geophysics of the site had revealed an enclosed ditched site away from the villa, and Olly was eager to excavate anticipating an Iron Age site linking the villa to the earlier period. What he found was beyond expectation - an early Bronze Age site complete with two roundhouses and an earlier ritual site.

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The Vale of Glamorgan has a number of enclosure sites such as the one at Whitton being the most famous. But this site was unlike them. Three trenches found a V-shaped ditch 2-3 metres wide with a complete pot on top of secondary fill, clearly of Middle Bronze Age date 1,500 BC. The Pot was of Trevisker - impressed cord design with applied horseshoe characteristics. A fence-line ran along the top of the ditch.

The enclosure consisted of a gate-structure entrance and two internal occupation roundhouses on top of each other. Under that was an earlier pit circle of 9 pits containing carefully selected depositions of red deer antler, early bronze age tanged arrowheads, burnt sheep and cattle remains and Trevisker styled pottery.

Other finds included 1,200 pot sherds and over a 1,000 utilised stones such as flint chips and flakes. Fingerprints of the maker could be seen on some pot sherds. There was surprisingly over 20 roman coins found. An iron spearhead, glass beads, spindle whorl, medical coins and a World War 2 rifle shell completed the assemblage.

Olly then considered the results of the excavations in their broader context and significance. Why enclose? What purpose was The Pit Circle? The roundhouses why their abandonment? Why is the plan of the Roman villa similar to its earlier nearby predecessor? Watch this space - more digs planned this year.

## Future Events

### Lectures

**25th January 2024**

**Early prehistoric occupation at Wogan Cavern, and why the site is so special.**

Dr. Rob Dinnis.

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Visiting Researcher, British Museum

Recent test excavations at Wogan Cavern (Pembroke Castle) have revealed impressive evidence for several early prehistoric occupations. Although only a small volume of deposits has so far been excavated it is already clearly a site of national and international significance. In this talk this recent work and discoveries are outlined, and the site's importance is explained with reference to current gaps in our knowledge of the last Ice Age in Britain.

**8th February 2024**

**Roman Houses XXVI & XXVII at Caerwent.**

Dr. Mark Lewis FSA. Curatorial Officer Roman Archaeology National Roman Legion Museum.

Evan Chapman, Senior Curator Archaeology, National Museum Cardiff.

An Amgueddfa Cymru/Caerwent Historic Trust/Shirenewton Local History Society/Caerwent Parish Church Community Excavation, Summer 2023.

Climate change has produced noticeably increasingly hot, dry, periods in Britain and elsewhere since the Millennium. At Caerwent, soil shrinkage and movement during the last decade began to expose a linear stone feature, at least 4.6m long, situated to the east of the medieval parish church's chancel. Nobody connected with the church had any previous knowledge of its existence. Why did the feature not respect the Roman town grid or the alignment of the parish church? Why had it not been truncated by grave digging? This talk tells the story of a community research project to seek answers to these and other questions surrounding the history of this significant site.

**22nd February 2024**

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**In search of the early medieval monastery of Llanilltud, 'the most beautiful of places'.**

Dr. Tim Young.

Teaching Associate, SHARE, Cardiff University.

This presentation will provide an overview of current research on the important early medieval monastic centre at Llantwit Major (Llanilltud), traditionally associated with St Illtud, later his cult centre and a royal burial ground.

**7th March 2024**

**Annual General Meeting.**

## Links to Websites

**Recorded Previous Lectures:**



**LPFG and IARSS Symposium 2023:**

**Finding Hidden treasure in the PAS database**

**by Edward Caswell**

Edward has worked for the Portable Antiquities Scheme since 2019. He is currently the Finds Liaison Officer for Oxfordshire a post supported by the British Museum and Oxfordshire Museums Service. He obtained his PhD from Durham University which focussed on Bronze Age settlements in Britain and is also currently seconded part time to the British Museum to aid in the writing and validation of Bronze Age treasure cases. He is currently researching Bronze Age hoards and is curating a

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database of these so do get in touch if you would like to use this!

