In this lecture, Professor Davis presented two different cases illustrating the relationship between physical settings and intangible cultural heritage in the United Kingdom.

The first case was the Flodden Ecomuseum in Northumberland, which was the site of a dramatic battle between the Scots and the English on 9 September 1513, and which later became a commemorative site for descendants. Professor Davis showed how communities on both sides of the border between Scotland and England participated in the interpretation and commemorative events which comprise the Flodden Ecomuseum.

In the second case study, Professor Davis talked about the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, which is considered ‘the cradle of Christianity’ in England. Founded in 635 AD by Saint Aidan—an Irish monk from Iona, Lindisfarne became a center of Christian teaching in what was then called Northumbria. Since 2009, local communities and various organizations have collaborated to manage the natural and cultural resources of the site. Even though these local networks do not explicitly use the ecomuseum concept, Professor Davis pointed out that their approach is quite similar to ecomuseology.

1. The Flodden Ecomuseum in Northumberland

Located on the border between England and Scotland, the Flodden Ecomuseum was the first ecomuseum to be created in England. The site of a bloody battle between the Scots and the English that took place 500 years ago, this place became a

1 Please see more details: http://www.flodden1513.com/
1. Experts’ Lectures

commemorative site or a “lieu de mémoire” for subsequent generations.

1.1. Historical background of the Flodden Battlefield and Ecomuseum Project

“On great fields something stays. Forms change and pass; bodies disappear, but spirits linger, to consecrate ground for the vision-place of souls... generations that know us not...shall come to this deathless field to ponder and dream; And so! the shadow of a mighty presence shall wrap them in its bosom, and the power of the vision pass into their souls.”

Col. Joshua L. Chamberlain

Imagine back to the medieval battle in the 16th century! During the time of Henry the Eighth, England was constantly at war with the French court, but James the Fourth, a Scottish king, was allied to the French. The Scots and the French decided to attack England. The Scottish army decided to invade from the border and the French would invade from the sea to defeat England. The British troops headed to the North and faced to the Scottish army at Flodden field. The Scots were badly defeated. In only four hours there were 14,000 killed. Their king was also killed. Most of their Scottish nobility was captured and decimated.

The story of this battle has been retold time and again to the younger generations, particularly the Scots. When the locals gathered to decide how to develop the sites for visitors and for the purpose of commemoration, they faced the difficult question of how the stories should be interpreted. Over the course of two years since the project’s beginning, scholars and cultural practitioners of Newcastle University have worked with Scottish and English communities on both sides of the historic battlefield, to choose the places and develop the interpretation of those sites. The Flodden Ecomuseum has become a space of reconciliation between both nations. In addition, the Ecomuseum has contributed to greater economic development of the region by encouraging visitors.

1.2. Development of the Flodden Ecomuseum

‘Sense of place’ goes beyond aesthetic appreciation – in other words places are not always comfortable or welcoming. (Tuan 1977)

Sense of place is something that must be experienced rather than described. (Buttimer 1980)

Place provides ‘a world of meaning.’ (Hubbard et al 2004:5)

One of the key concepts of the ecomuseum is to recognize the special nature of
place or “local distinctiveness.” Such projects are planned and managed in cooperation with local communities in a territory or a place which is not necessarily defined by traditional boundaries. Ecomuseums are often fragmented sites spread out across an area for the purpose of in situ conservation. The ecomuseum encompasses components that fit together within a “territory” — collective memories, visitors, elders, cultural property, traditions, identity, architecture, sites, landscapes, heritage, nature, and residents.

At Flodden, the communities themselves selected a number of different sites, and one of the stories they wanted to convey and illustrate was the experience of the battle and its place within the landscape. Bits of interpretation have already begun to happen, like placards and stones. In Branxton village, an old telephone booth has been converted into “the smallest visitor center in the world,” providing a guide to the battle. Some of the other visitable places are Flodden Memorial, Heatherslaw corn mill, and the Branxton Church where the King of Scotland’s body was taken after battle. There are also the Twizel Bridge, the Fletcher Memorial in Selkirk, Etal Castle in England that was taken by the Scots during battle, and the Flodden Wall. In Edinburgh, on those days after the battle, the Scots thought the English might try to take Edinburgh, so they decided to build a defensive wall around the city. Some parts still remain, and the community chose it as a site within the ecomuseum. All these places are part of the memorialization of an event that took place 500 years ago.

2. Holy Island, Lindisfarne

The Holy Island represents an important landmark of monastic heritage; it is also a living religious site of pilgrimage for English people and for Christianity. A unique feature of this site is its inaccessibility due to the tides. When the visitors walk to the island, they often get stuck because the tides cut off the causeway. As a result, they frequently have to call rescue services.

In spite of this, there are many cultural and natural features on the island, like St. Aidan and St. Cuthbert churches which represent the cradle of Christianity, as well as the Lindisfarne Gospels, Castle, and Priory. These places are associated with the “Golden Age of Northumbria.” Moreover, the landscape and biodiversity are crucial resources of the area. Thus, one of the most important intangible cultural heritages of this region is linked to the history of Christianity.

Since 2009, many stakeholders, including the local community and organizations, have been involved in safeguarding the natural and cultural resources on the island. The project requires intervention of several national and regional local bodies. The aims of the resources management are to better manage visitation, to improve landscape protection, and to develop community cohesion.

This project is still developing and unfolding. Even though the stakeholders do not explicitly employ the principles of the ecomuseum, what is important is that the

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2 Please see more details: http://www.lindisfarne.org.uk/
project takes a holistic and participatory approach to heritage management.

