

Meeting Note

Scottish Strategic Archaeology
Committee

Date: 8 June 2018

Meeting Location: Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh

Present: Steve Driscoll (SD) (Chair), Mike Elliot (ME)

Apologies: Derek Alexander (DA),

**Present:** Steve Driscoll (SD) (*Chair*), Mike Elliot (ME) (*Minutes*), Peter Connelly (PC), Fraser Hunter (FH), Simon Gilmour (SG), Mark Hall (MH), Peter Hinton (PH), Rebecca Jones (RHJ), Eila Macqueen (EM), Kirsty Owen (KO), Thomas Rees (TR), Edward Stewart (ES) and Val Turner (VT)

Apologies: Derek Alexander (DA), Kate Britton (KB), Kirsty Dingwall (KD), Kate Geary (KG), Laura Hindmarch (LH), Jacob O'Sullivan (JO), Richard Strachan (RS), Robin Turner (RT)

**In attendance:** Mike Elliot (ME) (*Minutes*), Helen Green (HG), Cara Jones (CJ)

## Note of Meeting/Discussion

## **Action Points:**

- **1. Welcome and apologies:** SD thanked everyone for attending and welcomed Edward Stewart to his first meeting as well as Cara Jones and Helen Green who were also attending. There were no further announcements and so commenced proceedings.
- **2. Minutes of the March meeting and matters arising:** There were no matters arising not on the agenda. The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.
  - a. Minutes of February SAS UAUK meeting (for information): Minutes pre-circulated but not yet agreed. No action has taken place yet, but a dialogue has started with the University Heads of Archaeology. SD advised the international aspect is starting to gain traction; the Strategy is being referenced by government ministers in Belgium, Denmark and Germany. Aspects of the delivery, especially legacy projects, is something Universities could help with and the development of a potential research Masters degree was discussed with the Universities.
- **3. Communications:** RHJ advised a short video has been produced to promote the Strategy, which has been uploaded on Vimeo and could be put online. RHJ further advised there is a template for case studies on the Strategy website. Although it does not take long to fill out, there have not been many offers to produce case studies. It is intended there will be case studies for each of the aims. Case studies from the students are not online yet.
- 4. Delivery Plan brief summary of key activities since last meeting:
  - a. Aim one Delivering Archaeology: KO advised Orkney has drawn up a list of 'cold cases'. A discussion took place on 'blended learning' and SD advised he is looking to have a proposal on moving forward with this in the next six months.

Action 1: All to look at the case study template <a href="http://archaeologystrategy.scot/files/2017/09/Case-Study-Template.pdf">http://archaeologystrategy.scot/files/2017/09/Case-Study-Template.pdf</a>

Action 2: Kevin Grant (Archaeology & World Heritage Team, HES) to send around a memo of what material he has and look to fill the gaps

Action 3: ME and RHJ to get minutes out earlier



KO advised a survey is taking place on use and the value of a portal providing info on incomplete projects. On 1.4.1 (Assess existing standards, guidance and promotion), KO has been in touch with CIfA to discuss archaeological guidance in the UK.

- b. Aim two Enhancing Understanding: SG advised that Susan Kruse and colleagues held a symposium for the Highlands Regional Research Framework. There will also be funding available for Regional Research Frameworks in both Perth and Kinross and the Islands (Western Isles, Orkney & Shetland working as one Framework). They also had a useful meeting with Historic England regarding long term sustainability for research frameworks. There are various issues with maintaining the hardware/ infrastructure, but now looking ahead on what to do with the information. Also currently in discussion with the University of Edinburgh Library to get the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland onto a different digital platform. RHJ advised Glasgow University had a workshop in April, where Open Access and digital outputs were discussed.
- c. Aim three Caring and Protecting: VT advised that ALGAO have focused on the mind maps and on the workshop issue. ALGAO have drawn up mind maps, the first of which to be developed further had been circulated and they have received feedback. Work is currently ongoing on expanding each "foot" of the "spiders" in the mind map, which link with the expert advice in 3.2 (Expert Advice, Sharing Knowledge) and 3.3 (Management). The end product might take the form of a workshop, in which the findings will be discussed.

FH advised there will be a Museums workshop on 16 July; this will be meeting to draw up initiatives in dealing with museum archaeology.

- d. Aim four Encouraging Greater Engagement: EM advised efforts have continued around the priority area of Education (4.2b). The delivery plan identified six main areas in the strategy;
- The need to review educational resources available
- On-line portal
- Develop guidance on getting archaeological education into undergraduate archaeology courses
- Promoting archaeological educators
- Promoting lifelong learning opportunities
- Increasing training courses for teachers/trainee teachers

Progress has been made against all six themes which were further developed at the March Archaeology & Learning Working Group (ALWG) meeting. Work on the review of resources and the portal is ongoing. EM advised they have

Action 4: KO to speak to Richard Strachan

Action 5: KO and PH to meet up with the What's Your Heritage team

Action 6: KO to provide feedback on progress for programme of legacy projects

Action 7: PH to send RHJ the link to the publication in the digital age discussion and put into the minutes. https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/21st-century%20Challenges%20Workshop%206%20online%20discussion.pdf

Action 8: VT to circulate the revised mind maps by email to the group



teamed up with an academic partner (UHI Education Department) to help better understand how teachers would want resources presented online (by subject; activity length; with Experiences and Outcomes for curriculum etc). UHI will be carrying out this research using a wireframe of the portal in June and we will have a version of the portal ready for schools going back in mid-August. Northlight Heritage has been commissioned to take forward an important piece of work identified by ALWG – how can archaeology align with high level strategic educational priorities (climate change for example) and support delivery of the curriculum. They have worked with Northlight to refine the survey and provided lists of contacts.

