

The RHIND LECTURES, a series of six lectures delivered annually on a subject pertaining to history or archaeology, by eminent authorities on the subject, have been given since 1876. They commemorate Alexander Henry Rhind of Sibster (1833-63) who left a bequest to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland to endow the lectures which perpetuate his name.

For further information and to book your place please visit the Society's website www.socantscot.org/events or call **0131 247 4133**.

Tickets are free and popular, so booking is advisable.

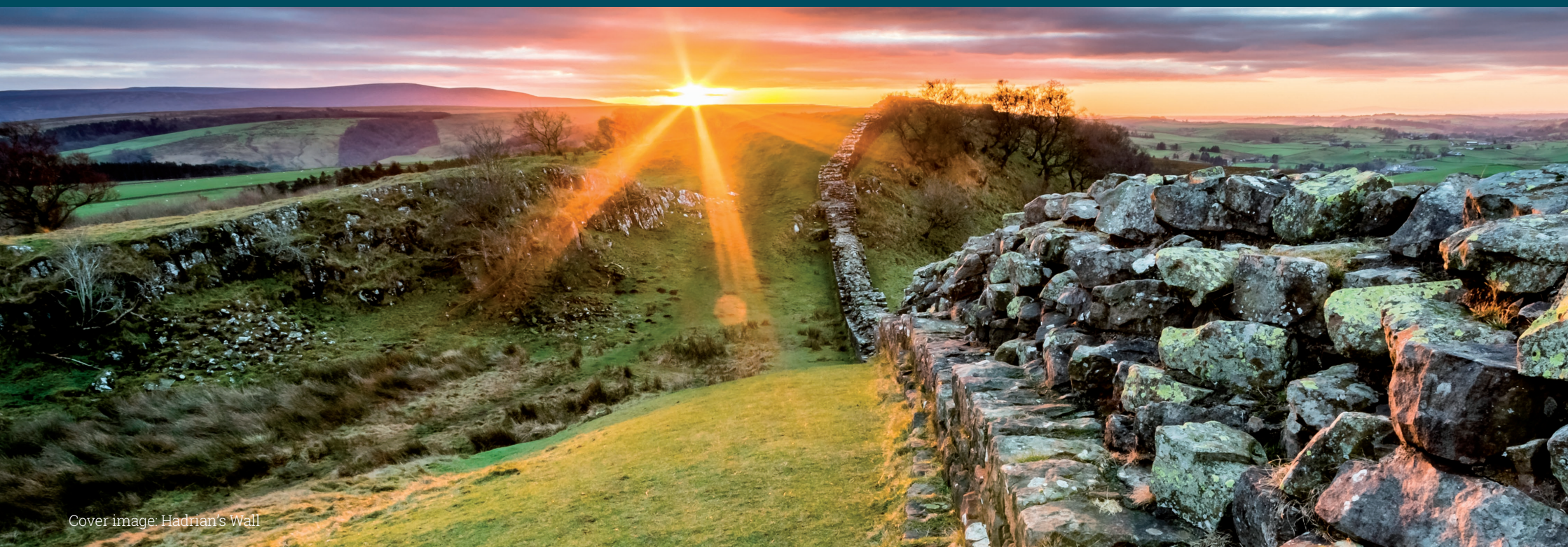


Society of Antiquaries
of **Scotland**

THE RHIND LECTURES **2019**

Hadrian's Wall: A Study in Archaeological Exploration and Interpretation

PROFESSOR DAVID J. BREEZE



Cover image: Hadrian's Wall

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The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland is a Scottish registered charity, Charity No. SC010440.

10-12 May | FREE and open to all | booking advised

Auditorium, National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF

*With thanks to AOC Archaeology Group
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THE RHIND LECTURES 2019

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Hadrian's Wall: A Study in Archaeological Exploration and Interpretation
Professor David J. Breeze

Hadrian's Wall was written about even before it was occupied. The Romans produced souvenirs of the Wall, medieval scribes placed it on maps, antiquarian visitors recorded the remains, scholars from the Renaissance onwards argued about its date and purpose, and early archaeologists uncovered its walls. The age of modern discoveries started in the 1830s and over the succeeding 150 years, a very substantial archaeological dataset has been created. The addition of new material, combined with new approaches to archaeological investigation, ensures that interpretations constantly require review.