This paper presents a new framework for identifying and classifying clusters of Bronze Age finds recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database.

The PAS details over Bronze Age 20,000 metal objects across over 9000 records. Through exploratory analysis it came to my attention that this dataset contained hundreds of previously unrecognised clusters of metalwork finds. These may represent unrecognised hoards, indicate landscapes chosen for repeated deposition of objects, as seen at Flag Fen, or in some cases be of objects that bear no direct relationship to one another at all.

Categorising these clusters is of use for understanding the period's archaeological record and is also of legal importance in the application of the Treasure Act. However, no published framework exists that provides a guide as to how these should be identified or categorised. This paper provides one potential method of doing so using 55 metalwork clusters found in Oxfordshire. It shows how these clusters can be quickly identified and then assessed using material consistency, geographical and archaeological context.

This paper will demonstrate a relative scoring system which categorises these clusters in a manner useful for archaeological analysis and the application of the Treasure Act. Significantly, it identifies previously unrecognised hoards, wetland regions of repeated deposition and potentially areas of settlement in significant numbers. As such, this paper will argue that there are large number of unrecognised Bronze Age hoards and archaeological landscapes which are

identifiable, but hitherto 'hidden', in the PAS database

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LS4LhXpCqM>

### The Roman 'conquest' of the Veneto

by Fabio Saccoccio

Fabio Saccoccio is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in the Department of Classics and Archaeology at the University of Nottingham. He specialises in Later European Prehistory and his areas of expertise are:

- Identity and Ethnicity
- GIS and territorial analysis
- Agrarian management and human-environment interaction
- Situla Art
- Gallic migrations in northern Italy, with a focus on the Cenomanic Gauls

This presentation aims to shed light on the strategy employed by Rome to 'seize' the Veneto region, north-east Italy, between the 2nd and 1st century BC. The Veneto was the land inhabited by "...a very ancient tribe called the Veneti" who, at least from the 4th century BC, were somehow affected by the arrival of Gallic migrants pertaining to the tribe of the Cenomani (Polybius, The Histories 2.17.4-5). Both, the Veneti and the Cenomani, are generally recalled in the ancient written sources as allied of Rome, even when Hannibal crossed the Alps. Funerary, epigraphic, and ancient written sources will be used to provide crucial insight on this matter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tmae7s1wPOI>

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### Stories hidden in stone, Stories hidden in gold

by Rachel Crellin and Cristina Tsoraki

Rachel Crellin is an associate professor of archaeology at the University of Leicester. She has just started a new Leverhulme funded project titled "A New history of bronze".

Christina Tsoraki is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Leicester working on that same A New History of Bronze project. She specialises in prehistoric archaeology with a focus on material culture studies and microwear analysis. Her research interests include object histories, cross-craft interactions, depositional practices, and household archaeology.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qVpSjjm-8&t=14s>

### Exploring the Practical Use of Long Handled Combs While Weaving on a Warp Weighted

by Jennifer Beamer

Jen is an archaeologist who specialises in textile tools from iron age Britain and engages in the experimentation of textile production to inform this research. She completed her PhD in 2021 and is currently working as a field archaeologist for Cotswold Archaeology.

Experimental archaeology affords the opportunity to assess the viability of theoretical assumptions under real-world conditions. Long handled combs and their use as a weaving tool on the warp weighted loom during the British Iron Age period has considerable validation in the published literature. Though it has been argued otherwise (Touhy, 1995), consensus remains (contra. Beamer, 2022). The exploration of their practical use has rarely

been explored (Beamer, 2022), yet the results highlight the missing research potential that practical applications of experimental archaeology can provide. This includes how long-handled combs fit into a system of textile tools, such as spindle whorls, loomweights, and needles, that are utilized as part of the cloth-making process. An on-going experiment is examined to illustrate how heavy loomweights, such as those found at Danebury Hillfort (Hampshire, UK), impacts the simple process of beating a weft thread into place while creating woven fabric on a warp-weighted loom, and how this element fundamentally impacts theoretical assumptions of craft knowledge. This implication also impacts the methodologies employed within the experimental archaeology community, academically and otherwise.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crNxDK7PAcs>

