

Broughton Anderson
Department of Anthropology
November 29, 2004

**The “New” Scotland
The Paradox of the Politics of History- and Place-making**

Abstract:

What is Scotland? As Scotland enters its fifth year of devolution, this question sits at the fore of the process to re-imagine a national identity that represents its parliamentary freedom, retains its historical and traditional past, and supports its future as an independent European nation in a global community. This identity is consciously constructed through processes that involves political and economical agencies and finds substantiation within disciplines such as history and archaeology. This ethnographic and ethno-archaeological study seeks to explore the role archaeology plays in the politics of history and place making in Scotland’s quest to re-imagine a new identity. By attending to the production of knowledge, a direct outcome of the politics of history and place making, and by problematizing the practices that legitimize specific histories and places through the material record, I seek to understand the role archaeology plays. This project will be conducted in the Dumfries and Galloway region of Scotland because the Southwest tests such popular standard notions of “traditional” and “national” heritage. Comprehending the use of the past in processes that define the present and how such relationships are crucial to the politics of history and place making serves to improve archaeological practice.