



Issue 92 Spring 2023

## Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology

# Newsletter

### THE PRESIDENT'S PIECE

I'm writing this immediately following the society's highly successful 2023 Congress in Poznań, Poland. Quite apart from allowing us to hear so many high-quality papers from across Europe (and even a couple on Latin American topics!), and giving us an opportunity to meet old friends for the first time in years, this was an important conference for the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology on several fronts. This was our first Congress outside the UK since we launched the new larger-scale annual conferences in 2016. It was also our first in-person conference since Glasgow 2019 – that global pandemic thingy having disrupted our plans over 2020-2022. I'm exceptionally grateful to our hosts at the Archaeology Faculty of Adam Mickiewicz University for helping to make the conference such a success.

The PMAC23 Congress was the start of a new initiative where we hope to start alternating the annual PMAC conference between the UK and the rest of Europe. While conscious of the society's roots in British archaeology of the 1960s, over the last 20-25 years we've increasingly developed into a pan-European society. Our journal *Post-Medieval Archaeology* has become noticeably more international in content since the late 1990s (We currently have Council members from the UK, Sweden, Estonia, Germany, Finland, and Italy (with the latter based in Turkey)), and are consciously making an effort to balance new Ordinary Members of Council 50/50 between the UK and the rest of Europe. We recently expanded our dissertation prizes to make English-language dissertations from any Council of Europe country eligible. And while we're conscious that our publishing and prizes programmes foreground English, we're looking closely at how we can support other European languages where resources permit.



*The Old Market Square (Stary Rynek), Poznań. Image: Historia3012, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons. At present the square is being dug up to lay storm drains and tram lines, so didn't look quite this glorious during our visit!*

Our 2023 conference will include a Polish-language student session, and we're currently working on a bilingual Spanish-English monograph that will promote material culture research by Latin American colleagues.

As to the choice of Poznań... For some years now, the largest group of non-UK-based colleagues presenting at the annual SPMA Congress, whether in the immediate pre-Covid years or for our two online pandemic conferences, have been Polish colleagues. We've become conscious that Poland has become a major growth area for European post-medieval and historical archaeology, and we're grateful for the ongoing support shown by our Polish colleagues. Given the ongoing level of engagement from across Poland, the country seemed a natural choice for our first PMAC Congress outside the UK.

On a personal note, I was delighted to see so many of you Poznań – and to have had the opportunity to introduce ten colleagues to Georgian food and wine on

the Sunday evening (I'd been eyeing off that Georgian restaurant on the old town square for months...). With lockdowns behind us, we hope to be able to announce our annual conferences a little further in advance in future. On that note, I'm delighted to be able to announce that our 2024 Congress will be in Swansea, and our 2025 conference will be in Lisbon. Though I step down as president at the end of this year, I look forward to seeing you in Wales next year!

*Alasdair Brooks*

SPMA NEWS and EVENTS

GEOFF EGAN LECTURE 2022: DR RACHAEL KIDDEY: ARCHAEOLOGY AS SUSTAINABILITY

**Archaeology as Sustainability**  
Collaborative cultural heritage work as advocacy for the sustainable future of humanity and more-than-humans

Geoff Egan memorial lecture  
Society for Post Medieval Archaeology  
Kelham Island Museum, Sheffield  
December 2022  
Rachael Kiddey [rk716@cam.ac.uk](mailto:rk716@cam.ac.uk)



Left: phone adaptors  
Centre left: DIY green cloth bracelet  
Centre right: mobile phone  
Right: Syrian bank note



*"I have nothing....I just have this."*

On 6 December 2022, the SPMA held its annual Geoff Egan at Kelham Island Museum, Sheffield. This was the first time the lecture has been held outside London, something we hope to repeat for future lectures, to make them more accessible to a wider in-person audience.

This year Dr Rachael Kiddey's powerful lecture drew on her experience of more than a decade of collaborative contemporary archaeological fieldwork with marginalised people. It explored how archaeology and cultural heritage studies can help to make the world a fairer and more sustainable place. Starting with her pioneering work with homeless people in Bristol and York, UK she spoke of how this led her to work with forcibly displaced people in Sweden, Greece and the UK, forming the collective project *Made in Migration*.

We had hoped to hold the lecture as a hybrid event but were foiled by thick walls and patchy WiFi. It was recorded however and you can watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7QYQZzEdes>. For more about her work see: <https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/staff/dr-rachael-kiddey>

CHANGES ON THE SPMA COUNCIL

New Ordinary Council members

Monika Reppo (University of Tartu) and Katy Whitaker (Historic England) were elected to the Council as Ordinary Members at the Society AGM - welcome!

Will Todd takes over as the Society's Reviews Editor

I'm really delighted to be taking over the role of reviews editor. It will be difficult to fill Giovanna Vitelli's shoes but I'm excited by the challenge and opportunities. I've always been a great fan of reviews as a window onto the world of newly published work.



Will surveying at St Mary Bishopshill, York  
Photo: Andy Bliss

*What newly published material are you reading right now and what do you think of it? If you have a moment, jot some thoughts down and email them to me. It would be great to have a snapshot of what new work is occupying your minds and sitting on your bookshelves.*

Contact me if you'd like to be a reviewer or know someone who would, have something in mind that you think needs reviewing, or to have a general chat about how we are tackling reviews in the Society. There are lots of ideas in the pipeline as to how we might develop our approach to reviews - having them in the newsletter, author interviews, review essays, spoken/YouTube reviews for example. If any of these initiatives grabs your attention do let me know and maybe we can work together to make them happen. Get involved, share your insights and skills, and help make reviews a vibrant aspect of the Society's work.

[will.todd@alumni.york.ac.uk](mailto:will.todd@alumni.york.ac.uk)



# SPMA NEWS and EVENTS (cont)

## SPMA VOLUMEN EDITADO ESPAÑOL - INGLÉS: INVITACIÓN A CONTRIBUIR

La SPMA se complace en anunciar su intención de producir un volumen bilingüe (español-inglés) centrado en la investigación que se está realizando sobre la cultura material y las colecciones de los países latinoamericanos de habla hispana (Hispanoamérica). Este volumen tiene como objetivo proporcionar a los investigadores del Sur Global un foro para ampliar su trabajo y fomentar su participación en el mundo de habla inglesa. De esta manera, las voces de América Latina serán más accesibles entre los académicos globales.