### Objects on Tour: Carp's Tongue elements in South Wales

by Christopher Griffiths

Chris is currently in the third year of his PhD with the University of Reading and Amgueddfa Cymru - Museum Wales, which focuses on Middle and Late Bronze Age hoards and hoarding practices across south Wales. He has recently published a paper through the Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society, 'Axes to Axes', and is currently hard at work on his second paper which much of his talk today will factor into.

This talk presents some of the findings of a PhD project, which involves a new study of Middle and Late Bronze Age hoards from south-east and west Wales. Specifically, it looks at those Late Bronze Age hoards which contain objects characteristic of the Carp's

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Tongue/Boughton-Vénat complex, an emblematic group of hoards which were buried in south-east England and Atlantic France c. 900-800 BC. The deposition of objects associated with this complex across south Wales are of significant value for recognizing connections and possible directions of influence, some of which will be briefly explored here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXo-fB2ArGc>

### Some finds of more than ordinary interest

by Ella Paul, Matthew Knight, and Trevor Cowie

Ella Paul is currently Assistant Curator of Renaissance and Early Modern History at National Museums Scotland. While she currently works mostly on 16th and 17th century material, she developed an interest in Bronze Age metalwork during a previous spell working for Scotland's Treasure Trove Unit.

Matthew Knight is Curator of the Bronze Age collections at National Museums Scotland, specialising in Bronze Age metalwork.

Now an independent researcher, Trevor Cowie was formerly a Senior Curator in the Scottish History & Archaeology Department, National Museums Scotland, where he also specialised in the Bronze Age.

In 2019 a miniature bronze socketed axehead was discovered near Morebattle, Scottish Borders. These enigmatic finds are rare in northern Britain and are often considered to date anywhere from the Late Bronze Age to the Roman period. The discovery at Morebattle prompted a research project analysing unusually small socketed axeheads from Scotland and northern England. For the first time, scientific techniques have been applied to these objects, including optical microscopy, X-ray fluorescence

analysis and computed X-radiography, to inform assessments of wear analysis, material composition, manufacture and chronology. This presentation presents the findings and offers a broader discussion surrounding the changing function and meaning(s) of small socketed axeheads in later prehistoric Britain.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LluI--k8fY8>

### Understanding Later Prehistoric Dress in Britain

by Elizabeth Foulds

Having previously worked in commercial archaeology, Elizabeth is currently a freelance finds specialist and writes reports on artefacts from all periods. One of her areas of research interest is in how people dressed in the past and the social meanings that dress carried and expressed, which is a theme she discusses in this video.

Dress can be important for signifying various types of identity, be it related to gender, community membership, age, or other categories. This is true today, and from my previous research on Iron Age glass beads, this also seems to be true for the later prehistoric period in Britain. For example, different types of beads are found in different regions, which may in support the idea for a strong regional identity expressed through bodily adornment. In this paper, I will discuss some thoughts I have had about continuing to explore the role of dress during the Iron Age and where my current research on this topic is headed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2a7NCbAGAF0>

### The Social Economy of Textile Production

by Jill McIntyre

Jill is a part time PhD student, based in Northumberland. Her first experience in

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archaeology dates back to the 'seventies when as a school student she participated in several early excavation seasons at Vindolanda with Robin Birley. Her claim to fame was participating in the construction of the replica turf wall section which still stands at the site today! After a degree in History and Politics at York she pursued a career in management in both public and private sectors acquiring a LLB and MBA and lecturing in Human Resource Management.

