DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

NEW SERIES, VOLUME 17, 2016

THE JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY SCOTLAND
Archaeology Scotland is a voluntary membership organisation, which works to secure the archaeological heritage of Scotland for its people through education, promotion and support:
• education, both formal and informal, concerning Scotland’s archaeological heritage
• promotion of the conservation, management, understanding and enjoyment of, and access to, Scotland’s archaeological heritage
• support through the provision of advice, guidance, resources and information related to archaeology in Scotland.

Our vision
Archaeology Scotland is a key centre of knowledge and expertise for Scottish archaeology, providing support and education for those interested and involved in archaeology, and promoting Scotland’s archaeological heritage for the benefit of all.

Membership of Archaeology Scotland
Membership is open to all individuals, local societies and organisations with an interest in Scottish archaeology. Membership benefits and services include access to a network of archaeological information on Scotland and the UK, three newsletters a year, the annual edition of the journal Discovery and excavation in Scotland, and the opportunity to attend Archaeology Scotland’s annual Summer School and the Archaeological Research in Progress conference.

Further information and an application form may be obtained from Archaeology Scotland
Email info@archaeologyscotland.org.uk
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A’ lorg agus a’ cladhach an Albainn
The Gaelic translation of Discovery and excavation in Scotland was supplied by Margaret MacIver, Lecturer in Gaelic and Education, and Professor Colm O’Boyle, Emeritus Professor, both at the Celtic, School of Language and Literature, University of Aberdeen.

Cover images

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4 The excavation of features relating to the later occupation of the hillfort at Dun Deardail. Copyright: Peter Develin – AOC Archaeology Group (see page 106)
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6 Aigas Community Forest – Recording the sawmill building, photograph taken from the SW. Copyright: NOSAS (see page 107)
7 Arrochar Parish Survey – Recording a shieling at Blarstainge as part of the Macfarlane survey project. Copyright: Northlight Heritage (see page 29)

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EDITORIAL

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Monitoring, recording and researching the built heritage (page 123)

Bringing communities together to explore our heritage (page 21)

Developing and using new techniques – Laser scanning (page 37)

Creating inventories to inform future management (page 149)
Welcome to the 70th edition of *Discovery and excavation in Scotland* (DES). Since the first volume in 1947 our annual journal of archaeological work in Scotland has played a vitally important role in Scottish archaeology. Each new issue (produced in hardcopy and digital formats) offers a simple way to keep up to date with current work in the field, and the back issues provide a research tool for anyone seeking information about the archaeology of Scotland.

*DES* has changed significantly in appearance from the first hand-typed nine-page edition of 1947 to the 220-page illustrated edition produced in 2017. Its purpose, however, remains the same – to increase knowledge, understanding and interpretation of the past, by encouraging the reporting of archaeological work and the dissemination of this information, to the widest possible audience. The journal works in partnership with a wide range of organisations and individuals, encouraging and supporting the reporting of fieldwork undertaken by commercial archaeological units, community groups, local societies, universities and independent archaeologists.

In this edition we have reports spanning all time periods from the Mesolithic through to WW2 military installations. The reports utilise a wide range of techniques, from plane table surveying, standing building recording, metal detecting, evaluations, and excavations, building surveys and conservation work, through to laser scanning and photogrammetry, radiocarbon dating, and landscape surveys enhanced by drone photography, and geophysical surveys. They span every type of location from eroding coastal sites, through urban areas, to wetland sites and the recognition of human activity and settlement in the rural areas of the highlands and islands. They incorporate everything from chance finds, through development driven investigations, to intensively planned research projects which will take many years to complete. All of the reported work adds to our understanding of our past. 

*DES* is a unique and unrivalled resource that successfully brings together information on archaeological work undertaken across the whole of Scotland, ensuring that people are able to learn about new and ongoing work as it happens.

At a time when data is becoming more widely available, but increasingly dispersed, *DES* allows all groups and individuals carrying out archaeological work in Scotland to simply and easily report their work and share this information widely. *DES* is working in partnership with the Archaeological Data Service in York and Historic Environment Scotland to develop more efficient reporting systems. By utilising the opportunities that technological developments offer, *DES* will be able to move forward, ensuring that what is reported and learnt continues to reach the widest possible audience.

