

INSTITUTE FOR NORTHERN STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



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Introduction



Professor Donna Heddle

The last year has been challenging for us all. Universities across the world have had to find a way of moving towards online and remote teaching, something the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) has done well for many years. It wasn't therefore too much of a stretch for our students to engage with lecturers via the new virtual world, particularly as so many of our postgraduate students are situated across the world and are used to relying upon technology to engage with their studies. The last few months have seen our staff numbers boosted, with two new administrative posts and three new lecturing positions plus the new personal chair bestowed upon Professor Alex Sanmark, whose inaugural lecture gained much interest.

Despite the pandemic, the Institute for Northern Studies (INS) has been working hard fostering links with other institutions, both domestic and international, organising seminars and online conferences, publishing articles and books and working on research projects as well as continuing with teaching. Support to our staff and students during the pandemic was a key part of our activities we held weekly virtual coffee mornings for staff to chat and online get togethers for our PhD students. Our MLitt and undergraduate students were well used to studying at a distance from their tutors, but we held online quiz nights and offered our students additional support during this difficult time. This resulted in an excellent set of results for our graduating students this year. To cap it off, the Institute's Director, Professor Donna Heddle, was seconded at the beginning of the academic year as Acting Vice Principal (Research and Impact) within the university, necessitating a step-back from the Institute, although she remains as Director.

Background

Established in 2007, we operate from three key locations at Orkney, Shetland, and Perth Colleges UHI. We also work closely with both Orkney College UHI and Shetland College UHI and their associated learning centres and island communities. Originally titled the Centre for Nordic Studies, our first staff were employed in 2009, and today we offer five postgraduate degrees to students across the globe, plus one undergraduate Honour degree at both single and joint Honours. It gained its Institute status in 2017. It was created by Professor Donna Heddle, who has worked at the University of the Highlands and Islands at Orkney College since 1998.

The Institute for Northern Studies at the University of the Highlands and Islands is a world leading research and teaching centre which was rated first in Scotland for research impact and fifth equal with the University of Oxford across the UK in the Research Excellence Framework Exercise in 2014. We are internationally renowned for our innovative postgraduate teaching and research programmes in Orkney and Shetland Studies, Highlands and Islands Literature, Viking Studies and Islands Studies. We also just launched a brand new online-only MLitt in Scottish Heritage.

Links With Other Organisations and Profile-Raising Activities

PROFESSOR ALEXANDRA SANMARK'S INAUGURAL PROFESSORIAL LECTURE

Professor Alexandra Sanmark's inaugural professorial lecture held on the 16 September 2021 was a popular event for UHI.

Titled *Women and Men in the Viking Age* Professor Sanmark discussed the connections with the Viking Age to violent raiding and pillaging, with much emphasises on the activities of men. Viking women have also been paid some attention, especially in recent years when the roles of some women have been highlighted. These tend to be the 'strong women' of the Icelandic sagas, highlighted as exceptional, while the lives of other women remain rather underexplored.

This lecture was attended by 426 people with 1045 people registering for a free ticket for this online event which was a UHI record for number of attendees at the time. It is possible to watch the lecture via UHI's YouTube channel https://youtu.be/q4VSfIOAs_c.



Professor Alexandra Sanmark

SEMINAR SERIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH CULTURE PERTH & KINROSS



The Institute's continued partnership with Culture Perth

and Kinross resulted in a joint series of lectures, recordings of which are available via the Institute's YouTube channel <https://bit.ly/3a5Cs7i>.

- Dr Anouk Busset: Kingship and Carved Stones
- Dr Louisa Campbell: Rediscovering the Antonine Wall Distance Stones
- Dr Alex Woolf: Kings of Places & Kings of People: the case of Alt Clut

MIMIR'S WELL

Mimir's Well is a newspaper column in The Orcadian newspaper, run by the Institute for Northern Studies. In a light-hearted and informal way, it explores topics relating to Orkney history, dialect, literature, and culture, which have come up in our daily work at the Institute. Institute for Northern Studies staff are responsible for this column, MLitt and Doctoral students and invited guest writers are often invited to contribute to it.