EM further advised the survey is now live and there will be a number of focus group meetings held. Case studies will be developed and there will be further consultation with ALWG on these and on the final consultation report in the Autumn. HES has commissioned another piece of work on the needs of, and activities being carried out by, community heritage groups. This report will be available soon with the results of the survey. EM advised they have now recruited a cohort of 25 students who want to develop their skills as archaeological educators (and want to be called engagement officers) and have run a couple of training sessions with them on how to use the handson resources and had further discussion about what sort of training they would like.

EM met with Philip Tonner who is writing modules for teacher training specifically about archaeology for Strathclyde University School of Education. EM will also be talking to Alex Hale about the course he is developing at Edinburgh and his work to look at why archaeology is not included in outdoor learning (with Simon Beames). There are further plans to go back to Moray House this year to repeat last September's successful session on using archaeology in outdoor learning. Two teachers have agreed to join ALWG. EM has run two sessions at Falkland School, for boys with autism and other SE needs, and plan to go back this year to do more. EM advised the strong theme from the March ALWG meeting was inclusivity and reaching out to marginalised young people. AS has successfully bid for a grant from the Robertsons Trust that will help us develop our Attainment through Archaeology programme - an employability scheme that will build on the training we have done already through Adopt-a-Monument and will crossover into the work of other Aims too.

e. Aim five – Innovation and Skills: PH advised that ClfA have the go ahead for apprenticeships in England, which have the potential to be graduate and non-graduate entry routes. Advised the time may be coming to think about promoting new routes and strategies for entry into archaeology. Currently having a discussion on charted archaeologist accredited status

Action 9: CJ to send link to the consultation to ME to circulate to the group



along the lines of MClfA, but much more rigorous. There is an open consultation, to which members of the group are welcome to respond. A discussion took place on aDNA. SG advised that this will become a more integral part to Scottish archaeology and Scottish archaeologists' workload. A general discussion followed. SD advised that the group could plan a public facing event that would bring together science, how we are making use of the cold cases and how we are furthering education (to go on agenda for next meeting). Version 2 of the delivery plan is January 2017, it was agreed to come back to the October meeting with an updated version for circulating in January 2019. It was agreed that going forwards, aim 5 will expand to include digital development. The video was played to the group. The video was approved, subject to a couple of minor amendments. The group further agreed the video should be uploaded onto the HES YouTube channel.

Action 10: RHJ to put public facing event onto next agenda

## 5. Training and Development (Aim five)

a. Review of Skill Shortages and Training Provision in Scotland (CJ – ClfA): CJ gave a brief overview of the report, which was pre-circulated to the group. Some gaps were identified. The report is still at draft stage, the group are welcome to email comments to CJ. A discussion followed on the report. The Committee agreed that the retention issue is something that should be embedded within the report.

Action 11: CJ to write up a draft summarising key discussion points in an email and circulate to the group for comments by end the month

a. Archaeology Skills and Training in Scotland proposal (SG

– SoAS): SG proposed to the group the development of a College Course to help get students into archaeology. SG has spoken to the directors of most of the key archaeological companies in Scotland, and they are broadly supportive of the proposal. CJ advised that the group might like to think about the skills investment plan. It may be possible to lever skills investment funding for this scheme. The group agreed that a letter will be issued on behalf of the committee giving support to this scheme. Action 12: PC and SG to meet up to go over the proposal and reformat for FAME.

Action 13: SD to draw up letter of support.

**6.** Aim One Workshop proposals: SD advised some progress has been made on the delivering archaeology aims. One issue is funding streams; a meeting was held in January to discuss university funding and learn from England and Ireland. Two responses have been submitted to the group, one from ClfA and one from ALGAO. The ClfA proposal was discussed first. ClfA agreed to come up with a more polished version and then circulate to the committee for discussion. A further discussion took place on using UHI venues for people who are unable to attend future session in person can do so remotely. It was agreed to investigate this option further.

Action 14: RHJ to look into funding

The ALGAO proposal was discussed and it was noted that many of the proposals put forward were a progression of Aim Three on which ALGAO were leading and so could also be taken forward in tandem - Action 15: VT to contact UHI regarding use of the digital connections for live streaming



this can be discussed further at a funding meeting between ALGAO and HES in July.

**7. Committee membership:** RHJ advised that the committee is still looking to get someone on to the committee from the voluntary sector. It was agreed to use the Archaeology Scotland network to get a message sent out.

It was noted that Eila Macqueen, Mark Hall, Pete Hinton, Simon Gilmour and Robin Turner were all due to leave the SSAC this year. EM was asked to consider a replacement representing Archaeology Scotland's work on Aim Four; a Museum replacement is needed for MH; SG to consider a ScARF replacement for Aim Two; PH & RT to consider a ClfA / ATF replacement for Aim Five.

**8. Next meeting:** Tuesday 30 October at John Sinclair House, 10:30 for an 11:00 start.

## 9. AOCB:

a. Emails: A discussion took place on the use of email and visibility of email addresses, specifically personal email addresses and those work ones which contain people's names. It was noted that the group is content to use email addresses going forward, so group discussion can take place electronically, without the need to go through a central contact using blind copy.

Action 16: RHJ to draft up a message for EM to send out on the Archaeology Scotland network to recruit someone from the voluntary sector onto the SSAC.

Action 17: RHJ to speak to FH about recruiting a new SSAC member from the museum sector – to be possibly raised at the workshop in July

Action 18: EM, SG, PH & RT to consider necessary replacements from specific areas

Mike Elliot8 June 2018Archaeology & World Heritage Team0131 668 8811

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