Los autores redactaran sus contribuciones en español, y todos trabajos se publicarán en español junto con una traducción al inglés, financiada por la SPMA. Toda la comunicación del equipo editorial con los autores será en español.

Dentro del alcance del volumen se encuentra la cultura material de los períodos aproximadamente desde 1500 dC hasta el presente de todos los países hispanoamericanos. Anticipamos que las presentaciones pueden estar relacionadas con los siguientes temas, aunque nos complace discutir ideas alternativas.

- Colonización
- Investigación de colecciones de las Américas desde la época prehispánica tardía hasta la Moderna
- Descolonización de hallazgos, colecciones y archivos
- Revisiones temáticas y regionales
- Biografías de objetos
- Estudios de grupos de conjuntos o estudios sintéticos a través de múltiples conjuntos.

El objetivo de SPMA es que el volumen incluya una variedad de artículos tradicionales y no tradicionales. Interesamos en reflejar diferentes formas de comprometerse y responder a la cultura material bajo estudio. Para trabajos de investigación tradicionales, invitamos propuestas de 3000-5000 palabras. También damos la bienvenida a contribuciones diversas, que incluyen poesía, arte, cuentos y reflexiones. No hay un límite de palabras sugerido para este tipo de contribuciones.

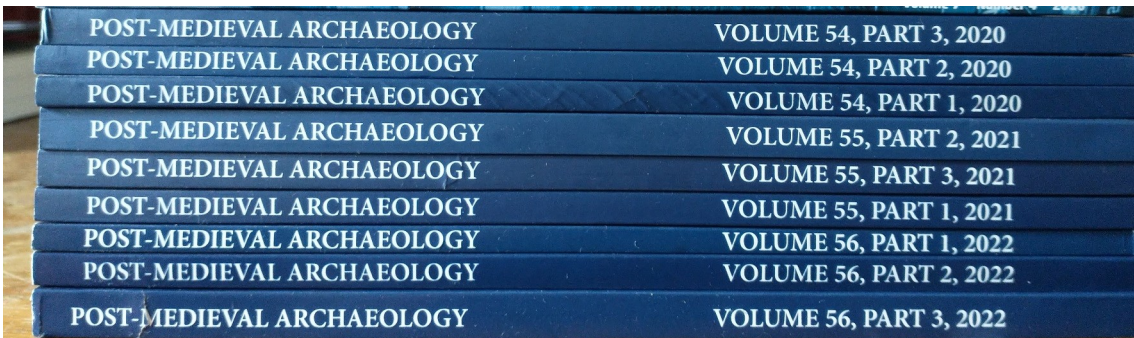
Actualmente estamos buscando expresiones de interés de posibles contribuyentes y nos encantaría saber de usted. Si está interesado en ser parte de este volumen, complete nuestro formulario de Google\* para informarnos. El formulario solicitará Un título propuesto para su contribución, nombre(s) de los autores con breves biografías, un resumen (abstract) de no más de 300 palabras, y el formato de su contribución.

Fecha límite de presentación de propuestas: 30 de junio de 2023. Para una discusión informal (en español), comuníquese con el Dr. Paul Edward Montgomery Ramírez por correo electrónico a [postmedievalarchaeology@gmail.com](mailto:postmedievalarchaeology@gmail.com) o con la Dra. Paola A. Schiappacasse: [paola.schiappacasse@upr.edu](mailto:paola.schiappacasse@upr.edu)

*SPMA is pleased to announce its intention to produce a dual language (Spanish-English) volume focused on research being undertaken on the material culture and collections of Spanish-speaking Latin American countries (Hispanoamérica). This volume aims to provide for researchers in the Global South a forum to amplify their work and encourage engagement within the English-speaking world. In this way, voices from Latin America will be made more accessible among global scholars. The call for papers closes on 30 June 2023.*

*Authors will write and be published in Spanish, with an English translation provided alongside, funded by the SPMA. All contact with authors will be in Spanish throughout.*

\*[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf3Ci6\\_JtmYiJbX1nqTeRUE0rEuRem1ceerwJj5Yyl6qT-OLQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf3Ci6_JtmYiJbX1nqTeRUE0rEuRem1ceerwJj5Yyl6qT-OLQ/viewform)

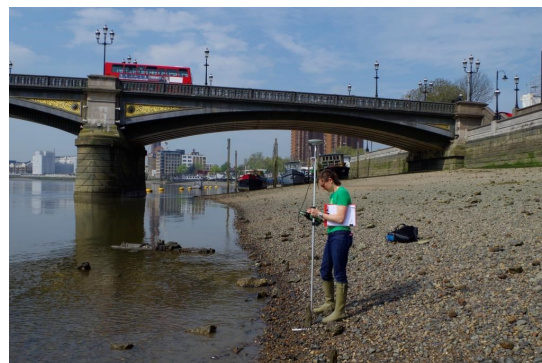


## NEWLY AWARDED PhDs

### HANNA STEYNE CHAMBERLIN, UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

*A River Runs Through It: An archaeological investigation of the social and economic impacts and effects of the Thames Embankment construction at Chelsea, London, 1850-1889*

Hanna's PhD thesis examined the changing nature of life on the banks of the River Thames at Chelsea, central London between 1850 and 1890. It took a highly interdisciplinary approach, bringing historical archaeology, social history, and historical geography into conversation, via assemblage theory, post-human feminism, deep mapping, maritime cultural landscapes and creative writing. Using data from the varied sources Hanna uses creative writing to weave narratives about a diverse group of residents to disrupt the traditional, male dominated, linear narratives of Victorian improvement. The writing and mapping is both methodology and interpretation, and takes the reader on a series of walks through the study area at three points in the past, to explore materiality and converse with historic residents as the waterfront changed and was changed through the construction of the Thames Embankment in 1871. A diverse group of residents are encountered including working class men and women, children and the elderly, immigrants from Germany and Gambia, including residents who are Black, queer, and neurodivergent. In all these stories the Thames plays a central, but varied role, highlighting the complicated interconnections between people, things, and the river at a period of intense change on the Thames waterfront. Hanna received funding from SPMA in 2016 to undertake fieldwork on the Thames foreshore.