The column Mimir's Well appears now and again, depending on what inspires us to write. As we are a multidisciplinary team, the topics of the column span widely, from history and archaeology via folklore and ethnology to literature and language. Past articles are available via the Institute's website <https://bit.ly/3uBSr6y>.

Impact of the Institute for Northern Studies

INS SEMINAR SERIES



For many years the Institute has organised seminars from a wide range of visiting and staff and academics on a huge variety of subjects to local audiences. The move online opened up a wider audience where the majority of the seminars were recorded and made available online via the Institute's YouTube channel <https://bit.ly/3a5Cs7i>.

Over the 2020/21 session, the Institute organised the following seminars:

- Dr Veerle Van den Eynden: People and Plants in Scotland: A contemporary view
- Prof Stefan Brink: What's in a Name Why study Onomastics for the sake of Old Norse Mythology
- Dr Colleen Batey: *The role of the Jarlshof Site in Norse Archaeology*
- Dr Andrea Freund: *The World of Orcadian Runecarvers*
- Dr Natascha Mehler: *The Northern Isles of Scotland during the 16th century: archaeological perspectives on proto-global trade connections*
- Professor David Griffiths: *Birsay and Skail: archaeological landscapes of Orkney*
- Caroline Wickham Jones: *Nowhere else I'd rather be: A personal view of the archaeology of Orkney and why it is special*
- Michèle Hayeur Smith: 'The Valkyries' Loom: adventures in textile production in the North Atlantic from AD 873-1800

The 2021/22 seminar series began in September and continues through the winter months.

- Dr Rebecca Ford's *Words and Waves: Exploring the Power of Stories, Community and Renewable Energy in Orkney:*
- Professor Steve Murdoch: *War and Peace: Scotland and Norway as Friends and Foes, 1589-1713*
- Dr Alison Cathcart: *They 'offered to give what they do not even hope to gain.'* Ireland, Orkney and Shetland, and Kingship in the Reign of James V

ISLANDS MATTER SEMINAR SERIES

October sees a new seminar series being launched in collaboration with the 'Islands Matter' collaborative programme has been set up to strengthen the university's world-leading pan-island research activities and nurture global networking connections. Each seminar addresses a range of island-based economic and cultural topics and questions to facilitate new ways of thinking and collaborations by sharing learning and research between island communities.



Dr Andrew Jennings

Speaking about the new initiative Dr Andrew Jennings from the University of the Highlands and Islands Institute for Northern Studies, based in Shetland, said: “It has been a pleasure to work with colleagues Professor Frank Rennie and Dr Beth Mouat to bring this new series to life. As the only university with a physical base within each of Scotland’s main islands groupings we have a unique ability to serve our island communities, and this includes playing an active role in connecting researchers who are based on Scottish islands with others.” “The seminar series builds on the university’s connectivity with other island groupings around the world and reaffirms the growing importance of research-driven island culture and historical contributions to global issues such as climate change, repopulation and sustainability.”

The first webinar took place on Thursday 7 October at 12 noon and features guest speaker James Ellsmoor, an entrepreneur, writer and sustainability expert who is one of the world’s leading island voices. Since graduating in 2018 with an MLitt in islands studies from the University of the Highlands and Islands Institute for Northern Studies, he has founded and is the director of Island Innovation, a global media platform which offers unique insights into island sustainability and is the creator of the Virtual Island Summit, which this year welcomed over 14000 attendees from over 500 islands. Further speakers in the series include Dr Laurie Brinklow from Prince Edward Island, Professor Owe Ronström from Gotland and Professor Chik Collins the Principal of the University of the Faroe Islands.