These Rhind lectures will examine the ways that data has been created, and then move on to examine specific aspects of Hadrian's Wall in depth, in particular its purpose and operation over time and its effect on the local population. In the final lecture, we will look at the Wall today and some aspects of its future.

Friday 10th May

6.00pm 1848: The Year of Revolutions, on Hadrian's Wall as well as on the Continent

The Wall entered the modern era in 1848. John Hodgson had just persuasively argued that the Wall had indeed been built by Hadrian. John Clayton had undertaken his first excavation on the Wall and discovered a gate through it, thereby challenging existing perceptions of the relationship between Rome and her neighbours. John Collingwood Bruce undertook his tour of the Wall in 1848, led the first Pilgrimage in 1849, and published his first book in 1851. The position of Bruce as 'king of the Wall' was established and he was to remain as such for the next 40 years.

Followed by a Drinks Reception

Saturday 11th May

11.00am The Twentieth Century: The Age of Archaeology

The year of Bruce's death in 1892 saw the first excavation of the modern era. Foremost of the excavators were Francis Haverfield, who sought to understand the earthworks comprising the Wall, and J. P. Gibson, who examined its structures. Hadrian's Wall became the subject of discussion in German as well as British journals. The 1960s saw the advance of the first of a new series of 'heretical' views that reached its apogee in the mid-1970s, when those promulgated in Breeze and Dobson's *Hadrian's Wall* became the new 'paradigm'. Over recent decades, research excavations have been overtaken not only by rescue work but also 'tourism' archaeology, now carried out by commercial units rather than societies or universities.

2.00pm The purpose and operation of Hadrian's Wall under Hadrian

The process of building Hadrian's Wall with its several layers of changes helps us to understand how it was intended to work. The role of Hadrian in the design and building of his Wall created a unique monument; moreover, in order to understand this frontier better we must relate it to the way the Roman army operated and fought. Leo Rivet's 'evidence by analogy' will be brought into play so that we can also better understand Hadrian's Wall through comparison with other Roman and Greek linear barriers.

3.30pm The Wall after Hadrian: changing functions?

Did the Wall's function change over the following centuries – and how can we tell? Changes in the use of its installations – turrets, milecastles and forts – together with military deployment in the north of Britain over a period of three centuries will be examined. The implications of the formation of the late Roman army for Hadrian's Wall will be considered, together with developments in military architecture in the fourth century. What can these aspects tell us about Rome's enemies in the north and west, the Picts and Scots? How successful was Hadrian's Wall?

Sunday 12th May

2.00pm The impact of Rome: Life on and around the Wall

As a major statement in the landscape we might expect that it had implications for the local people of the area. Can we recognise these implications? In this lecture, the people of the Wall and the social and economic elements of the Wall will be examined. These aspects include extra-mural settlements outside forts, rural settlements in the Wall corridor, supply and changes over the centuries.

3.30pm Hadrian's Wall today and in the future

An understanding of Hadrian's Wall has to take into account our own biases as well of those of our forebears and the experiences which led to the development of these views. The importance of maintaining the Wall in its landscape setting is emphasised. The implications of its status as a World Heritage Site and of the creation of the National Trail along its length in 2003 and of tourism generally will be considered against the background of the protection and study of the archaeological resource. Within the framework of modern research strategies, the success of earlier such documents will be reviewed, and the importance of operating within an international framework stressed.

Professor David J. Breeze OBE, BA, PhD, Hon DLitt, FSA, HonFSA Scot, FRSE, Hon CifA
Professor David J. Breeze was President of the Society from 1987 to 1990, and Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Scotland, from 1989 to 2005. His research interests are Roman frontiers and the Roman army. He has excavated and published on both Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall.