

# THE POST HOLE

Issue 25

Rethinking the domestic architecture  
of Early Neolithic Orkney

Also in this issue:

Akrotiri: a jewel in ash

Community archaeology in the professional realm



# Acknowledgements

*The Post Hole* is grateful to the University of York's Department of Archaeology for essential financial and collaborative support, which has greatly assisted the running and growth of the student-run archaeology journal since its establishment in 2008.



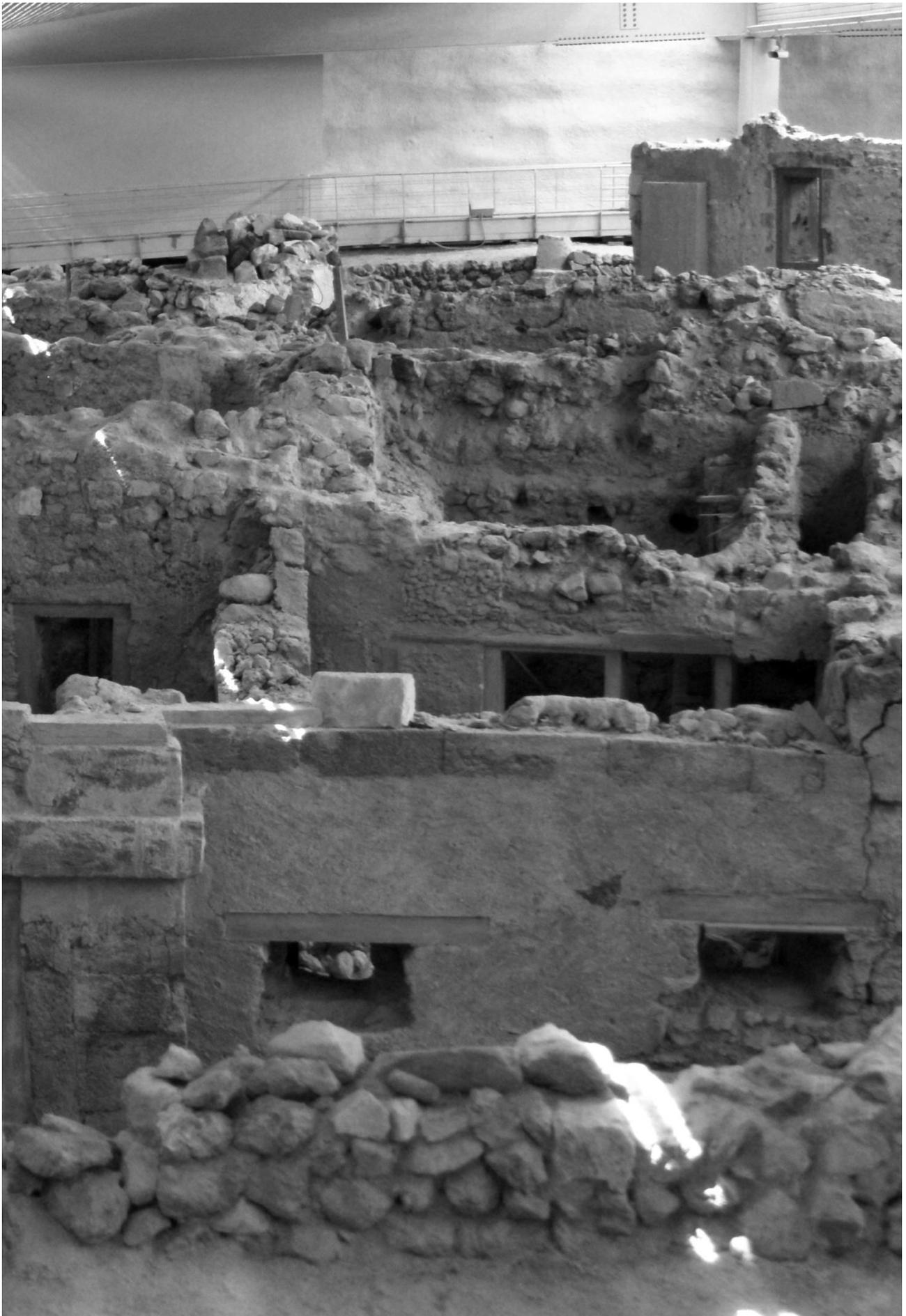
*The Post Hole* is also grateful to Heritage Technology for professionally redeveloping its website in 2012, and continuing to provide technical support since then.



Finally, *The Post Hole* wishes to thank University of York students Taryk Rawlins-Welburn and Laura Harker for their superb design of the front and back covers of this issue.

Hard copies of *The Post Hole* are printed by University of York uniprint (<http://goo.gl/EHjiK>)





*Minoan town of Akrotiri beneath modern protective roof (Image Copyright: Rianca Vogels)*

# Editorial Team

## Editor-in-Chief

David Altoft

[david.altoft@theposthole.org](mailto:david.altoft@theposthole.org)

## Managing Editor

Taryk Rawlins-Welburn

[taryk.rawlinswelburn@theposthole.org](mailto:taryk.rawlinswelburn@theposthole.org)

## Submissions Editor

Tess Margetts

[submissions@theposthole.org](mailto:submissions@theposthole.org)

## Editor

Alison Tuffnell

[tristan.henserbrownhill@theposthole.org](mailto:tristan.henserbrownhill@theposthole.org)

## Public Relations Officer

Emily Taylor

[publicity@theposthole.org](mailto:publicity@theposthole.org)

## Secretary

Navid Tomlinson

[navid.tomlinson@theposthole.org](mailto:navid.tomlinson@theposthole.org)

## Web Consultant

Tristan Henser-Brownhill

[web@theposthole.org](mailto:web@theposthole.org)

---

# Contents of Issue 25

<i>Editorial: Orkney to Akrotiri - domesticity in focus, David Altoft</i> .....	4
Rethinking the domestic architecture of Early Neolithic Orkney, <b>Giles Carey</b> .....	5
Akrotiri: a jewel in ash, <b>Rianca Vogels</b> .....	13
Community Archaeology in the professional realm, <b>Hilary Wolkan</b> .....	20
Gawthorpe Manor: engaging the public with Harewood's medieval past, <b>Emily Rayner</b> .....	24
The work of the Humber Sites and Monuments Record, <b>Katharine Newman</b> .....	31
<i>Submissions information</i> .....	34

# Editorial: Orkney to Akrotiri - domesticity in focus

We have an exciting issue in store for you this month! Issue 25 has two broad themes. One of these is the intimate view of domestic history, glimpsed through the excavation and reinterpretation of sites in the Orkney Isles, at Akrotiri and at Gawthorpe Manor.

The **Orkney Isles**, largely untouched north of the mainland of Scotland, are perhaps most famous for the amazing preservation of Neolithic architecture. **Giles Carey**, a Masters student at Orkney College UHI, provides us with a reinterpretation of these remains in a domestic context and draws parallels with sites elsewhere.

Just as vividly preserved is **Akrotiri**, a Bronze Age settlement on the Mediterranean island of Santorini, which was apparently abandoned following the documented volcanic eruption of the island in the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC. **Rianca Vogels**, an undergraduate student at York, evaluates the contemporary contexts behind the numerous interpretations of the demise of this materially rich community, and reminds us that its life history should not be overshadowed by studies of its end.

Both of these articles remind us that however 'established' people can make themselves and their lives, there is no guarantee that influences beyond their control will not interfere with their apparent intentions. However, as I will explain in my own article (in the next issue), radical change in lifestyle can also be made intentionally, such as the demolition of the medieval **Gawthorpe Hall** (near Leeds), so that its wealthy owners, the Lascelles family, could transform their lives and expressions of social status through the newly constructed Harewood House nearby.

It has recently been announced by Channel 4 that the much-loved archaeology TV show, *Time Team*, will suffer the same kind of fate as Gawthorpe Hall. The value of *Time Team* in disseminating concepts and investigative methods of Archaeology, not only introduced new audiences to the field, but also encouraged people to give greater consideration to their heritage. I only hope that similar initiatives will build on the legacy of *Time Team* in the future.

Also present in this issue are three articles that focus on the engagement of the public with Archaeology. **Hilary Wolkan**, a Masters student at York, tells us about her community work in the Yorkshire village of **Crambe** and how the use of geophysics brought locals together. **Emily Rayner**, a PhD student at York, tells us about her work in engaging visitors to **Harewood House** with the less visible medieval history of the estate. Finally, **Katharine Newman** explains her role in the **Humber Sites and Monuments Record**, and how this allows members of the public to find out about their local history.

Enjoy!