TOUR GUIDE TRAINING

Over the last six years, INS has been involved in partnership with the Scottish Tourist Guides Association (STGA) to offer practical and academic training for new tour guides across the North Highlands region. With the usual practical training being impossible over the 2020/21 academic session, a compromise was reached by offering virtual practice to complement the actual practice undertaken before the first lockdown. It certainly did the trick, with all 20 of the students presented for assessment passing the external assessment and gaining the nationally recognised STGA Green Badge regional affiliate qualification. This is the final year of the Cert HE North Highlands Tourist Guiding course in its current format, and as well as producing 20 new STGA qualified guides, it also produced 16 Cert HE North Highlands Tourist Guiding graduates from across the UHI network.



Students practicing at Urquhart Castle, Highland

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY STUDENTS (PHD)

In August we were delighted when Rebecca Ford successfully defended her thesis *Words and Waves: a dialogical approach to discourse, community, and marine renewables in Orkney* to gain her PhD.

Our current PhD students are:

- Evelyn Anderson: *Shetland before the NHS: a study to explore factors that influenced Islanders wellbeing, health and care*
- Tara Athanasiou: *Dangerous Relations? The facts and fictions of female relationships in the Old Norse world*
- Lynn Campbell: *The Role of the Kirk in Orkney, 17th – 19th centuries, a social history*
- Julie Cassidy: *Highland Park: From Sagas to Stills*
- Hloniphile Khuzwayo: *Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) with women for sustainable rural development: a case study of a selected Maluti mountain rural community (South Africa)*
- Christian Lyons: *Lexical items as measures of status in skaldic verse*
- Cait McCullagh: *Curating Heritage for Sustainable Communities in Highly Vulnerable Environments: The Case of Scotland's Northern Isles*
- Annie Thuesen: *The sustainability of cultural tourism and its effects on communities: The case of Orkney*
- Fleur Ward: *Information and Communication Technology's Role in the Governance of Sub-National Island Jurisdictions (SNIJs) – Successes, Failures and Lessons for Scotland's Island Councils*



An impromptu celebration after Rebecca's successful viva. L-R: Prof Donna Heddle, Dr Rebecca Ford

MASTERS BY RESEARCH STUDENTS (MRES)

INS has recently celebrated the first two completions of its new Masters by Research (MRes) degree. An MRes is an advanced research degree which involves the production of a 40,000 word thesis on a specialist topic.

Andrew Parkinson's research focused on the engagement of three artistic figures with Rackwick in Hoy: Poet George Mackay Brown, painter Sylvia Wishart, and composer Peter Maxwell Davies. Spencer Rosie's thesis analysed the royal charters of Kirkwall in detail, considering their influence on



Successful MRes students, l-r
Andrew Parkinson and Spencer Rosie

life in the burgh during its earliest centuries within the Scottish kingdom.

Our current MRes Students are:

- Sam Hargrove: *Reconstructing the ecological history of Skye from early modern records*
- John Peach: *Did the arrival of pagans from the Viking Diaspora have an influence on the religious practice of early medieval Anglo-Saxon Christians?*

MLITT COURSES

The pandemic did not have a detrimental effect on the MLitt programmes. The student cohort successfully coped with the challenges, and their results bear this out. There were 29 graduates, of which 17 gained Distinctions. The quality of the programmes and the teaching was highlighted by the student feedback and the results of the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) with Island Studies scoring 92% and both Scottish Heritage and Viking Studies achieving 100% overall satisfaction scores.



Find out about our courses and watch presentations by our Programme Leaders via our website:

<https://bit.ly/3Fgy2pc>.

BA CULTURE AND HERITAGE, SINGLE AND JOINT HONOURS

The Culture and Heritage BA (Hons) is available as both single and joint Honours degrees, and it shares the joint awards with Archaeology, Criminology, History, Literature, Politics, Sociology, Theology and a single with award, BA (Hons) Culture and Heritage with Gaelic Studies.