She maintained an amateur interest in archaeology and also developed expertise in historic textiles and hand embroidery. On retirement, she combined these interests in a Classical Studies Masters with the Open University, where her dissertation focussed on the possibility of local origins for the textiles found at Vindolanda. This deepened her interest in the role of textile production in the social economy of the Northern British Iron Age and the impact of the Roman military presence in the region, the subject of her current research.

Textile production is a significant ancient human activity, but understanding is fragmentary, given its predominantly organic nature and the lack of British material from burials and cremations.

Current interpretations are largely extrapolated from southern and eastern English contexts. Increasingly, evidence suggests greater diversity, potentially informing appreciation of variation in socio-economic structures.

This research examines settlement, landscape, environmental, osteological and artefactual evidence for the nature, scale and distribution of textile production in the region and its potential socio-economic implications in the pre-Roman Iron Age. The Roman military presence

and its potential impact upon the pre-existing social economy is also evaluated.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27Q62-qoXic>

### "Fragments of These Enchanted Garments"

by **Isobel Harvey**

Isobel recently graduated in archaeology from the University of Manchester, and she is currently studying an MA in Material Culture and Experimental Archaeology at the University of York. She has an interest in the archaeology of textiles and identity.

This talk presents the results of Isobel's dissertation, which utilised an object-itinerary approach on the Grewelthorpe clothing assemblage. Through examination of the methods of production and repair, she reveals how this Romano-British assemblage paralleled technologies and examples from the continental late Iron Age, with which this assemblage was contemporaneous. Isobel then discusses the practice of relic-taking from bog bodies, as demonstrated by this assemblage, highlighting the enduring power of both bog bodies and clothing to create a sense of connection.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Takd92U7qUo>

### Cults of the Head

by **Reb Ellis-Haken**

Reb is an artefact specialist who specialises in genuinely figurative animal and human depictions of La Tène period art in England and Wales. Having graduated with her PhD in 2022, she worked as a Finds Liaison Assistant for the Portable Antiquities Scheme (South and West Yorkshire office), before moving to my current position as a postdoctoral research associate at the University of York, working on the Leverhulme Trust funded project 'Cults of the Head?'.

Abstract: Late Iron Age / Romano-British stone heads are often found singly and can have little surviving contextual information; they therefore represent a challenge in trying to determine their function, artistic significance, and date. This talk will introduce the newly begun Leverhulme Trust funded 'Cult of the Head' project, which will analyse the unique corpus of over ninety stone heads from Dean Hall Roman Temple in Gloucestershire. This project represents an exceptional opportunity to explore the significance of an unparalleled collection of stone heads from a single site in the context of north-western European Late Iron Age / Roman-British visual culture.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VCxP1iK6Do>

### **A Brooch at the End of Prehistory**

by **George Whatley**

George Whatley has worked as a Finds Officer for PAS Cymru since graduating from Cardiff University in 2019. He is interested in most periods but is particularly interested by late Iron Age and Early Medieval material culture

In 2021 a zoomorphic brooch derivative of the Birdlip type was recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme Cymru. Defined by a distinctive cow's head moulding at the top of the bow, this brooch is one of several similar examples recorded in the PAS database. Concentrated within the Severn watershed, these brooches form a previously unrecognised regional subtype of the Birdlip Brooch Group. Dating to the 1st century AD this group exhibits similarities in form suggestive of a single manufacturer. The paper seeks to contextualise the group as well as examine the characteristics used in its identification.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5H7u31ECYYY>



### **Hillfort and Community 2023: The Pendinas Project**

The exciting Pendinas Community Archaeology Project was begun in spring 2023 by Dyfed Archaeological Trust in partnership with the Royal Commission. This project seeks to better understand and protect the archaeology and wildlife of the hillfort.

There have been two exploratory excavations of the site this year led by Dyfed Archaeological Trust working with a large team of volunteers and a full programme of community engagement led by the Royal Commission.