David Altoft (Editor-in-Chief of *The Post Hole* - [david.altoft@theposthole.org](mailto:david.altoft@theposthole.org))

# Rethinking the domestic architecture of Early Neolithic Orkney

Giles Carey<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Archaeology Department, Orkney College UHI, East Road, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1LX

Email: [gilescarey@gmail.com](mailto:gilescarey@gmail.com)

## Introduction

The Orkney Isles, located off the north coast of Scotland (Figure 1), form one of the most intensely studied archaeological areas in north-west Europe. Key to their continuing attraction, as a “core area” for research (Barclay 2004, 34-37), is the “almost perfect survival” of “exceptional Neolithic remains” of stone-built houses, tombs and ceremonial monuments (Parker Pearson and Richards 1994, 41; Cummings and Pannett 2005, 14). The cluster of Late Neolithic monuments - Maeshowe, the Stones of Stenness, Ring of Brodgar and Skara Brae - inscribed in 1999 as the Heart of the Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site (Downes 2005, 2), have long dominated our understanding of domestic and ritual life.

This focus has emphasised both the chronological separateness of 3rd millennium BC Orkney, and an implied hierarchy of significance, especially with regard to these monuments and those of earlier periods (McClannahan 2006, 102). The perceived “striking and extraordinary” nature of stone-built houses and tombs has provided a powerful legacy for interpretation of the whole of the Orcadian Neolithic (Barclay 2000, 275).

However, the evidence now emerging from the 4th millennium BC – the Early Neolithic – is a picture of considerable variance in domestic architecture; importantly with the use of both wood and stone attested to in the excavated evidence. The purpose of this article is to briefly review the nature of this evidence, and to highlight the implications for locating and understanding the full variability inherent within occupation practice in this period.

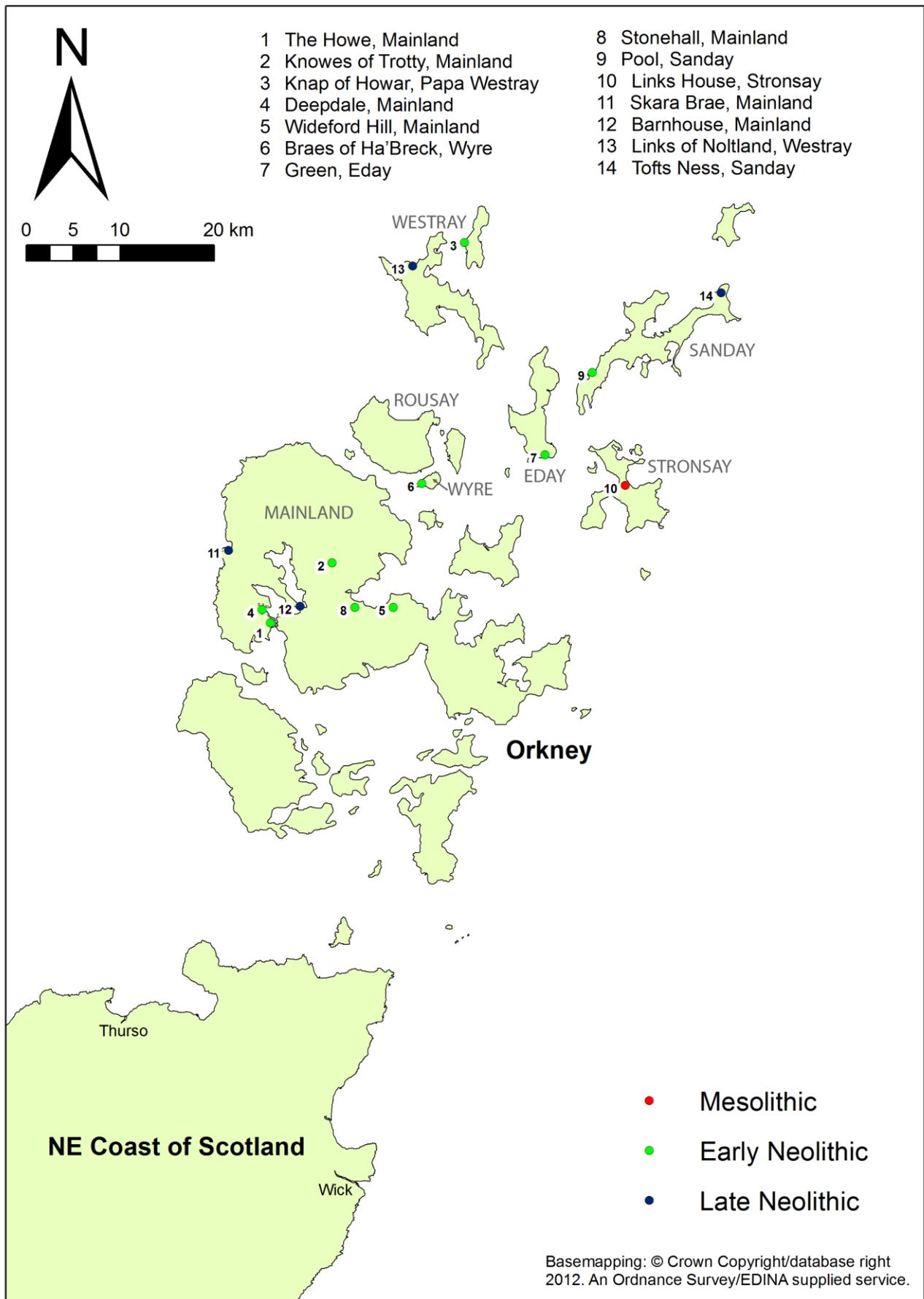


Figure1: Domestic settlement in Orkney in the 4th and 3rd millennium BC  
(Reproduced with kind permission of Ordnance Survey)

## An assessment of the current evidence

For nearly 70 years, the site of Knap of Howar, on Papa Westray, stood as the only example of Early Neolithic buildings in Orkney (Figure 2). After the area was exposed from an erosion event in the 1930s, local landowner William Traill and the antiquarian William Kirkness cleared and carried out initial excavations on these two conjoined stone buildings (Traill and Kirkness 1937, 309). Subsequently, Dr. Anna Ritchie's excavations, between 1973 and 1975, revealed more details of the site, which she then interpreted as the farmstead of an extended family engaged in mixed agriculture (Ritchie 1983, 56-58).

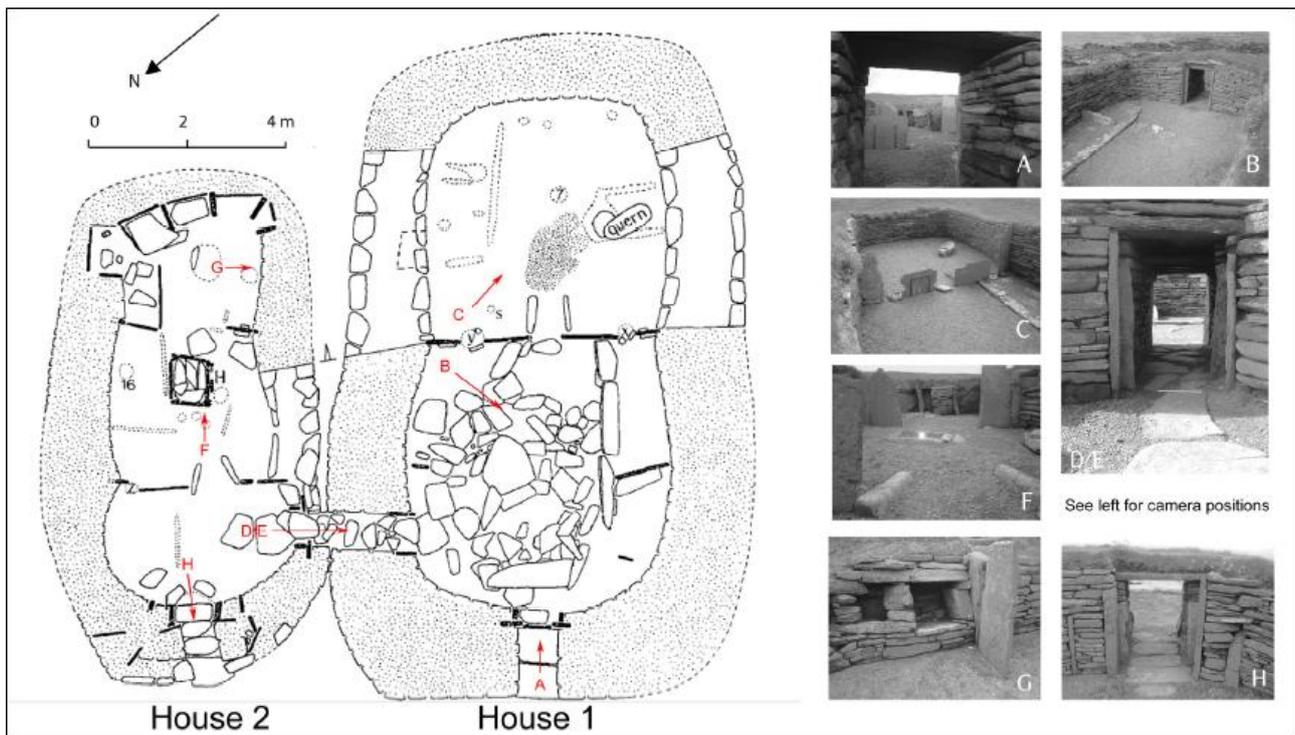


Figure 2: *The architectural repertoire of Early Neolithic buildings in Orkney, as exemplified by Knap of Howar*  
(Image Copyright: Giles Carey)

Both stone-built houses are formed of double-skinned walling, cored with midden material. They are rectangular in form, with rounded corners, and sub-divided by orthostats set into the 'pinched' wall form. This architectural repertoire has been taken as typical, providing a blueprint for what an Orcadian Early Neolithic house "should be like" (Downes and Richards 2000, 167).