Summarized by Chewasit Boonyakiet / Edited by Alexandra Denes
Citation: Boonyakiet, Chewasit, “Enduring places, enduring memories: Flodden Ecomuseum and Holy Island, Northumberland by Dr. Peter Davis, Newcastle University, UK.” Intangible Cultural Heritage and Museums Learning Resources. October 2012. Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre.
<http://www.sac.or.th/databases/ichlearningresources/images/Lecture%2019-EngSummary_AD.pdf>
Enduring places, enduring memories: Flodden Ecomuseum and Holy Island, Northumberland

Peter Davis, Newcastle University
1. Experts’ Lectures

The Battle of Flodden Field
9 September 1513
“On great fields something stays. Forms change and pass; bodies disappear, but spirits linger, to consecrate ground for the vision-place of souls...generations that know us not...shall come to this deathless field to ponder and dream; And lo! the shadow of a mighty presence shall wrap them in its bosom, and the power of the vision pass into their souls.”
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Experiencing Place

• ‘Sense of place’ goes beyond aesthetic appreciation – in other words places are not always comfortable or welcoming (Tuan 1977)
• Sense of place is something that must be experienced rather than described (Buttimer 1980)
• Place provides ‘a world of meaning’ (Hubbard et al 2004:5)
Flodden

Flodden – ‘the smallest visitor centre in the world’ at Branxton
Ecomuseums

- Recognise the special nature of places – local distinctiveness

- Are planned and managed by or in cooperation with local communities – the democratisation of cultural and natural heritage

Figure 3.5b Graphic representations of the ecomuseum (after Rivard, 1984).
Ecomuseum characteristics

- A territory – a place - not necessarily defined by conventional boundaries
- A ‘fragmented-site’ policy, in-situ conservation and interpretation
- Intangible heritage is very significant
- Community empowerment and regeneration
- Holistic vision
- Local identity and sense of place

Flodden 1513: Ecomuseum sites

The Flodden Monument, Branxton
1. Experts’ Lectures

Flodden 1513: Ecomuseum sites (2)

Heatherslaw Corn Mill

Branxton Church

Flodden 1513: Ecomuseum sites (3)

Twizel Bridge

The Fletcher Monument, Selkirk
1. Experts’ Lectures

Flodden 1513: Ecomuseum sites (4)

Ecomuseum sites (5) The Flodden Wall, Edinburgh
The intangible heritage of Flodden

- The Border Ridings
- Crafts
- Festivals
- Poetry
- Song
Common Ridings

- An annual event celebrated in Scottish Border towns to commemorate the times of the past when local men risked their lives in order to protect their town and people.
- Dates back to the 13th and 14th centuries, during the continual land border wars both with England and against other clans.
- Today, Common Ridings celebrate each Border town's history and tradition in mid-summer (June to August). Rides now involve hundreds of horses, with rider and horse in costume.
- A combination of ceremonies, rides, entertainment and traditional Scottish sports.
1. Experts’ Lectures
Heritage Crafts

at
The Hirsel
Coldstream
Saturday 2nd June
11.00 am - 4.00 pm
Come and see
Baskets, materials and knives
made like those used by people at the
time of the Battle of Flodden in 1513.
Free exhibition

Poetry

- Battle of Flodden Field: William McGonagall
- 'Twas on the 9th of September, a very beautiful day,
  That a numerous English army came in grand array,
  And pitched their tents on Flodden field so green
  In the year of our Lord fifteen hundred and thirteen

- Battle of Flodden [From Marmion]: Sir Walter Scott
- At length the freshening western blast
  Aside the shroud of battle cast;
  And, first, the ridge of mingled spears
  Above the brightening cloud appears;
  And in the smoke the pennons flew.
1. Experts' Lectures

Song: Flowers of the Forest

*Flowers of the Forest* is an ancient Scottish folk tune. Although the original words are unknown, the melody was recorded in c. 1615-25 in the John Skene of Halyards Manuscript as "Flowres of the Forrest".

Jean Elliot (b. 1727), framed the tune in 1756 as a lament to the deaths of James IV, many of his nobles, and over 10,000 men - the "Flowers of the Forest" - at the Battle of Flodden Field.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFsasAllCo8

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Conclusions – some potential benefits of developing the Flodden ecomuseum

- Community pride
- Conservation of distinctiveness
- Memory, remembering, documentation
- Restoration projects
- Economic gains
- Sensitive approaches to cultural tourism
- Part of regional tourism and development networks
- Worldwide ecomuseum connections
Lindisfarne or Holy Island

Cultural and natural features

- ‘The cradle of Christianity’ – St Aidan, St Cuthbert.
- Associations with ‘The Golden age of Northumbria’ and the Lindisfarne Gospels
- Castle
- Priory
- Landscape and biodiversity
Holy Island Partnership

- Formed in 2009 by the local community and organisations operating on the island.
- The variety of natural and cultural resources requires the intervention of several national regional and local bodies.
- The Partnership aims to bring everyone together to achieve a) better visitor management, b) landscape protection and enhancement and c) community cohesion.

The Intangible Dimension

‘you really can't capture Holy Island just with visual images. Holy Island is a mixture of ever changing light and shade, fascinating views, an aura of peace, tranquility and sanctity, an atmosphere and a hundred and one intangible things. You have to go there and experience it to be able to appreciate it’. (visitor, October 2011)
- The intangible cultural heritage of Lindisfarne is linked to its religious significance.