

[www.archaeology.co.uk](http://www.archaeology.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/currentarchaeologymag](https://www.facebook.com/currentarchaeologymag)

[twitter.com/currentarchaeo](https://twitter.com/currentarchaeo)

## WELCOME

Neolithic tombs are often seen as 'houses for the dead'. Striking similarities between the residences of the living and repositories for the deceased have long suggested a symbolic link, but could it be the other way round? Evidence from Orkney suggests that the departed were being laid to rest in their cairns for about 300 years before homes began to mimic their design. What can these 'tombs for the living' tell us?

A crucial question for understanding hillforts is 'what were the defences really for'? These imposing monuments are renowned for the serried ranks of ramparts that often tower over their entrances. Any attacking force that took the time to scout out the rear of the Cardigan Bay hillforts, though, might well discover far weaker defences or more vulnerable entrances. So who were their occupants trying to impress?

Rumour had it in 1666 that the Great Fire of London was kindled to prepare the way for an invasion. Although reports of foreign soldiers pouring into the capital proved to be false, a Frenchman ended up taking responsibility for the inferno. As a new exhibition opens at the Museum of London, we examine the myths and mysteries surrounding this epochal event.

Finally, the hunt for the long-lost design of a Victorian guard's wagon led investigators to a derelict chalet wreathed by woodland. What followed may be the first archaeological excavation ever mounted on a railway carriage!



*Matt*

## Our contributors this month



### COMMANDING THE LANDSCAPE TOBY DRIVER

An aerial archaeologist with the Welsh Royal Commission, Dr Driver studied the hillforts of north Ceredigion for his PhD. He has written extensively on Welsh archaeology and hillforts, and co-directed excavations on Iron Age and Roman sites in west Wales.



### A VICTORIAN MISSING LINK DAVID WOOLLISCROFT

Dr Woolliscroft is co-director of the Roman Gask Project, a study of the 1st-century invasion of Scotland. He specialises in Roman military studies, notably frontiers and signal communications, but is also interested in railway history.



### A TALE OF TWO NEOLITHICS? COLIN RICHARDS

Colin is Professor of World Prehistory at the University of Manchester. He has undertaken research and fieldwork in Orkney since the mid 1980s, and published books including *Building the Great Stone Circles of the North* (2013).

## current archaeology

### Editorial

**Editor:** Dr Matthew Symonds  
matt@archaeology.co.uk  
Tel: 020 8819 5580

**Contributing editor:** Christopher Catling  
chris@archaeology.co.uk

**Deputy editor:** Carly Hilts  
carly@currentpublishing.com

**Editorial assistant:** Lucia Marchini  
lucia.marchini@currentpublishing.com

**Art editor:** Mark Edwards  
mark.edwards@currentpublishing.com

**Designer:** Howard Malone

**Sub editor:** Simon Coppock

**Editor-in-chief:** Andrew Selkirk  
9 Nassington Road, London NW3 2TX  
andrew@archaeology.co.uk  
Tel: 020 8819 5584

**Managing director:** Robert Selkirk

### Commercial

**Advertising sales manager:** Mike Traylen  
mike@currentpublishing.com  
Tel: 020 8819 5360

**Managing editor:** Maria Earle  
maria@currentpublishing.com

**Acting business manager:** Bree Forrer  
bree.forrer@currentpublishing.com

**Marketing manager:** Emma Watts-Plumpkin  
emma@currentpublishing.com  
Tel: 020 8819 5575

**Commercial director:** Libby Selkirk

### Current Publishing

Thames Works, Church St, London W4 2PD  
Tel: 020 8819 5580 (office hours)

Fax: 020 8819 5589

Web: [www.archaeology.co.uk](http://www.archaeology.co.uk)

### Subscriptions

*Current Archaeology* is published monthly for a subscription of £46.95 for 12 issues.

Foreign subscriptions are £56.95.

**Subscriptions should be sent to:**

Current Publishing, Thames Works,

Church Street, London W4 2PD

Tel: (office hours) 020 8819 5580

Fax: 020 8819 5589

**Subscription queries to:**

subs@archaeology.co.uk

or online at: [www.archaeology.co.uk](http://www.archaeology.co.uk)

**Back issues:** £5.50 each / £6.50 non-UK

**Binders:** (hold 12 copies) £15 / £20

**Slip Cases:** (hold 12 copies) £15 / £20

Printed in the UK by William Gibbons

Unauthorised reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without written permission. The publisher, editor and authors accept no responsibility in respect of any products, goods or services which may be advertised or referred to in this issue. Every effort has been made to secure permission for copyright material. In the event of any material being used inadvertently or where it has proved impossible to trace the copyright owner, acknowledgement will be made in a future issue. 190716190