

Minutes of the meeting of

THE SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS ALLOCATION PANEL

10:45am, Thursday 29th October 2015

Present: Dr Evelyn Silber (Chair), Neil Curtis, Dr Murray Cook, Richard Welander (Historic Scotland), Jennifer Youngson (MGS), Jilly Burns (NMS). Dr Mary McLeod-Rivett, Paul MacDonald

In attendance: Stuart Campbell (TTU), Dr Natasha Ferguson (TTU), Andrew Brown (QLTR Solicitor). Dr Natasha Ferguson took the minutes

1. Apologies

There were no apologies or absentees from the meeting.

2. Chair Remarks

The Chair welcomed Paul MacDonald who has been recently appointed to the panel as a lay member.

The Chair highlighted the dates for the upcoming panel meetings in 2016 as suggested by the TTU and asked the panel to confirm whether these dates were still suitable. The panel agreed the following dates:

Thursday 24th March 2016

Thursday 16th June 2016

Thursday 27th October 2016

The Chair also highlighted to the panel supplementary meeting dates such as the Annual Review Meeting and an additional meeting to consider the Dumfries Hoard when it is ready for allocation.

The Chair raised with the panel the importance of expressing any potential conflicts of interest that may arise in the process of panel business so that the panel continues to remain fair and impartial. The Chair requested that all panel members must remain aware of any potential conflicts of interest and to leave the room when such cases are discussed.

***AP** AB suggests the process of declaring potential conflicts of interest should become a standing agenda item before the Chair Remarks. Any potential conflicts of interest and subsequent action will be noted in the minutes.

The Chair asked RW to update the panel on recent changes within the heritage sector and the creation of Historic Environment Scotland, the new lead public body for the country's historic environment which brings together Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland.

The Chair reported to the panel that she has met Alastair Hackett, Scottish representative for the National Council for Metal Detecting, a regular annual meeting with NCMD.

3. Treasure Trove Unit Report

SC reported to the panel on the recent significant discovery of a Roman silver hoard by hobbyist metal detectorists during an organised event. NMS and TTU staff directed a subsequent excavation to ensure to establish the archaeological context of the hoard and to ensure full recovery.

The panel discussed issues relating to agreements amongst individuals pre and post discovery in cases where there are potentially multiple finders. AB and SC noted that disagreements raised by finders are often time consuming.

SC reported that NF was interviewed on BBC Scotland's Newsdrive in relation to the allocation of a Bronze Age hoard on the Isle of Coll to the Kilmartin Museum.

SC reported that the TTU outreach programme was continuing with a number of Finds Days and workshops. This includes TTU events in association with the East of Scotland Museums Partnership touring exhibition. The TTU will also be contributing a workshop at the Scottish Community Heritage Conference in Blair Atholl in November 2015.

NF reported that she has been working with postgraduate students from the University of Glasgow on a project to digitise some of the TTU archives. NF would like to recognise their hard work and dedication to this project over the last year.

NF reported on the launch of a partnership project with Historic Environment Scotland. The project, Assessment of the Extent and Character of Hobbyist Metal Detecting Activity in Scotland, aims to produce quantifiable data in order to inform further guidance documents, policy frameworks and outreach within the heritage sector. After a tendering process GUARD Archaeology Ltd will be implementing the project, under the direction of NF from TTU and Kevin Munro from HES. The project will be observed by a reference group with individuals drawn from the heritage sector, academia and the metal detecting community.

4. QLTR Business and Panel Business

AB highlighted potential revisions of the Code of Practice to be discussed further at the next Annual Review Meeting on 9th November 2015.

AB also highlighted potential revisions of procedure regarding contacting museums post panel meeting in relation to allocations to be discussed further at Annual Review Meeting.

JB leaves the room.

RW updated the panel on the progress of the Dumfries hoard which is currently undergoing conservation. A timescale on completion is currently under discussion to take into account the complexity of dealing with organic material.

The panel agreed that information viewed by the panel in relation to the allocation Dumfries Hoard should be in a written format and available to all parties. Therefore the presence of specialists at the meeting is considered to be unnecessary.

***AP:** SC and RW to report back to SAFAP regarding timescale after consultations have taken place.

5. Cases

In those instances where a case involved an institution to which a member of SAFAP belonged, that individual was absent from the room for the discussion of allocation or determining the ex gratia award. This included JB and NC in relation to cases involving National Museum Scotland and Aberdeen University Museum respectively.