We would like to thank everyone who reports to and supports the production of *DES*. The range of contributors and the different perspectives you bring are greatly appreciated. Without your input over the past 70 years our understanding of the archaeology of Scotland would be much diminished. We hope that you will continue to support *DES* as we seek to continue to report on the exciting and continuously evolving world of archaeological research.

*Dr Paula Milburn*
EDITORIAL POLICY
Since the first volume in 1947 Discovery and excavation in Scotland (DES) has played a vitally important role in Scottish archaeology. Each new issue offers a simple way to keep up to date with current work in the field, and the back issues provide a research tool for anyone seeking information about the archaeology of Scotland.

The full run of DES is now available digitally, with the exception of the most recent two volumes. These are available in print form to members of Archaeology Scotland. All volumes from 1947 onwards are available as PDF files. They may be downloaded for research and teaching purposes but must not be resold or made available on any other web site or any other medium with or without charge, unless with the prior written consent of Archaeology Scotland and the relevant © holders. The digital archive may be accessed via a link on the Archaeology Scotland website.

DES is not intended as a medium for final publication. It is a reference work, an annual summary of activity in technical form. A fuller account will eventually appear in print elsewhere, and/or further detailed records will be deposited with the Historic Environment Scotland (HES: formerly referred to as RCAHMS and NMRS) and in the appropriate museum service. It is a condition of Historic Environment Scotland funding that entries should be supplied for publication in DES.

Archaeology Scotland publishes DES as a service to its members and to archaeology generally. It is aimed at a readership with a specialist interest in archaeology and welcomes contributions from all sectors of the archaeological community. Its production represents a significant percentage of Archaeology Scotland’s annual income. Financial support is received from various bodies for entries relating to their work, and further contributions are received for reports on developer-funded projects.

DES aims to provide a rapid, comprehensive summary of all archaeological work undertaken in Scotland each year by the end of May in the succeeding year. This imposes a very tight timescale on the production process. These considerations underlie and constrain the editorial policy reflected in the notes for contributors below. It seeks to balance maximum information value and accuracy with speed of production and minimum cost. It is divided into two sections: notes for contributors on the format and deadlines for submissions, and a section on conventions, arranged in alphabetical order.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
I am grateful to Jack Stevenson for his support during the production of this volume and in particular his assistance with the proof-reading. Special thanks to Jennifer Shore and Dawn Evers for undertaking final checks. My thanks also go to Gordon Sorensen and Helen Sawyer at Cathedral Communications for all their hard work and to Susan Vaughan for compiling the index. The assistance I received from the people mentioned above undoubtedly immensely improved DES.

Thanks are due to the Stationery Office Ltd Cartographic Centre for the Local Authority map.

Archaeology Scotland is in receipt of an award from the Historic Environment Scotland voluntary sector grants programme.

Archaeology Scotland wishes to acknowledge the following bodies for generous financial assistance in respect of the reports relating to their particular contributions to this volume:
• Forestry Commission Scotland
• Historic Environment Scotland.

Paula Milburn, Archaeology Scotland
1 NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

1.1 Content of DES
The editor will accept appropriate accounts of all forms of archaeological discoveries. It is preferable to submit entries in the year of discovery, but contributions may also be submitted up to three years later. They may cover:

- Assessment (desk-based assessments should only be submitted if undertaken as part of additional work)
- Evaluation
- Watching brief
- Excavation
- Geophysical or other field survey
- Fieldwalking
- Historic building survey
- Palaeoenvironmental studies
- Finds studies
- Records of stray finds
- Public access projects including Adopt-a-Monument
- Full bibliographic references for the final publication, in any medium, of work previously recorded in DES.

