

# Welcome to Archaeology of the Borders

Maggy Simms, Bolton u3a

Nw Region Summer School 2022, Carlisle

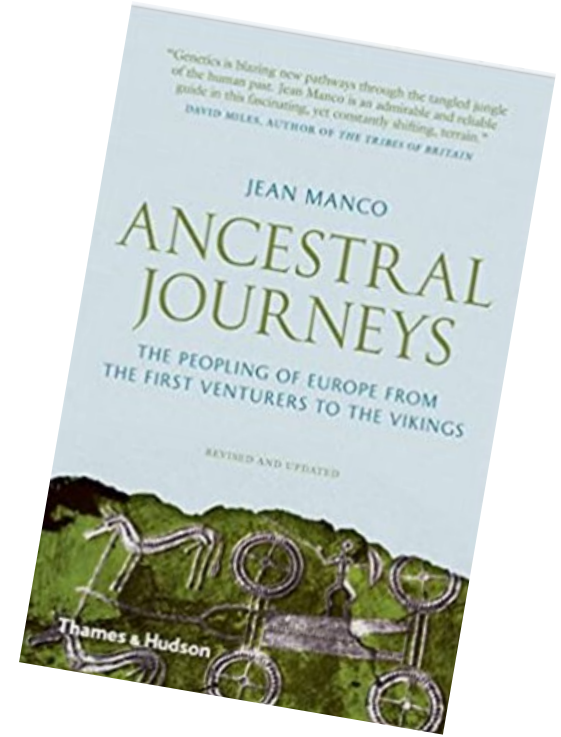
# This course's big picture

- Nothing is known about the divisions of territory before the common era
- Romans - immeasurable impact
- After Romans - 'Hen Ogledd', semi-mythical
- Picts, Gaels, Northumbrians, Scandinavian settlers and Norman overlords, 600s-1200s, not mythical
- Later medieval fights over control led to powerful local wardens / earls being appointed
- Currently James Charteris / Neidpath (pictured)
- Each layer of events leaves archaeological traces



# Let's avoid overload

- We have unprecedented access to information via the internet
- In fact a welter of information is available freely
- New research leads to revision of previously held views
- So this course will steer a careful path



A great book but rapidly taken over by advances in DNA studies

# 'Type site and key artefact'

- Focus on a site(s) typical a time period - a '**type site**'
- Focusing on **key artefacts** that can illustrate life in that time period
- Aim to emphasise things we will see and visit
- Simple clear timelines
- Pointers to ways of investigating further



From <https://thesilicontribesman.tumblr.com/post/172077810192/celtic-gods-stone-and-pottery-heads-tullie-house>

# Is that OK so far?

It's fine to say 'yes but....'

It's also fine to say 'no I want....'

Points, questions?



A busy night at Stone Henge  
as workers move all the stones  
forward one hour...

# Archaeology: we try to make conclusions about identity from artefacts (objects) and sites (places)

Sometimes there is help from **written evidence**

Most of the time, there is no written evidence



Neolithic (New Stone Age) - thing.... nobody wrote a manual for its use

## Things from the 1700s

What are these and how were they used?

Who used them and why?

Without additional details from written sources our guesses might be well wide of the mark

Nb we know exactly why these were made and how they were used

About 30cm long or less



# ‘The map is not the territory’

But a map can be a useful guide to understanding the territory

Free Ordnance Survey maps : <https://www.bing.com/maps>

National Libraries of Scotland digital resources:

<https://www.nls.uk/digital-resources/>

<https://maps.cheshireeast.gov.uk/tithemaps/>

<https://cumbriaimagebank.org.uk/>

<https://ancientmonuments.uk/map#.YvIbCHbMK3A>



Historic England Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer (England)

<https://historicensland.org.uk/research/results/aerial-archaeology-mapping-explorer/>

Scotland: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/search/result?SITECOUNTRY=0&view=map>