

Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee

Meeting Note/Phone Call Note	Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee
Date: 16 December 2014	Council Area: n/a
Meeting Location: RCAHMS, John Sinclair House	Designation: n/a
Key External Contact (if applicable): n/a	File Reference: «Insert File Reference Number»
Present: Stephen Driscoll (SD) (<i>Chair</i>), Mike Elliot (<i>Minutes</i>), Chris Bowles (CB), Simon Gilmour (SG), Mark Hall (MH), Peter Hinton (PH), Rebecca Jones (RHJ), Susan Kruse (SK), Alan Leslie (AL), Eila Macqueen (EM), Rod McCullagh (RM), Karen Milek (KM), John Raven (JR), Matthew Ritchie (MR), Simon Stronach (SS), Robin Turner (RT) from agenda item 4, Luke Wormald (LW)	Purpose: Regular meeting of the Committee
Note of Meeting/Discussion	Action Points:
<p>1. Welcome and apologies: There were no apologies. SD welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>2. Minutes of the September meeting and matters arising: It was reported that the EAA conference in Glasgow will have 155 sessions and may well be bigger than Istanbul. SG offered to report back between SSAC and HEOG. All were content for SG to be the conduit. SD thanked RHJ, PH, CB and JR for their work leading to the latest draft of the Archaeology Strategy.</p> <p>3. 'Thinking the unthinkable' - discussion: SG started with a list of issues he had drawn up and these were the starting point for a wider discussion around the following broad areas:</p> <p>3.1 Mindset – Lack of confidence in the sector; issues over broaden our thinking.</p> <p>3.2 Licensing - SD asked if this is something that needs to be tacked on to something else. PH advised this needs more context. KM advised that in the Republic of Ireland has a model in which practitioners are unable to get licensing for a new project until they have published their previous project. RHJ advised that licensing was one of the major topics at the recent SGIFA meeting; there needs to be a formal consideration of the pros and cons.</p> <p>3.3 Accessibility for both visitors and professionals</p>	<p>Meeting to be arranged with HEOG as appropriate</p>

3.4 Physical and mental disability - the ability for the public to participate in what we do.

3.5 Developer tax - suggested introducing a tax that developers would pay on any projects they are doing that would then be used to invest in outreach and education. CB advised the idea of developer tax already exists in Scotland. A general discussion followed. AL cautioned we may end up with a centralised system like the French and further advised that we may want to do a wider study rather than just having one on "Do we need a development tax?" The tax may be an aspiration for the long term. Developers may only get inside if there is a benefit for them. Cuts inevitably create cuts. The Scottish Government's focus is on participation. SD advised it is incumbent on us to take ownership of this Archaeology Strategy and to ensure that one of the key ways to deliver it is not crippled. We can reflect on various models around the world; this is not just affecting Scotland. This creates new opportunities and ideas. AL advised we should have a coherent idea of what archaeologists do and why; what are the wider benefits that can be communicated to the wider public? There is a danger archaeology could be seen as a "gloried hobby".

3.6 Sampling - taking less out of the ground?

3.7 Publication

3.8 Treasure Trove - is it working? What is the sector's response to chance discoveries like the recent Viking hoard?

3.9 Skills – important to keep as a Strategic Priority

3.10 Thematic expertise - for example there is a shortage of Roman archaeologists in University positions in Scotland – who is going to teach / train the next generation?

3.11 Disposal – What is the correct framework to give to museums to dispose of artefacts?

3.12 Resourcing. Creation of Trusts? Benefits and pitfalls. Happening in some areas due to decimation of LA services
Public value - how are these systems valued? Whether statutory or not.

Scot Government - does still fund archaeology, primarily through Historic Scotland's archaeology programme.

3 circles was noted for Local Authorities:

- Archaeology services
- Conservation services (conservation officers)
- How to fund?

Concern over resources and risk of potential job losses. Gaps opening up in England due to cuts. Services joining up, geographically and by discipline.

KM advised that the language of the Strategy needs rethinking in some areas; it needs to be more positive. PH advised that words like "training" could be replaced with "learning". Culture change needs to be brought about; the fact that something isn't done doesn't mean it shouldn't be tried. We need to be more proactive, rather than wait to be invited; there are a lot of ideas coming out of Europe.

We need to be seen to be less patronising rather than seeing the public as "Other"; we are also public. We need to find new ways of engaging with people about their sense of "place". EM advised we should think about how we want to get the Scottish Government on board and engaged. Where there is shared interest (public) we need cross-disciplines; "transdisciplinary" is about looking at bringing various sectors together. MR advised we should be communicating and celebrating our successes, and what we have done for archaeology. AL suggested having a Scottish-level archaeological awards ceremony, with awards geared towards the key messages that we are keen to get out to the wider public. RM cautioned that social media may not reach key audiences as it is transitory in nature. AL countered that although a tweet may be picked up and read by a number of people for a few seconds, that would still carry weight and authority. It is still a means of getting people's interest, making it accessible and maintaining that interest. RHJ read out from RT a list of his concerns that also focused on relationships, particularly between national and local bodies. KM suggested that we should be promoting the connection between technology, archaeology and the various databases used to record it. We should be promoting public engagement with them. SG cautioned that some of these databases could be the victims of cuts in the future; they could be switched off and lost. RHJ advised that what we take forward has to be agreed by everyone on the Committee; this is not HS driving forward a specific agenda.

