

Connecting communities to the ancient landscape 2017.
With thanks to our funders who made the East Lomond Hillfort archaeology programme possible.

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**HISTORY
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• 2017 •

East Lomond Hillfort in context

Saturday 11th November 2017

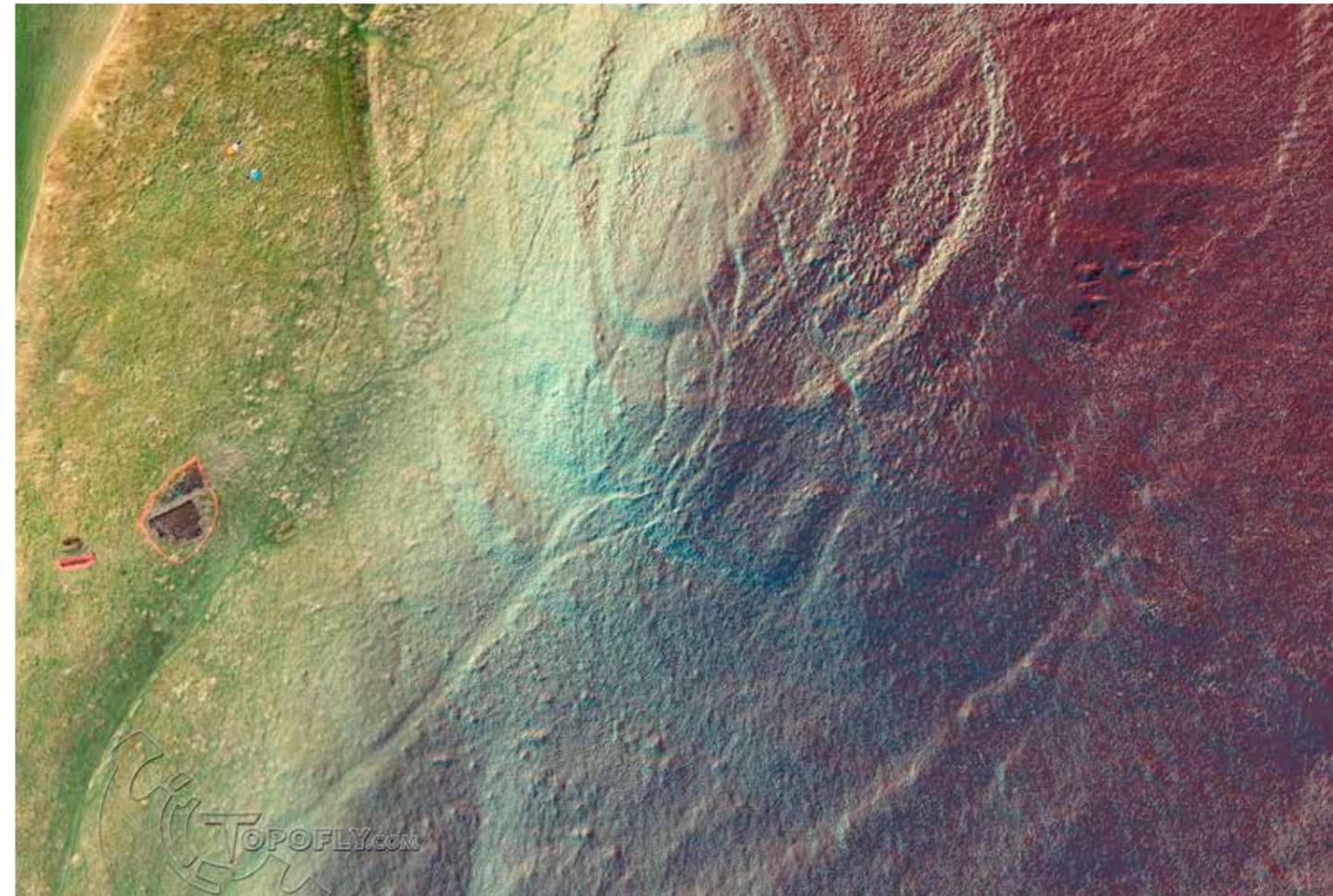


Image courtesy of TopoFly

**Presented by OJT Heritage
and
Falkland Stewardship Trust**

Welcome

On behalf of the Falkland Stewardship Trust, I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone who has signed up for this, our first Archaeology Symposium on the Estate. Today, we will present the initial findings from our very successful 2017 community excavation, when 60 dedicated volunteers and 7 of Fife's secondary schools were trained and supported to work on the shoulder of East Lomond Hill.

In addition, we will place East Lomond Hillfort in the context of other similar developments in Britain and Ireland and hear from some of the leading experts in these fields.

The recent publication of the Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland is the culmination of several years of hard work and we will be delighted to hear from a member of the core team which undertook this monumental task. One of the areas of great interest to the Trust Board is the extent of Roman influence in this part of Scotland in the early centuries of the first Millennium and we will hear of an emerging picture in this regard.

It promises to be an exciting day, so let's listen, think, share and question and by so doing contribute to a quality experience for everyone.