New Cases

Summary:

Chance Finds- 50

Excavation assemblages - 14

Cases with multiple applications - 14

Cases with no applications- 9

* Museum accepting in place of no application from a local museum

Case list in order of Local Authority:

Chance Finds

TT. No	Description	Ex Gratia	Museum	Local Authority
097/15	MBA flanged chisel, Brechin	£15	Brechin Town House Museum	Angus
117/15	Early modern inscribed spindle whorl, Muirhead	£45	Meffan Museum	Angus
079/15	Neolithic polished stone axehead, Southend	£125	Campbeltown Museum	Argyll & Bute
107/15	Countermarked 18th century coin, Isle of Bute	£575	Bute Museum	Argyll & Bute
103/15	EBA arrowhead, Bunessan, Isle of Mull	£85	Mull Museum	Argyll and Bute
104/15	19th century beggar's badge, Alloa	£100	Hunterian Museum & Art Gallery*	Clackmannanshire
069/15	Medieval silver annular brooch, St	£130	Stewartry Museum	Dumfries & Galloway

	John's Town of Dalry,			
073/15	Early Historic sword pommel, Sandhead	£450	Stewartry Museum	Dumfries & Galloway
074/15	17th century defaced coin, Carsluith	£175	Stewartry Museum	Dumfries & Galloway
101/15	Medieval gold stirrup ring, Crossmichael	£1000	Stewartry Museum	Dumfries & Galloway
105/15	Medieval coin hoard, Twynholm	£11,637	Disclaimed	Dumfries & Galloway
109/15	Post-medieval gold finger ring St John's Town of Dalry	£1200	Stewartry Museum	Dumfries & Galloway
112/15	Medieval coin hoard, Closeburn	£12,483	Disclaimed	Dumfries & Galloway
116/15	Iron age strap mount, Crossmichael	£200	Stewartry Museum	Dumfries & Galloway
089/15	Iron Age terret, Airth	£2000	Falkirk Museum	Falkirk
094/15	Medieval seal matrix, St Andrews	£150	Fife Cultural Trust: St Andrews Museum	Fife
071/15	Medieval harness fitting, Kingsbarns	£125	Fife Cultural Trust: St Andrews Museum	Fife
072/15	Medieval harness fitting, Kingsbarns	£150	Fife Cultural Trust: St Andrews Museum	Fife
081/15	BA flat axehead, Leslie	£150	Fife Cultural Trust: Kirkcaldy Museum	Fife
087/15	Iron Age loop fastener, Leslie	£100	Fife Cultural Trust: Kirkcaldy	Fife

			Museum	
088/15	Romano-British brooch fragment, Gateside	£125	Fife Cultural Trust: Pittencrief House Museum	Fife
095/15	Medieval seal matrix, Boarhills	£10,000	Fife Cultural Trust: St Andrews Museum	Fife
096/15	17th century silver sleeve link, Kingsbarns	£25	Fife Cultural Trust: St Andrews Museum	Fife
098/15	Early Historic strap mount, Letham	£175	Fife Cultural Trust: St Andrews Museum	Fife
102/15	Early Medieval/Medieval dress pin, Boarhills	£45	Fife Cultural Trust: St Andrews Museum	Fife
106/15	Early Historic brooch fragment and Early historic mount, Boarhills	£650	Fife Cultural Trust: St Andrews Museum	Fife
108/15	Post-medieval seal matrix, Culross	£25	Fife Cultural Trust: Pittencrief House Museum	Fife
113/15	Medieval swivel ring/leash mount, Boarhills	£25	Fife Cultural Trust: St Andrews Museum	Fife
082/15	BA socketed axehead fragment, Munloch	£15	Inverness Museum & Art Gallery	Highland
084/15	BA flanged axehead, Ardersier	£275	Inverness Museum & Art Gallery	Highland
085/15	BA flat axehead, Auldearn	£150	Nairn Museum	Highland
115/15	Roman brooch, Dalcross	£65	Inverness Museum & Art Gallery	Highland
070/15	Medieval zoomorphic buckle, Pathhead	£35	National Museums Scotland	Midlothian
090/15	Roman stud mount, Fala	£125	National Museums	Midlothian

