

**An Archaeological and Historical Survey of Darwin,  
February-March 2008:  
Shackleton Scholarship Fund Report: Robert Philpott**

## **Project Design and Progress Report**

### **Introduction**

An application was submitted to the Shackleton Scholarship Fund by the writer in 2007 to undertake archaeological survey work at Darwin and Cantera in East Falkland, continuing a longstanding programme of archaeological and historical survey on the early settlements in the islands.

The present document is a brief report on the aims and methodology of the project, the timetable of activities undertaken as part of the project in the Falkland Islands, variations to the project design, and acknowledgements to those who have assisted in different ways towards a successful conclusion.

The preliminary archaeological and historical results of the project are presented as a separate report. This includes the archive information, the preliminary listing and analysis of historical maps, views and photographs, the preliminary results from the documentary survey, and the archaeological survey results (descriptions of the archaeological features, detailed measured survey of features). The present report should be seen as work in progress, outlining the initial results from the work but at an early stage of the ongoing process of analysis and research.

### **Aims of the Project**

As set out in the original application, the aims, methodology and timescale of the project 'An Archaeological and Historical Survey of Darwin' were as follows:

#### ***Purpose of the research and projected overview:***

Purpose of the research is to undertake a detailed archaeological survey of the historic settlement at Darwin, examining and recording surviving buildings and associated earthworks, mapping the remains, recording by photography and 3D survey of the site. Associated archive research in the Falkland Islands Government Archives and in UK, along with consultation with local experts such as Mrs Joan Spruce, will provide a historical narrative to complement the archaeological results. If time permits the early FIC sites at Cantera and Mariquita will also be examined.

#### ***Proposed Methodology:***

Archaeological Field Survey: The first stage involves reconnaissance of the site to identify manmade constructions or interventions. The initial field survey is assisted by use of contemporary maps and documents. Once features are

identified, a detailed sketch plan and elevation is made of each, showing all of the salient points. The next stage involves surveying the 3-dimensional co-ordinates on the site with a high-specification Nikon Total Station, linked to a rugged field computer running Penmap software, which draws up the survey in real-time. A full photographic record is made of each feature to an appropriate level. Colour slides, monochrome prints and digital photographs using a Nikon Coolpix 8800 camera (8 megapixel) are taken of all significant features. A written description and taped hand measurements are also made which aimed to record the details of each element.

The plans are converted to contour and 2D maps of structures, and elevations are drawn of standing buildings. The field records are used to create a detailed archive which includes all photographs, maps and original site files. A synthesised report is written for the appropriate bodies, and a more accessible report for publication.

NML has suitable equipment for use in the survey, with some elements (e.g. tripod) in the past borrowed locally from PWD to reduce weight on flights.

Archive research: The Falkland Islands Government Archive holds the records of the Falkland Islands Company which established the settlement at Darwin in 1859. A search of despatches and Government records from the second half of the 19th century will chart the historical development, chronology and function of the elements of the settlement. This will be supplemented by research in UK archives (e.g. British Library and National Archives).

Consultation of local residents in Falkland Islands: the equivalent of a day will be spent talking to local residents with knowledge about Darwin, notably Mrs Joan Spruce whose own unpublished report on Darwin is an important archive resource.

***Outputs expected:***

The fieldwork and archive research will be undertaken in the austral summer between Nov 2007 and March 2008. Library and archive research in UK will be completed within one year of fieldwork, for publication of report in early-mid 2009.

The work will result in a detailed site archive, to be housed in Falkland Islands Museum with a copy in National Museums Liverpool (consisting of photographs, field notes and plans), a detailed report on the surviving remains and a report on the historical research, a published report (probably either as a monograph or long article in Falkland Islands Journal), and a report on the implications for conservation of the surviving remains. The project is likely also to form the subject of a public lecture (as in past years) at the Falkland Islands Community School in Stanley, and FIBS and Penguin News interviews. It is hoped to identify local people with knowledge of the Darwin settlement to conduct a small number of oral history interviews.

### ***Likely benefits to the Falkland Islands and the South Atlantic Region:***

1. The archaeological and historical survey will provide a detailed record of the surviving structures and earthworks of the important historical settlement of Darwin.
2. Publication of the survey in the same format as the forthcoming report on the early FIC sites (Philpott 2007), which will bring the results accessible to a wider public. This will include residents of the Falkland Islands where the project will inform local people and school children to increase their knowledge of the history of their islands, but will also be relevant to tourists and visitors interested in the learning about the sites in the islands, thus enhancing knowledge of the historical sites of the islands.
3. Tourism: a site guide following the format of *Keppel Island Site Guide*, by the applicant.
4. The future conservation of the site will be enhanced by detailed mapping and interpretation of the site
5. A brief oral history will be undertaken by recording local residents' stories of the site; for deposition in the Falkland Islands Government Archives.

