

THE AERIAL ARCHAEOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP

ANNUAL MEETING, GLASGOW SEPTEMBER 1991

This year's programme consists largely of talks offered by members on the nominated themes of co-ordinated research projects, industry, gardens, continental developments and news/views/technical developments/work in progress. Further offers of talks, 10 - 15 minutes maximum length, should be notified by Friday 13th September to Vikki Fenner (0793 414100) or Chris Musson (0970 624381).

The timing of the talks on the first day may be modified; the programme for the second day may also be changed in response to final offers of talks from members. Short contributions from continental members are particularly invited for the after-lunch session on Wednesday. On Tuesday there will be a short reception at the Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow, at the invitation of Professor Chris Morris.

The meeting may continue slightly later than usual on the second day since many members have decided to stay on for the Wednesday night and in many cases the Thursday also. (Wednesday evening will consist of an informal night out in Glasgow). Events are also being arranged for Thursday the 26th, probably with site visits in the morning and an introduction to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland in Edinburgh in the afternoon.

There is limited exhibition space available at Glasgow. Members wishing to display exhibition material, books, offprints or leaflets etc. should contact Vikki Fenner before the meeting. For those bringing cars to the meeting, there is ample parking at Queen Margaret Hall.

Finally, for those members arriving on Monday night, parties will be departing for food and drink etc. at intervals. See the notice board (or V. Fenner) for information on arrival.

An approach to 'understanding'

Objective: to understand mans past. An outline of processes and sources likely to aid a better appreciation of mans use of the land. It is assumed, a) that a cartographic statement and associated records exist as a basis for study; b) that inter-active studies would be normal; and c) that application would be appropriate to the nature of the record and terrain.

1. Questions to be asked of mapped features: they include:-
 - a. Period
 - b. Pattern and relationships
 - c. Distribution, morphology and associations
 - d. Functions, hypothetical or proven: eg. settlements, fields, paddocks, boundaries, communications etc.
 - e. Implications: economic, social, political, territorial, regional.
 - f. preservation importance.
2. Research processes, including:-
 - a. Documentary and literary sources
 - b. Aerial reconnaissance, photography, mapping
 - c. Fieldwork, involving analytical field survey, fieldwalking, geophysics/geochemical surveys
 - d. Excavation
 - e. Environmental studies
3. Select list of associated subjects, sources and methods used as required:-
 - a. Agriculture, all periods
 - b. Animal husbandary
 - c. Annotated air photographs
 - d. Boundary technology
 - e. Cartographic studies
 - f. Computer modelling
 - g. Communication patterns
 - h. Demography
 - i. Disease patterns
 - j. Drainage patterns
 - k. Ethnographic parallels
 - l. Food production and consumption
 - m. Historic and recent land use
 - n. Historic and legal documentation
 - o. Land form analysis
 - p. Natural resources
 - q. Soil studies
 - r. Surface geology
 - s. Weather and temperature patterns