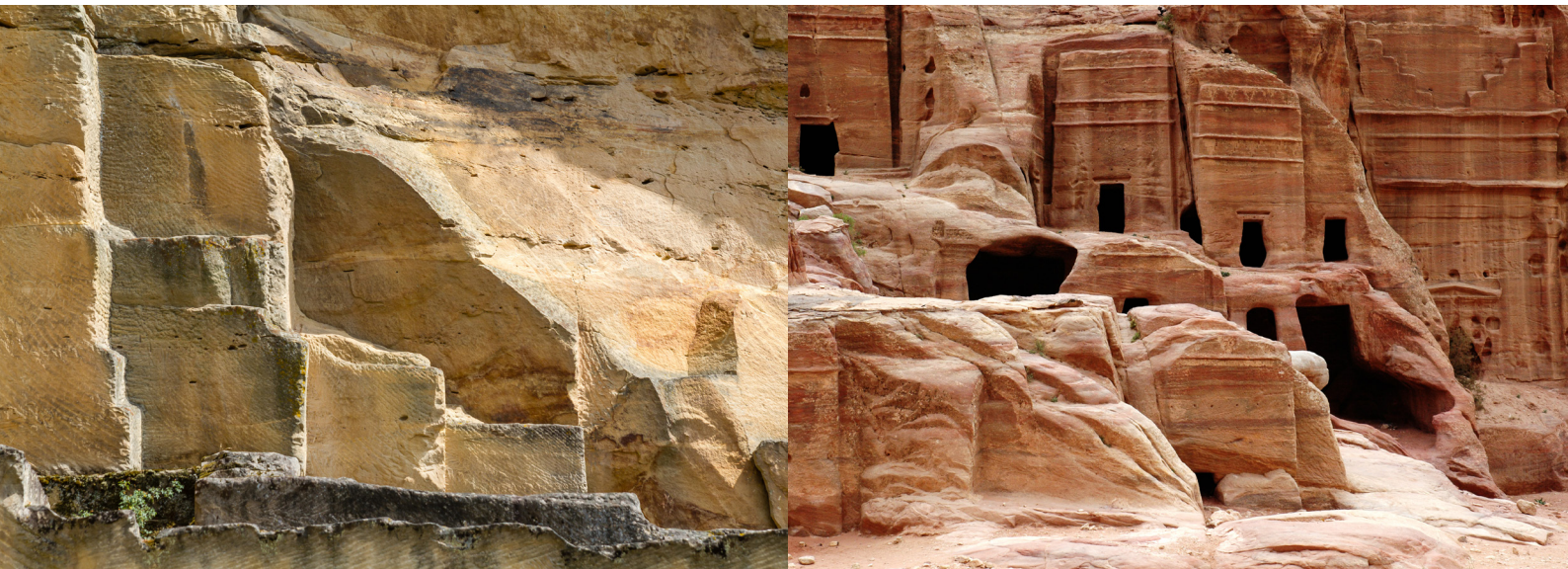


IRAAR 2026 conference

Quarries and Rock-cut Sites through the Lens of Archaeology

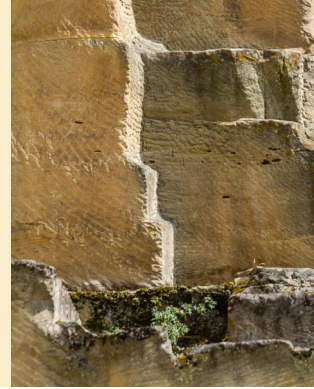
Edinburgh (UK) 14-15 May 2026

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



DAY 1 (Thursday 14th May)

Venue: Meadows Lecture Theatre, School of History, Classics and Archaeology
University of Edinburgh, Teviot Place, Edinburgh EH8 9AG



09:00–09:30 welcome and introduction

SESSION 1 Facing risks : challenges, adaptations, and transformations in quarrying and rock-hewing practices

09:30–09:45 Jérôme ANDRE, Marilou DE VALS, Chloé CHEZEAUX, Tommy VETTOR

Before quarrying begins: an exploration trench in a coastal limestone quarry near Marathon (Attica, Greece)

09:45–10:00 Marco DEHNER

The influence of the physical environment on stone extraction processes in the quarries of Petra (Jordan) and the subsequent production of architectural stones

10:00–10:15 Estelle YVEN, Mikaël GUIAVARC'H

Mesolithic microquartzite quarry sites in Brittany: petrographic characterization, lithic technological approaches and research perspectives

10:15–10:30 Josiah OLAH, Caterina PREVIATO, Michele SECCO

Interpreting a quarried landscape: morphology, topography, and geological context in the Euganean Hills, Italy