The radiocarbon assays for Knap of Howar have confirmed occupation during c.3360-3030 BC, and now a number of sites have produced very similar dates, suggesting contemporaneous occupation across both Mainland and outlying islands of the Orkney archipelago (Figure 3).

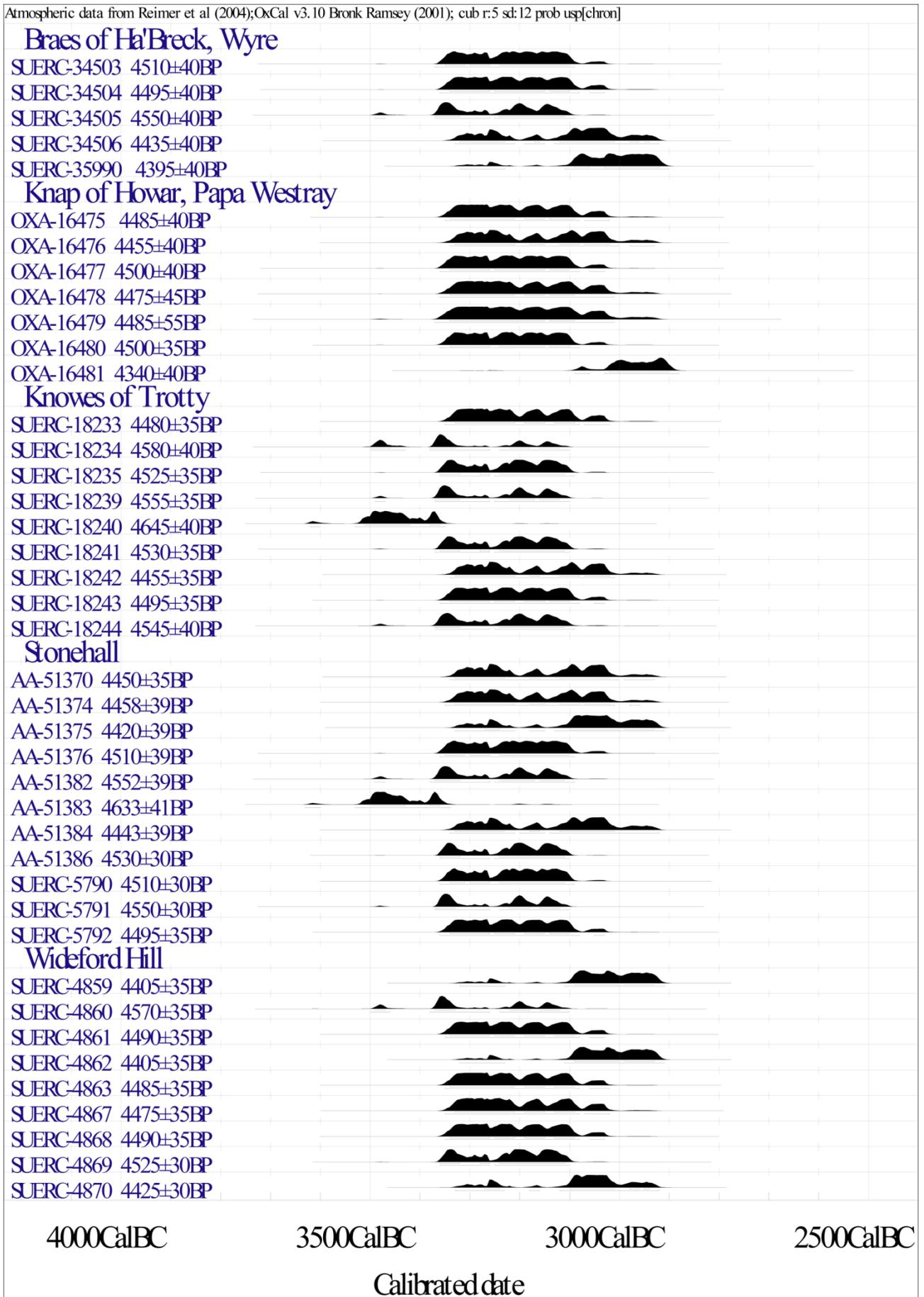


Figure 3: Distribution of radiocarbon dates available for Orcadian Early Neolithic settlement. The 'core' of this distribution lies within c.3360-3030 cal BC. Generated with OxCal v3.10 (Image Copyright: Giles Carey)

In the 1980s, Colin Richards started to re-examine the evidence for other Early Neolithic houses in Orkney, such as the structure underlying the complex Iron Age site at Howe, near Stromness (Ballin Smith 1994). This was initially interpreted as a mortuary structure, but similarities in architectural form with the Knap of Howar houses might suggest an Early Neolithic date. This is a similar situation to that found more recently at Knowes of Trotty, where a small rectangular structure underlies one of the barrows in this cemetery, constructed nearly a millennium later (Card 2005, 177; Card and Downes 2006, 27; Sheridan and Schulting 2006, 205).

Subsequent excavations on a number of sites have begun to further demonstrate the variability of occupation practice in the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC. The site at Stonehall, on the slopes of Cuween Hill, for instance, rather than being an 'isolated' farmstead appears to represent a much more clustered settlement arrangement, usually associated with the Late Neolithic, as at Skara Brae. The remains of up to seven possible houses were recorded there (Carruthers and Richards 2000, 64), within an area of 150m by 150m and with a rapid sequence of rebuilding and several shifts in settlement focus.

Perhaps the most important findings of Richards' excavation programme, however, were the discovery of a primary timber phase of construction to the Early Neolithic settlement on the slopes of Wideford Hill, below the famous tomb. For the first time, this was unequivocal evidence that timber did form part of the architectural repertoire in the 4th millennium BC, and that traces of such structures can survive (Wickham-Jones 2006, 26).

Three post-built structures were recorded at Wideford Hill, two of similar sub-circular form (Structures 1 and 2), with a third that, at least in its latter phase, resembles a rectilinear organisation of space (Structure 3). The decaying remains of Structure 2 formed a focus for the construction of a stone-built longhouse (House 1), probably constructed whilst the decaying posts of the earlier timber structure were still in situ. This all reveals a "close grained sequence of building replacement and continuity of occupation" (Richards 2003, 6), spanning 3350 – 2920 cal BC, with a complex interplay between construction materials.

### **The emerging picture**

Recent excavations on Wyre, a small island in between Mainland and Rousay, have revealed a similar fluid, and complex relationship between timber and stone-built elements of the architecture at the settlement of Braes of Ha'Breck (Lee and Thomas 2012). In one trench, a post-built longhouse with a central fire pit was rapidly dismantled and its posts were ripped out prior to the construction of a stone-built house on almost exactly the same footprint, although a new hearth was constructed. In another trench, a short-lived timber house, consisting of 14 post-holes around a scoop hearth, seems to have been replaced by two conjoined stone houses.

Whilst post-excavation analysis of these results is still ongoing, it is clear that selection of construction material is not simply a material consideration, but also relies upon a series of socially-embedded decisions. This is of particular importance in light of recent palaeo-environmental studies, which point to the fact that Orkney may not have been as treeless in the Neolithic as previously thought, with a diverse pattern of woodland survival existing, in some areas, into the Bronze Age (Farrell *et al.* 2012).

It is clear therefore, that the timber buildings at Wideford Hill and Braes of Ha'Breck may be “representative of a much broader distribution” (Richards 2003, 19). This has wide-ranging implications for how such sites are looked for, given their ephemerality set against the visibility of stone in the archaeological record of the Northern Isles.

### Locating Early Neolithic Orkney

The problems in locating such ephemeral sites are demonstrated by the recent work of the author carried out at Deepdale, West Mainland. Fieldwalking had originally suggested that an Early Neolithic flint scatter here might relate to in situ structural remains, possibly of a wooden nature (Richards 2005, 16), but subsequent fieldwork has not borne this out. Through the application of high-resolution geophysical survey at this site, it was hoped that the exact nature of the settlement in this location could be clarified.