Surveying jetty remains at Chelsea.  
Photo: Peta Knott, 2016

Hanna Steyn Chamberlin: @hlsteyne (Twitter, Instagram), [www.linkedin.com/in/hanna-steyne](https://www.linkedin.com/in/hanna-steyne), <https://manchester.academia.edu/HannaSteyne>, <https://onefootinthemud.wordpress.com>,

## SPMA PhD group news

### POST-MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND POLLUTION: SPMA PHD GROUP AT SHA2023, LISBON

At the Society for Historical Archaeology 2023 Conference held in Lisbon, Portugal at the beginning of January 2023, the SPMA PhD Group held a session on environmental aspects of post-medieval sites. The group members were involved in all aspects of the session proposal and the individual abstract submission fees were kindly covered by the SPMA. The proposal for the session was submitted by Katy Whitaker and the session was chaired by Monika Reppo. The session was held on Friday, January 6th and four papers were presented which focused on sites in Austria, Estonia, and the United Kingdom.

Elisabeth Waldhart's (PhD student, University of Innsbruck, Austria) paper *Archaeology of Modern Pollution* examined why some artefacts may be considered as pollution and what emotions and thoughts "trash" can evoke through case studies from Austria – a garbage dump at Trautson Castle and litter left behind at Zillertal, the site of an 18th–20th-century garnet mine. The resources most at risk (wood, soil, water) at 17th–19th century Estonian glassworks and early environmental laws were the focus of Monika Reppo's (PhD candidate, University of Tartu, Estonia) paper *Environmental impact of glass production in post-medieval Estonia* as well as the long-term impact of glassworks on landscape and the environment. The changing valuations and heritage of certain waste landscapes – oil shale waste (blaes) piled in heaps (bings) from 1851–1962 in West Lothian, Scotland and definitions of waste and examples of waste as a creative resource were at the centre of Dr Jonathan Gardner's (University of Edinburgh, UK) paper *Blaes and Bings: Reimagining the West Lothian Oil Shale Industry*. The session ended with Dr Hanna Steyne's (University of Manchester, UK) paper *Stinking Foreshore to Tree-Lined Avenue: Rethinking the cleansing of the sewage filled Thames in mid-19th century London* highlighting the way the construction of the Chelsea Embankment impacted the lives of nearby residents, turning the attention away from male-dominated narratives of sewage control.



Elisabeth Waldhart presenting her paper.  
Photo: Monika Reppo

Although there were 12 other sessions on at the same time, the symposium attracted listeners including members of the SPMA PhD Group which provided an opportunity to finally meet in person. The SPMA PhD Group is an international group for research students which was launched first for the 2021–22 academic year.

Monika Reppo



## SPMA PhD group news (cont.)

### INTRODUCING SOME OF THE SPMA PHD GROUP MEMBERS

The Society for Post Medieval Archaeology is committed to supporting its research community, and a big part of that community begins with the students who are undertaking new and exciting Post Medieval research around the world. To support these researchers the SPMA maintains a dedicated PhD Group. This is a space within the Society for members who are currently undertaking PhD level research on any Post Medieval topic to connect with other students around the world and become part of a network of potential collaborators. The PhD Group offers monthly workshop sessions, designed in collaboration with Group members at the beginning of each academic year to address current interests and training needs.

Joining the Group means that you will have access to a range workshops, career building activities and a supportive network of fellow researchers. To learn more about the group check out <https://spma.org.uk>. The PhD Group is managed by the SPMA Membership Secretary, Dr Lenore Thompson. To join, PhD students simply need to become a member of the Society (£20 a year for full time students) and then contact Dr Thompson with a request to join at: [l.thompson3@derby.ac.uk](mailto:l.thompson3@derby.ac.uk).

One of the Group's opportunities is the chance for its members to feature their research in the Societies Newsletter, showcasing new ideas to a broad readership. Below please enjoy reading about some of the current members' very interesting research.

**Victor E. Serrano-Puigdoller, Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe**  
*La industria minera del guano y la vida de sus obreros en Isla de la Mona, Puerto Rico, 1850-1895*  
*(The guano mining industry and the life of its labourers on Mona Island, Puerto Rico, 1850-1895)*

I originally started this research under a different title and a different university. In 2017 I started my PhD titled then Archaeology of the Forgotten: The Archaeology of Mona Island Guano Miners, at the University of Leicester as a distance learning student based in Puerto Rico. Hurricanes Irma and Maria hit Puerto Rico in September 2017 and left me without power for six months and in a bad economical position which forced me to leave the PhD. In September 2018, I restarted my PhD at Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe.



*One of two surviving standing structures at the Pajaros Mining Colony in Mona Island. Photo: Victor Serrano-Puigdoller 2014*

Guano as a manure was highly sought as a fertilizer during the nineteenth century for its high contents of nitrogen, phosphate and potassium, nutrients needed for plant growth. It revolutionized farming and war practices across the world and catalysed the colonization of remote islands with the intent of mining them. Very little is known about the daily experiences, regimes, and identities of guano miners on the small 57 km<sup>2</sup> island between Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean. Mona has over 200 guano-bearing caves and is currently a national park of Puerto Rico. The modern idea of guano extraction started in Mona Island around the year 1850 while the island was under the Spanish Empire and lasted until 1936 under the United States of America. During this period at least seven international companies attempted to operate on Mona Island, relying on the manual labour of hundreds of workers.

My research attempts an examination of the lives of the guano miners during the Spanish Empire rule, through the archaeology of Mona Island in combination with archival research to understand the hidden histories of itinerant labourers across Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, but also to shed light on the human story of modern industrial capitalism.

Victor Serrano-Puigdoller: [victor.serrano.0030@ceaprc.edu](mailto:victor.serrano.0030@ceaprc.edu), Twitter: @Bojike\_Karaya

## SPMA PhD group news (cont.)

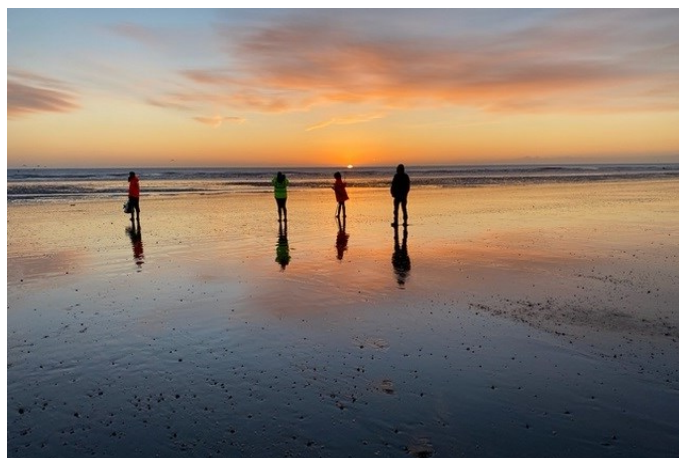
### Grace Conium, Canterbury Christ Church University, with Museum of London Archaeology, UK (AHRC funded Collaborative Doctoral Partnership)

#### *Shifting sands: coastal Kentish heritage and communities in transition*

Since October 2020 my research has focused on the impacts and legacy of community archaeological projects along Kent's east coast. By using a qualitative methodology, including interviews with community archaeologists and volunteers, I aim to demonstrate the wide range of project legacies that community archaeology can achieve. I have carried out work in Sandwich Bay, Kent, working with CITiZAN ([www.citizen.org.uk](http://www.citizen.org.uk)), whose volunteers were recording aspects of the town's important fishing industry heritage. The next steps will work with a community group on the Cliffs at Dover, and potentially another at Folkestone, which is yet to be confirmed.