Research Themes

- Viking Studies
- Medieval and modern history and culture of Scotland
- Links between Scotland and the Nordic world
- The history and culture of the Scottish islands within the North Atlantic region
- Highlands and Islands Literature
- Island Studies
- Scottish Heritage
- The languages and dialects of Orkney and Shetland
- Pictish Studies
- Culture and Sustainability

Projects and Commercial Activities

DRINKING IN SCOTLAND'S HISTORY



Ginspired Scotland is a new, independent website which lists all of Scotland's Craft Gin producers in one handy, informative, easy to use site. It provides a unique guide to share ideas for gin-inspired (Ginspired) holidays, which are off the beaten track.

Working with Ginspired with Interface funding, Professor Heddle advised on the creation of unique, historical gin trail *Highland Holiday* by providing a range of routes or trails based on stories from history, most of which are not well known, but are engaging and of interest to a wide domestic and international audience.

The focus of the trails is novel and significantly different from existing tourism offerings – the trails will clarify and celebrate historical events and people who are not usually at the forefront of the tourism offering, such as women and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) travellers who are lost in the existing historical narratives.

Drawing out and celebrating these events and figures in history will allow for visitors to understand and appreciate the shaping of Scotland. The contribution to this project by INS was essential, as it supplies a unique combination of expertise in Scottish history and tourism, which is precisely what was needed. Detailed knowledge of the whole

country and every historical period, plus the interdisciplinary research expertise and the technical expertise essential for a project like this, is not available commercially and not currently available elsewhere.

This new itinerary product will appeal to visitors who have an interest in Scottish History, either as part of a search for knowledge or potential links through ancestry perhaps. The demographic of this group is broad, from families educating children, to older visitors travelling in couples or small groups of friends. This means we might expect to attract significant numbers of relatively affluent visitors to benefit regions dependent on tourism or overlooked by tourism. We could also expect these visitors to spend more time in these areas, to fully explore the historical tales we will be spotlighting, and so bringing the associated financial benefits to hospitality businesses in the featured regions. This will be especially valuable as Scotland's tourism industry seeks to recover from the devastating impacts of COVID-19.

VIKING AND NORSE HERITAGE TOURISM IN SCOTLAND

This was a collaborative project investigating the Viking and Norse heritage tourism offer in Scotland and identifying opportunities for development of the offer jointly produced by Dr Steven Timoney, Perth College and Professor Alex Sanmark, Institute for Northern Studies. [The report](#) outlines the results of the research and the key findings, covering an appraisal of the existing offer, and identifying opportunities for new developments in the Viking and Norse heritage tourism offer. It provides valuable data that will



Brough of Birsay, Orkney

allow third sector organisations and SMEs to identify opportunities to develop new products and tourism offers that incorporate Viking and Norse heritage. The research was supported by a small grant from the UHI Tourism Sector Group Challenge Fund.

CHANGESCAPES OF RECOVERY PROJECT

Mental health problems exacerbated by the pandemic and digital poverty were highlighted as key challenges as part of the research.

The research, led by the Centre for Remote and Sustainable Communities at Inverness College UHI and the Centre for Mountain Studies at Perth College UHI with the Centre for Recreation and Tourism Research, Institute for Northern Studies and the Environmental Research Institute, examined the impact of COVID-19 on hard-to-reach, deprived, urban communities as well as remote, rural communities across the Highlands and Islands.

The findings are already being used by community partners Merkinch Partnership, Caithness Voluntary Group, Island Smart Ltd and Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust. There is evidence that COVID-19 has had disproportionate impacts on rural, remote and marginalised communities. The main aim of the project is to contribute new knowledge on community perspectives on attitudes to, and responses to, COVID-19, lockdown and recovery. The proposal supports systematic community-driven creative research between the UHI academic partnership and the communities of the Highlands and Islands in order to inform regional planning for a 'just recovery' from the crisis.

