

News Items for 2006

1st September 2006 – Improved Administration

Susan Rees, one of the original Directors of the company, has now been drawn into our permanent core staff on a part-time basis to run the finance and administration of the company. Susan is by training a Statistician, a graduate of the University of Glasgow, who specialised in medical statistics. She worked for both the University of Glasgow and Fife Acute Hospitals NHS Trust before joining Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.

29 September 2006 – OASIS Training

As part of our ongoing Continuing Professional Development programme two staff members attended the training seminar organised for the new OASIS submission forms in Glasgow. These submission forms seek to establish and enforce standards for the digital reporting from development control archaeological works to the national and regional monuments records. When this is brought on-line in early 2007 the reporting device will significantly improve the transfer of data between archaeological companies and monuments records.

27th November 2006 – Additional Workshop

To improve facilities we have taken tenancy of an additional workshop at Ashgrove Workshops. The new unit will be used for storage, equipment maintenance, sediment processing and artefact cleaning & stabilisation. This facility will allow us to keep pace with the volume of site materials we need to store while enabling more of the post-excavation tasks to be retained in-house.

18th December 2006 – Post-Excavation Staff

Dr Louise Turner has joined our staff to provide more depth in the provision of consultancy and post-excavation services. Louise graduated from Glasgow and then undertook a PhD on 'A Re-interpretation of the Later Bronze Age Metalwork of Essex & Kent'. She has worked for West of Scotland Archaeology Service, Dumfries & Galloway Council and for the RCAHMS on the Accessing Scotland's Past project. She has also worked for Historic Scotland as an Assistant Inspector (Scheduling).

7th August 2006 – Historic Building Recording

Our increasing workload in the field of historic building recording is being matched by our latest investment in a reflectorless total station (Leica TCR307) which brings in-house a capacity for detailed measurement of structures. The total station, in conjunction with a laptop and AutoCAD, enables the on-site recording and depiction of detailed plans and elevations of historic buildings.

21st July 2006 – Our team grows

Today we have welcomed two colleagues, Claire Shaw and Amanda Gow, into our permanent core staff.

Claire joined us three months ago with a broad experience in field archaeology and building recording. A graduate of the University of Glasgow and the University of Sheffield, she has previously worked extensively for Kirkdale Archaeology, Carlisle Archaeology, G.U.A.R.D, Northern Archaeological Associates, Tees Archaeology and Headland Archaeology.

Amanda has worked with us intermittently over the last year and has previously worked in field archaeology for a number of Scottish commercial units (GUARD, AOC Archaeology, Headland Archaeology and SUAT) since graduating from the University of Glasgow in 2004. Her field experience includes a wide variety of sites and periods in both rural and urban contexts. She also has an ongoing research involvement in several field projects in Cyprus.

26th May 2006 – High Street, Edinburgh

Excavation and Historic Building Recording works continue in the support of the refurbishment and renewal of a historic tenement fronting onto the High Street opposite to St Giles in Edinburgh. Excavation in the basement of a derelict tenement shell to the rear has recovered valuable evidence for earlier medieval buildings on the site. Meanwhile building recording work has developed a comprehensive 3-dimension record of the historic fabric of this structure.

7th April 2006 – Airfields for the Isles II

Monitoring on Colonsay airfield has now concluded with the completion of the excavation of a discrete later prehistoric settlement site. The field team identified a badly denuded stone circular structure with a floor surface. This structure was associated with a series of small pits and a broad scatter of marine shell, suggesting the remnants of a more extensive midden. A spread of coarse pottery fragments was also recovered from the vicinity of this structure.

15th March 2006 – Airfields for the Isles I

We have today commenced a programme of monitoring works for Argyll & Bute Council for the renewal and expansion of the airfields on the isles of Colonsay and Coll. Survey work has also been undertaken in support of the improvements at North Connel airfield. The scale of these developments gives great potential for the recovery of significant archaeology from these inner hebridean isles during these important development works.

23rd February 2006 - Three Years In: Ayrshire Archaeological Contracting

On the Thursday evening Thomas Rees gave a lecture with slides on the Three Years In: Ayrshire Archaeological Contracting. Rathmell Archaeology over its first three years has undertaken extensive works across Ayrshire; the lecture reflected on the nature of archaeology within the planning process and the notable discoveries that have resulted. The lecture was given as part of the Largs & District History Society lecture programme.

10th February 2006 – Training in ASPIRE

As part of our ongoing Continuing Professional Development programme three staff members attended the training seminar organised for the new ASPIRE protocols in Glasgow. These protocols seek to establish and enforce standards for the digital reporting and transfer of data from development control archaeological works. When brought on-line the compliance to these standards will revolutionise the transfer of data between archaeological companies and local authorities.