This work has a particular focus on coastal archaeology because of the effects that climate change is having on this environment: current works being carried out by, for example, CITiZAN have highlighted the impact of coastal erosion on these sites and the resulting loss of archaeological features and structures. This research will help to understand the motivations of volunteers working in this environment to aid the continued longevity of the projects they work with, but it will also help shed light on the outcomes which endure which have been a direct result of the project. By doing so, the importance of community archaeology can be showcased, and it will add to the current understanding and practices of legacy within public archaeology.

Contact: [gc95@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:gc95@canterbury.ac.uk), Twitter: @GConium



CITiZAN and volunteers setting out for survey at Sandwich Bay. Photo: Grace Conium

### Monika Reppo, University of Tartu, Estonia

#### *Glass and its makers in post-medieval Estonia*

For my article-based PhD project, 'Glass and its makers in post-medieval Estonia' at the University of Tartu, Estonia, I am studying the glass working communities that were active from the 17th until the mid-19th century on the territory of modern-day Estonia. Most of the workers and their families were migrants of German origin or their descendants as the locals were enserfed and unable to work in skilled positions. I study church books and other personal archival data to build family trees, examine the workers' life histories and movements between glassworks and distinguish networks of connection. This has also enabled me to revise the dating of some of the local glassworks and gain a better understanding of the division of work at these production sites.

I am also interested in the glass consumed in Estonia at the time and whether the products of the local glassworks were readily available for the local market – how they are reflected in archaeological finds. In rare cases, identifying the workers movements also allows to tentatively link them to certain archaeological finds – dated bottle seals. All the data collected will be published as Open Access databases in English at the University of Tartu DataDOI repository for public use. This includes a database for workers, glassworks, and the finds.

Alongside my studies, I also work as a project lead in commercial archaeology and carry out desk-based assessments for the Estonian National Heritage Board. I am also a member of board of the Estonian Association of Archaeologists.



Monika Reppo at Tallinn Town Museum. Photo: Meeli Küttim

Monika Reppo: [monika.reppo@ut.ee](mailto:monika.reppo@ut.ee), Twitter @MonikaReppo, TikTok @chronicamonika (in Estonian), Instagram @chronicamonika



## SOCIETY PRIZES AND GRANTS

**RESEARCH GRANTS** For Society members. The maximum grant, and the total fund available in a single application round is £2000. Deadlines for applications: 1 March and 1 September.

**UNDERGRADUATE & POST GRADUATE DISSERTATION PRIZE** Both prizes are £250: departments can nominate one dissertation for each. Deadlines: 1 September and 15 December respectively.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD** Up to £500 available to members and non-members, for innovative public-facing initiatives. Deadline for applications: 15 September.

**PAUL COURTENAY CONGRESS BURSARY** Enables students to participate in the SPMA's annual congress. Applicants need not be members of the Society. Deadline for applications: 15 February.

*Recipients of awards and grants contribute a report to the Society website and newsletter. Prize holders are encouraged to contribute a short summary for the newsletter. See [spma.org.uk/prizes-and-grants](http://spma.org.uk/prizes-and-grants)*

## SPMA UNDERGRADUATE PRIZE 2022

**MARIA CUNNINGHAM, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LONDON, INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY:**  
**MORE THAN CONCRETE: INVESTIGATING THE PRESERVATION OF WWII COASTAL DEFENCES**  
**ON THE SOUTH-EAST COAST OF ENGLAND**



*The First World War 6-pdr naval gun at Newhaven Fort, facing south towards Seahaven Bay. Photo: Maria Cunningham*

seem. Maria Cunningham [maria.cunningham127@gmail.com](mailto:maria.cunningham127@gmail.com)

This research was born out of a desire to understand Britain's lost militarised landscape of WWII, to disentangle public misconceptions regarding WWII defensive sites, and their modern preservation. The focus area of this dissertation is the south-east coast, spanning the counties of East Sussex and Kent between Newhaven and Dymchurch.

This dissertation will explore how WWII defences have been preserved or altered and analyse factors affecting site preservation. Methods which can be utilised to help preservation are discussed, and the significance of WWII heritage is addressed. To discuss these topics, nine case studies of three site types— pillboxes, coastal batteries, and redoubts – have been surveyed during fieldwork.

Ultimately, this dissertation argues there are three issues facing heritage preservation: heritage management, human activity, and environmental threats. Each site presents unique challenges which affect preservation, suggesting that WWII heritage and its significance is as not clear cut as it may first

## SPMA RESEARCH GRANT HOLDER 2022

**SILVIA PIZZINAT, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH: WITCHCRAFT, GENDER AND VIOLENCE IN POST-MEDIEVAL SCOTLAND: A BIOARCHAEOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

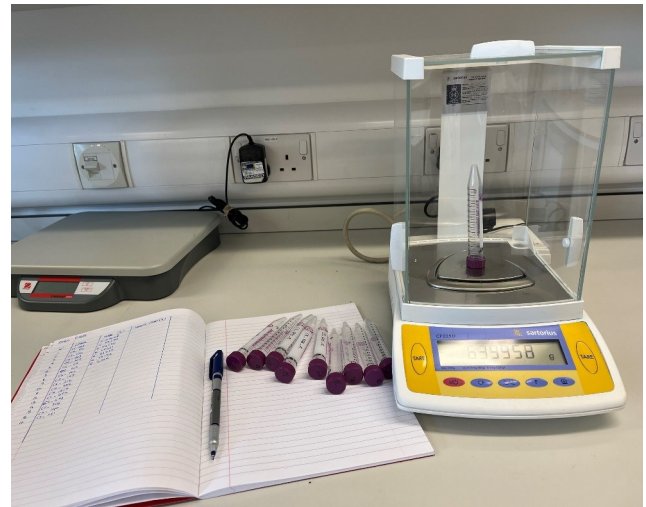
Witch hunts and belief in magic is a well-attested historical phenomenon in Europe, and this was particularly active in Scotland during the Middle Ages and Early Modern period. During the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries especially, thousands of people were accused and executed for witchcraft - the majority of victims being women. Despite the wealth of documentary evidence there is a noticeable gap in the archaeological literature regarding witchcraft, the witch trials, and their impact. Whilst there is a growing corpus of research on the material culture of folk magic and belief (e.g., the work of Roberta Gilchrist) very little has been done utilising other archaeological techniques.