This creative and participatory research will systematically show the impacts that different members of communities and local businesses and residents feel as a result of COVID-19. It crosses over social, economic, cultural and environmental boundaries and explores the impacts through the eyes, voices and everyday lives of local people. Through common methodology and analysis, which will be synthesised across cases, it will have relevance for regional policy and practice.

The approach centres on local people as agents of change through local action planning: this process will explore ways in which different community members and stakeholders locally can take immediate action together, and what support they may need to increase such social innovation. Volunteers will take on the role of citizen scientists in this project, gaining valuable opportunities to develop new skills sets, based on social science methodologies, and to provide valuable insights on responses to COVID-19 in their own communities. Regional stakeholders including Highland Council, Highland & Islands Enterprise and Visit Scotland will engage with the research as part of a cross-case study reference group.

CHANGESCAPES OF RECOVERY

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

The Institute has continued its work in Vanuatu through a further grant from the Global Challenges Research Fund.

The most significant issue identified by our previous research was the necessity of creating an internationally recognised tourism qualification, recognised as a prime need by all stakeholders as tourism development could not really take place without it. The Institute is now developing a training programme for Vanuatu tourist guides with the Scottish Qualifications Authority, the Vanuatu Qualifications Authority, and the University of the South Pacific. It will be rolled out further across the South Pacific nations.

This development will improve the career and economic prospects of this workforce, particularly women, and the service and cultural product on offer, resulting in the attraction and retention of high-end tourists. INS staff are particularly proud that their research will be improving lives in a very real and immediate way. Funded by Global Challenges Research Fund – UKRI.

As part of this online workshops were arranged in conjunction with the University of the South Pacific (USP). Titled *Archipelagos of Adventure: Developing Tourism and Cultural Heritage in the South Pacific Heritage* were aimed at interested parties in Fiji and Vanuatu, such as USP students and staff, tourism and heritage professionals, and anyone with an interest in heritage and tourism on the 7th, 8th and 9th September 2021.

The first workshop was *Reclaiming the Past; embedding cultural heritage in tourism products* given by Professor Donna Heddle. Cultural heritage is an increasingly important part of any destination's cultural tourism product. This presentation explored how and why we should embed our cultural heritage in tourism products including tours, products, and interpretation centres, giving examples and



Prof Heddle at the Vanuatu Convention Centre

analysing the benefits to the tourist and to the community. The presentation also looked at the possible pitfalls and disadvantages of such an approach and sought to show how we can resolve these.

Professor Alexandra Sanmark gave a presentation on *Tourist Guiding in Scotland and the South Pacific*. This presentation started by providing an overview of the tourist guiding programmes for Scotland offered by INS, highlighting the key areas taught to trainee guides. These programmes have been carefully planned to provide tourist guides with a broad knowledge base on which they can draw in their work. The contents were developed using our experience of the wide range of areas that tourists are keen to learn about as part of their holiday.

These training programmes will be used as a starting point to discuss potential areas of interest for tourism offers in the island nations of the South Pacific.

The final session was held by Andrew Gibson, Educational Development Leader at UHI, *Interactive map demonstration: Vanuatu*. This presentation demonstrated how to navigate and engage with an

interactive online map developed for tourist guiding in Vanuatu. Viewable on all device types and operating systems (computer, tablet, smart phone), the map features embedded 'hotspots' designed to draw attention to particular locations, with informative text and pictures. In addition, the map features suggested routes for tours of differing lengths.

PLACES OF POWER AND RITUAL IN EARLY MEDIEVAL SCOTLAND AND EUROPE CONFERENCE



Held online in conjunction with Culture Perth & Kinross on the 18 June 2021, this one-day conference was the culmination of a series of workshops on early medieval Kingship and its attendant rituals funded by a grant from the Royal Society of Edinburgh. It explored the diverse range of evidence for early medieval of kingship and ritual in Scotland within a wider European setting and thus bring new light to an under researched area.

