

Tales of the Riverbank: the Carpow Bronze Age logboat in context.

Abstracts

An introduction to logboats.

Prof. Sean McGrail (former Professor of Maritime Archaeology at the University of Oxford).

This paper will set the scene with an introduction to prehistoric logboats and will describe the methods of manufacture for complex logboats while considering the Carpow vessel in the light of other excavated examples.

‘Come in Number 7’: discovery, excavation, recovery and recording.

David Strachan (Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust).

The story of the Carpow boat from its discovery in September 2001 through to recent recording work carried out at the National Museums of Scotland. This account of the project will include themes such as the logistics of inter-tidal excavation, the use of global positioning systems (GPS), recovery and lifting of the vessel, video recording of the project and subsequent methods of recording the retrieved boat.

Carpow: description, dating and possible uses.

David Strachan (Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust).

This paper will describe and interpret the Carpow boat from the use of the parent log through to construction and repair of the stern and will consider similarities to the Hasholme boat (*c.*300 cal BC) from east Yorkshire. The results of radiocarbon dating and dendrochronological study will be addressed and an assessment will be made as to the likely methods of manufacture and use.

A submerged landscape in the River Tay and evidence of later woodland exploitation.

Dr Sue Dawson (Aberdeen Institute for Coastal Science and Management, University of Aberdeen) and Dr Mike Cressey (CFA Archaeology Ltd).

In 2006 a large tract of eroding inter-tidal peat with *in-situ* tree stumps was assessed for its environmental potential before it was lost forever. Diatoms (unicellular algae) contained within the silts at the base of the peat provide reliable evidence for the depositional environment of the silts in the vicinity of the Carpow logboat. Diatoms suggest an inter-tidal estuarine environment with *Paralia sulcata*, *Rhaphoneis surirella* and *Rhaphoneis amphiceros* in greatest abundance. This is in accord with the palaeoenvironmental analyses undertaken by Cullingford *et al* (1980). Environmental samples taken from within and below the Carpow logboat during its excavation have also provided significant results. These will be explored in relation to sea level changes and the exploitation of the local woodland environment during the later Bronze Age.

Conservation of the Carpow logboat.

Dr. Theo Skinner (National Museums of Scotland).

The logboat has been kept wet while examination and recording took place, using capillary matting and leaky hoses. It has now been cut into three sections to fit into the freeze drier – this is necessary as freeze drying is by far the less expensive option for treatment. Some analyses have been carried out on core samples taken from the boat, to measure water contents and sulfur contamination. The results are being used to formulate the treatment process, which will consist of impregnation with polyethylene glycol to reduce shrinkage and prevent cracking, stabilisation of the sulfur compounds with calcium phytate, freeze drying to remove remaining water, and finally, reconstruction.

Where was she headed?: contemporary archaeological sites from around the Tay Estuary.

Sarah Winlow (Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust).

This paper will consider the archaeological evidence for contemporary settlements and ritual and funerary monuments in the environs of the Tay Estuary. The synthesis of evidence from excavation and aerial photographic survey is essential to reach an understanding of the logboat and to put the vessel in context.

On a Bronze Age Tide: a new look at finds of Late Bronze Age metalwork from the Tay.

Trevor Cowie (National Museums of Scotland) and Mark Hall (Perth Museum and Art Gallery).

A review of the finds of Late Bronze Age metalwork from the River Tay will provide the starting point for a survey of contemporary artefacts from the wider Tayside and Fife region, highlighting the variation in their treatment and context, the evidence they provide for the region's national and international connections, and the light they shed on craftsmanship.

Carpow Bank and other Scottish logboats.

Bob Mowat (The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland).

The discovery of this logboat is one of several recent developments in Scottish wetland archaeology. This paper considers its geographical, distributional and chronological significance against that of other Scottish examples. The limitations imposed by the local timber supply are considered, as is the probable value of such craft within specific topographic conditions.

The Dover Bronze Age Boat: Discovery, display and beyond...

Peter Clark (Canterbury Archaeological Trust).

It is now fifteen years since the unexpected discovery of a perfectly preserved prehistoric sewn plank boat at the bottom of a 6m deep shaft in the heart of Dover. This unparalleled find of international importance presented archaeologists with a whole series of unanticipated challenges; excavation, conservation, analysis, fund raising and the public display of the vessel (now dated to 1550 cal BC). This paper describes how those challenges were met, and sets out the impact that the discovery of the boat has had on the study of maritime cultural contact along the western European seaboard during the 2nd Millennium BC.