### ***Timescale of project:***

3 weeks in Falkland Islands – (divided approximately 2:1, so about 13 days fieldwork to 6 days on archive research)

Archive research in UK: intermittent during 2007 before fieldwork season begins.

### **Variations to the Aims and Methodology**

1. Time did not permit a visit to the relatively remote site of Maraquita in Lafonia, in view of the complexity of remains at Darwin itself
2. A full day's fieldwork was undertaken at Cantera with the kind permission of the owner, Mr Jimmy Moffat, to record the mid 19th century Cantera stone house. The house is of great importance for the history of the Falkland Islands as it represents the earliest surviving stone house of the first phase of FIC outside houses erected c. 1850, which also contains important original internal fittings. The urgency of recording this structure was greatly increased as the owner had stated his intention to undertake extensive renovations by 2009, which would result in disturbance or removal of internal fittings.
3. In order to reduce the weight of equipment to limit excess baggage charges on commercial flights, only digital photographs were taken, with multiple security copies of the files being created to avoid loss of data.
4. The vast extent of FIC archives meant that only a small proportion of the potentially significant material was searched during the final week.
5. Time in the last week did not permit collection of oral histories from local residents, other than Mr Ken Greenland, present owner of the site at Darwin, though several individuals were identified who have detailed knowledge of Darwin, with the potential for recording interviews in the future.

6. Two evening lectures were given in the Chamber of Commerce in Stanley, 'An Introduction to the Archaeology of the Falkland Islands' on 3 March and 'The Archaeology of the Early Falkland Islands Company Sites' on 6 March.

### **Additional Opportunities**

The work at Darwin forms part of a long-term programme of archaeological survey and archival research on the history of the Falkland Islands in association with the Falkland Islands Government Archives and Falkland Islands Museum and National Trust. During the course of the study visit, further opportunities arose to have an involvement in the heritage of the island

1. The opportunity was taken to meet with the FIMNT trustees to discuss the proposals for a new museum development at the Dockyard in Stanley, with a visit to the site. As museum professionals the trustees invited David Barker and the writer to visit the site and comment on the suitability and potential for galleries and displays in the existing dockyard complex.
2. Councillor Richard Cockwell kindly offered the opportunity to examine the results of his fieldwork and research into the complex of turf walls associated with the cattle management from the mid 19th-century Peninsula Farm.

### **The Interim Report**

A more detailed interim report summarises the key results of the visit. This has three parts, a brief summary of the historical research thus far, a summary of the archaeological survey with examples of the plans drawn up, and finally a list of the historic views and photographs of Darwin which provide the evidence for the form of the settlement in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

**Robert Philpott  
39 Church Road  
Upton  
Wirral  
CH49 6JY  
UK**

**9 October 2008**

### Timetable of Activities, February – March 2008

16 Feb	Arrive Falkland Islands
18 Feb	Arrive Darwin, guided site visit with Ken Greenland
19-29 Feb	Archaeological survey fieldwork at Darwin
	Brief visit with HE The Governor of the Falkland Islands to examine church and remains of main house
27 Feb pm	Visit to Darwin from the Museum's children's group PastFinders, with Sian Davis of Falkland Islands Museum and National Trust, and assisted by Richard Cockwell and Joan Spruce children aged 7 to 14 years visited Darwin and worked with archaeologists on measuring, observing and recording elements of the site, collecting artefacts; seeing surveying equipment.
1 Mar	Recorded video interview at the Darwin Galpon with Ken Greenland about the settlement today
1 Mar	Recorded video interview with Dr David Barker about finds recovered from the site
29 Feb pm	Visit to Goose Green to look at potential buildings removed from Darwin
3 Mar pm	Recorded FIRS radio interview on the Darwin project with presenter Stacey Bragger for later broadcast
3 Mar	Brief discussion with Joan Spruce on FIC archives
3 Mar pm	Meeting at Dockyard to discuss future plans of Museum with Museum trustees
3 Mar eve	Lecture in Chamber of Commerce, Stanley 'An Introduction to the Archaeology of the Falkland Islands'
4 Mar am	Research in Falkland Islands Government archives on Darwin
4 Mar pm	Research in Falkland Islands Company archives on Darwin (maps) with Joan Spruce
4 Mar eve	evening visit with Councillor Richard Cockwell to investigate mid 19th century turf walls at Hooker's Point and Moody Brook
5 Mar	Research in Falkland Islands archives
6 Mar am	Visit to Cartmell Cottage, Stanley with kind assistance of Tim Blake
6 Mar	Research in Falkland Islands archives
6 Mar eve	Lecture in Chamber of Commerce
7 Mar am	Brief informal discussion with the chief executive Tim Thorogood on a visit to the Falkland Islands Government Archives
7 Mar pm	Meeting with FIMNT trustees to discuss dockyard proposals with David Barker
7 Mar pm	Interview with Jenny Cockwell of Penguin News.
8 Mar	Depart Falkland Islands