

## THE SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS ALLOCATION PANEL

10:30, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024; National Museums Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF

**Present (in person):** Jane Ryder (chair) (JR), Fraser Hunter (FH), Beth Spence (BS), Jacob O'Sullivan (JO'S), Mark Hall (MH), Lily Bell (LB), Sharon Webb (SW), Peter Tierney (PT), Vicky Cowan (VC), Emily Freeman (EF), Carl Savage (CS).

**Observing (in person):** Catriona Deans (CD), Annie Gunner Logan (AGL), Sarah Kavanagh (SK), Marcus Dean (MD), Beccy Jones (BJ)

**Apologies:** Peter Yeoman

### 1. Minutes of the last meeting (May 2024) and Action Plan

JR raised that the allocation of the excavation assemblage from Melrose Abbey had been deferred from the November 2023 meeting until the May 2024 meeting, and that this needed to be reflected in the minutes.

### 2. Chair news and current issues

Complaints procedure. This was discussed later in meeting.

### 3. TTU report

EF gave a summary of the TTU briefing paper. LB asked about the bookings estimate for outreach days at new locations. EF clarified that TTU usually get at least three bookings for outreach events and that is the metric used for the estimate. EF also clarifies that the finds numbers are individual artefacts, not number of cases.

### 4. NMS updates

New SH&A Keeper Beccy Jones present, FH will remain as NMS representative. FH outlined Peebles hoard fundraising planned publicity. JR comments that conservation costs for the hoard will be significant; FH agreed.

FH updated panel about the Before the Museums Project, including the recent consultation and the inclusion of TTU in the project.

BJ reports that there will be media about the Galloway hoard to mark the 10-year anniversary.

### 5. Complaints procedure

JR introduced the complaints procedure and a recent letter from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) regarding recently allocated excavation assemblage. EF outlined previous correspondence received by TTU regarding these cases. The panel concluded that the HES correspondence was not a complaint but that the feedback given should be considered when the Code of Practice is reviewed.

Timeframes for the complaints procedure were discussed and will require further clarification. FH raises several queries about the complaints procedure, particularly in relation to the ongoing TT review and requested clarification on NMS's role; CD clarified that it was an interim measure, subject to change as the review continues. JR suggested reviewing the proposed interim procedure and agreeing the document via correspondence ahead of the next SAFAP meeting (December 2024).

## 6. Annual report

JR introduced the annual report and requested feedback from panel. FH commented that the "interesting cases" section nicely highlighted some of the exciting artefacts that have been allocated. JR, JO'S and FH suggested edits in the "objectives" section of the report, contact information and caption for the image on the final page. LB suggested adding to the annual report objectives (24/25, no. 2) "renewed confidence in the operation of the system".

**Action: EF to make suggested edits to the annual report.**

## 7. Review update

MD reported that the review recommendations have been completed and submitted to John Logue (KLTR) for approval – there is a provisional date for publication of 18<sup>th</sup> September. MD confirmed that the consultation receiving good engagement and that responses were broadly positive with a focus on processing time and efficiency. SK also explained how the consultation responses were analysed.

## 8. AOCB

Nothing to report.

## Conflicting Case list

*BJ and FH left.*

TT no.	Description	Ex Gratia	Application	Local Authority
TT 28/24	Neolithic mace head, Stirling	£170	*National Museums Scotland	Stirling

TT 28/24 - EF reported that the finder submitted comparanda, but most was not applicable as they were retail prices. The auction submitted by the finder had already been included in the TTU comparanda. Panel reviewed all relevant comparanda and concluded that £170 was an appropriate ex gratia award.

*BJ and FH returned.*

### Case lists

TT 88/24	Early medieval cross slab, Kirriemuir	£250	ANGUSalive Museums	Angus
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### SW left

TT 85/24	Early Bronze Age axehead, Campbeltown	£50	Kilmartin Museum - <b>deferred</b>	Argyll and Bute
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TT 85/24 - EF explained that SW applied for Campbeltown Museum but was unaware of their temporary accreditation status, requesting that the case be deferred so that she can clarify the acquisitions situation. Panel approved; case deferred.