			Scotland	
111/15	Medieval silver ring brooch, Pathhead	£150	National Museums Scotland	Midlothian
068/15	Medieval mount or matrix, Fowlis	£65	Perth Museum & Art Gallery	Perth & Kinross
076/15	17th century toy rattle, Pitlochry	£25	Perth Museum & Art Gallery	Perth & Kinross
080/15	Neolithic polished stone axehead, Coupar Angus	£125	Perth Museum & Art Gallery	Perth & Kinross
086/15	Iron Age loop fastener, Errol	£15	Perth Museum & Art Gallery	Perth & Kinross
091/15	17 th century conflict assemblage, Dunkeld	waived	Perth Museum & Art Gallery	Perth & Kinross
093/15	Medieval seal matrix, Kirkton	£150	Perth Museum & Art Gallery	Perth & Kinross
110/15	Medieval swivel ring/ leash mount, Bishopton	£25	Disclaimed	Renfrewshire
077/15	2 medieval coins from hoard, Drumelzier	waived	Tweeddale Museum	Scottish Borders
083/15	BA flanged axehead, Selkirk	£340	National Museums Scotland*	Scottish Borders
099/15	Medieval gold cross and bronze mount, Blanerne	£1200	Coldstream Museum	Scottish Borders
100/15	17th century gold ring, Morebattle	£450	Coldstream Museum	Scottish Borders
114/15	Early historic mount, Hawick	£250	Disclaimed	Scottish Borders
078/15	Medieval coin hoard, Lanark	£1451	Lanark Museum	South Lanarkshire
075/15	Bronze Age axehead, Stirling	£200	Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum	Stirling
092/15	18th century plaque or mount, Stirling	£25	Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum	Stirling

Excavation Assemblages

TT. No	Description	Location	Museum	Local Authority
118/15	Multi-period excavation assemblage	Maryculter, Fetteresso	Aberdeen University Museums	Aberdeenshire
122/15	Post-medieval to 19th century excavation assemblage	Campbeltown	Campbeltown Museum	Argyll & Bute
120/15	Modern excavation assemblage	Earlston Castle, St. John's Town of Dalry	Disclaimed	Dumfries and Galloway
125/15	WWII excavation assemblage	Calder Cleugh	East Lothian Museum Service	East Lothian
123/15	Early modern excavation assemblage	Falkirk	Disclaimed	Falkirk
119/15	Early bronze age excavation assemblage	Sannox Quarry, Arran	Isle of Arran Heritage Museum	North Ayrshire
124/15	Multi-period excavation assemblage	Cuween-Wideford, Orkney	Orkney Museum	Orkney Islands
127/15	Post medieval excavation assemblage	Chapelgill, Glen Cotho	Disclaimed	Scottish Borders
128/15	Bronze age excavation assemblage	Fruid Reservoir	Biggar Museums Trust	Scottish Borders
129/15	Post medieval excavation assemblage	Mossfennan Farm, Logan	Biggar Museums Trust	Scottish Borders
130/15	Prehistoric excavation assemblage	Megget Reservoir	Disclaimed	Scottish Borders
131/15	Prehistoric excavation assemblage	Mossfennan Farm, Woodend	Disclaimed	Scottish Borders

121/15	Prehistoric-medieval excavation assemblage	Ferniegair, Allanton	Low Parks Museum	South Lanarkshire
126/15	Mesolithic excavation assemblage	Burnetland Farm	Biggar Museums Trust	South Lanarkshire

JB left the room regarding cases: TT.070/15; TT.090/15; TT.111/15; TT.083/15

NC left the room regarding case: TT.118/15

In cases marked with an * the relevant museum acquired these objects

The Chair wished to highlight cases TT. 105/15 and TT.112/15 where there was no application due to an inability by museums to fund the ex gratia award.

6. AOCB

JB reported to the panel that the National Fund for Acquisitions have been given an additional £70,000 by the Scottish Government for the current financial year (2015/2016). The pressure on grants for Treasure Trove objects is therefore reduced.

ES thanked the panel for contributions to the SAFAP response to HES consultation for Scotland's Archaeology Strategy.

Next panel meeting is Thursday 24th March 2016

List of Action Points

***AP** The process of declaring potential conflicts of interest will become a standing agenda item before the Chair Remarks. Any potential conflicts of interest and subsequent action will be noted in the minutes.

***AP** The Chair will write to the Chief Executive of Historic Environment Scotland, David Middleton, to request confirmation that, following the merger, HES wish to continue to be represented on the panel by an ex-officio member.

***AP:** SC and RW to report back to SAFAP regarding timescale for Galloway Hoard conservation after consultations have taken place.

END OF MINUTES

