

# DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of

## THE SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS ALLOCATION PANEL

11.00AM Monday 12 December 2011  
NMS, Chambers Street, Edinburgh

**Present:** Professor Ian Ralston (Chair), Ms Jilly Burns (NMS Panel appointee), Mr Neil Curtis, Mr John Urquhart (lay member), Mr David Connolly,

**In attendance:** Mr Stuart Campbell (TTU), Miss Natasha Ferguson (TTU), Dr Evelyn Silber. Miss Ferguson took the minutes. Andrew Brown (QTLR Solicitor) present from item 4 onwards.

**Apologies:** Ms Jane Robinson (MGS Panel appointee)

### 1. Chairman's remarks

Evelyn Silber, who is to be the new chair of the panel, was welcomed to the meeting as an observer. It was also noted that this will be Professor Ralston's last panel meeting as Chair.

### 2. Minutes of meeting on 31 August 2011

Accepted with correction; that the last sentence of paragraph 1 (starting 'It was noted') in the Chairman's remarks should be deleted.

Panel agreed that an on-going list of discussion points should be kept from SAFAP and Annual review meetings to inform revisions of the code of practice.

### 3. New Cases

It was agreed that excavators submitting assemblages should be made aware of the time it would take to process material given the quantity of assemblages currently being submitted.

CO.TT.no	Objects	Reward	Museum
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#### Deferred Cases

36/11	263 Prehistoric objects, North Uist, Western Isles	£150	Museum nan Eilean, Stornoway
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47/11	Roman Brooch, Roberton	£15	National Museums of Scotland
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### New Cases

61/11	Late Bronze Age socketed axehead, Kiltarlity, Highland	£80	Inverness Museum
62/11	2 Bronze Age objects, Loch Leven, Perth & Kinross	n/a	Perth Museum
63/11	Neolithic Axehead, Aberuthven, Perth & Kinross	£90	Perth Museum
64/11	Neolithic Axehead, Larbert, Falkirk	£90	Falkirk Museum
65/11	Bronze Age flat axehead, Inverness, Highland	£280	Inverness Museum
66/11	Fragment of Late Bronze Age axehead, Prestonpans, East Lothian	£50	East Lothian Council Museums
67/11	Neolithic Axehead, Keith, Moray	£250	Elgin Museum
68/11	Late Bronze Age sword blade fragment, Collin, Dumfries & Galloway	£25	Dumfries Museum
69/11	Bronze Age flanged axehead, Wanlockhead, Dumfries & Galloway	£300	Dumfries Museum
70/11	Early Bronze Age halberd, Kelton, Dumfries & Galloway	£400	Dumfries Museum
71/11	Early Bronze Age halberd, Stravannan, Isle of Bute, Argyll & Bute	£300	National Museums of Scotland
72/11	Medieval enamelled crucifix mount, Dechmont, West Lothian	£50	West Lothian Councils Museum
73/11	9 medieval & later objects, Dunkeld, Perth & Kinross	£300	Perth Museum
74/11	Papal bulla & lead patron, Coupar Angus, Perth & Kinross	£90	Perth Museum
75/11	Iron Age harness fitting, Pitroddie, Perth & Kinross	£20	Perth Museum
76/11	Medieval annular brooch, Falkland, Fife	£30	National Museum of Scotland
77/11	Roman brooch, Montrose, Angus	£20	Montrose Museum