Contributions came from a range of disciplines, including archaeology, art history, history and onomastics. Despite the excellent research to date, particularly across Europe, the physical dynamics of how kingship operated in Scotland and how it related to the rest of Europe remains under-explored. Most of the papers are available via the Institute's YouTube channel <https://bit.ly/3a5Cs7i> and will be presented by a dedicated website in 2022.

5TH ST MAGNUS CONFERENCE

Island life would have been impossible without the equal contribution of women and men. Women have often taken leading roles in island communities, running them when their men have been off the islands seeking employment, as fishermen, whalers, serving in the navy or as merchant seamen. However, is this reflected in the stories that are told?

The three-day St Magnus Conference explored both the female and male



experience of island life from the Viking Age, or earlier, to the present. The primary research focus was the islands of the North Atlantic, but there was research and stories from other island communities. It was a multi-disciplinary exploration, and included contributions from historians, archaeologists, folklorists, and cultural studies, gender studies and literary scholars.

MY ORKNEY STORY DIGITAL STORYTELLING PROJECT



The My Orkney Story project emerged from a workshop hosted by Robert Gordon University (RGU) on SMART Tourism in 2019.

The purpose of this workshop was to work in collaboration with key stakeholders in Orkney (including the University of the Highlands and Islands, Orkney Islands Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, VisitScotland, Scottish Natural Heritage) to identify innovative technological solutions for challenges facing Orkney’s tourism sector.

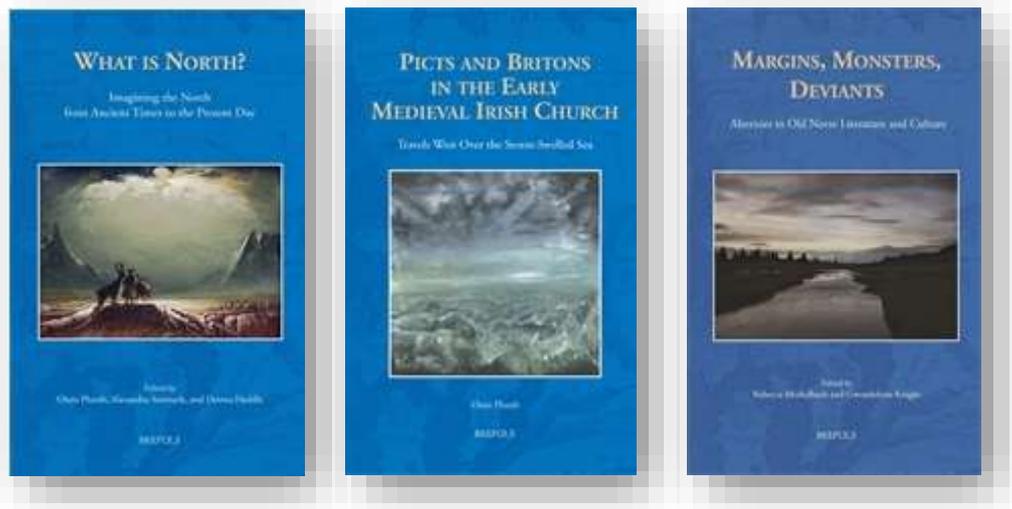
The potential to develop a digital storytelling platform emerged from this workshop as a potential solution to disperse tourism from overcrowded ‘hot spots’ on the islands, increase the experiential offering of rural areas and engage visitors and locals with the diverse stories, heritage and culture of the island.

Following the workshop, a working group was established to explore the potential for a broader digital platform to collect, curate, share and preserve Orkney stories. The purpose of this platform will be to provide digital resource for visitors and the local community to access a collection of stories that can be customised and provide self-guided trails of the island. At an early stage, however, the group identified initial challenges that required further investigation before moving towards seeking further funding or developing a platform. These challenges present common issues in the development of digital platforms, including the collection and representation of stories and the sustainability of digital platforms beyond the end of the project.