### SW returned.

TT 25/24	Iron Age beehive quern stone, Lochfoot	£150	Dumfries Museum and Camera Obscura	Dumfries and Galloway
TT 31/24	Bronze Age axehead, Glentoo	£80	The Stewartry Museum	Dumfries and Galloway
TT 63/24	Post-Medieval coin hoard, Glenlochar	£180	The Stewartry Museum	Dumfries and Galloway
TT 83/24	Roman toggle, Castle Douglas	£10	The Stewartry Museum	Dumfries and Galloway
TT 84/24	Medieval coin hoard, Dundrennan	£810	The Stewartry Museum	Dumfries and Galloway
TT 90/24	Medieval finger ring, Buittle	£40	The Stewartry Museum	Dumfries and Galloway
TT 89/24	Annular brooch, Kilmaurs	£50	East Ayrshire Leisure Museums	East Ayrshire
TT 04/24	Dragonesque brooch, Garvald	£100	East Lothian Council Museums Service	East Lothian
TT 86/24	Whetstone, Balerno	£20	Museum of Edinburgh	City of Edinburgh
TT 01/24	Medieval copper-alloy stamp, Culross	£50	Fife cultural Trust	Fife
TT 05/24	Enamelled Roman brooch, Falkland	£15	Fife cultural Trust	Fife
TT 06/24	Roman brooch, Auchtertool	£5	Fife cultural Trust	Fife

TT 07/24	Roman brooch, Auchtertool	£5	Fife cultural Trust	Fife
TT 12/24	Post Medieval cup weight set, Freuchie	£50	Fife cultural Trust	Fife
TT 29/24	Bronze Age spearhead and curved knife, Tayport	£80	Fife cultural Trust	Fife
TT 02/24	Penannular brooch, Balblair	£60	Inverness Museum and Art Gallery	Highland
TT 08/24	Roman headstud brooch, Cadboll	£30	Inverness Museum and Art Gallery	Highland
TT 09/24	Quaich mount, Cadboll	<del>£10</del> £25	Inverness Museum and Art Gallery	Highland
TT 64/24	Annular brooch made from jeton, Balintore	£10	Inverness Museum and Art Gallery	Highland
TT 65/24	Annular brooch made from coin, Shandwick	£10	Inverness Museum and Art Gallery	Highland
TT 78/24	Bronze Age flint arrowhead, Ardross	<del>£60</del> £30	Inverness Museum and Art Gallery	Highland
TT 79/24	Neolithic Macehead, Dornoch	£45	Historylinks Museum	Highland
TT 19/24	Military Assemblage, Wester Elchies	£56	Elgin Museum	Moray
TT 20/24	Heraldic Pendant, Logie	£100	Elgin Museum	Moray
TT 30/24	Late Bronze Age hoard, Ballindalloch	£220	Elgin Museum	Moray
TT 32/24	Bronze Age socketed axehead fragment. Urquhart	£30	Elgin Museum	Moray
TT 71/24	Medieval to post-medieval assemblage, Elgin	£654	Elgin Museum	Moray
TT 72/24	Medieval pin, Myreside	£50	Elgin Museum	Moray
TT 14/24	Iron Age to Early Medieval pottery sherd, Portknockie	£5	University of Aberdeen Museums	Moray
TT 18/24	Military Belt Plate, Elgin	Waived	Aberdeenshire Museums Service	Moray
TT 68/24	Two pieces of prehistoric pottery, Quoyloo	n/a	The Orkney Museum	Orkney
TT 69/24	Iron Age Pottery and Stone Tool, Sandwick	n/a	The Orkney Museum	Orkney
TT 70/24	Prehistoric ceramic sherds and ard point, Bustatoun	n/a	The Orkney Museum	Orkney

TT 78/24: FH questioned valuation; MH agreed it was too high. Panel agreed reduction from £60 to £30.

TT09/24: BS thought the valuation was too low and panel agreed to increase from £10 to £25.

TT 30/34: FH noted a historic TT case relating to this hoard was allocated to University of Aberdeen Museums but they had not applied for this case.

Panel asked about the “n/a” status for the ex-gratia award for the Orkney cases. EF explained that there is either no finder information available or no ex-gratia award applicable due to being a scheduled monument find.

*MH left.*

TT 10/24	Dragonesque brooch, Alyth	£125	Perth Museum and Art Gallery	Perth and Kinross
TT 13/24	Late Medieval- Post-Medieval Silver Gilt Crucifix, Bankfoot	£500	Perth Museum and Art Gallery	Perth and Kinross
TT 23/24	Early Medieval copper-alloy ring and dot pin, Logierait	£15	Perth Museum and Art Gallery	Perth and Kinross

TT 13/24 - FH queries the high value of TT 13/24 compared with the comparanda, EF explained that the examples in the comparanda as about half the size of case TT 13/24.

TT 23/24 - FH thought the valuation was too low and, panel agreed to increase from £15 to £25.