Figure 4: *The results of high resolution magnetic survey across the area of the flint scatter at Deepdale*

(Reproduced with kind permission of Ordnance Survey)

The results are consistent with midden material, a 'signature' also found in the geophysical survey results from Braes of Ha'Breck and Green, Eday. However, even with high resolution survey, there was no definition to these areas of magnetic enhancement, suggestive of structural remains. Therefore, debate remains over what such a lithic scatter might represent. Certainly the work has underlined the difficulty in prospection of sites of this type (Carey 2012).

## Conclusions

The purpose of this brief article has been to show that the emerging picture of settlement variability in Early Neolithic Orkney needs consideration in its own right, not just as a preface to the impressive monumental Later Neolithic. The implication of the evidence requires us not only to revise the way we interpret such sites, but also the way we look for them. In particular, the unequivocal evidence for the use of timber in house construction alongside stone reminds us that material choices are not just born out of environmental necessity, but exist within a complex web of social engagements with the world in the 4th millennium BC.

## Acknowledgements

This research was conducted as part of an MA dissertation at Orkney College UHI. Thanks are due to all who have allowed access to unpublished material, particularly D. Lee and A. Thomas, N. Card and J. Downes. Thanks must also be given to both Jane Downes and Martin Carruthers for all their input.

## Bibliography

Barclay, G. (2004) "...Scotland cannot have been an inviting country for agricultural settlement": a history of the Neolithic of Scotland' in I. Shepherd and G. Barclay (eds.) *Scotland in Ancient Europe: the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age of Scotland in their European Context*. Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

Ballin Smith, B. (1994) *Howe: Four Millennia of Orkney Prehistory Excavations 1978-1982*. Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

Card, N. (2005) 'Knowes of Trotty' in P.J. Ashmore (ed.) *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. 177. Edinburgh: Council for Scottish Archaeology

Card, N. and Downes, J. (2006, unpublished) *Data Structure Report on Excavations at the Knowes of Trotty, Harray, Orkney*. Orkney Archaeological Trust

Carey, G. (2012) *The domestic architecture of Early Neolithic Orkney in a wider interpretative context: some implications of recent discoveries*. Unpublished MA Dissertation. UHI [available at <http://bit.ly/NeoOrk>]

- Carruthers, M. and Richards, C. (2000) 'Stonehall (Firth parish): Neolithic settlement' in P.J. Ashmore (ed.) *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. 64. Edinburgh: Council for Scottish Archaeology
- Cummings, V. and Pannett, A. (2005) 'Island views: the settings of the chambered cairns of southern Orkney' in V. Cummings and A. Pannett (eds.) *Set in Stone: New Approaches to Neolithic Monuments in Scotland*. 14-24. Oxford: Oxbow
- Downes, J. (2005) 'Description and status of The Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site' in J. Downes, S. Foster and C. Wickham-Jones (eds.) *The Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site: Research Agenda*. 20-21. Edinburgh: Historic Scotland
- Downes, J. and Richards, C. (2000) 'Excavating the Neolithic and Bronze Age of Orkney: Recognition and Interpretation in the Field' in A. Ritchie (ed.) *Neolithic Orkney in its European Context*. 159-168. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research
- Farrell, M., Bunting, M.J., Lee, D.H.J. and Thomas, A. (in press) 'Neolithic settlement at the woodland's edge: palynological data and timber architecture in Orkney, Scotland'. *Journal of Archaeological Science*
- McClannahan, A. (2006) *Monuments in Practice: The Heart Of Neolithic Orkney In Its Contemporary Context*. Unpublished PhD Thesis. University of Manchester
- Lee, D. and Thomas, A. (2012) 'Orkney's First Farmers: Early Neolithic Settlement on Wyre'. *Current Archaeology*. 268. 13-19
- Parker Pearson, M. and Richards, C. (1994) 'Architecture and Order: Spatial Representation and Archaeology' in M. Parker Pearson and C. Richards (eds.) *Architecture and Order: Approaches to Social Space*. 38-72. London: Routledge
- Richards, C. (2003, unpublished) *Excavation of the early Neolithic settlement at Wideford Hill, Mainland, Orkney: Structures Report for Historic Scotland*. University of Manchester
- Richards, C. (2005) 'The Neolithic Settlement of Orkney' in C. Richards (ed.) *Dwelling among the monuments*. 7-22. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research
- Ritchie, A. (1983) 'Excavation of a Neolithic farmstead at the Knap of Howar, Papa Westray, Orkney'. *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*. 113. 40-121
- Traill, W. and Kirkness, W. (1937) 'Hower, Prehistoric Structure on Papa Westray'. *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*. 71. 309-322
- Wickham-Jones, C. (2006) *Between the Wind and the Water: World Heritage Orkney*. Macclesfield: Windgather Press

# Akrotiri: a jewel in ash

Rianca Vogels<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Archaeology, University of York, The King's Manor, York, YO1 7EP

Email: [rv534@york.ac.uk](mailto:rv534@york.ac.uk)

It all began with an article by Spyridon Marinatos published in *Antiquity* in 1939, in which he proposed a new theory regarding the demise of the Minoan civilisation on Crete. Marinatos dismissed the then popular theory of invaders and focused on the various phases of destruction and rebuilding evident in the islands palaces (Marinatos 1939). He drew attention to their quick rebuilding after destruction, in the same style and without fortification, suggesting that the remaining cause of destruction could only have been natural (Marinatos 1939).

As Crete is located near the so-called Hellenic Trench, the island experiences intense seismic activity (Taymaz *et al.* 1990), which led both Sir Arthur Evans and Marinatos to conclude that this was the cause of the various destructive phases (Marinatos 1939).

Marinatos suggested that the final destruction of the Minoan civilisation might have been caused by an enormous eruption of the volcano on the nearby island of Thera, better known as Santorini (Marinatos 1939). Marinatos's article was accompanied by a note from the editors suggesting that in order to prove his thesis, Marinatos needed additional evidence from excavation (Marinatos 1939).

Unfortunately, these excavations were not to take place for almost 30 years. Whilst investigating the island of Thera, Marinatos, with the help of locals, old maps and scarce documentation of earlier investigations was able to identify a particular area of interest (Doumas 1983). Excavations began in 1967; Marinatos soon realised that the excavations would be long-term and as a result suitable accommodation, laboratories and workshops were built near the site, and some of these buildings are still present although most of them have now been replaced with modern facilities.

To protect the site from erosion a roof was constructed (Figure 1), using Dexion pillars, chosen because the pillars are stable and flexible, and they can be placed as much as 12m (39ft) apart without any solid walls, making it easy to extend the roof in any direction. The pits dug for the pillars were treated as test pits; they were dug down to the natural ground level ensuring no archaeology would remain hidden underneath the pillars (Doumas 1983).

Plans for a replacement roof were made in the late 1990s and construction was almost complete when on the 23rd of September 2005 part of the new roof collapsed, injuring 6 tourists and killing another (Doumas 2005). The site closed down completely, and no tourists or even archaeologists were granted access (Doumas 2006). Signs were placed at the entrance that stated that the site was temporarily closed due to construction, and additional guards were hired to ensure that the site was 'protected' (Doumas 2007). The closure of the site would last until the 11th of April 2012 (anon. 2012).



Figure 1: *Relative placement of protective roof, supporting pillars and visitor walkways* (Image Copyright: Rianca Vogels)

## Excavation

Initially, tunnelling was attempted at the site; however, because much of the soil at the site is made up of volcanic mantle and debris, the dangers of collapse and the inability to record stratigraphy properly, led to this approach being abandoned in favour of single-context excavation (Doumas 1983).

No grid-square system was initially applied in the excavations; instead, Marinatos used triangulation methods based on well preserved walls, which unfortunately means that retrospective analysis of the excavation records can no longer accurately reconstruct the inter-relationships of some of the buildings (Doumas 1983). The use of a grid system was eventually introduced along with a permanent water sieving installation built in 1976; although it has since been concluded that dry sieving is perfectly adequate as well as being less time consuming (Doumas 1983).

As is the standard at most excavations today, every find had to be processed in a set of procedures. The objects were cleaned, restored if necessary and then catalogued, photographed and often also drawn. At the time of writing his book, Doumas reports that 10 buildings had been (partly) explored and 7 more are known to be within the roofed area at the time (1983).

Marinatos oversaw the excavations until his untimely death in 1974, after which excavations were halted for two years until Christos Doumas took over his position as site-director (Doumas 1983). For those travelling to the site, Marinatos has been buried on the 'Akrotiri grounds' and his grave can be visited.