BREPOLS BOOK SERIES

The INS book series *The North Atlantic World, Land and Sea as Cultural Space AD 400-1900 (NAW)*, published with Brepols, is continuing to attract high quality volumes. So far, three books have been published, *What is North? Imagining the North from Ancient Times to the Present Day*, a themed volume from the third St Magnus Conference, Oisín Plumb’s *Picts and Britons in the Early Medieval Irish Church*, and the edited volume *Margins, Monsters, Deviants: Alterities in Old Norse Literature and Culture*. A further 11 books are

currently in various stages of production. This book series focuses on the cultural heritage of the North Atlantic World, covering the geographical region that stretches from Northern Europe and Scandinavia across to the Eastern seaboard of Canada and the United States of America, and a timeframe that expands from the Late Iron Age up to the early modern period, the boundaries of this series are set deliberately broad in order to inspire research that spans geographical and chronological divisions and that seeks to compare and contrast elements of the North Atlantic World. Proposals are welcomed from a variety of fields, in particular archaeology, history, literature, languages, and folklore.



PICTS AND BRITONS IN THE EARLY MEDIEVAL IRISH CHURCH: DR OISÍN PLUMB

Picts and Britons in the early medieval Irish Church: Travels west over the Storm-Swelled Sea *examines the lives and legacy of Picts and Britons in the Irish Church, looking at their impact on early medieval Irish society and how this impact came to be perceived in later centuries.*

Between the fifth and ninth centuries AD, the peoples of Britain, Ireland, and their surrounding islands were constantly interacting — sharing cultures and ideas that shaped and reshaped their communities and the way they lived. The influence of religious figures from Ireland on the development of the Church in Britain was profound, and the fame of monasteries such as Iona, which they established, remains to this day. Yet with the exception of St Patrick, far less attention has been paid to the role of the Britons and Picts who travelled west into Ireland, despite their equally significant impact. This book aims to redress the balance by offering a detailed exploration of the evidence for British and Pictish men and women in the early medieval Irish Church and asking what we can piece

together of their lives from the often-fragmentary sources. It also considers the ways in which writers of later ages viewed these migrants and examines how the shaping of the ‘migration narrative’ throughout the centuries had a major effect on the way that the earliest centuries of the church came to be viewed in later years in both Scotland and Ireland. In doing so, this volume offers important new insights into our understanding of the relationships between Britain and Ireland in this period.

WATERWAYS OF THE WEST MAINLAND OF ORKNEY

Funded by a British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant. Principal Investigator: Prof Alex Sanmark. Co-Investigators: Prof. Barbara Crawford and Dr Richard Bates.

This project demonstrated the potential existence of a line of navigable waterways running through the West Mainland of Orkney in the Viking Age and Late Norse Period (c 790-1350). This idea has been raised in recent research by Barbara Crawford and Alexandra Sanmark, highlighting an important gap in our knowledge of the past landscape of Orkney.



The West Mainland was a key area for the Norse Earls who ruled Orkney in terms of fertile land, and here many of their seats of power were located. In medieval Scandinavia, such estates were commonly situated in strategic locations for communication, i.e., by important land and water routes. These same characteristics are found for the Earldom estates across Orkney, apart from the West Mainland. This project showed that it would have been possible to travel to the West Mainland Earldom estates via now vanished inland waterways.

You can read the report [here](#), or watch a talk about the research <https://youtu.be/9MvSTPQ7piY>.

Staff

In the summer of 2021, the Institute was pleased to welcome new staff members Professor Mairéad Nic Craith, Professor of Public Folklore, Professor Ullrich Kockel, Professor of Creative Ethnology and Dr Andrew Lind to the research and teaching staff, together with two new members of admin staff, Katherine Irvine and Fiona Kennedy.