RHJ reported on the talk that she gave to the Scottish Group of IfA's AGM. Presented what the strategic archaeology group is steering on. Discussions included the provision of small scale funds for local groups; education; funding advice and woodland contracts; utilities; accessibility; archaeological archives; museum collections (including Scottish artefacts in foreign

museums). Licensing was the subject most discussed. Took contact details for a couple of people who want to get involved with the Strategy.

BEFS: RHJ had a meeting with them. RHJ will feed that back in while we are thinking about the text.

SD and RHJ had a meeting at NMS with the Director of Collections, Keeper of History and Archaeology, Keeper of Science and Technology and Head of Partnerships. They are keen to work with us to help deliver the Strategy. They suggested organising a dedicated workshop to focus on links between the various collections, storage and disposal of artefacts.

4. Scotland's Archaeology Strategy - The Vision:

PH advised that a future tense gives the Strategy a vision; a present tense sounds like a marketing brief. A present tense also sounds ambiguous, as though this already happens. One of the comments received advised against use of the future tense. A general discussion took place on the statement of purpose regarding archaeology in Scotland ("Archaeology is for everyone and will improve the quality of/ enrich everyone's lives"). LW humorously proposed the preamble "Enjoy the past, before you are the past". KM advised that the objective "Value", overlaps with the section on engagement. The text could be refined and honed down and remove any repetition. RM suggested having someone like Claire Findlater on board as a copy editor. This suggestion was endorsed by the Committee.

RHJ and MH to draw up a finalised sentence, which will be circulated to the group.

5. Scotland's Archaeology Strategy - Focus on deliverables:

5.1 Encouraging Greater Engagement: Presented by AL and LW. We have a detailed communications strategy. One of the objectives is to achieve a far greater presence in learning agendas. The outcome is to ensure people have greater skills and understanding that they don't now they already have. The key to engagement is communication and the exchange of information. Fostering and responding to curiosity. "Designation" for the 21st century. Tangible and intangible benefits of archaeology. Battlefields.

5.2 Enhancing Understanding: Presented by SG and PH. The first objective is promoting research. Created a research strand. Increase the visibility of SCARF. Encourage the creation of regional research frameworks. Create a bundle of

carrots and sticks that would encourage people to use SCARF. A new stronger research ethic in Scotland. Improve and regulate ethics, standards and guidance. Incentivise the current ethics and standards. Improve the existing standards and codes. Teaching of ethical competence. Review of self-regulation, regulated self-regulation, state regulation, engaging better with people, improving archaeological projects - improving archaeological practice.

5.3 Care and Protect: Presented by CB, RM and JR. There is a crossover with PH and SG's objectives. Duty to have access to expert advice. Maintain access to expert advice. RM sees three groups; change managers, change instigators, change recipients. Development management. Potential review / remodelling of Treasure Trove.

5.4 Value (share & celebrate): Presented by SK and MR. Lifelong learning – this is just as important as schools. Engage with Education Scotland. Include the HLF. Encourage round table discussion. Highlight best practice.

5.5 Improving Skills: Presented by SS and RT. We need to review a skills map; mapping of existing archaeological skills - skills audit. Training and resources; know what is there and what is appropriate. Promoting demand for archaeological skills and clients; national occupational standards, NVQs, apprenticeships, skills matching.

5.6 Innovation: Presented by EM and KM. The key aim to encourage research science, maximise knowledge gained from archaeology – consider HS-led strategy on this. Bring people together in themed workshops. Technological aims: promote technological innovations to maximise date retention, retrieval and dissemination. Undertake a review of resourcing needs; use QR codes. Site interpretation; have QR codes on interpretation boards that will take you to Canmore. Link to virtual reconstructions of sites; annual virtual tour of the various sites on Second Life. Linked to that is the problem of mobile coverage in remote rural areas - we need to be vocal champions of wider mobile coverage. CB advised that technology has moved on from QR codes to C chips. Suggested having PastMap as a mobile app. Also have to be aware of audiences that do not use technology.

5.7 Improving the Knowledge Cycle / Archaeological Projects: Presented by SD and MH. Study alternative funding structures: developer tax. Study professional ethics and licensing (technological competence). Study museums and collections. Strategic use of HS Archaeology

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<p>Programme - themes from SCARF, internationalisation. AL had a slight concern that there are a lot of studies and reviews and wondered how they will play higher up the chain. RHJ advised we can think about how we word it. Reviews should not be in-house. CB proposed a regional framework analysis. RM suggested it should have a conscious strategic desire for development research. It was agreed that each objective must have a deliverable.</p> <p>6. Reports from relevant recent discussions: Primarily reported under item 3.</p> <p>7. Timetable and next steps: RHJ will take all the write ups and try to turn it into something readable. This will require a second pair of eyes. Consultation will be in March with a view to launching it in September. RHJ will require another meeting in two months' time before or at the launch of the consultation.</p> <p>8. Communications Plan: Item not discussed due to time constraints.</p> <p>9. AOCB - date of next meeting: It was agreed the next meeting will be in February / March 2015.</p> <p>Close.</p>	<p>RHJ to re-draft and circulate to the committee</p> <p>ME to draw up a Doodle Poll for the next meeting.</p>
<p>Mike Elliot Archaeology Strategy Team</p>	<p>16 December 2014 0131 668 8811</p>

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