## The site

Akrotiri is a Minoan harbour town, buried in ash and pumice. However, the site is not just any town frozen in time... its multi-storey buildings and colourful frescos provide an extraordinary window into the Bronze Age of Thera and the Aegean.

The view when entering the modern structure built over the site is breath taking. To the front is the structure called Xeste 3 and 'The house of Benches', these are thought to have been public buildings. Other famous buildings are: 'The House of the Ladies', 'The West House' and 'Xeste 4'. 'The House of the Ladies' is named after the frescos that were discovered inside the building, which are now on display in the Museum of Prehistoric Thera, in Fira. The West House (Figure 2), so-called because it is the most western building, houses one of the oldest known upstairs toilets. It is situated at a triangular square, has low rectangular windows on the ground floor and enormous windows on the second floor. Xeste 4 is famous because it is a three storey building.



Figure 2: *Different forms of window in southwest face of West House in Akrotiri* (Image Copyright: Rianca Vogels)

The site has proven to be very rich in material culture, especially pottery and stone tools and vases. In addition, negative imprints of artefacts made of natural resources have been found, from which casts can be obtained (Figure 3). In this manner a few beds have been discovered as well as chairs and tables. Despite the excellent recovery of 'domestic' material, it wasn't until the early 2000s that the first golden object was discovered (Baum 2004). No jewellery and few precious metals have been found (one exception being a bronze sword, now on display in the Museum of Prehistoric Thera).



Figure 3: *Plaster cast from negative impression of an ornate carved table* (Image Copyright: Rianca Vogels)

Another notable absence at the site is human remains. It has been theorised that before the volcanic eruption that covered the town a series of earthquakes made the inhabitants flee to safer grounds (Doumas 1983; Gates 2011, 127–129). Excavation has found that the ruined buildings seem to have been ‘cleared out’. Assuming that a temporary camp was established between the earlier destruction and reconstruction of the town, it is possible that people returned to the town to remove any possible victims and valuables and neither people nor their possessions returned to the site following the eruption (Doumas 1983; Gates 2011, 127–129). However, no such temporary settlement has been found (Doumas 2008). The search for the harbour belonging to Akrotiri commenced at the beginning of this year (Flora 2012), reflecting that a lot of the town and activity there is yet to be found.

### **Workers**

The site is occupied not just by archaeologists, but also by a large on-site conservation team, including fresco specialists. The first fragments of frescos were found in 1968 (Doumas 1983). Marinatos realised that specialised techniques were needed in order to conserve and reconstruct these frescos. Help was sought from Byzantine Fresco Restoration and removal experts were called in.

The initial group developed a technique specific for the Akrotiri frescos and are now known as 'Akrotiri wall painting experts' (Doumas 1983). The experts note the location of the fragments, collect them and transfer them to the nearby workshop where they are cleaned and put back together like a giant jigsaw puzzle. The reconstructions are done in a vertical position with grid systems and maths, to calculate their position on the ground relative to where the fragments would have been on the wall (Doumas 1983).

Although most of the frescos have been found as fragments on the floor, some have been recovered from the walls they were painted on. An elaborate process has been developed to safely remove these in order to conserve them. Due to the delicacy and haste involved in the restoration and conservation, the fresco laboratories have been built close to the site (Doumas 1983).

Another group of professionals working on the site are pottery experts. Although some of the pottery found is still in one piece and sometimes still within the pumice and ash, much is found in sherds. The sherds are recorded and moved to the workshop where they are examined, cleaned, reconstructed and conserved. In the workshops and laboratories samples of any remaining residues on them can be obtained and examined (Doumas 1983).

### **Marinatos's theory**

A lot of literature on the subject of the Minoan civilisation has been published since the discovery of Knossos in 1900, and most indicate different dates for its demise: 1400BC (Vermeule 1972), 1450BC (de Blios and van der Spek 2001), or 1500BC (Kehnscherper 1986). As indicated by Doumas, the 1450BC date is perhaps most commonly accepted (1983). Marinatos set out to provide evidence for his Thera Volcano eruption scenario and found Akrotiri, but what happened to his theory?

Since the beginning of the excavations there, samples have been taken for radiocarbon dating. These were tested by University Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but unfortunately resulted in very different dates; 1100±190 BC and 2590±80 BC (Doumas 1983). By the time that Doumas wrote his book, tests had been conducted on ice cores resulting in a date of about 1500BC (1983). However, new radiocarbon tests executed in 2004 resulted in a date range of 1663 – 1599BC (Bronk Ramsey *et al.* 2004). Nowadays the newly revised and (widely, but not generally) accepted eruption date is 1628BC (Doumas 2008; Gates 2011).

When visiting the Museum of Prehistoric Thera an information board can be found indicating all the work of Marinatos. However, despite all the new information gathered from Akrotiri, it has not confirmed Marinatos' theory. Papers have been published regarding the cause of the demise as well as the date of the great eruption of the volcano; however the debate remains open (Warren 1990; Lasken 1992; Dunn 2002).

## Opportunities

It has been estimated that only 5% of the town has so far been excavated (Figure 4). Many volunteers accepted to work on the site are Archaeology students. To get more information regarding the site or field work opportunities please contact the Society for the Promotion of Studies on Prehistoric Thera at [akrotiri@otenet.gr](mailto:akrotiri@otenet.gr).

The Society for the promotion of studies on Prehistoric Thera was founded in 2003, and annually publishes ΑΑΣ (ALS) – with updates regarding the work surrounding Akrotiri. These can be bought for €10.00 from the not-for-profit foundation.

The site itself is open on Tuesdays to Sundays from 8am to 5pm, and entrance for students is free.



Figure 4: Part of the town with the West House at the far end (Image Copyright: Rianca Vogels)

## Bibliography

anon. (2012) 'Akrotiri reopens to the public'. *Current World Archaeology*. Available at: <http://www.world-archaeology.com/news/akrotiri-reopens-to-the-public/> [Accessed November 2, 2012]

Baum, M. (2004) 'The Golden Ibex of Santorini - A Convergence of Cultures & Technologies'. *The Journal of Surgery*. 2 (1). 61–62

- Bronk Ramsey, C., Manning, S.W. and Galimberti, M. (2004) 'Dating the volcanic eruption at Thera'. *Radiocarbon*. 46 (1). 325–344
- de Blios, L. & van der Spek, R.J. (2001) *Een kennismaking met de oude wereld* (6th Ed.) Bussum: uitgeverij Coutino
- Doumas, C. (2007) '40 Years'. *ΑΛΣ* (5). 7–45
- Doumas, C. (2008) *The early history of the Aegean in the light of recent finds from Akrotiri, Thera*. Athens: Society for the Promotion of Studies on Prehistoric Thera
- Doumas, C. (1983) *Thera, Pompeii of the ancient Aegean, excavations at Akrotiri 1967 - 1979*. London: Thames and Hudson
- Doumas, C. (2005) 'Work at Akrotiri in 2005'. *ΑΛΣ*. (3) 7 – 17
- Doumas, C. (2006) 'Work at Akrotiri in 2006'. *ΑΛΣ*. (4) 7–16
- Dunn, S. (2002) 'The Theran Eruption'. *Journal of the Ancient Chronology Forum*. 9. 22–31
- Flora, C. (2012) 'Santorini's Prehistoric Akrotiri Harbor Studied'. *Greek Reporter*. Available at: <http://greece.greekreporter.com/2012/10/30/santorinis-prehistoric-akrotiri-harbor-studied/> [Accessed November 2, 2012]
- Gates, C. (2011) *Ancient Cities* (2nd Ed.) London: Routledge
- Kehnscherper, G. (1986) *Kreta Mykene Santorin* (6th Ed.) Leipzig: Urania - Verlag
- Lasken, J.E. (1992) 'The radiocarbon evidence from Thera, an alternative interpretation'. *Journal of the Ancient Chronology*. 5. 68–76
- Marinatos, S. (1939) 'The Volcanic Destruction of Minoan Crete'. *Antiquity*. Available at: <http://antiquity.ac.uk.ezproxy.york.ac.uk/ant/013/Ant0130425.htm> [Accessed October 27, 2012]
- Taymaz, T., Jackson, J. & Westaway, R. (1990) 'Earthquake mechanisms in the Hellenic Trench near Crete'. *Geophysical Journal International*. 102 (3). 695–731
- Vermeule, E. (1972) *Greece in the Bronze Age* (5th Ed.) London: The University of Chicago Press
- Warren, P. (1990) 'The Minoan Civilisation of Crete and the Volcano of Thera'. *Journal of the Ancient Chronology*. 4. 29–39

# Community Archaeology in the professional realm: the importance of public involvement

Hilary Wolkan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Archaeology, University of York, The King's Manor, York, YO1 7EP

Email: [hfw501@york.ac.uk](mailto:hfw501@york.ac.uk)

When I arrived in York to begin my MA coursework in Field Archaeology, I have to admit I did not expect to focus my studies on community archaeology. Having previously focussed on the Romans, this year was meant to be a means of gaining experience and training in the methodological aspects of archaeology. However, after attending a mini-conference on public archaeology in November 2011, I became fascinated by the involvement of the community in archaeological projects. This newly kindled interest ultimately resulted in a dissertation exploring the ownership of heritage and the value of public archaeology.