10:30–10:45 Q&A

10:45–11:10 **coffee break and poster session**

11:10–11:25 Gudade SHRIMALA

From laterite challenges to ritual forms: analysing the Lohara cave-complex and monolithic shrines

11:25–11:40 Fatma Gül ÖZTÜRK BÜKE

Rock-cut archaeology: reading the void through the reconstruction of traditional carving processes

11:40–11:55 David M. FREIRE-LISTA, Ramón JIMÉNEZ-MARTÍNEZ, Javier LUENGO, Asunción DE LOS RÍOS, Sergio PÉREZ-ORTEGA, Julia GARCÍA-OTEYZA, Aidai SULAIMANOVA

Making rock art in a moving landscape: materiality, weathering, and stone selection at Saimaluu-Tash I (Kyrgyzstan)

11:55–12:10 Louise BIGOT-DÉMEREAU, Thierry GRÉGOR

The rock-cut tombs of Dadan from cutting traces to human being: source of technical and social information

12:10–12:25 Q&A

12:25–14:00 **Lunch**

SESSION 2 At the cutting edge: current research on quarries and rock-cut sites

14:00–14:15 Michelle BEGHELLI, Joan PINAR GIL

Redefining rural catacombs from Late Antiquity through the Early Middle Ages: the multidisciplinary study of the rock-cut cemetery in Scorrione West (Sicily)

14:15–14:30 J. RIBEIRO, H.P. CARVALHO, P. BERNARDES, D. FREIRE-LISTA, C.A. LEAL GOMES

The study of the granite quarries of Via Nova, Terras de Bouro – North of Portugal: archaeology and geoarchaeology

14:30–14:45 Jean VANDEN BROECK-PARANT, Vasiliki ANEVLAVI, Rebecca LEVITAN, Evan LEVINE

Rethinking cycladic marble extraction: multimodal survey and analysis of archaic quarries on Naxos

14:45–15:00 J. KEMPER, P. ANDRÉ, A. CARAGLIO, J.F. COLONAT, O. COMBIER, E. DEL CORSO, A. LAMESA, M. LE ROY, M.-E. PORQUEDDU, A. REGGIO, L. VIEL

The Perpétairi rock-cut tomb site (France): first geoarchaeological approaches to the diachronic transformation of a landform from prehistory onwards

15:00–15:15 Q&A

15:15–15:50 **coffee break and poster session**

15:50–16:05 Marialucia AMADIO, Stefano GENOVESI, Giulia PICCHI, Claudia SCIUTO

Tracing stability in a moving landscape: geoarchaeology of quarrying in the Carrara marble basin (Italy)

16:05–16:20 P. ATHANASIADIS, L. LAZZARINI, E. PALAIOLOGOU, S. POP-LAZIĆ

Quarrying and working hard laconian stones in antiquity: a quest for understanding

16:20–16:35 Yiğit ERBİL

Quarrying, ritual topography, and rock-cut monuments in the Fasillar Region: reassessing a multifunctional Hittite landscape

16:35–16:50 Sophia GERMANIDOU

The rock-cut landscape in Messinia, southern Greece: from quarries and roads to tombs, cisterns and hermitages used, reused - and abused

16:50–17:05 Lia WEI

Ethnoarchaeological approaches to rock-cut burials in southwest China: continuity in funerary practices and stone working traditions since the 10th century

17:05–17:25 Q&A

Evening event (for conference delegates only, upon registration)

Venue: French Institute of Scotland

West Parliament Square, Edinburgh EH1 1RD



18:00–19:00 **Keynote lecture** by Ludovic COUPAYE

Beyond agency: tools, instruments and machines revisited through their technicity

19:00–20:30 **Wine reception**

DAY 2 (Friday 15th May)

Venue: Meadows Lecture Theatre, School of History, Classics and Archaeology
University of Edinburgh, Teviot Place, Edinburgh EH8 9AG



SESSION 3 Cutting into living rock: dialogue between quarries, rock-cut architecture and rock art studies

09:30–09:45 Francesca BERDIN

Rediscovering Sichuan's sandstone landscape: a critical reappraisal of early twentieth-century French expeditions and their perceptions of rock-cut monuments

09:45–10:00 Sean SILVIA

Cities of the Dead made Cities for the Living: nomadic reuse and reinhabitation of rock-cut Anatolian tombs in the long-nineteenth-century Ottoman Empire

10:00–10:15 Claire BALANDIER

Nea Paphos, a city carved into the rock: quarries and rock-cut structures in the Hellenistic capital of Cyprus

10:15–10:30 Caterina PREVIATO

Cutting the rock at Populonia (Piombino, Italy): quarrying for construction, carving for the dead

