

MAPPING THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SCOTLAND

July 11, 2014 Historic Environment Scotland Day of Archaeology 2014, Digital Archaeology, Landscape Archaeology Canmore, Defining Scotland's Places, field archaeologist, France, Headland Archaeology LTD ., Mapping, maps, RCAHMS, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, Scotland

Name: Mike Middleton

What do you do?

I make archaeological maps. I work in the data section meaning I work with three RCAHMS maps:

Canmore (the index to the RCAHMS collection) which to me is lots of distribution maps all in one. Filtering Canmore can help us map regionality.



The Historic Land-Use Assessment

Canmore Mapping, that aims to replace the point data in Canmore with known extents.

How did you get here?

I studied Archaeology at Glasgow then went to France where my wife and I busked and volunteered on archaeological sites for a while before I got a job as a field archaeologist with the French state archaeology service (AFAN – Now INRAP). After seven years I returned to Scotland where I worked freelance for a bit before becoming a manager with Headland Archaeology Ltd. in Edinburgh. I joined RCAHMS in 2008.



Mike digging in France

Favourite part of your job?

The favourite part of my job is the sense of discovery. I interact with the data in Canmore a lot meaning I'm always learning new things but by far the best part of my job is when we get out into the field and visit sites. That's when you really get to learn about sites and landscapes.

What did university not teach you?

How to dig. I learnt that in Yorkshire volunteering on the Heselton Parish Project. Thank you Dominic Powlesland!

Top tips for aspiring archaeologists?

Volunteer for everything...experience counts!

Dig as much as you can while at university.

Dig as much as you can after university.

Make sure you have other strings to our bow for when your knees go!