

Minutes of the meeting of

THE SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS ALLOCATION PANEL

11.00pm Wednesday 31 August 2011
NMS, Chambers Street, Edinburgh

Present: Professor Ian Ralston (Chair), Ms Jane Robinson (MGS Panel appointee), Ms Jilly Burns (NMS Panel appointee), Mr Neil Curtis (Aberdeen University Museums), Mr John Urquhart (lay member) (Present for items 1-5)

In attendance: Mr Stuart Campbell (TTU), Ms Angela Short (TTU), Mr Campbell took the minutes. Andrew Brown (QLTR Solicitor) present from item 4 onwards.

Apologies: Mr David Connolly

1. Chairman's remarks

John Urquhart and Jilly Burns were welcomed to their first meeting, although Mr. Urquhart had attended the March meeting of the panel as an observer as his term of appointment had not then commenced.

Ms Burns was the new representative of NMS on the panel, replacing Dr Sheridan whose long service was acknowledged with thanks. Ms Burns noted that her remit would be to take part in the deliberations of the Panel, but she was not briefed to speak on administrative matters to do with the operation of the TT system, which remained the preserve of NMS' senior management.

2. Minutes of meeting on 21 March 2011

Accepted with correction from Neil Curtis; that 'Marischal Museum' should be changed to 'Aberdeen University Museums' to reflect reorganisation. Mr Curtis also asked that the minutes record that he was absent while case 90/10 was being decided.

It was also decided that Jane Robinson and Stuart Campbell would work towards creating a first draft of the standing bid as discussed at the March meeting.

3. New Cases

CO.TT. no	Object(s)	Reward	Museum
1/11	Iron Age excavation assemblage, Dun Carloway, Lewis, Western Isles	n/a	Stornoway

2/11	18 th -19 th century excavation assemblage, Swallow Village, Dundee West, Dundee	n/a	Dundee
3/11	Late medieval to modern excavation assemblage, Gardyne's Land, High Street, Dundee	n/a	Dundee
4/11	Post-medieval excavation assemblage, 40-42 Elbe Street, Leith, Edinburgh	n/a	Edinburgh
5/11	Medieval, post-medieval and modern excavation assemblage, Bells Mill, Dean Village, Edinburgh	n/a	DISCLAIM
6/11	19 th century excavation assemblage, Holyrood High School, Duddingston, Edinburgh	n/a	Edinburgh
7/11	Late 18 th -20 th century excavation assemblage, Linktown Pottery, Links Street, Kirkcaldy, Fife	n/a	Fife
8/11	Medieval – modern excavation assemblage, 20-22 Esplanade, Kirkcaldy, Fife	n/a	DISCLAIM
9/11	Medieval and 19 th /20 th century excavation assemblage, Dykebarhill Farmstead, Paisley, Renfrewshire	n/a	Kelvingrove
10/11	Medieval and 19 th /20 th century excavation assemblage, Shuttle Street/Witherspoon Street, Paisley, Renfrewshire	n/a	Kelvingrove
11/11	Medieval/post-medieval excavation assemblage, Melgund Castle, Aberlemno, Angus	n/a	Angus
12/11	Medieval/post-medieval excavation assemblage, Queen's Close, Montrose, Angus	n/a	Angus
13/11	Iron Age excavation assemblage, Applecross Broch, Applecross, Wester Ross, Highland	n/a	NMS*
14/11	Prehistoric excavation assemblage, Allasdale Dunes, Isle of Barra, Western	n/a	Stornoway

Isles			
15/11	Roman excavation assemblage, Drumlanrig Fort, Dumfries and Galloway	n/a	Dumfries
16/11	Early medieval/post-medieval excavation assemblage, Baliscate Chapel, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute	n/a	Mull
17/11	Medieval/post-medieval excavation assemblage, Wemyss Cave, East Wemyss, Fife	n/a	DISCLAIM
18/11	Medieval/post-medieval excavation assemblage, The Hospice, St Leonard's School, St Andrews, Fife	n/a	DISCLAIM
19/11	Medieval/post-medieval excavation assemblage, St John's Court, 61-71 South Street, St Andrews, Fife	n/a	DISCLAIM
20/11	Neolithic excavation assemblage, Berneray Causeway, North Uist and Berneray, Western Isles	n/a	Stornoway
21/11	Iron Age excavation assemblage, An Corran, Boreray, North Uist, Western Isles	n/a	Stornoway
22/11	Neolithic excavation assemblage, Barpa Langais, North Uist, Western Isles	n/a	Stornoway
23/11	19 th century excavation assemblage, Torrorie Farm, Kirkbean, Dumfries & Galloway	n/a	Dumfries
24/11	Post-medieval excavation assemblage, Helen Place, North Queensferry, Fife	n/a	DISCLAIM
25/11	19 th century excavation assemblage, Elie, High Street/Hycroft, Fife	n/a	DISCLAIM
26/11	Neolithic/Bronze Age excavation assemblage, Broom Lodge, Mill Road, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire	n/a	NMS
27/11	Prehistoric excavation assemblage, Whitecrook Quarry, Glenluce, Dumfries And Galloway	n/a	Stranraer

28/11	Post-medieval excavation assemblage, Parliament House Void, High Street, Edinburgh	n/a	Edinburgh
29/11	Bronze Age excavation assemblage, Kilkeddan Cist, Campbeltown, Argyll & Bute	n/a	Kilmartin
30/11	Prehistoric and post-medieval excavation assemblage, A830 upgrading, Lochaber, Loch Nan Uamh – Arisaig, Highland	n/a	NMS*
31/11	5 Bronze /Age Iron Age objects, Burghead, Moray	£75	Elgin
32/11	Medieval Gold finger ring, Burghead, Moray	£1500	Elgin
33/11	65 medieval & later objects, Burghead, Moray	£150	Elgin
34/11	5 Early Historic objects, Clarkly Hill, Moray	£975	Elgin
35/11	Cup & ring marked stone, Dunsyre, South Lanarkshire	£400	Biggar
36/11	263 Prehistoric objects, North Uist, Western Isles	£250	DEFER**
37/11	3 medieval & later finds, Inchaffray, Perth & Kinross	£180	Perth
38/11	A medieval intaglio seal matrix, Doune, Stirling	£6000	NMS*
39/11	41 medieval & later finds, Loch Leven, Perth & Kinross	£255	DISCLAIM
40/11	Roman finger ring, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire	£250	NMS*
41/11	11 medieval coins & objects, Belladrum, Highland	£420	Inverness
42/11	8 post-medieval objects, Burntisland, Fife	£35	Fife

43/11	Ring-headed pin & 3 other finds, Culross, Fife	£100	Fife
44/11	Roman brooch & coin, Craigmillar, Edinburgh	n/a	Edinburgh
45/11	Medieval silver penny, Wester Balgedie, Perth & Kinross	£3000	Perth
46/11	Medieval seal matrix, Prestonpans, East Lothian	£125	East Lothian
47/11	Roman brooch, Robertson, Scottish Borders	£15-20	DEFER
48/11	Medieval harness pendant, Prestonpans, East Lothian	£175	East Lothian
49/11	Medieval zoomorphic spur, Lanton, Scottish Borders	£250	NMS*
50/11	17 th century weight set, Leslie, Fife	£200	Fife
51/11	3 medieval finds, Crail, Fife	£325	Fife
52/11	18 medieval & later objects, Doune, Stirling	£100	NMS
53/11	A medieval silver finger ring Kinross, Perth & Kinross	£550	Perth
54/11	A post-medieval weight set, Rosemarkie, Highland	£300	Groam House
55/11	A gilded medieval strapend, Crichton, Midlothian	£75	NMS*
56/11	An Anglo-Saxon strapend, Crichton, Midlothian	£25	NMS*
57/11	A Roman Eagle headed terminal, Selkirk, Scottish Borders	£1250	NMS*
58/11	Medieval graveslab, Temple, Midlothian	£500	NMS*
59/11	Iron Age stone disc, Virkie, Shetland	£25	Shetland
60/11	Neolithic mace head, Firth, Orkney	£650	Orkney

*These cases were accepted by the relevant institutions in the absence of bids from local museums.

**IR & SC to draft letter requesting further details about the circumstance of finding.

In all instances representatives of NMS and Aberdeen University Museums were absent when cases concerning their institutions were discussed.

4. QLTR business

Excavation Assemblages

The manner in which the system dealt with excavation assemblages was discussed with regard to the recirculation of the paper earlier prepared by Mr. Campbell. At the moment it was standard practice to automatically claim assemblages from organised fieldwork and it was a significant question whether all the material required to go through the TT system. It was recognised that the briefs which Local Authority Archaeologists set excavators added significantly to this problem, as many required 100% retention strategies, thereby including material of little or no value. The following points were advanced as a way forward and certain actions agreed.

1. That the QLTR write to ALGAO setting out the concerns and issues and asking whether the parameters for briefs be considered against what was presently coming into the system.

Action - SC to draft letter for QLTR

2. To consider giving discretion to the TTU whether material was worth claiming as TT, as was the case before the pilot. This would be in concert with point 3 below to alert museums and ask for comments.

Action- SC & AB to consider whether Code requires to be adjusted as result.

3. QLTR to issue a notice to advise that certain classes and categories of objects do not need to be reported from organised fieldwork. This would pre-empt objects entering the system and identify categories upon which the TTU could exercise their discretion.

Action- SC & JR to draft parameters for consideration at next SAFAP meeting.

4. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to encourage excavators to speak to local museums in advance of reporting to establish what the local museum might be interested in.

5. AB to advise Scottish Government of above points and concerns, in particular in relation to the planning process.

6. Once parameters of 3 (above) are set all local authorities and excavators to be informed.

TTU Operational Plan and Roles & Responsibilities

AB invited comments from SAFAP members on these documents in advance of a meeting between Scottish Government and Crown Office, NMS and TTU staff.

It was noted that the Scottish Government had advertised for the Chair of SAFAP position, interviews were due to take place the week of 5th September and the QLTR would be on the panel.

The panel were asked to provide valuation information for case 98/10. Based on comparanda provided by the TTU they agreed to a value of £150.

5. AOCB

The panel was asked to consider a suggestion by the QLTR that museums be allocated objects on the precondition they acknowledge the finder when the object is displayed. It was felt that this in principle was a very positive step, but impossible to monitor. However it was felt appropriate that museums be encouraged to do this as a positive step in recognising the efforts of finders.

SC circulated statistics on finds reporting by LAA, as requested at last meeting.

SC provided an update on the provision of numismatic services to the TTU; as of now the Hunterian Museum has expressed willingness to carry on this work.

SC provided an update on case 58/10 where the museum to which the object had been allocated declined to accept the allocation as they felt the ex gratia payment was too high. After consideration the QLTR had decided to allocate the find to West Lothian Museums Service

Action Points-

- SC & JR to draft standing bid
- IR & SC to draft letter regarding 36/11
- SC to draft letter for QLTR
- SC & AB to consider whether Code requires to be adjusted as result of proposed changes to excavation procedures
- SC & JR to draft parameters for consideration at next SAFAP meeting