10:30–10:45 Q&A

10:45–11:10 **coffee break and poster session**

11:10–11:25 Lucy WADESON

Recarving the rock: the modification of Nabataean tombs at Petra (Jordan)

11:25–11:40 Dan DIFFENDALE

Fossor vide ne fodias: interaction between extractive and funerary practices in the rupestral landscape of the city of Rome

11:40–11:55 Jacopo BONETTO, Simone DILARIA

The afterlife of the necropolis: from Phoenician–Punic tombs to quarrying at Roman Nora (Sardinia)

11:55–12:10 Anaïs LAMESA, Idil ÜÇBAŞARAN

Cutting, re-cutting, and erasure: stratigraphy and mobility in the rock-cut church of Pancarlık (Cappadocia)

12:10–12:25 Q&A

12:25–14:00 **Lunch**

SESSION 4 Heritage: archaeological quarries and rock-cut sites in the present

14:00–14:15 Christopher LYES

Theorising ancient quarries part II: landscapes, labour, and materiality

14:15–14:30 Lorena CERESOLA, Claudia SCIUTO, Luca PALOZZI

Carrara marble and its medieval revival: material, mobility, and artistic production

14:30–14:45 Derek ALEXANDER

On borrowed time: quarry conservation in the National Trust for Scotland

14:45–15:00 Paula STIPANOVIC RESTREPO, Delphine LACANETTE-PUYO, Colette SIRIEX, Cécile VERDET, Clément MARTIN, Sylvain MATEO, Patrick MAZELLIER, Rémy CHAPOULIE

Inside the stone: a multidisciplinary diagnosis of the underground medieval church of Saint-Émilion, France

15:00–15:15 Q&A

15:15–15:50 **coffee break and poster session**

15:50–16:05 Michalis CONSTANTINO

The underground chambers of Fabrika Hill at Nea Paphos WHS: condition survey and conservation recommendations

16:05–16:20 Constantin CANAVAS

Cutting in the loess of North China: vulnerability and heritage issues

16:20–16:35 V. AKHILA, S.V. RAJESH, G.S. ABHAYAN

Rock-cut chamber burials of Iron Age period in South-Western India: a typological and architectural study

16:35–16:50 Leigh-Ann BEDAL

Carved from bedrock: engineering the Petra garden and pool complex

16:50–17:05 Q&A

17:05–17:30 **concluding remarks**

17:30 END OF CONFERENCE

POSTERS

Displayed in the coffee/lunch break room (McMillan room, floor 1, School of HCA)

Session 1 : Facing risks: challenges, adaptations, and transformations in quarrying and rock-hewing practices

Yvan MALIGORNE & Chloé DAMAY - *New research on the chronology of the limestone quarries at Thugga (Tunisia)*

Rosalie JALLOT, Emmanuel MENS, Rémy ARTHUIS, Didier PONCET, Trine HOLM FREISLEBEN & Robert WYNS - *From the erection of menhirs in the Early Neolithic to occasional quarrying in the Middle Bronze Age: management of lithic raw materials by the first sedentary populations in the north-western quarter of the Massif Central*

Session 2 : Cutting into living rock: dialogue between quarries, rock-cut architecture and rock art studies

Sumedh THERO - *Dynamic use of chiseling and scooping out rock for rock-cut architecture and rock art in ordination and meditation in Buddhism*

Amir GHARBI - *Cutting into living rock: the case of the haouanet of El Harchia Region (Northern Tunisia)*

Daniela PATTI & Charlie LA MOTTA - *Living rock landscapes across time: continuity and change. The medieval settlement of Nicosia (EN)*

Session 3: Heritage: archaeological quarries and rock-cut sites in the present

Pierre ROCHETTE & Valérie ANDRIEU - *The Algajola granite quarry in Corsica: how to unravel two millennia of potential extraction?*

Germano GERMANÒ - *Carved by stone and sea: coastal quarries as cultural landscapes in Puglia (Italy)*

Medha DUBE & Apoorva DUBE - *The chisel's logic: a comparative study of rock-cut iconography in the Narmada (India) and Avon (UK) river valleys*

Session 4: At the cutting edge: current research on quarries and rock-cut sites

Fernando LIGUE ENGAMBA - *Quarries and lithic traces in Haut-Nyong (East Cameroon): archaeological approaches to a neglected heritage*

Getnet DESTA, Hailay ATSBHA, Amanuel ABRHA - *Water management in ancient churches and monasteries of Tigray, Northern Ethiopia: archaeological insights from rock-cut cisterns*

Ines FERJAN - *Visualising Roman quarrying landscapes in the inland Balkans*

Bruna GARGIULO, Nicola CAPECE, Valerio COLONNESE, Hugo ERRA & Francesca SOGLIANI - *Metasassi project: digital storytelling for an accessible rupestrian heritage*