Part of attempting to understand the nature of community archaeology involves consideration of the extent to which volunteers should be utilised on site, the influence of archaeological activity on local people's interest in their own heritage, and possible tensions that might arise between the volunteers and locals. I devised a two-week geophysical survey in the village of Crambe in which volunteers from the York area were asked to help conduct the investigation, analyse the data, and provide interpretations of the results.

It should be noted when conducting a community project that there are several different methods of approach. In many cases, the inhabitants of an area might present the project, asking archaeologists to provide training or advice regarding the best technique, method or interpretation. On the other hand, many projects consist of a top-down situation in which professionals offer opportunities for the public to connect with the past, including sites studying southwest Native American cultures in Arizona (Evans 1999, 14-15, 19), shipwrecks on the east coast of North America (Robinson and Taylor 2000), and even projects in Hackney which incorporated roughly 700 local volunteers (Simpson and Williams 2008, 76-85). These archaeological investigations all vary in their structure and the degree to which volunteers are involved, demonstrating that community archaeology is frequently, if not always, based on the nature and ultimate purpose of the excavation.

I wanted to examine the abilities of the volunteers (Figure 1), and also observe how the presence of an archaeological investigation affected the locals and their interest in exploring their heritage. It also needed to appeal to both villagers and external volunteers, require no training and be simple enough to complete in two weeks. Taking this all into consideration, I settled on a geophysical survey utilising both magnetometry and resistivity (Figure 2) of Crambe's town green and invited volunteers from the York area to participate.



Figure 1: *Author and fellow MA student supervising resistivity* (Reproduced with kind permission of Roger Weatherhill)

I had never organised a project of this nature and had barely a week's experience with the equipment, yet here I was, leading a team of volunteers (all older than me) in an attempt to discover any archaeological remains in Crambe's town green. Needless to say, I was terrified and unsure of what my project would conclude. In actuality, I have had few more enjoyable experiences than those two weeks in Crambe. The volunteers were very efficient and helpful, even though many of them had had no prior experience in geophysical survey. On numerous occasions, the volunteers even helped troubleshoot the malfunctioning equipment and provided useful suggestions regarding methodology. Their interpretations were intelligent, with all volunteers expressing interest at participating in any additional work that might arise in the area. It was therefore clear from my project that volunteers are very valuable on site and can participate in many, if not all, aspects of an archaeological project.

Other community archaeology excavations have observed additional merits in involving the public. Many professional or commercial archaeologists arrive at site, complete the work in a restricted amount of time, and then leave for the next project, often without being able to dedicate much time to truly examining the remains or understanding them in the context of the specific location. Members of the community frequently have more time to conduct the work and will often possess more knowledge about the area in study, as they live in the locality. This ability to specialise and dedicate worthwhile amounts of time to researching the geology and history of the area provides a resource which can be utilised by archaeologists, supplementing their work and in the end making their tasks much easier to accomplish (Selkirk 1997, 23).

You might ask yourself why it is, if this is the case, that public archaeology is not as prevalent in contract or academic research. In many situations, it simply is not viable, financially or otherwise, to involve the public in each stage of a project. Training is not always available to those interested in volunteering and archaeologists do not necessarily have enough staff to spare for training and educating the public (cf. Thomas' study in 2010 on community groups and training). Likewise, there is still a feeling amongst some professionals that archaeologists are the guardians of heritage and should keep volunteers at bay (Evans 1999, 8; Waterton 2003, 12-13, 58; Zielinski 2007, 12, 46-47). It is true that remains must be protected from harmful construction and from disintegration; however, organisations and companies like the York Archaeological Trust are increasingly focussing on community involvement, providing opportunities for the public to dig, clean artefacts, and learn about the past. These projects indicate a desire to give people back their heritage and to allow them to connect hands-on with history, signalling a change in archaeology.



Figure 2: *Two volunteers participating in resistivity* (Reproduced with kind permission of Roger Weatherhill)

This change in fact highlights another, rather significant merit of community archaeology: its impact on the passion and experience of the public. One of the most prevalent comments made by the volunteers was that their work in Crambe, a village of which none of them were residents, provided a greater connection with both the locality and also the area of York in general (cf. Wolkan 2012). You see, it is not simply a case of allowing extra support, in excavation or in funding, in the completion of a project (English Heritage 2000), nor is public archaeology only a method of bridging the gap between professionals and amateurs. Community archaeology also helps people relate in a much more tangible way to their surroundings, an act which in itself can create a long-lasting and meaningful interest in the past which results in everyone benefitting.

I certainly do not have all the answers regarding community archaeology and public involvement, nor can I provide definitive methods for all projects to incorporate the public, as it depends highly on the nature of the project and its goals. However, my studies at the University of York have demonstrated the necessity of perpetuating the mutually beneficial relationship between the public and professionals; the community's support and help contribute greatly to the continuation of the field of archaeology, and archaeology stimulates the curiosity of the public and people's sense of identity, which then perpetuates support of the field. For this reason, it is important to utilise the public's potential to the fullest and continue to encourage their investment in uncovering the past. After all, it is their past as well.

## Bibliography

- Evans, K. (1999) 'A consideration of public participation in archaeology'. Unpublished MA thesis, University of York
- Robinson, P. and Taylor, C. (2000) 'Heritage management in Rhode Island: working with diverse partners and audiences', in F. McManamon and A. Hatton (Eds.) *Cultural Resource Management in contemporary society: perspectives on managing and presenting the past*. London: Routledge, 107- 119
- Selkirk, A. (1997) *Who owns the past? A grass roots critique of heritage policy*. London: Adam Smith Institute
- Simpson, F. and Williams, H. (2008) 'Evaluating community archaeology in the UK'. *Public Archaeology*. 7 (2). 69-90
- Thomas, S. (2010) *Community archaeology in the UK: recent findings*. York: Council for British Archaeology
- Waterton, E. (2003) 'Whose sense of place? Reconciling archaeological perspectives with community values: cultural landscapes in England'. Unpublished MA thesis, University of York
- Wolkan, H. (2012) 'The Human element: the reality of public archaeology in the professional realm'. Unpublished MA thesis, The University of York
- Zielinski, J. (2007) 'The process of community involvement in community heritage projects. MA in arch heritage management'. Unpublished MA thesis, The University of York

# Gawthorpe Manor: engaging the public with Harewood's medieval past

Emily Rayner<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Archaeology, University of York, The King's Manor, York, YO1 7EP

Email: [er509@york.ac.uk](mailto:er509@york.ac.uk)

This article aims to provide a background to the public engagement programme which has been developed between Harewood House Trust and The University of York's Department of Archaeology, through the excavations of Gawthorpe Hall.

Gawthorpe Hall, within the grounds of [Harewood House](#), has been one of the excavation sites of York's [undergraduate fieldschools](#) since 2011. In 2009, before the fieldschool began at Gawthorpe, the Harewood Project, headed by [Dr. Jonathan Finch](#), excavated small trial trenches over anomalies which had been located from a geophysical survey of the site. Opening these trenches helped to establish the condition and depth of the archaeology which could inform the further excavation of the site. It also uncovered the potential to communicate a new story at Harewood House.

During 2008-2010 the focus of public engagement at Gawthorpe was primarily concerned with providing guided tours of the trial excavations. These were tied into events at Harewood such as the [Council for British Archaeology's 'Festival of British Archaeology'](#), and the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the laying down of the foundation stone of Harewood House, by the Harewood House Trust. The land in which the remains of Gawthorpe Hall sit belong to the Harewood Estate and are privately rented throughout the year, so these tours allowed visitors controlled access to the site which is usually off limits to the public.

In 2008, along with participating country houses – [Brodsworth Hall](#), [Burton Constable](#) and [Temple Newsam](#) – an exhibition at Harewood House titled '[Work and Play: life on the Yorkshire country house](#)', was designed to focus on the people who worked and lived on the Harewood estate in the past. This was directed by Dr. Jonathan Finch and provided an opportunity for Collaborative Doctoral Award PhD student, [Timur Tatlioglu](#) to communicate his [research](#) (Tatlioglu 2010) which was focused on biographies of people and places within the Harewood Landscape, during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

As the excavations of Gawthorpe Hall expanded, so too did the possibilities for using the excavation as a tool to communicate a history of Harewood, different to the narrative told by, and in, the house itself.