- Professor Donna Heddle, MA (Hons), PhD, FHEA, FSA Scot, FRSA: Director of the Institute for Northern Studies and Programme Leader MLitt Scottish Heritage
- Professor Stefan Brink, PhD, FRSE: Professor of Scandinavian Studies at UHI
- Professor Alexandra Sanmark, MA, FSA, FSA Scot, FRHist: Professor of Medieval Archaeology, Honorary Reader of Archaeology at Uppsala University
- Professor Mairéad Nic Craith, BA, BEd, MA, PhD, MRIA, FAcSS: Professor of Public Folklore
- Professor Ullrich Kockel, BA (Hons), DipBw, PhD, FAcSS, MRIA, FRSA: Professor of Creative Ethnology
- Dr Andrew Jennings, MA (Hons), MSc, FHEA, FrHist, FSA Scot: Programme Leader on MLitt Island Studies, MLitt Viking Studies, MLitt Orkney & Shetland Studies, MLitt Highlands & Islands Literature
- Lynn Campbell, BA, MSc, MLitt, FSA Scot: Programme Leader and lecturer for BA (Hons) Culture and Heritage single and joint Honours degrees; Programme Leader and trainer for Cert HE Tourist Guiding.
- Dr Oisín Plumb, MA (Hons), MSc, FHEA, FSA Scot: Lecturer
- Dr Andrew Lind, MA (Hons), MLitt, PhD: Lecturer

The Institute also has a number of Teaching Assistants, Associate Members, Visiting Readers, Visiting Research Fellows, Honorary Professors, Visiting Professors and support staff. Full details of our teaching and research staff can be found on the INS website <https://bit.ly/3uBSr6y>.

Publications

PROFESSOR DONNA HEDDLE

- "Bolstering Bólstaðir: Norse placenames in Lewis in context", in *Between Islands*, ed. by A Macdonald, Acair, 2020 pp 58-68
- "Upon the Utmost Corners of the World: Orkney in Early Maps and Literature", in Plumb, Sanmark and Heddle (eds.), *What is North? Imagining the North from Ancient Times to the Present Day*, ed. by Oisín Plumb, Alexandra Sanmark, and Donna Heddle, Brepols, pp 15-35

PROFESSOR STEFAN BRINK

- "Laws and Assemblies", in *Pre-Christian Religions of the North*. History and Structures, vol. 2: Social, Geographical, and Historical Contexts, and Communication between Worlds, ed. by A Andrén, J Lindow & JP Schjødt, Turnhout: Brepols 2020, pp. 445–477
- "What was a cooking-pit called in the Iron Age?", in *Re-imagining Periphery: Archaeology and Text in Northern Europe from Iron Age to Viking and Early Medieval Periods*, ed. by Charlotta Hillerdal and Kristin Ilves, Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2020, pp. 103–106
- "Slavery in Medieval Scandinavia: Some Points of Departure", in *Viking-Age Trade. Silver, Slaves and Gotland*. ed. by J Gruszczynski, M Jankowiak and J Shepard (Routledge Archaeologies of the Viking World), London & New York: Routledge, 2021, pp. 40–56
- "OGu *vergildi* and *Välde* in Etelheim, Gotland", in *Myth, Magic, and Memory in Early Scandinavian Narrative Culture. Studies in Honour of Stephen A. Mitchell (Acta Scandinavica 11)*, Turnhout: Brepols, 2021, pp. 339–350.
- "Slaves in Early Scandinavian Society. Matters of Discussion and Issues of Controversy", in *Viking-Age Slavery*, ed. by M. Toplak, H. Østhus and R. Simek (Studia Mediaevalia Septentrionalia 29), Wien: Fassbaender, 2021, pp. 75–97.
- "Thralldom. A History of Slavery in the Viking Age", New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press 2021.

PROFESSOR ALEXANDRA SANMARK

- "Medieval Rulership and Assembly: Thoughts on 'Practice, Power and Place' and 'Residence, Ritual and Rulership'", *Norwegian Archaeological Review*, Norwegian Archaeological Review 2021
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