Luke Jenkins, DAT archaeologist, and Beca Davies, the Commission's Community Outreach Officer Pendinas Project, have been fully involved with the project from the beginning and are well-placed and looking forward to giving an overview of the project so far, at this year's Christmas Lecture.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3pN9YnuSYs>



### **Roman Tile Production at Minety**

by **Neil Holbrook and Peter Warry**

The village of Minety, 12 miles south of Cirencester, has long been known as a place where ceramic tile production took place during

## EVENTS & LINKS

the Roman period, and in particular the likely source of tiles stamped with a series of Latin letters which are found in Cirencester, across the Cotswolds, and beyond.

In 2022, Cotswold Archaeology commenced a community-based project at Brandiers Farm, the first new field-investigation of the Minety tile industry in almost fifty years. The results exceeded our expectations. The talk will describe the tile kiln and its products, and what this tells us about how the Roman authorities created the necessary infrastructure to construct what we know as Roman Britain.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1H6RAhj4sQ>

### "In the Shadow of Segsbury" - excavations along the Childrey Warren Water Pipeline

by Alistair Barclay, Paolo Guarino and Sharon Clough

A talk to mark the publication of the book 'In the Shadow of Segsbury', revealing details of an Iron Age settlement and associated burials (and what they tell us about Oxfordshire's past inhabitants).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQ0Yy8Wf2zU>

### The Staffordshire Hoard: a treasure of the early Anglo-Saxon period

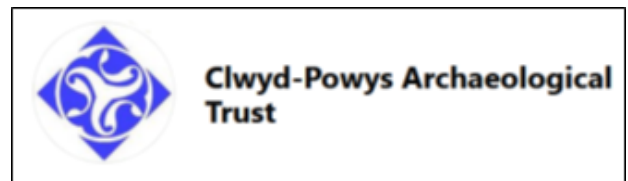
by Chris Fern and Jo Caruth

Discovered by a metal detectorist near Lichfield (north of Birmingham), in July 2009, the Staffordshire Hoard contains a unique combination of objects — mostly military but with some of the emerging Church. Made mainly between c. 570 and c. 650 AD, almost all the objects are of gold or silver, many with inlaid

garnets, and they display exquisite craftwork and artistry.

However, the collection is very fragmented. Almost all of its fittings were dismantled from larger objects, mainly swords — the principal weapon of the age — but also from saddles, reliquaries, a cross-standard and a royal helmet. Inevitably, the incredible finds asks critical questions, why and how was it brought together at the heart of one of England's greatest kingdoms — Mercia — and who could have buried it?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDXoYcIp2aA>



CPAT and CBAW Archaeology Day 2023:

### Exploring the Archaeology of Iron Age Wales

by Dr Toby Driver

Dr Toby Driver dives into the archaeology of Iron Age Wales with his lecture 'Of Hillforts and Hammer Fighters'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuDwGra62I>

### Newtown Mound excavations

by Ian Grant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BssCn5ArCgg>

### Early Mines in Wales

by Dr Simon Timberlake

A lecture on the investigations of the Early Mine Research Group in Powys between 1988-2021 as part of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological



Trust and the Council for British Archaeology  
Wales Archaeology Day 2023.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZToj6golaQ4>

### Reviewing the Archaeological Record of Elan Valley

by Jenny Hall and Paul Sambrook of Trysor

A lecture on the Archaeology of the Elan Valley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yo-ZQO300E>



### Digging for Britain

Series 11:

1. The Roman Emperor's Bathhouse
2. Anglo-Saxon Gold and Rebellious Nuns
3. A Norman Panic Room and a Mesolithic Fish Trap
4. A Roman Mystery and Waterloo's Disappearing Dead...
5. 3000-Year-Old Shoes and Giant Axeheads
6. Forgotten Fortresses and Lost Villages

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b014hl0d/digging-for-britain>

## Answers to Quiz

1. Ramesses 2. Irish Elk 3. Megalith 4. Knossos 5. Vesta 6. Sparta 7. Gypsum 8. William Stukeley 9. Jogassian 10. Malachite