Harewood House is run as a charitable education trust and is dedicated to improving [education](#) and audience development. The Trust works extensively to provide a range of formal educational sessions to schools, colleges and further and higher education providers (Auty 2010). These include workshops, events, teaching resources, and worksheets which are updated and reinvented to tie in to current exhibitions at Harewood. Resources are also offered to visiting families, children and adult learners, on site and also through material which is available to [download](#) through the Harewood House [website](#). Visitors are given details of tours, talks, and workshops which might be running during their visit as they initially enter the site, and are handed printouts and maps with these details on. Alongside these resources, special singular day or festival events provide the main point of contact for public engagement at Harewood.

In 2011, [Emily Rayner](#) as part of her Collaborative Doctoral Award PhD began working closely with the Learning team at Harewood. Emily's research is concerned with the transformation of the landscape from the medieval manor of Gawthorpe to the 18<sup>th</sup> century estate of Harewood House, with specific focus on the development and eventual destruction of Gawthorpe Hall.

During the first year of the fieldschool at Harewood, the success of previous tours was again implemented to allow visitors to get closer to the archaeology of the site. Not only did the tours allow visitors to see the small finds as they were being pulled out of the ground, but it also gave them an insight into the process of their recovery. Many of the questions from visitors were concerned with how archaeologists know where to excavate, how we know what tools to use, and how we make sense of all the layers of different features which the visitors could see being uncovered as they toured the site. Students during the 2011 season presented an update of the work in their trench during the daily tours, while Emily gave an overview of the site history, showed visitors copies of historical prints of the hall, provided an overview of the aims of the research and some initial interpretations, and guided visitors safely around a working archaeological site.

Working closely with Harewood House Trust during the 2011 season also provided an opportunity to gain skills and knowledge from the Learning team about the experiences of working with school groups. Alongside [Anna Wiseman](#) and [Jennifer Auty](#), Emily developed a programme of activities which could be delivered to groups of Key Stages 1-2 and 3-4 children, young adults and adult groups. These workshops were designed with the national curriculum in mind, and aimed to provide an exciting opportunity for people who might never have visited an archaeological excavation before. They were designed so that school groups could develop understanding and skills to analyse their local history from an archaeological and landscape approach, which they might not have considered before.

As the workshops were designed for school groups of up to thirty students of mixed ability and needs, a variety of visual, audio and tactile techniques were developed to keep the whole group engaged (Figure 1). Visual activities included watching a video of archaeologists at work (as well as seeing our own students later in the day), placing pictures of key events in the story of Gawthorpe Hall on a timeline to understand the chronology of the site, and a *Horrible Histories* style cartoon of the life and untimely death of the 1st Earl of Strafford who had owned Gawthorpe during the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Audio learners benefitted from small group and class discussions; for example, what certain artefacts could have been used for, who might have used them and what these might be able to tell us about life in the hall.

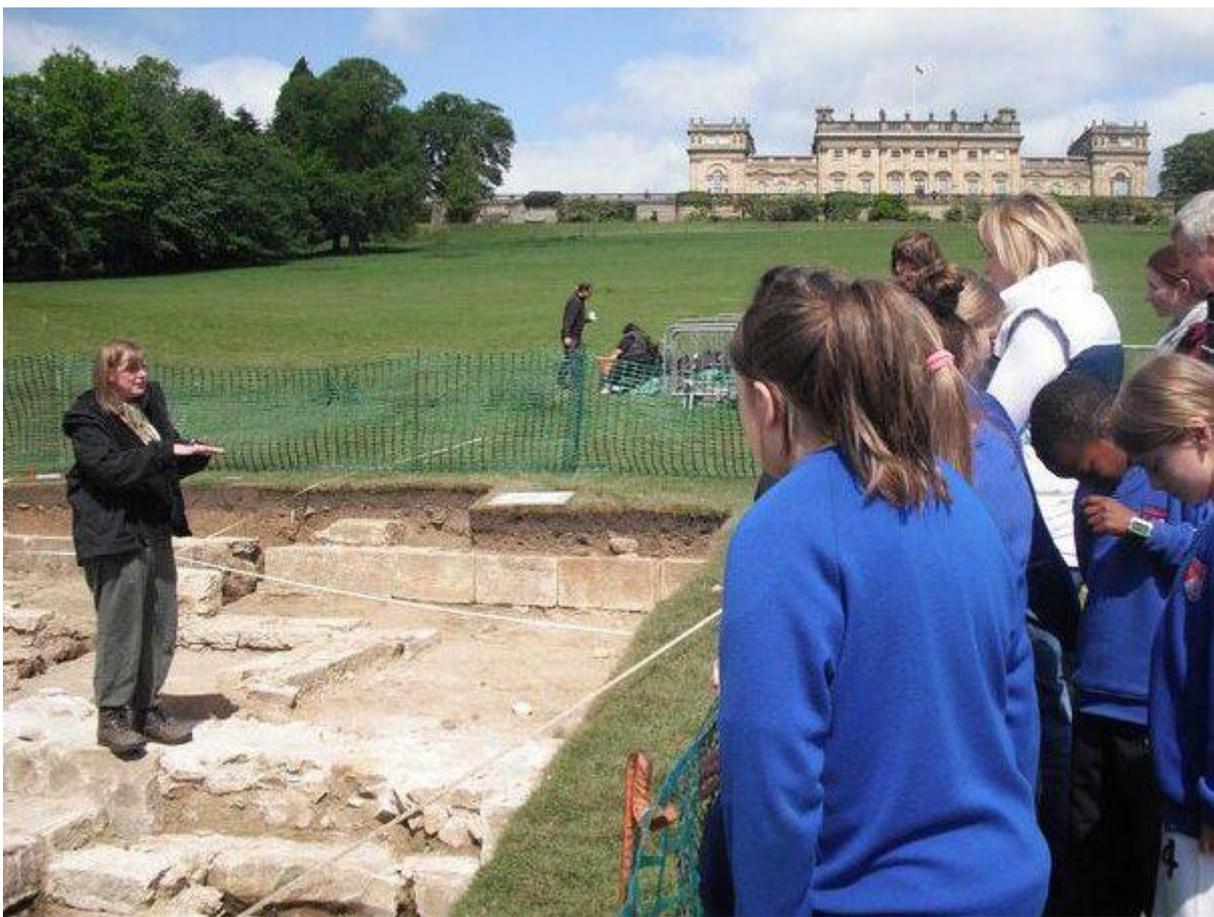


Figure 1: *Author giving a site tour to a group of local schoolchildren* (Image Copyright: Emily Rayner)

Archaeology particularly lends itself to tactile learning techniques and the handling sessions and finds washing at Gawthorpe have been particularly popular. The school groups during the 2011 season were all from the local area and their involvement with the post-excavation of finds gave them a real sense of ownership over the history of a landscape many of them know well and visit regularly.

As well as being fun, fairly complex theoretical ideas were able to be explored with groups of children using these learning techniques. For example, a group of Year 4 (eight and nine year old) students from [Harewood Primary School](#), whilst handling finds and identifying what they might be, discussed the idea of a ‘familiar past’ (Tarlow and West 1998, 2), the bias of pre-constructed ideas of recent history based on our own use of objects in the present. These workshops provided an opportunity for the children to explore ideas, and to learn and communicate their interest in a constructive way. The impact of these workshops has been that these students have returned during subsequent excavations with friends and family, and have been able to share their experiences and describe what is happening on the site, with little help from the official tour guides!

After the success of the 2011 season, funding became available through the [Researcher Development Team](#) for PhD students to develop programmes of public engagement, and the Gawthorpe Hall excavation was awarded a full funding of £2,430. In a practical sense this funding allowed permanent teaching resources to be bought, including replicas for handling sessions, cases and boards for display, and printed materials. It also allowed for provisions to be made to have a larger public presence on site during the 2012 excavation, including having a 10m x 5m marquee on site (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Finds, historical prints and information boards on display in on-site marquee (Image Copyright: Emily Rayner)

During the three week fieldschool excavation in 2012, the marquee drew 990 visitors, including over 100 people who came on the daily tours of the site. Inside the marquee, students from the 2011 fieldschool: David Altoft, Rebecca Gray, Lisa Harrison, Bethany Hutchings, Aysil Neeson, and Mercy Wilson, had created panels for visitors to find out more about the excavations and the Harewood Project. They designed panels which were eye catching and informative within a very tight brief of 200 words per panel. This brief was outlined by Harewood House Trust and was designed to complement existing displays within the house and grounds.

Working together with Emily to provide a consistent voice across the display, seven panels were produced. These covered areas such as the background to the site, the historical events at Gawthorpe Hall, the artefacts uncovered, the use of historical documents alongside the archaeology, and an overview of the project. Accompanying the panels, each of the students also produced a small handout of about 1,000 words which gave more detail about the topics discussed on the panels, along with suggested (accessible) reading, which visitors could take home if they were particularly interested in a certain topic.