78/11	Iron Age strap fitting, Cortleferry, Scottish Borders	£40	National Museum of Scotland
79/11	Post-medieval silver dress fitting, Scone, Perth & Kinross	£50	Perth Museum
80/11	17th century posy ring, Cullen, Moray	£750	Aberdeen University Museum
81/11	3 Roman/Iron Age objects, Dalswinton, Dumfries & Galloway	£65	Dumfries Museum
82/11	Roman lead weight, Townhead, Dumfries & Galloway	£50	Dumfries Museum
83/11	2 medieval objects, Ballygrant, Islay, Argyll & Bute	£100	Museum of Islay Life
84/11	Assemblage of musket balls, Prestonpans, East Lothian	n/a	East Lothian Council Museums
85/11	Battlefield artefact, Prestonpans, East Lothian	£15	East Lothian Council Museums
86/11	Battlefield artefact, Prestonpans, East Lothian	£15	East Lothian Council Museums
87/11	Battlefield artefact, Prestonpans, East Lothian	£15	East Lothian Council Museums
88/11	Battlefield artefact, Prestonpans, East Lothian	£15	East Lothian Council Museums
89/11	Battlefield artefact, Prestonpans, East Lothian	£15	East Lothian Council Museums
90/11	Assemblage of stone artefacts, Isle of Arran, North Ayrshire	n/a	Arran Museum
91/11	Medieval anchor, Camuscroise Bay, Isle of Skye, Highland	£250	Skye Museum of Island Life

JB left the room for discussions regarding cases 47/11; 71/11; 76/11; 78/11

NC left the room for discussions regarding case 80/11

DC and NF left the room for discussions regarding cases 84/11 – 89/11

#### **4. QTLR business**

*Excavation assemblages*

The ongoing issues surrounding the claiming and allocation of excavation assemblages was discussed in line with the documents drawn up by SC and JR. It was agreed that an essential aspect was to ensure greater communication between the local authority archaeology services and the relevant museum services as to what material should be retained. This would then inform retention and collecting policies during the excavation. The Panel considered that it would greatly assist matters if excavation briefs were more focussed and it was suggested that an approach to ALGAO might initiate consideration of that.

**AP-** SC to draft letter to send to ALGAO& paper summing up issues discussed for QLTR.

#### *Standing Bid developments*

The papers produced by JR and SC were discussed. It was noted that the use of these documents would be as standing information in support of a bid rather than an application itself, and museums would still need to actively notify the TTU.

**AP-SC** to amend documents in light of comments

#### *Scottish Law Commission paper on moveable property*

The documents previously circulated by AB were discussed. Comments from SAFAP will be included in the response to the Scottish Law Commission.

### **5. AGM-Protocol and operational plan for the TTU**

It was noted that the number of assemblages which the TTU was expected to deal with was lower than the overall number of archaeological interventions which take place in Scotland each year, although it is clear that material takes some time to be declared to the TTU.

This issue will be kept under review in line with the overall issues with excavation assemblages.

### **6. AOCB**

The panel discussed a request from ComhairlenanEileanSiar regarding allocation of the Udal excavation assemblage prior to the post-excavation work being complete. It was agreed that this could also be an issue in other cases, as some funding sources may be contingent on an assemblage being allocated to a particular museum. However it was agreed that it would be necessary to have a clear idea of the type and significance of the material before decisions could be taken in such cases.

**AP-** SC to draft briefing to QLTR

The Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage (ARCH) scheme run by English heritage was discussed; SC to attend conference in Lincoln

The use of OASIS to streamline the TTU process around excavation assemblages was discussed.

It was agreed that NMS senior management would be invited to attend the next TT annual review meeting.

As this was the last meeting of SAFAP under the current chair Professor Ralston was thanked for his leadership of the Panel over his term of office, not least his invaluable contribution on the Code of Practice.

Action Points:

SC to draft letter to send to ALGAO & a paper summing up the issues discussed for QLTR. (sec 4, assemblages)

SC to advise applied companies of likely timescales for processing assemblages

SC to amend documents in light of comments (Sec 4, standing bids)

SC to draft briefing to QLTR (Sec 6, assemblages)

SC to follow up acknowledgement from outgoing chair to Western Isles Council by contact with that body re: the Udal assemblage.

### **Dates of next Meetings**

The dates of the forthcoming panel meetings were agreed as March 15<sup>th</sup>, June 28<sup>th</sup> and October 29<sup>th</sup> 2012.