*MH returned.*

TT 62/24	Dragonesque brooch, Galashiels	£80	Trimontium Trust Museum	Scottish Borders
TT 66/24	Bronze Age bracelet, Lilliesleaf	Waived	Live Borders Museums, Galleries and Archives	Scottish Borders
TT 67/24	Bronze Age axehead butt, Selkirk	£25	Live Borders Museums, Galleries and Archives	Scottish Borders
TT 15/24	Neolithic felsite Knife, Lerwick	£150	Shetland Museum and Archives	Shetland
TT 16/24	Early Medieval pommel, Fetlar	£250	Shetland Museum and Archives	Shetland

TT 17/24	Late Medieval cloth Seal, Fetlar	£170	Shetland Museum and Archives	Shetland
TT 21/24	Decorated bone pin, Galson	Waived	Comunn Eachdraidh Nis	Western Isles
TT 87/24	Prehistoric and late- or postmedieval assemblage, Swainbost	n/a	Comunn Eachdraidh Nis	Western Isles
TT 73/24	Prehistoric pottery and worked bone, Galson	£30	Museum nan Eilean	Western Isles
TT 74/24	Prehistoric pottery, Mealasta	£10	Museum nan Eilean	Western Isles
TT 77/24	Iron Age – Early Medieval assemblage, Upper Bayble/Pabail Uarach	n/a	Museum nan Eilean	Western Isles
TT 75/24	Iron Age pottery assemblage, Great Bernera	£60	Bernera Museum	Western Isles

TT 15/24 - SW asked the panel if the valuation was too high. Panel reviewed the comparanda and the case and determined that TT 15/24 was a good example and agreed with the estimated valuation.

BS asked about the Western Isles cases with no valuation. EF explained it was lack of finder information or scheduled monument sites. JR highlighted that the future Code of Practice review should consider finders' responsibility for providing findspots.

*BJ and FH left.*

TT 24/24	Cup-and-ring-marked stone, Garvald	<del>£1,000</del> £600	National Museums Scotland	East Lothian
TT 33/24	Bronze Age hoard, Howgate	£650	National Museums Scotland	Midlothian
TT 81/24	Hoard of Roman coins, Crichton	£40	*National Museums Scotland	Midlothian
TT 82/24	Iron Age/Roman assemblage, Pathhead	£470	*National Museums Scotland	Midlothian
TT 22/24	Prehistoric saddle quern, Elgin	£35	*National Museums Scotland	Moray
TT 80/24	Modern coin ring, Largs	£15	*National Museums Scotland	North Ayrshire
TT 03/24	Roman brooch fragment, Galashiels	£5	*National Museums Scotland	Scottish Borders

TT 26/24	Prehistoric lithic assemblage, Galashiels	£35	National Museums Scotland	Scottish Borders
TT 27/24	Silver niello ring, Galashiels	£70	*National Museums Scotland	Scottish Borders
TT 61/24	Late medieval zoomorphic figurine, Blair Drummond	£10	*National Museums Scotland	Stirling

TT 24/24 - LB and MH thought the valuation was too high. The panel agreed and reduced the value to £600.

*BJ and FH returned.*

### Excavation assemblages

TT 49/24	Bronze Age assemblage, Cloverhill, Murcar, Aberdeen. Cameron Archaeology: 1 box	University of Aberdeen Museums	Murcar, Aberdeenshire
TT 43/24	Mesolithic assemblage, Nerabus, Low Nerabus, Isle of Islay, Argyll and Bute. Argyll Archaeology 214: 1 small box	Kilmartin Museum	Isle of Islay, Argyll and Bute
TT 37/24	Prehistoric and modern assemblage, Glenshellach, Oban, Argyll and Bute. Argyll Archaeology 143: 12 boxes and loose large stone	Kilmartin Museum	Oban, Argyll and Bute
TT 41/24	Late Norse/Medieval assemblage, Kilchoman Warehouses, Isle of Islay, Argyll and Bute. Argyll Archaeology 631: 1 small box	Kilmartin Museum	Isle of Islay, Argyll and Bute
TT 42/24	Iron Age assemblage, Land Northwest of Four Winds, Kilninian, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute. Argyll Archaeology 166: large quernstone (held by Argyll Archaeology) and various held by Mull. Museum	Mull Museum	Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute
TT 45/24	Prehistoric assemblage, Pennygown, Glenforsa, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute. Argyll Archaeology 382: 1 bag	Mull Museum	Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute
TT 46/24	Prehistoric assemblage, Strondoire, South Knapdale, Argyll and Bute. Argyll Archaeology 267: 1 small bag	Kilmartin Museum	South Knapdale, Argyll and Bute
TT 47/24	Prehistoric assemblage, Ulva Ferry, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute. Argyll Archaeology 299: 1 small bag	Mull Museum	Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute

TT 49/24	Prehistoric assemblage, Land south of Bishop's Walk, Isle of Iona, Argyll and Bute. Argyll Archaeology 389: 1 bag (lithics)	Mull Museum	Isle of Iona, Argyll and Bute
TT 53/24	Early Bronze Age assemblage, Benderloch, Argyll and Bute. AOC Archaeology FW23956-29: 5 boxes (inc. human remains)	Kilmartin Museum	Benderloch, Argyll and Bute
TT 48/24	Medieval – Post Medieval assemblage, Abbey Strand, Edinburgh. Kirkdale Archaeology PHH17: 11 plastic boxes, 5 timbers	Museum of Edinburgh	City of Edinburgh
TT 54/24	Post-Medieval assemblage, 24-26 Calton Road, Edinburgh. AOC Archaeology FW25151: 2 boxes	Museum of Edinburgh	City of Edinburgh
TT 57/24	Post-Medieval assemblage, 30 South Fort Street, Edinburgh. AOC Archaeology FW23413: 3 boxes	Museum of Edinburgh	City of Edinburgh
TT 59/24	Bronze Age and Iron Age assemblage, Dalmore, Alness, Highland. Stuart Farrell. Dal15 / Dal18 : 1 box	Inverness Museum and Art Gallery	Alness, Highland
TT 55/24	Margaret Curtis et al archive, multiperiod prehistoric to modern. Various sites, Isle of Lewis. AOC Archaeology: 9 boxes	Museum nan Eilean	Western Isles
TT 58/24	Prehistoric assemblage, Bratanais Mor, Calainais, Isle of Lewis. SCAPE Trust: 1 quartz flake	Museum nan Eilean	Western Isles
TT 35/24	19th Century assemblage, Duff House, Banff, Aberdeenshire. Kirkdale Archaeology: 1 box	Historic Environment Scotland	Banff, Aberdeenshire
TT 38/24	Mixed assemblage, Iona Abbey grounds, Isle of Iona, Argyll and Bute. Argyll Archaeology 624: 1 box	National Museums Scotland	Isle of Iona, Argyll and Bute
TT 40/24	Prehistoric assemblage, Iona village hall, Isle of Iona, Argyll and Bute. Argyll Archaeology 420: 1 small box (lithics)	National Museums Scotland	Isle of Iona, Argyll and Bute
TT 44/24	Early Historic period and Norse assemblage, Oran Cottage, Isle of Iona, Argyll and Bute. Argyll Archaeology 094: 3 small tubs	National Museums Scotland	Isle of Iona, Argyll and Bute
TT 91/24	Late Upper Palaeolithic assemblage, Howburn Farm, Biggar, South Lanarkshire. Biggar Archaeology Group: 10 boxes	National Museums Scotland	Howburn Farm, Biggar, South Lanarkshire

**No Applications and deferrals**

TT 11/24	Gold lion of Robert III, Airth	£6,500	No application	Falkirk
TT 76/24	Late Medieval to Post-Medieval cast iron tripod cauldron, Hamilton	n/a	See note below	South Lanarkshire

TT 11/24 - CS explained the die type and level of valuation to the panel, and that there are examples of this coin in museum collections in Scotland and valuation, no one interested so disclaim and return to finder.

TT 76/24 – Museum was e-mailed several times regarding this case, but no response. EF to follow-up and agree allocation/disclaim via correspondence.

TT 56/24	Prehistoric to Post-Medieval assemblage, Rossie, Inverkeilor, Angus. AOC Archaeology FW26057: 1 box	No application	Inverkeilor, Angus
TT 36/24	19th - 20th Century assemblage, Dunstaffnage Castle, Argyll and Bute. Kirkdale Archaeology: 1 box	No application	Dunbeg, Argyll and Bute
TT 60/24	Post-Medieval assemblage, Cill Chuimein Health Centre, Fort Augustus, Highland. Stuart Farrell: 1 box	No application	Fort Augustus, Highland
TT 34/24	Modern assemblage, Brownhouse, Arnol, Lewis. Kirkdale Archaeology: 1 box	No application	Arnol, Western Isles

TT 50/24 <sup>1</sup>	12th to 20th century assemblage, Dryburgh Abbey, Newtown St Boswells, Scottish Borders. Kirkdale Archaeology DA02: 4 boxes	deferral	Newtown St Boswells, Scottish Borders
TT 51/24	12th to 20th century assemblage, Dryburgh Abbey, Newtown St Boswells, Scottish Borders. Kirkdale Archaeology DA06: 20 boxes	deferral	Newtown St Boswells, Scottish Borders
TT 52/24	18th to 19th century assemblage, Dryburgh Abbey, Newtown St Boswells, Scottish Borders. Kirkdale Archaeology DA08: 1 box	deferral	Newtown St Boswells, Scottish Borders

TT 50/24 - 52/24 - EF said that the assemblages not museum ready and post-excavation had not been completed. Excavator had been contacted but there was no indication as to why this was not done. Deferred until resolved.

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<sup>1</sup> Deferred pending post-excavation on the assemblage – highlighted that this was not done.

JR thanked the panel and brought the meeting to a close.

**End of meeting**