Thank you for supporting the work of the Stewardship Trust in this year of Scotland's History, Heritage and Archaeology. Enjoy the day.

Joe Fitzpatrick
Director & Trustee
Falkland Stewardship Trust
11 November 2017



Joe excavates a possible reused mica schist quern stone. June 2017

Three glorious weeks of discovery, May to June 2017, for our archaeological volunteers



Falkland Estate and the Centre for Stewardship



Falkland Estate covers around 1900 hectares with just under a fifth wooded with the rest divided between arable farmland on the low ground and rough grazing on the hills. More than a third is an important 'designed' landscape whose major elements date from the 19th century.

There have been settlements here from at least the time of the Iron Age. It was a favourite royal hunting ground of the Stuart monarchs and home to Victorian leaders of rural and architectural style. These days it is a place of thoughtful retreat and recreation for the local community and our many visitors.

The Estate is cared for by the Centre for Stewardship. This comprises Falkland Estate Trust (the owner), Falkland Rural Enterprises (the organic farm) and Falkland Stewardship Trust.

Falkland Stewardship Trust is a charity and we run a range of learning and educational programmes that are inspired by the land. Our rural skills training programme is delivered in partnership with other third sector organisations across Fife, offering rural skills opportunities for young people including volunteering, apprenticeships and assistance with establishing enterprising woodland businesses. We host a Food Market in the village every week to encourage local food production and we are working on a range of capital projects to find sustainable uses for redundant heritage and farm buildings in our care. We have a dedicated group of volunteers who help every week with our activities.

The A-listed House of Falkland is in our care. The House was built in the 1840s by leading country house architect William Burn and its interiors were later decorated in the arts and crafts style, at the commission of its then owner, the Third Marquess of Bute. The combination of architecture and style make the House unique. The House is currently in use as a school for boys with additional support needs but heritage tours of the House can be arranged by Falkland Stewardship Trust on occasion.

At the Stables we have a range of venues that are suitable for hire for all occasions including weddings and seminars.

If you are interested in learning more about our work then please sign up to our newsletter or visit our website www.centreforstewardship.org.uk.



Programme

Morning Session:

09.30 Registration and Refreshments at Stables, Falkland Estate

Chair: Joe Fitzpatrick, Director and Trustee of Falkland Stewardship Trust

10.00 Introduction

10.15 East Lomond Hillfort and Late Iron Age Fife. Oliver O'Grady, OJT Heritage

10.45 Cullykhan - A Coastal Promontory in NE Scotland. Moira Greig, Independent

11.15 Tea, coffee, refreshments

11.30 Is that a fort on yonder hill? Stratford Halliday, University of Edinburgh

12.15 Questions and discussion

12.30 Lunch

Afternoon session:

Chair: Peter Burman, Chairman of Falkland Stewardship Trust

2.00 Reconsidering Roman Iron Age Fife. Fraser Hunter, NMS

2.30 Beyond the Bronze Age: Iron Age and Early Medieval Activity at Irish hillforts. James O'Driscoll, University of Aberdeen

3.00 Tea, coffee, refreshments

3.15 Plenary: Hillforts of the Ridgeway / Excavations at Moel y Gaer Bodfari. Gary Lock, University of Oxford

4.10 Questions and discussion

4.25 Closing remarks: Joe FitzPatrick, Falkland Stewardship Trust

4.30 Closure

Oliver O'Grady "East Lomond Hillfort and Late Iron Age Fife"

Abstract:

On and around the summit of East Lomond Hill and overlooking the village and estate of Falkland, are remains of one of the most prominently positioned and largest examples of Iron Age fortifications in Fife. This talk introduces the archaeology of East Lomond Hillfort and describes the findings from recent community excavations in the southern environs of the fort. The excavations are the inspiration for this day conference and have uncovered an area of dense archaeological remains on the southern shoulder of the hill. Representative of occupation and metal-working activity spanning the Roman Iron Age to Early Medieval Periods, the new discoveries raise questions about our wider understanding of the fort's layout and development. The talk also considers broader implications for our notions of Fife during the Roman Iron Age.

About:

Dr. Oliver O'Grady is a landscape archaeologist and researcher who has developed a successful career in creating and managing community heritage projects. Through his freelance company OJT Heritage, he specialises in producing high-quality opportunities for non-specialist volunteers and enthusiasts to participate in, and learn from, advanced archaeological field research. Oliver has directed excavations at several important Late Iron Age and medieval sites in Scotland, including the royal centre at Scone in Perthshire, and more recently at East Lomond Hill and Dunmore fort in Fife. He is a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, a Committee Member of the Tayside and Fife Archaeological Committee and also lecturers at the University of Glasgow's Centre for Open Studies.

Moira Greig "Cullykhan - A Coastal Promontory in NE Scotland"

Abstract:

The promontory fort of Cullykhan was excavated between 1963 and 1972. This revealed evidence of a sequence of use of the promontory, with at least five prehistoric phases evident. These included a palisaded enclosure, timber gateway, metal working area, vitrified rampart and a possible Pictish phase. Continued use of the promontory extended into the medieval period and later, the results of which caused significant damage to some of the earlier features. This paper gives a brief overview of the prehistoric site of Cullykhan, as well as a very brief look at some other hillforts in NE Scotland, and raises some of the problems encountered while working on the publication of a site excavated in the 1960's.