As well as boards and handouts, the marquee also contained trays of finds for visitors to handle, replicas of finds from the site, and special artefacts on view in a display case. The finds were accompanied with interpretative labels and the marquee was staffed at all times to ensure that visitors could ask questions about the material on display. The marquee also provided an ideal space for students to begin processing finds from the site, in full view to the public. This provided students with a chance to tell visitors about what they had been finding, and to show visitors the quantity and variety of finds from the 2012 season, allowing visitors to see another stage in the excavation process.

Throughout the 2012 excavation, an hour-long session was offered every day for adults, and for children, to find out more about artefacts, landscapes and the people of Gawthorpe Hall. The children's activities focused on matching modern day examples to finds excavated from the site through a handling session, and an activity making crop marks in seed trays to demonstrate some of the uses of aerial photography in landscape archaeology (Figure 3). The adult sessions were designed as twenty minute informal talks with the opportunity to handle finds, and see copies of historical documents and maps (Figure 4).



Figure 3: Finds and replicas on display with recently processed finds in trays at back (Image Copyright: Emily Rayner)

Throughout the 2012 season, the University of York also had a presence at a number of Harewood events, including [Museums at Night](#), Festival of British Archaeology and the [Medieval Faire](#). These have provided an opportunity for the project to be active on-site during times when Harewood has an increased number of visitors coming to find out more about the history of the estate, who might have a particular interest in the research at Gawthorpe Hall.

For the [Medieval Harewood](#) season, an exhibition was created by Grace Flood and Emily Rayner in the Terrace Gallery. This displayed finds from the excavation, including a silver ring found during the 2011 season, prints and maps of the landscape of Gawthorpe, artist responses to the archaeology, and quotes from the archives about the hall and gardens.

As well as the extensive public engagement programme which has been created, the funding also allowed training sessions to be given to members of Harewood House Trust. These sessions focused on providing House Stewards and volunteers with the skills to present archaeological material to the public. In the house many of the objects cannot be handled, and those that can be are handled infrequently, wearing conservator's gloves. The first sessions therefore focused on encouraging staff and volunteers to pick up the artefacts, and take a closer look to help them when describing the objects to a public audience. Working together with the staff and volunteers meant the project also benefited from sharing knowledge about visitor needs and experiences.



Figure 4: Author giving a talk to members of the Harewood House Trust with finds (Image Copyright: Emily Rayner)

The next step in the public engagement of the Gawthorpe excavations is to evaluate the impact of this season's activities. There have been many challenges this year and it is important to learn from these experiences before taking the public engagement programme any further. For example, one major issue that the site faces is its situation within the park. Visitors can currently only access the site through guided tours, or when it is open through specific events. These are both restricted to people able to pay to gain entry to the house and grounds, or to attend these events. Therefore, the impact of this programme is at present, limited to people already visiting Harewood House, or visiting through an organisation, such as a school or local interest group. A possible way to overcome this would be to increase the outreach aspect of the project, and also to improve online content to allow more accessibility to those unable to physically visit the site itself. As with any such project, there is such possibility with the public engagement of Gawthorpe, and this evaluation stage is vital in helping to channel the direction of this for the future.

## Bibliography

anon.nd. 'Types of Learning Styles'. <http://www.learningguide.org/learningstyles.htm> [Accessed November 2, 2012]

Auty, J. (2010) 'Harewood House Trust: Education and Audience Development Forward Plan', unpublished

Tarlow, S. and West, S. (1998) *Familiar Past? Archaeologies of Later Historical Britain, 1550-1950*. London: Routledge

Tatlioglu, T. (2010) 'Biographies of People and Place: The Harewood Estate 1698-1813', unpublished PhD thesis, University of York

# The work of the Humber Sites and Monuments Record

Katharine Newman<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hull City Council, The Old School, Northumberland Avenue, Hull, HU2 0LN

Email: [katharine.newman@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:katharine.newman@hullcc.gov.uk)

The Humber Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) currently hold approximately 18,000 records, comprising all recorded historic and archaeological sites in the Hull and East Riding area. To each record, or monument, we assign a unique number – that unique reference number then relates to that monument and any relevant sources also held in the SMR. We store information in both paper and electronic format and the range of material we hold is vast – from historic maps, to aerial photographs, articles, bibliographic references and the results of archaeological fieldwork. In addition to the monument records, we also hold data on events or activities relating to archaeological fieldwork that has been carried out.

I work for the Humber SMR in an assistant role, and as such I help the SMR Officers with multiple different aspects of the work carried out in an SMR, ranging from updating the database (an on-going task as new sites and developments are coming up all the time), to helping with consulting on planning applications, such as hedgerow removals or Farm Environment Plans (FEPs). The work is immensely varied and I think that is a big attraction for people wanting to begin a career in this profession. From day to day the work is always different as the material is never the same, with new sites, new discoveries and new enhancements constantly being added to those records we already hold.



*The Humber SMR office at work (Image Copyright: Katharine Newman)*

For me personally, the attraction to working in the SMR/HER (Historic Environment Record) sector is its close relationship with archaeology. Following the completion of my BSc Archaeology degree at the University of York, I was determined to find work within that area. Aside from fieldwork and academia, the choices may seem slim, but the SMR/HER offers a fascinating alternative. Working with a dataset as massive as that held by an SMR/HER means that you are constantly learning, and become intimately familiar with the archaeology and history of the area within which you work. You also get the opportunity to try and protect the heritage that exists – whether that be fighting against the removal of a hedgerow that marks a medieval open field boundary or commenting on FEPs, where you can offer management advice on how best to protect the archaeology on that land.

Public engagement is a large part of working in any SMR/HER. As a council-run department we are open, by appointment, to members of the public, who frequently come to view the records, either to research a particular site or just to learn more about their local area. In order to fully engage with the public, as well as inviting them to come to us, we also go out on visits to schools and societies, giving talks and information about what the SMR does and how to get in touch with us. The SMR therefore plays a vital role in helping the local community engage with their heritage because we offer them a direct channel to a wealth of knowledge that is already collated and freely available, providing resources that might be very difficult and time-consuming to find otherwise. It is also a mutually beneficial relationship as any new information provided by members of the public is added to our records.

In summary, working for the SMR is a constant learning process, which involves becoming intimately acquainted with the archaeology of an area and trying to protect that heritage. Public engagement is a very important consideration and we try to make people aware, and proud, of the rich and varied history of the Humber and East Riding area.

# Submissions information

The full information for contributors, including submission rules and copyright, is available on *The Post Hole* website at:

<http://www.theposthole.org/authors>

## Submission deadlines

*The Post Hole* releases nine issues per academic year on a **monthly** basis between October and June. The submissions deadline for all of *The Post Hole's* monthly issues is the **final Wednesday** of the preceding month.

## Submission length

Articles of any length **up to 2,500 words** are welcome, though keeping below 2,000 words is preferable.

## Figures

Photographs, graphs, plans and other images are also welcome as they usually help illustrate the content of submissions. All images should be submitted separately to any documents (i.e. not embedded in text, but sent to *The Post Hole* as attachments).

It is preferable that photographs are submitted in **.jpg format**, and graphs, plans and other linear images are submitted in **.png format**. Please contact the Submissions Editor if you are unsure about image formats or anything else regarding your submission.

## How to submit

All submissions should be sent to *The Post Hole* **Submissions Editor, Tess Margetts**, by email ([submissions@theposthole.org](mailto:submissions@theposthole.org)).

*The Post Hole* may in the near future establish an online submissions system on its website. Details will be released about this should it happen. Submissions by email will continue as normal.

Back cover: *Minoan town of Akrotiri beneath modern protective roof* (Image Copyright: Rianca Vogels)

*The Post Hole* is an archaeology journal run by students at the University of York (UK). It publishes articles on a wide range of archaeological topics, from prehistory to the present day, giving readers the latest news, research and events in the world of archaeology.

Issues are released via our website at the start of each month and are available to anyone. If you are interested in writing for *The Post Hole*, you can read information for contributors on our website, or contact us (submissions@theposthole.org).

*The Post Hole* was established in 2008 and since then has become the premier student-run archaeology journal in the UK. The journal has a diverse audience which continues to grow with the recent redevelopment of its website and new social media presence.

Additionally, hard copies of issues are printed for students and academics in a number of university departments across the UK. Please contact us if you are interested in receiving hard copies of issues.

Follow The Post Hole online,



[www.theposthole.org](http://www.theposthole.org)



<http://goo.gl/ZELcI>



<http://goo.gl/mwAV8>



<http://goo.gl/sE5cT>