Guillaume ROBIN, Anaïs LAMESA, Kirsty LILLEY & Marie-Elise PORQUEDDU - *A rock-cut monument from the far north: Dwarfie Stane, Hoy, Scotland*

CONFERENCE VENUES

Venue 1

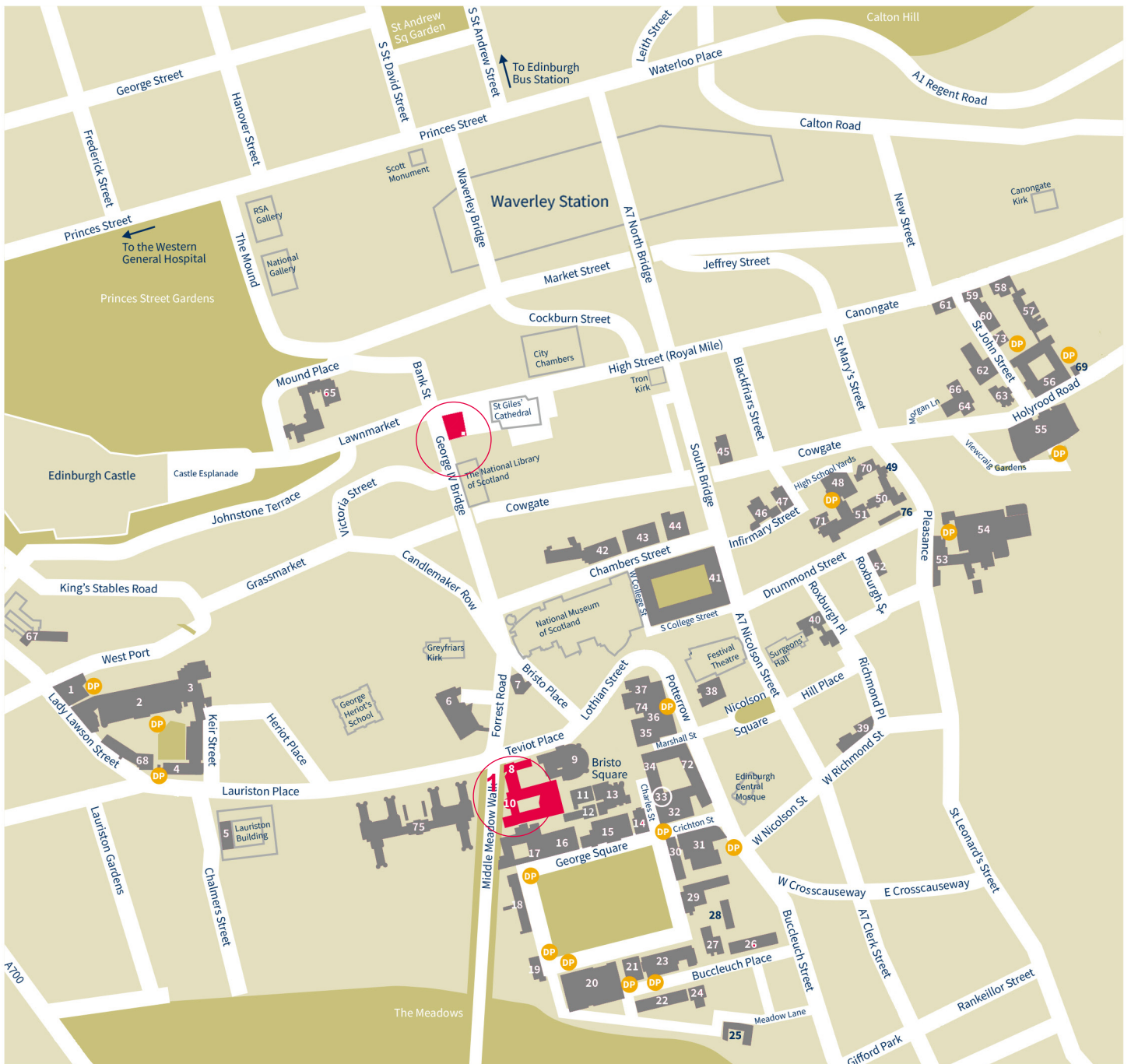
Sessions 1-4 (14th & 15th May)

Meadows Lecture Theatre
School of History, Classics and Archaeology
University of Edinburgh
Old Medical School - Doorway 4
Teviot Place
Edinburgh EH8 9AG

Venue 2

Evening event (14th May)

French Institute of Scotland
West Parliament Square
Edinburgh EH1 1RD



Conference contact: iraargroup@gmail.com