About:

Moira Greig has been actively involved in archaeology in NE Scotland for a considerable number of years, working in Local Government, most recently in the Archaeology Service of Aberdeenshire Council, which also provides cover for the Moray and Angus Council areas. Part of her work included archaeological aerial photography survey and working on various projects with local communities, including the Defence of Scotland & the War Memorials Projects. After retiring in 2011 she has continued to work with a few local groups to record stonemasons' marks on castles, churches and other structures in Scotland for the Mason's Mark Project. She is a member of the Aerial Archaeology Research Group; Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland; member of the Council of British Archaeology; Vice Chair of the Tayside & Fife Archaeology Committee, and a member & Trustee of Archaeology Scotland.

Stratford Halliday "Is that a fort on yonder hill?"

Abstract:

Hillforts are a key monument in the Iron Age landscape, but their distribution varies in density and excavation has shown that they range widely in date. This paper will discuss the problems of defining forts that arise both nationally and locally, examining those identified in Fife as components of the local settlement record. It will also explore the wider contexts of fortification in this part of Scotland, drawing on the data assembled in the Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland, now published online at <https://hillforts.arch.ox.ac.uk/>.

About:

Time-served investigator of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RIP), and latterly research assistant to the Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland directed by Ian Ralston (Edinburgh University) and Gary Lock (Oxford University).

Fraser Hunter "Reconsidering Roman Iron Age Fife"

Abstract:

Fife has been poorly served by excavations, and the Iron Age is much less well-known than in its east-coast neighbours. Yet recent discoveries present some interesting hints of similarities and differences. This talk will review emerging trends in Roman Iron Age Fife, in the light of initial results from East Lomond Hill.

About:

Fraser Hunter is principal curator of Iron Age and Roman collections at the National Museum of Scotland. His undergraduate degree and PhD are both from Bradford University, and he has worked at the National Museum since 1991. His research work focuses around three key topics: Understanding Iron Age decorative metalwork ("Celtic art") in its European context. Understanding the impact of the Roman world on the peoples of Scotland in its Empire-wide context. Making the most of Iron Age material culture. A key strand has been excavation work, both his own and using the results of others through the department's post-excavation service. A vital element has been following up Treasure Trove discoveries in the field to provide a context for "stray finds", as at Birnie (Moray) following a scatter of Roman coins, and at Blair Drummond, the findspot of an Iron Age gold torc hoard.

James O'Driscoll "Beyond the Bronze Age: Iron Age and Early Medieval Activity at Irish hillforts"

Abstract:

Although there is little definitive evidence for hillfort construction in Ireland beyond the Late Bronze Age, some sites were re-occupied during the Iron Age and Early Medieval period, with societies marking them as important contemporary centres. Others gained mythological connections to other-worldly figures rooted in the 'heroic past'. This talk will consider the archaeological impact of the Irish evidence, as well as discussing the broader terminological issues that have obstructed meaningful comparisons between similar sites in Ireland and Britain.

About:

Dr. James O'Driscoll completed his undergraduate in University College Cork, before undertaking a research masters which focused on the minor royal site of Garranes in Co. Cork. Following this, he was employed as a research assistant on the recently published 'Hillforts, Warfare and Society in Bronze Age Ireland' project, directed by Professor William O'Brien. This led into his PhD studies on a cluster of large, elaborate hillforts in Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow. This impressive group comprises some of the largest archaeological monuments yet discovered in Ireland, the earliest dated hillforts and the two largest Early Neolithic enclosures in the country. James has also been involved in the Atlas of British and Irish Hillforts, and has recently started post-doctoral work on the Comparative Kingship Project directed by Dr. Gordon Noble in the University of Aberdeen.

Gary Lock "Hillforts of the Ridgeway / Excavations at Moel y Gaer Bodfari."

Abstract:

The excavation of three nearby hillforts on the Oxfordshire Ridgeway, Uffington Castle, Segsbury Camp and Alfred's Castle, has shown detailed evidence for their differing uses during the Iron Age but also major differences in the way they were utilised during the Romano-British period. This paper will explore these differences and try to explain why two of the sites show differing forms of continuity of use and the other seems to have been completely ignored. Recent work at the small Welsh hillfort of Moel y Gaer Bodfari in the Clwydian hills will be briefly described including a range of geophysical techniques and LiDAR processing. Excavation has shown limited evidence for internal use of the site but detailed evidence for the construction and phasing of the stone built ramparts.

About:

Gary is Emeritus Professor of Archaeology at the University of Oxford. He is a specialist in Iron Age archaeology, landscapes, Geographic Information Systems and especially hillforts having excavated three on the Oxfordshire Ridgeway and one in North Wales. He was co-director of the recently launched Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland, a major project which describes and maps over 4,000 hillforts and possible hillforts.