Conference Information

Venue

This conference will be held at Jamesfield Organic Farm, Abernethy. The venue occupies a scenic location overlooking the Tay Estuary and the site of the Carpow logboat excavation. The farm occupies 300 acres of land along the Tay and the Earn, producing high quality organic meat, fruit, vegetables and bread for sale on-site and by mail order. For more details on the Farm and their activities visit: www.jamesfieldfarm.co.uk

Lunch and refreshments

The conference fee includes morning and afternoon teas/coffees and lunch provided by Jamesfield Organic Farm Restaurant.

Travel

Car

Free parking is available at the venue. Jamesfield Farm is located 1 mile east of Abernethy. See map below for venue location.

Public transport

A free minibus will be provided to the venue for those travelling by public transport from outside Perth, although spaces are limited and offered on a first-come first-served basis. The minibus will depart from Perth train station at approximately 8.45. Please advise when booking if the minibus is required.

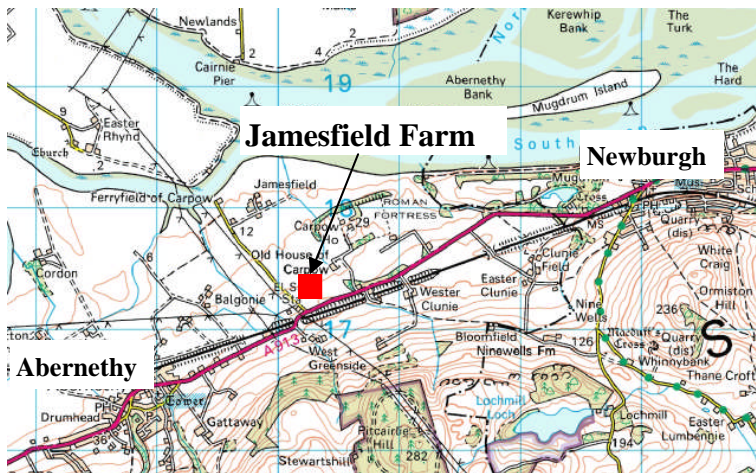
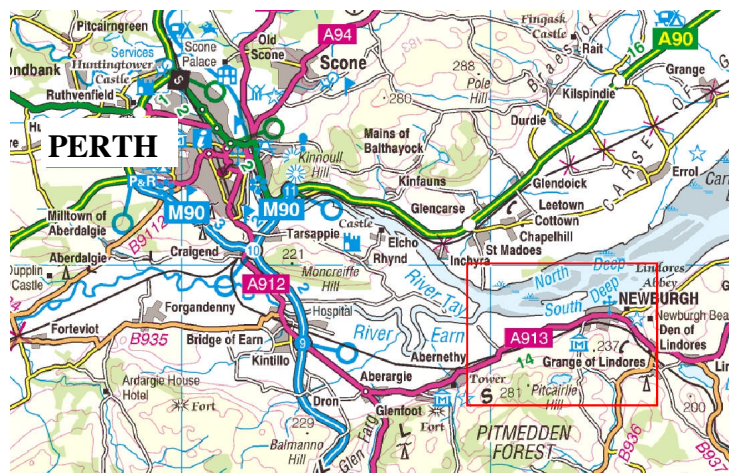
Train times (please check to confirm times with rail provider):

Edinburgh 7:03am arrives Perth 8:39am

Glasgow 7:42am arrives Perth 8:39am

Local service bus

Perth 7:47am arrives Newburgh 8:19am (ask to be dropped off at Jamesfield Farm)



Carpow Logboat Conference - Registration Form

Please complete this form and return with a cheque to the address below.

Name	
Organisation	
Telephone	
Email	

Cost

Cost is inclusive of tea/coffee and lunch at the venue. Reduced costs for those **pre-booked** on the conference are **£15** and **£10** (concessions). **Costs on the day is £20 (£12 concessions).**

Please tick one of the boxes below:

Pre-booked (£15)		Pre-booked concession (£10)	
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Payment details:

Payment for pre-booking can be made by cheque only. The completed application form should be sent together with a cheque, payable to 'Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust' to:

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust

The Lodge, 4 York Place, Perth PH2 8EP

Email: stimoney@pkc.gov.uk

Tel: 01738 477080

Your registration will be confirmed by email/telephone once we have received payment.

Payment on the day can be made by cash/cheque at the full price (£20/£12).

Special Needs?

Please do notify us in advance if you have any special requirements.