This project, part of my MA dissertation at the University of Edinburgh, will combine historical data with a bioarchaeological and biocultural approach to investigate the intersection of sex, age, identity, and health of early modern Scottish populations and possible victims of the witch hunt. For my research, I will be combining new

isotopic data with limited published results to gain a better picture of diet, health, and movement for ordinary people during the early modern period and combining that with palaeopathology and hazard analysis to investigate how the socio-politics of the “Witch Craze” may have differentially impacted individuals of different ages, sexes and social statuses.

C/N/S isotopic data relate to diet and can inform us about dietary habits and nutritional stress. I will compare dentine (childhood) and rib (adulthood) collagen to look at health and dietary outcomes for men vs women in the period and combine this with other osteological data to look at correlations with variables such as skeletal trauma. Enamel carbonate will be used to inform about mobility and asks the question of if women were more/less mobile during the period than men. If so, does this relate to social status or life course outcomes as seen through osteology and C/N/S isotopes?

The site I will primarily analyse is Constitution Street, Leith, thanks to the cooperation of Dr John Lawson and the Edinburgh Council, who allowed me access to circa 20 individuals. I will also consider the Bridge Of Don site, Aberdeen, for data comparison, excavated in 2019 by the Historic Environment Scotland. This project is especially possible thanks to the guidance of my supervisor Dr Sam Leggett and the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology.



*Weighting sample tubes for rib fragments with a high precision scale, at the University of Edinburgh laboratory, Teviot. Photo: Silvia Pizzinat, 2023*

## SPMA RESEARCH GRANT REPORT

### DR PIERS DIXON, PEEBLESSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY SHOOTINGLEE EXCAVATION PROJECT: REPORT ON POST-EXCAVATION RESEARCH

Thanks to the generous grant-aid awards from the Hunter Archaeological Trust and the SPMA in 2021-2 significant progress has been made on the post-excavation work associated with the Shootinglee Excavation project. Funding was sought to support two main strands of research work, one environmental and the other artefactual. The questions being asked in relation to the former relate to the local environment and what the burning event on the floor of the peel house reveals about its occupation and construction. The latter analysis seeks to confirm the origin of the pottery from the site reported on by Derek Hall in 2020 and the function and origin of the metal finds.

The artefactual research builds upon a clay pipe report completed by Denis Gallagher in 2020, as well as lithics by Hugo Anderson-Whymark and coins identified by Jesper Ericsson of the Hunterian Museum and Carl Savage of the National Museum of Scotland (NMS). The metal work analysis was carried out by Alice Blackwell (NMS) and selected pieces of metalwork drawn for publication by Alan Braby (archaeological illustrator). Two separate pieces of the scientific research have now been completed, namely the creation and analysis of a soil thin section through the burnt floor deposit in the peel house by George Macleod at Stirling University and the chemical analysis of 10 selected pottery sherds by Torbjorn Brorsson, of the Office of Ceramic Studies, Nyhamnsläge, Sweden. Environmental work by Scott Timpany of the University of the Highlands and Islands identified the species of carbonised seeds and wood from the same burnt deposit in the peel house as the soil thin section analysed by George Macleod, while complementary analysis of individual charcoal samples was carried out by Hamish Darrah of Dendrochronicle (funded by the Society for Post Medieval Archaeology). All the results to date have been extremely rewarding, but as the overall research project is ongoing, the conclusions summarised here must be viewed as interim.

#### Summary of results: *Environmental research*

##### *Soil Thin Section by George Macleod (Stirling University)*

The thin section of the floor layer from the peel house displayed three regions horizontally (Figure 1, see over). The presence of woody-like organic material in a similar form of decomposition in the three regions would point to a similar source and it is suggested there has been rooting occurring between the different regions. It is evident, however, that there is only amorphous organic matter and charcoal present in Region 2 and Region 3, this is indicative of difference in source of material; the presence of charcoal points to anthropogenic activity in the localised area. Amorphous organic matter indicates microbial activity and the inclusion of organic material into Regions 2 and 3 prior to the deposition of Region 1, thus providing evidence of phased soil development in the sample location. The development of the soil microstructure was identified to be platy in Region 1. This would point to the compaction of the soil either through trampling of the surface or due to the compaction from a structure. The development of redoximorphic nodules in the soil matrix of Region 2 and 3 would suggest localised waterlogging of the soil.



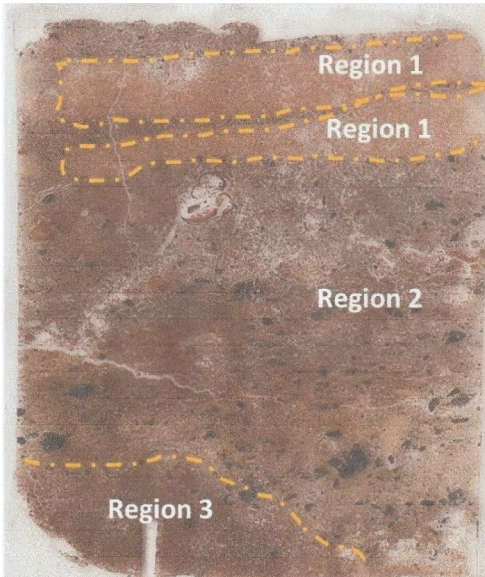


Figure 1 Scan of soil thin section from the burnt floor layer C3 in the peel house showing the banded layering and the presence of charcoal inclusions. Image: Stirling University

From this it may be concluded that the lower two regions carrying charcoal are from burnt occupation debris and that the deposit was sealed by clay that has been compacted. Microbial activity suggests the lower two regions were open to natural soil process for a period of time and then covered over. Waterlogging is understandable as the deposit sat on top of a cobble floor the interstices of which were packed with clay.

*Analysis of wet sieve residues by Scott Timpany (University of the Highlands and Islands Funded) and charcoal samples by Hamish Darrah (Dendrochronicle)*

Scott Timpany was sent the result of wet sieving soil samples from the same floor layer as the thin section and some other contexts. One key result is the preponderance of Alder – known to grow locally along the river edges today. It was used for medium and large timbers which would support the argument that this material derives from collapsed beams. Heather is also present which could be derived from the roof covering. A few unprocessed cereal grains of oats and barley were also identified either from imported or home grown crops consumed on the site – a quern fragment from the site suggests local milling. Comparison of what Scott Timpany found and the charcoal samples analysed by Hamish Darrah confirms that alder is the most common wood species represented. As with the wet sieve evidence small, medium and large timber is present, and small size wood is most common. Use of small size wood for wattles is suggested and the medium wood for the frames of wattle panels. Hazel could also serve

this purpose. A collapsed wattle and daub wall partition is possible, as daub was found in the burnt deposit. Three large slow-growth timber ash samples might indicate these are from constructional timber as might the large alder, which could be used in joists from the roof timbers – a first floor is unlikely as a central hearth suggests a hanging lum in this phase (Figure 2). Alder has been grown in the locality for long time as indicated by surviving coppiced alder in a burn gully near the site (Figure 3).



Figure 2 Corrected aerial view of the peel house showing the central hearths in the phase 2 stone floor. Image © Stephen Scott



Figure 3 An old coppiced alder stand growing near the site. Image © Joyce Durham

Artefactual research

*Pottery by Torbjorn Brorsson (Office of Ceramic Studies, Nyhamnsläge, Sweden)*  
Chemical analysis of 10 potsherds selected by Derek Hall who reported on the pottery assemblage, has showed that the closest match for the four white slipped redwares are samples from Kinnoull, Perth. Two of the reduced greywares and the Scottish Post Medieval Reduced Ware (SPMRW) were made in Glasgow. One reduced greyware and the Scottish Post Medieval Oxidised Ware (SPMOW) came from Throsk. These nine sherds have been compared with many other samples from different parts of Scotland, and also with material from England. The best resemblances are with the ceramics from Perth, Glasgow and Throsk near Stirling. All are post-medieval products. These potsherds show the connections you would expect between upper Tweeddale and the main centres of central lowland Scotland – except for Edinburgh, of course.

One possible early stoneware sherd was analysed. This sherd (Figure 4, see over) has belonged to a vessel from Brühl, near Cologne, in the Rhineland. This region was the heart for the European stoneware production in the medieval and later periods. The date of the Bruhl kiln material which provides the match with the clay in this potsherd is early to mid-8th century. However, ceramic production continued at Bruhl up until the end of the





Figure 4 Sherd, part of a vessel manufactured in Brühl, near Cologne, and dating to 14th century AD. Photo: © Joyce Durham

medieval period when proto-stoneware was produced using the same clay sources. The potsherd is an unexpected find in this rural late medieval and post medieval settlement and indicates that high quality ceramic products of Rhineland potteries could be obtained by the occupants. This particular sherd was found in the primary fill of the stone-lined sump of the drain of the peel house under the S wall and is residual in this context, indicating an earlier phase. Other late medieval pottery fabrics represented in the assemblage including Scottish White Gritty Ware with a 12th-15th century range and Redware sherds of 13th-16th century date range are also represented on the site. Structures from this period of occupation are limited to a late medieval clay oven and a pen in the corner of a late medieval yard under a 17th century byre.

Clay Pipe by Denis Gallagher

Clay pipe research carried out by Denis Gallagher has found that clay pipe from manufacturers in Edinburgh was present at Shootinglee from the mid-17th century, and helps date the second phase of occupation of the peel house to the second quarter of the 17th century – the one that was concluded by an episode of burning. It also shows trade connections with Edinburgh in Tweeddale were as active as those with Glasgow, Perth and Stirling during this period.

Metalwork by Alice Blackwell (National Museum of Scotland)

X-ray analysis of the metal finds was completed in the winter of 2021-22. XRF analysis originally proposed was not carried out for lack of comparative material from this period. The assemblage comprises pieces suggestive of an elite status as well as items typical of a rural settlement of the 16th to 18th centuries. Dress items include a decorated lead button, two copper alloy buttons, copper alloy and iron buckles, a belt slide and some boot fittings, for examples, heel plate irons and a spur from a small boot – possibly a lady's spur (Figure 5). There are two pieces of lead shot and a lead weight. A copper alloy plate rim and an iron-hinged lid 55mm across hint at table ware; the plate rim is from the edge of a wooden plate. Two whittle tanged knives, one scale-tanged knife (Figure 6) and some possible tools, including a chisel, a harrow tooth and a chain were identified. A number of horseshoes were found as well as an ox-shoe, which is indicative of using oxen for traction! The metalwork also includes structural items; many nails of both expanded-head and flat-headed type, as well as staples and strapping.



Figure 5 17th century ladies spur after conservation. Image © Joyce Durham

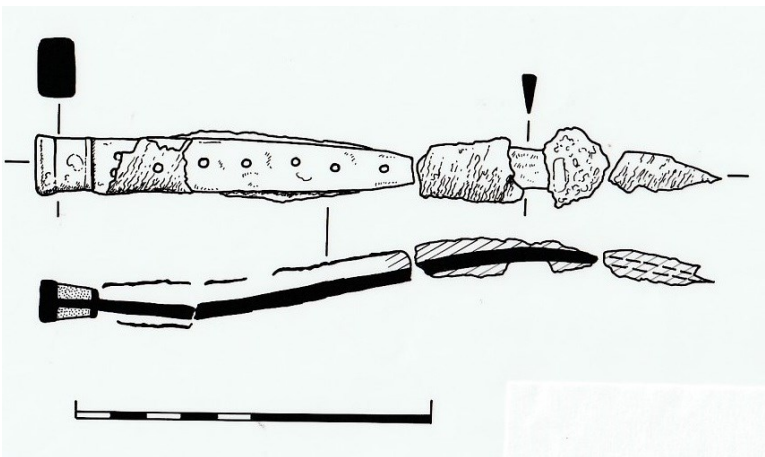


Figure 6 Drawing of scale tang knife by Alan Braby (scale in centimetres). Drawing by Alan Braby

Coins by Carl Savage and Jesper Ericsson

Although none come from especially useful contexts, there are two turners, one of James I and the other of Charles I or II. A possible third Turner is too worn to be sure. In addition to these, although the coin is badly corroded, a James VI 1614 penny was recovered (<https://en.numista.com/catalogue/pieces76082.html> ). Once you line up the portion of the inscription [FR]ANC [IE . ET . HIBERNIE . REX] to the correct position, you can just about make out the curl of the lion's tail in the right field of the coin (Figure 7). These coins confirm a 17th century occupation period for the peel house and the byre that was excavated in 2020-21.

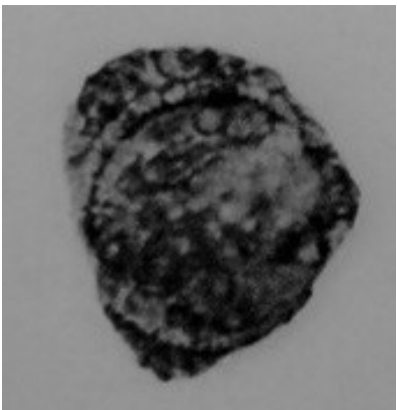


Figure 7 James I penny of 1614 found in the excavation of the peel house. Image: Hunterian Museum



## FIELD REPORTS

### DANIEL RHODES, NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND

#### PIONEERING SPIRIT: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ILLICIT WHISKY IN SCOTLAND

In 1824 Samuel Morewood wrote *A Philosophical and Statistical History of the Inventions and Customs of Ancient and Modern Nations in the Manufacture and use of Inebriating Liquors*. In it he described the discovery of an illicit whisky still:

*'Perceiving, however, some brambles loosely scattered about the place, he proceeded, to examine more minutely, and on their removal, discovered some loose sods, under which was found a trap door leading to a small cavern, at the bottom of which was a complete distillery at full work, supplied by a subterranean stream, and the smoke conveyed from it through the windings of a tube that was made to communicate with the funnel of the chimney of the distillers' dwelling-house, situated at a considerable distance.'* (Morewood 1838, 674).



NTS Volunteer Alan Winchester and NTS Archaeologist Dr Daniel Rhodes at the Carn Bhithir still site on Mar Lodge Estate, Cairngorms

Pioneering Spirit is an archaeological research project run by the National Trust for Scotland. In partnership with The Glenlivet, the project examines the history and archaeological remains associated with whisky production in Scotland. Over the course of the 5-year project the NTS Archaeology Team will be conducting desk-based research, field survey and excavation at several known upland illicit still sites at Torridon, Mar Lodge Estate, Ben Lawers and Ben Lomond.

There are 127 'stills' listed in the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS), its likely however that this number is well below the number that once existed. Survey work in Glen Feshie and Strathconan has located and resulted in drawn and descriptive records by local groups (Marshall 2013, 46-48; ) 2011, 77-86).

The production and use of distilling equipment may have formed an important social connection among rural communities. Not only was the equipment expensive; in the early 19th century, a still could be bought for £5 in Campbelltown (Archibald 2013, 14), but prosecution for illicit whisky making could result in a hefty fine, with group ownership and participation during distilling helping not only to prevent discovery by the Excise Officers but spreading the financial burden of equipment purchase and fines.

However, the law was often irregularly applied, a recurrent problem being the reluctance of magistrates (who were often also landlords, receiving rents paid for via smuggling) to extract fines. In early 1825 between 150 and 200 people were charged at Dingwall with illicit distillation or selling spirits without a license; but the sheriff was the only justice who turned up, so the case had to be abandoned (Scotsman 12 Feb, 1825).

The first law pertaining to the production of whisky in Scotland was the Excise Act of 1644, which meant tax had to be paid on any whisky put up for sale. However, private production that was not destined for sale was legal and exempt from tax. It was estimated that, by the 1760s, private distillers were producing around 500,000 gallons a year – about 10 times the amount of taxed production! In 1781 distilling for private consumption was banned.

Nonetheless, approximately 300,000 gallons were smuggled across the border into England in 1787 alone. By 1815 the law had got tougher and made it illegal to produce whisky in small stills (less than 500 gallons, later reduced to 200 gallons) in the Highlands. In 1823 a new Excise Act was passed, which sanctioned the distilling of whisky in return for a licence fee of just £10, and a set payment per gallon of proof spirit. This turned the production of whisky into a potentially profitable activity, and many former illicit distillers now could work legally. This included the first licensed distillery on Speyside: The Glenlivet.



A specialist at AOC Archaeology taking samples from the NTS's Cortachy Still. Unfortunately analysis (including for lipids in an attempt to gather information about whisky 'ingredients') proved fruitless



Given their importance and value, reports suggest the copper pot stills and the copper worms (an essential part of the distilling equipment) were often stored away from the still site when not in use. In 1883 at Kinlochewe, tuns, malt, a worm tub and malt were found, but no still (Aberdeen Journal 1883, 7). One of the most detailed accounts tells how, having found the distilling bothy without a still, the officers made a feint of withdrawing, though laid in wait. When the smugglers returned, they were seen to examine closely a cairn of stones near the march of the estates of Gairloch and Torridon and there a 40 gallon copper still was found, covered with heather and much battered but still serviceable and worth £4. Its loss, it was noted, apart from the cost, would mean a serious disruption to the smugglers' activities (Aberdeen Journal 1884, 2).



*Our excavations (like this one at Allt na Tuil Bhan in Torridon) have adopted a rigorous sampling strategy to try and capture as much organic evidence for fuel and whisky 'ingredients' as possible*



*Excavation at The Glenlivet Distillery has unearthed evidence of the original production facility and the start of the industrialisation of whisky production in the Speyside region*

Our fieldwork has taken in the measured survey of around 15 illicit whisky bothies at Mar Lodge Estate in the Cairngorms, and at Torridon and Kintail in the western Highlands. The excavation of four illicit still sites at Mar Lodge and Torridon, as well as two seasons of excavation at the original site of The Glenlivet distillery, first licensed in 1824. Though acid-peat soils meant preservation of organic material was poor on the smaller upland sites a range of wood fuels were identified and barley was found at Torridon.

The site at The Glenlivet was incredibly well preserved and we identified three furnaces used to fire the copper stills, timber lined vats and receiving vessels. We estimate that at full production the site could have been producing around six hogsheads of whisky per week, which is equal to 1,530 litres.

Research in 2023 will be focused on illicit whisky bothies at Ben Lawers in Perthshire and a third season at Glenlivet. In 2024 we will return to excavate two more still sites at Mar Lodge Estate and will be convening a conference to discuss the cultural impacts of Illicit whisky on Scotland landscapes and its role in our contemporary identity.

## LINKS

A 3D reconstruction of the site at The Glenlivet:

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/the-glenlivet-still-house-dig-2022-75bd67d7173443f1908451592f2a3d2a>

A collection of 3D images of artefacts and fieldwork: <https://sketchfab.com/nts-archaeology/collections/pioneering-spirit-286030b347a0471cb68beff665abd420>

For further short articles about the research please search *Pioneering Spirit* on the National Trust for Scotland website: National Trust for Scotland ([nts.org.uk](https://nts.org.uk))

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**GRACE CONIUM, CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY**  
*LYDDEN SPOUT THROUGH PICTURES*

Lydden Spout, located on the White Cliffs between Dover and Folkestone, is home to one of several coastal sea defences within Kent. With the aid of local volunteers, and with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the National Trust is conserving and protecting this site as part of their Wanstone Rediscovered project.



This photographic compilation highlights some of the main historical features of the site at Lydden Spout. They were taken on Thursday 19th January 2023 during a volunteer session to clear the immediate area of litter and rubble, and to sweep the inside of the standing buildings.

[IMG\_2754.HEIC] © Grace Conium  
View of the site facing west towards Folkestone Harbour. On the horizon, you can see an oblong mound in the centre of the image showing the rifle range. This was used for target practice during World War I. In the foreground are the remains of the concrete roads that were used within the World War II battery



[IMG\_2750.HEIC] [IMG\_2749.HEIC] © Grace Conium  
Two external views of the “L” shaped World War II dining hall and cookhouse. This and the Sergeant Mess are the last remaining buildings that formed the battery, whereas the others were demolished after the war.

[IMG\_2747.HEIC] © Grace Conium  
Inside the World War II dining hall and cookhouse. Work is currently underway to secure and conserve this space to prevent damage.



[IMG\_2752.HEIC] © Grace Conium  
Remains of the World War II plotting room. On the surface are the remains of the concrete bursters that were emplaced to protect the room below.



[IMG\_2761.HEIC] © Grace Conium  
View of the roof surface mounted placement of gun number three; one of three 6-inch Mark VII naval guns used during World War II. Beyond is the English Channel and France, just visible in the distance. These structures were filled with concrete after the war.



[IMG\_2751.HEIC] © Grace Conium  
A boundary marker of Dover with the inscription “DOVER/ BOROUGH/ 1934/ MORECROFT/ MAYOR”. Fredrick H Morecroft was the Mayor of Dover from 1933 to 1934.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers of the Wanstead Rediscovered project for providing the information accompanying the photos.

If you wish to find out more about the Wanstone Rediscovered project, please scan the QR code to be taken to the schemes page on the National Trust website.



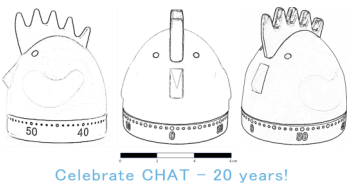
These images were taken as part of a PhD funded by the AHRC undertaken by Grace Conium. This work focuses on the impacts and legacy of community archaeology on coastal regions of east Kent, see page 6.

CONFERENCE & EVENT DIARY



**EAA (EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF ARCHAEOLOGISTS)**  
30 August – 3 September, 2023, Queen's University Belfast, Ireland  
Theme: Weaving Narratives. See <https://www.e-a-a.org/>

**AIA (ASSOCIATION FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY) 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE**  
1 – 6 September 2023, University of Bath (hybrid)  
See <https://industrial-archaeology.org/conferences/service001/>



**CHAT (CONTEMPORARY AND HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN THEORY)**  
3 – 5 November 2023, University of Patras, Greece  
Theme: Celebrate! 20 years of CHAT. See <https://celebratechat.chat-arch.org/>

**TAYLOR & FRANCIS WEBINARS** Various dates and subjects, online  
See <https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/events>



## OTHER NEWS and BACK MATTER

### STUDY FOR AN MA IN HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY AT TÜBINGEN UNIVERSITY, GERMANY

In October 2023 the department of prehistory and historical archaeology at Tübingen University starts teaching a Masters in Archaeology in English language. The MA is simply called *Archaeology* but students can choose to do historical archaeology only, if they want. The program runs for two academic years and ends with the submission and viva of the Masters thesis: this does not have to be on a German topic.

*The best thing: the tuition fee is €1500 per academic year (it would be free of charge for EU students)*

Tübingen university is one of the oldest universities in Germany and one of the 11 Ivy League universities of Germany. The city is located in the South West of Germany, and it is an extremely pretty and good place to live. The university buildings are spread across the entire historic centre and the department of prehistory and historical archaeology is located in the castle of Hohentübingen right in the historic centre. Tübingen University also hosts the departments of archaeometry, paleoanthropology, egyptology, classical archaeology and near eastern archaeology and thus students can choose from a variety of topics and courses.



Left: The Neckar River, Tübingen. Image: [Rabe!](#). Right: Hohentübingen Castle. Image: [Otto Buchegger Max Sorglos.](#) Both images [CC BY-SA 3.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons.

The deadline for applications for the English Master Program for non-EU applicants is 15 July. SPMA Council member Prof. Dr Natascha Mehler (Professor in Historical Archaeology, Tübingen University) welcomes applications from students who wish to study on this new course and is happy to answer any questions you may have: [natascha.mehler@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:natascha.mehler@uni-tuebingen.de). For more details (webpage in English) see <https://uni-tuebingen.de/fakultaeten/philosophische-fakultaet/fachbereiche/altertums-und-kunstwissenschaften/ur-und-fruehgeschichte-und-archaeologie-des-mittelalters/studium/master-archaeology/>

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[facebook.co.uk/postmedieval](https://facebook.co.uk/postmedieval) Instagram: [@soc\\_post\\_med\\_archaeology](#) Twitter: [@spma](#)

### BOOK DISCOUNT FOR SPMA MEMBERS

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### CURRENT MEMBERSHIP RATES

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Young person (under 25 years old / full-time student) £20/US \$40

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Feb 1 (Spring issue), August 1 (Autumn Issue). Copy and/or enquiries to Lara Band [newsletter@spma.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@spma.org.uk)

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