1.2 Text format and deadlines
Entries for DES may be submitted online via the submission form on our website: www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk

- Alternatively, contributions may be supplied as a Word attachment via email. An email will be sent acknowledging receipt, please contact the editor if you do not receive an acknowledgement.
- Professional organisations should submit text in the format requested by the editor. Individuals may submit text in the format of the sample entry below.
- Contributions may be sent in at any time during the year. The final deadline for inclusion of contributions in the volume for the current year is 15 November. Contributions received after that date will be included in the next year’s volume.
- All entries should acknowledge the contributor(s), organisation(s) and appropriate funder(s).
- The contributors’ contact addresses will be listed at the back of the volume.
- The editor will not accept anonymous contributions.
- Contributions should be sent to Dr Paula Milburn at HES, John Sinclair House, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 9NX.
- Email paula.milburn@HES.scot

1.3 Illustration format
- We will include illustrations to accompany your entry whenever possible, provided they are of appropriate quality. We particularly welcome plans of large-scale excavations and surveys.
- Please supply colour and black and white greyscale images as jpg or tif files at a minimum resolution of 300dpi.
- Black and white bitmap images should ideally be saved at 1200dpi, and no lower than 800dpi for optimum printing.
- Please supply a hard copy of each image, labelled on the back with local authority area, site name and file name, and a numbered list of captions cross-referencing images and files.
- Do not embed images in Word files.

1.4 Editorial process
- Copyright for text and images published in DES will rest with Archaeology Scotland. Entries will normally be added to CANMORE, the HES online database (www.historicenvironment.scot).
- Contributors should ensure they have copyright clearance for images not their own before submission.
- The editor will apply the standards and conventions of these notes, as indicated in the sample entry below.
- The editor reserves the right to shorten contributions. Because survey observations can be replicated, these are subject to heavier editing than excavation reports, which are records of unrepeatable work. Negative reports (where no archaeology was found) should be as short as possible.
- Badly written, very long or controversial contributions may be returned to the contributor for revision.
- Contributors will not receive proofs of edited contributions.
- The contributor is responsible for the accuracy of entries, and all enquiries concerning content should be referred to the contributor. Contributors may be asked to verify their contributions. The editor will not enter into lengthy correspondence with contributors.

1.5 Sample entry

| [Local authority] |
| [Parish] |

**Berry Burn Wind Farm**

**Evaluation and survey**

*Sarah-Jane Haston – Headland Archaeology Ltd*

NJ 0732 46223 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in July 2006 to ascertain whether there were any archaeological constraints upon the location of a turbine forming part of the Berry Burn Wind Farm. The proposed turbine location lies near the prehistoric field system at Rochulin (NJ04NE 3).

Seven trenches were excavated, covering 392m², equivalent to just over 5% of the available area. The present ground surface was at 310m OD. The trenches were excavated through varying depths of peat, and all came down onto natural sand with frequent boulders protruding from the bedrock. In some places an iron-pan had developed before the onset of peat accumulation. Large tree trunks were visible within the peat at depths between 0.4m and 0.7m.

The evaluation identified three lengths of dry stone walling, comprising two separate structures lying on top of the natural subsoil and sealed beneath up to 0.7m of peat. Of unknown date or function, they may be associated with an early field system. All three features lie on the very E margin of the Turbine 30 location and 45m from the centre point of the turbine base.

Three linear banks that lay outside the limits of the previous work undertaken by the HES (survey DC17478/PO) were surveyed.

**Archive and report:** NRHE (intended). Report: Highland HER

**Funder:** Entec UK

[Contact details for organisation / individual name – for contributors list]

1.6 Format for editors

| [Local authority] |
| [Parish] |

**Site name**

Type(s) of project

Name of contributor(s) – Name of organisation

National Grid Reference (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures) [space]

[Report]

[tab] second and subsequent paragraphs

Location of archive and/or report [no full point]
2 CONVENTIONS

2.1 Abbreviations and acronyms
• Do not punctuate abbreviations or acronyms, eg HES, National Museums Scotland, mm, m, Fig
• Use N, S, E, W, NE, SSE, E/W, and N/S for cardinal points and directions. Spell out northwards, southern etc in full.

2.2 Bibliographic references
• It will not normally be necessary to provide references for entries in the DES county list.
• References to previous DES entries for the same site should be in the form DES 2001, 92–93.
• For other references follow the Harvard system. Cite the reference in the text as the author’s name and the year of publication, with page and illustration references. Provide a full list of references in alphabetical order at the end of the entry. Use the CBA journal abbreviations.
• Take the title from the title page, not from the spine or elsewhere on the cover. The title should be transcribed exactly as to wording and spelling but not necessarily as to punctuation and capitalisation. This means that except for proper names, only the first word of a title should be capitalised and no full stop is necessary at the end of the title.

2.3 Dates
• Cite dates as 30 July 1893.
• Use the form 5th century, 3rd millennium.
• Note that dates used as adjectives are hyphenated; 5th-millennium date, 18th-century moulding.
• Use 1590s, 1930s.
• Note the order 49 BC, but AD 1952.
• Elision of dates should be to the shortest form consistent with clarity, eg 5–5 July, 1745–7.

2.4 Geographical references
• To allow sites/finds to be located to the highest possible degree of accuracy National Grid references (NGRs) should be given as two letters and at least eight figures. Ten figure NGRs would also be most welcome.
• Exceptions are treasure trove locations where the submitting body feels that a more ambiguous location is appropriate, or completed work where the locational information has already been submitted to DES.
• Use current rather than historic local authority divisions (see map in this volume).

2.5 Italics
• Use italics for the titles of books and journals, eg Discovery and excavation in Scotland, DES, Proc Soc Ant Scot.
• Use italics for foreign words and quotations, eg c (for circa), terminus ante quem, honi soit qui mal y pense.

2.6 Numbers and measurements
• Spell out the numbers from one to ten except in measurements. Numbers 11 and above should be numerals except where the context makes this awkward (eg at the beginning of a sentence).
• Figures between 1000 and 9999 do not require a comma.
• Where numbers appear in a sequence, use numerals, eg of 100 trenches, 74 produced white gritty ware.
• Elision of numbers should be to the shortest form consistent with clarity, eg 254–8, 116–18, 196–203.
• Cite measurements in kilometres (km), metres (m) or millimetres (mm). Use the unit that is appropriate for the accuracy of the measurement.
• Do not use cm as they are not an SI measurement.
• Do not leave a space between the number and the unit of measurement.
• In a series of measurements using the same unit only the last measurement needs to be followed by the unit, eg 34 x 67 x 83mm.

The accuracy of measurements and the units used to describe them will not be comprehensively checked, and the responsibility for ensuring their accuracy rests with the contributor.

2.7 Quotations
• Short quotations should be enclosed in single quotation marks.
• Lengthy quotations (more than five lines) should be indented, beginning a fresh line, and should not have quotation marks.

2.8 Spelling
• Spelling should follow the Concise Oxford Dictionary, preferring the first variants where offered.
• Note the preferred spellings of the following words and phrases:
  1st Edition OS annexe (noun) artefact cup mark datable dry stone gazetteer ground-breaking groundwork gully hollow-way hut circle land use medieval metal detecting millennium penannular planticrub ploughsoil posthole rig and furrow ring ditch roundhouse samian viewed shed walkover wind farm

2.9 Style
• Contributions should be brief statements of work undertaken.
• Survey information should be summarised.
• Write simply and clearly.
• Try to be interesting.
• Avoid the use of the passive.
ABERDEEN CITY

Aberdeen

**Aberdeen Art Gallery**

*Watching brief and excavation*

**Steven Watt – AOC Archaeology Group**

NJ 93884 06372 A watching brief began on groundwork associated with the redevelopment of the art gallery on 21 October 2015. The gallery had been constructed on the grounds of a Dominican friary, apparently founded by Alexander II sometime between 1230–1249.

Excavations outside the gallery uncovered a red brick charnel house containing three Victorian coffins, containing a mass of disarticulated human remains. The remains were from a minimum of 35 individuals, were probably medieval in date and associated with the Dominican friary.

Internally, two areas of excavation revealed *in situ* extended inhumations of 55 individuals, all on a roughly E/W orientation. The individuals vary in both age and gender, and were of varying condition across the site. In some instances, parts of individuals had been moved out to accommodate a new burial. A small selection of medieval ceramics, including tile fragments, and copper alloy shroud pins were retrieved from amongst the burials.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Funder:** Aberdeen City Council

**Balnagask Motte, Torry, Aberdeen**

**Evaluation**

**Robert Lenfert and Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology**

NJ 95743 05113 Two 2 x 1m test pits were hand dug, 23 March 2016, within the scheduled ancient monument area on the N side of the supposed motte adjacent to the stone boundary wall. This wall is collapsing and the trenches were to look at the depth of the wall and the nature of the ground at the base of the motte. The test pits were 0.7–1m deep, and the natural slope of the motte was recorded in each trench. The soil contained 19th- and 20th-century finds and there was a tree bole at the bottom of TP1. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Funder:** Aberdeen City Council

**53 College Bounds, Old Aberdeen**

**Watching brief**

**Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology**

NJ 93880 08132 A watching brief was carried out, 18–20 November 2015, during the excavation of a 0.5m wide and 0.5m deep trench for a fibre optic cable. Trench 1, in the garden of the former Rocking Horse Nursery, was filled with garden soil. At the N end of the trench beside the N boundary wall there were mortar and stones in the base of the trench. These were left unexcavated. Trench 2 in the garden of 53 College Bounds was filled with garden soil with an area of building rubble, hand made brick, stone, pan tile, mortar, off-white plaster and slate fragments.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Funder:** University of Aberdeen

**Kepplestone Mansion, Viewfield Road, Aberdeen**

**Standing building recording**

**Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology**

NJ 91289 05255 A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 7 July 2016. A photographic survey was carried out of the exteriors of the buildings. There is no access to the interior, and the exterior is overgrown and partially inaccessible due to the presence of building materials. Architects plans and elevations were annotated. The house may have started as a cottage on the frontage of Viewfield Road and was substantially enlarged and modernised by Alexander Macdonald around 1875 to house his substantial art collection. Macdonald commissioned J Russell Mackenzie to enlarge Kepplestone House (now called Kepplestone Mansion) in a vernacular style. The building was then extended several times in the 20th century, and several of these extensions have since been removed leaving scars on the current building.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Funder:** Stewart Milne Homes

**Newhills**

**A96 Park and Choose Scheme, Aberdeen**

**Watching brief and excavation**

**Anthony Taylor – Headland Archaeology**

NJ 873 114 A watching brief and excavation were carried out, September–November 2015, on a strip of ground which runs through the centre of an area where previous archaeological excavation had identified structures relating to Iron Age settlement and later agricultural activity. A number of pits, postholes, linear features and two possible structures were excavated. Initial assessment of these features suggests an
occupation during the prehistoric period followed by later post-medieval agricultural activity consistent with the findings from previous excavations.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Aberdeen City Council

Crabstone South (Phase 1), Aberdeen
Evaluation
Alexander Wood – AOC Archaeology Group
NJ 870 106 A 7% evaluation was undertaken, 22–24 August 2016, in advance of a residential development on a 26381 m² site. A total of 940 linear metres of trenching was undertaken and revealed a heavily plough damaged subsoil cut with improvement drainage, some possible rig and furrow and a large circular rock/root removal pit.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: CALA Homes Ltd

Former Davidson’s Mill, Mugiemoss Road, Bucksburn
Watching brief and standing building recording
Robert Lenfert – Cameron Archaeology
NJ 90071 10048 A watching brief was carried out, 15 June 2016, at the site of the former Davidson’s Mill situated along the River Don. Machine removal of modern flooring and building debris revealed no features or finds. However, severe winter flooding along the River Don washed away large amounts of sandy overburden, which revealed a substantial brick drainage tunnel (centred upon NJ 90343 10039) and several relatively small sections of walling, which appear to be directly related to the former mill. These features were photographically recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Barratt North Scotland

Peterculter
Edgehill Cottage, 45 Culter House Road, Milltimber
Standing building recording
Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NJ 85277 01490 A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 27 November 2015. The buildings recorded were constructed in one phase between the 1st and 2nd Edition OS maps. Buildings 1 and 2 are the remains of Edgehill House walled garden, garden house and glasshouses. Architects plans and elevations were checked and annotated, and Building 2 was recorded.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: David Suttie

North Lasts Quarry, Peterculter
Evaluation
Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd
NJ 82400 04100 An evaluation was carried out, 27–30 November 2015, on the proposed site of settling ponds for sand washing at North Lasts Quarry. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

Archive: NRHE. Report: Aberdeenshire SMR and NRHE
Funder: Leiths Scotland Ltd

ABERDEEN/ABERDEENSHIRE

Newhills/Banchory-Devenick
Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route
Watching brief
Nicola Reid – Northlight Heritage

NJ 86880 08719 (Kingswell), NO 91412 99446 (Duffshill) and NJ 87104 10002 (Stoneywood) A watching brief was undertaken, 3 March – 24 April 2016, on work associated with intermediate pressure gas pipeline diversions. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: J Murphy and Sons Ltd

ABERDEENSHIRE

Aboyne and Glentanar

Wreaton, Aboyne
Standing building recording
Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd
NO 50085 99244 A standing building survey was undertaken, 20 January 2016, on a 19th-century farmhouse and steading. Considerable reconstruction had taken place and few internal details survived.

Archive: NRHE. Report: Aberdeenshire SMR and NRHE
Funder: Mr and Mrs S Plant

Arbuthnott

Cluseburn, Inverbervie
Watching brief
Stuart Wilson – AOC Archaeology Group
NO 81725 76642 and NO 81725 76642 A watching brief was undertaken, 4 April 2016, during ground-breaking work associated with the construction of a wind turbine pad and associated access track. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: CgMs Consulting Ltd

Auchindoir and Kearn

Druminnor Castle
Excavation
Colin Shepherd – Bennachie Landscapes Fieldwork Group
NJ 5131 2642 A fifth season work was undertaken, May – October 2016, at Druminnor Castle. Highlights included the total excavation of the surviving parts of an early corn-drying kiln, radiocarbon dated to between 1035 and 1207 cal AD (SUERC-67036 [GU40768] courtesy of Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service), from a carbonised grain of oat. Bulk samples have been sent for processing and it is hoped that a second date from this material will confirm and improve on the accuracy of the first date. The floor of the kiln contained two substantial postholes and a third that was, apparently, unused at the time of the kiln’s destruction. This structural evidence may help in understanding how the kiln was used.

Trench extensions made to record more of the substantial eastern building, revealed in the previous year’s work, recorded a complicated series of stratigraphic relationships, indicative of a number of constructional phases. It is hoped that radiocarbon dating of bone from securely sealed deposits will provide dates for activity at this location. The wall of the building appears to have cut through the floor of an earlier structure, and both appear to seal further underlying structural remains. The building itself, however, is bisected by a later wall built upon the latest of the former floor surfaces. This later wall, conjecturally, may be the subsequent ‘barmkin’ wall depicted on an
**ABERDEENSHIRE**

18th-century estate plan. Fine carved masonry, reused in later constructional phases, indicates a number of high status buildings formerly standing in the immediate vicinity.

A good range of late medieval pottery has been found along with a gold reliquary cross and a small copper-alloy buckle. The former has been identified by Penny Dransart (University of Lampeter) as relating to a tradition of ‘green’ crosses, symbolically reflecting the ‘living’ wood of the cross of the crucifixion. This particular example has bark-like modelling of its surface and stylised green foliage around the top. Its hollowed stem would have permitted the carrying of a holy relic, secured in place by a removable stopper at the base of the cross.

As ever, many thanks are owed to the landowner, Alex Forbes, both for his good-natured forbearance and for his wealth of local historical and Forbes family knowledge, to Aberdeenshire Council for their help in funding radiocarbon dates and sample analyses, and to AOC for their generous help and advice regarding sample collections.

**Archive: Moray and Aberdeenshire Council SMR**

**Banchory-Ternan**

**Loch of Leys Crannog (Crannogs in NE Scotland: Ballater to Banchory)**

*Survey and excavation*

**Michael J Stratigos – University of Aberdeen**

NO 70460 97790 Work was undertaken, 29 February – 4 March 2016, and began with a full topographical survey of the island that used DGPS to capture 2720 individual points with associated height data. A digital terrain model was produced with this data that also surveyed the surviving extant medieval castle masonry. The results of the topographical survey have provided clearer insight into the former level of the loch and its relationship to the island which appears to have sunk by as much as 3m. The survey also demonstrated the level of survival of the upstanding medieval remains extant on the site which were first mapped by Burnett in 1850. The outline of the medieval tower house can still be clearly traced across the eastern half of the islet, but is less clear or absent along what Burnett sees as the western wall.

Excavation of a single 2 x 3m trench was undertaken that tested the nature of the surviving archaeology and obtained material for C14 dating. The excavation provided unambiguous evidence for the artificiality of the island, and also demonstrated surviving laid masonry below the former level of the loch capping the organic matrix of the artificial island. The excavation has characterised the preservation of the organic component of the site which has substantially deteriorated since the 1850 draining of the loch and excavation of the crannog by Burnett. The main organic matrix of the crannog has been reduced to a deteriorated black mass with frequent bark fragment inclusions. A single highly degraded timber fragment was identified.

Two radiocarbon dates from the site have placed activity around the 1st–2nd centuries AD as well as in the 9th–10th centuries AD. The 1910 ± 30 BP (Poz-83364) date came from small charcoal fragments within context (108), interpreted as an erosional layer sitting near the former surface of the water. This sat above the assumed medieval period laid stone capping [106] of the main organic mound (103). Within (108) a 15mm diameter fragment of mortar was found, and was initially thought to represent redeposited rubble material from the deterioration of the medieval tower house. The most likely explanation in light of the 1st–2nd-century AD charcoal date is that (108) is an erosional deposit, where the charcoal sampled was eroded out of the crannog mound and redeposited alongside the obviously medieval mortar.

The second date, 1095 ± 30 BP (Poz-83362), came from context (103) the main core of the organic anthropogenic mound. This context was homogenous throughout, so samples were taken through the profile. This C14 date comes from a sample from the upper part of the profile, just below the laid stone capping [103].

**Archive: NRHE and Archaeology Service for Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray**

**Funder: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Archaeology Service for Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray**

**Banff**

**Old Smithy/Meal Stores, Old Market Place, Banff**

*Standing building recording*

**Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**

NJ 69206 63952 A standing building survey was undertaken, 1 April 2016, on the shell of a range of buildings used throughout the 20th century as a smithy; this usage apparently dating to before the 1st Edition OS map of 1866, which labels them as ‘Smithy’. However, two of the structures had been built in 1793 and 1796 respectively as Meal Stores built by the town council to store grain for distribution to the poor in times of hardship. The street façades of these stores remained, each with their original doorway with loft door above.

**Archive: NRHE. Report: Aberdeenshire SMR and NRHE**

**Funder: Aberdeen City Council**

**Belhelvie**

**Blackdog**

*Evaluation*

**Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology**

NJ 95938 14465 An evaluation was undertaken, 30 November 2015 – 29 January 2016, at land N of Blackdog prior to a rural residential development. Sixty-nine prehistoric flints, including at least one flint tool, were recovered within the heavily ploughed topsoil zone; no archaeological features were identified within the underlying subsoil.

**Archive: NRHE**

**Funder: Kirkwood Homes Ltd/Ashfield Land Ltd**

**Benholm**

**Mearns Coastal Church, Castle Street, Johnshaven**

*Standing building recording*

**Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology**

NO 79582 67085 A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 12th October 2016 prior to conversion into flats. At least three phases of development of this church were recorded. The church was originally built in 1860. It was altered when the basement was developed; the ceiling of the main church was lowered, the pulpit relocated on the E wall partially covering a Phase 1 window, and internal partitions built including adding toilet facilities on the ground floor. A kitchen and toilets were added into the basement which was eventually turned into a games area and a flat.

**Archive: NRHE**

**Funder: Mr K Dickson**
NJ 68490 10940 A standing building survey was undertaken on 22 March 2016 of a small 19th-century L-plan steading. Few internal details survived.

Archive: NRHE. Report: Aberdeenshire SMR and NRHE
Funder: Mr A Smith

Crathie and Braemar

Upper Dee Tributaries Project
Excavation and field survey
SM Fraser, G Noble, G Warren and C Wickham-Jones – The National Trust for Scotland, University of Aberdeen, University College Dublin and University of Stirling

NN 9929 9101 and NO 0170 8855 A fourth season of fieldwork was undertaken, July – October 2016, in Glen Dee, on the National Trust for Scotland’s Mar Lodge Estate, as part of a partnership project to characterise the nature of early prehistoric settlement which will ultimately inform woodland expansion strategies.

Sgòr an Eòin A team from the National Trust for Scotland, University College Dublin and the University of Stirling carried out two-days of survey work at Sgòr an Eòin in July 2016, with the second day heavily curtailed by poor weather. The work focused on providing a more in-depth understanding of the three lithic artefacts found in an erosive context during rapid walkover survey in 2015 and assessing the potential of good locations for palaeoenvironmental sequences in the immediate vicinity. The site is in a dramatic location, on a high terrace in Glen Dee.

The survey work in 2016 has expanded the lithic assemblage to 15 worked flints in total, all found within a tightly confined area at the edge of a small stream. They are limited in type: 11 are burnt fragments of flakes, three representdebitage and one is a retouched piece (broken, so not typologically identifiable). The assemblage is not chronologically diagnostic. No suitable deposits for palaeoenvironmental work were located.

Chest of Dee In October 2016 a team from the University of Aberdeen excavated a series of evaluative test pits and trenches as part of the department’s third year archaeology module. The primary objective was to continue the evaluation of the sites identified in 2013–15, establishing...
the density and character of prehistoric occupation along the banks of the river at Chest of Dee. Radiocarbon dating on samples from 2013–15 has shown occupation on the river banks extending back to the late 9th millennium BC. In 2016 investigation focused on testing areas not previously sampled, including areas on the S side of the river (Areas K and L) and Area M on the N side of the river, completing the evaluation of the N bank of the Dee between White Bridge and the Chest of Dee waterfalls. Test pits were also dug beyond the waterfalls, following the river westward.

On the S side of the river, testing at Area K (S of the waterfalls) showed the presence of possible occupation layers in two of three test pits. No lithic artefacts were recovered, but charcoal-rich horizons around 0.05m in thickness were located at around 0.6m below the topsoil. Four test pits were also dug on the S side of the river in Area L, closer to White Bridge. One only revealed alluvial deposits, but two test pits revealed ephemeral features, possibly fire pits, while two small pieces of flint knapping waste were recovered from test pit TP 5200 in a sub-peat alluvial sand horizon. These lithics represent the first found on the S side of the river.

On the N side of the river a line of ten test pits was excavated in Area M (between Areas J and D, tested in previous years). Around 30 lithics were found in these test pits, concentrated in 3 test pits at the western end of the line. All of the artefacts came from pre-peat alluvial sands, with over 20 pieces in TP 1100 within soil horizons and a possible pit-feature. The other concentration was in TP 1200 where lithics were found within a lower layer of alluvial sand. The lithics in both TP 1100 and TP 1200 were associated with diffuse lenses of charcoal which were sampled for dating.

No lithic artefacts were identified in the small number of test pits dug beyond the waterfalls, but diffuse charcoal lenses in two test pits suggests some level of human activity upriver of the falls. Three test pits were also dug around the Late Neolithic-Bronze Age pit found immediately above the waterfalls in 2013, but did not identify any in situ deposits to help contextualise this unusual feature.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: The National Trust for Scotland, Aberdeen Council, Society of Antiquaries of London, Robert Kiln Charitable Trust, Royal Archaeological Institute, University of Aberdeen, University College Dublin and Tony Clark Memorial Fund

Dunnock

Yonderton Farm, Hatton
Standing building recording
Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd
NJ 54294 39943 (hut circle) and NJ 54330 40045 (enclosure)
This project aims to undertaken five years of survey and evaluation on Battle Hill, Huntly. Initial work at the hut circle, 8–19 August 2016, recorded a lithic scatter.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Rampart Scotland

Drumoak

Drum Castle (Pathway)
Watching brief
Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd
NJ 79620 00500 A watching brief was maintained, 7 March 2016, on a drain for a pathway between the car park and the castle at Drum. Apart from a small area of cobbles, that may be a remnant of an earlier path, no archaeological features or finds were evident.

Archive: NTS. Report: Aberdeenshire SMR and NRHE
Funder: The National Trust for Scotland

Upper Park, Drumoak
Standing building recording
Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NO 7667 9774 A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out, 2 February 2016, prior to demolition and residential development. The structures were early 19th-century in date and were a typical Aberdeenshire farmhouse (Building 1) and bothy (Building 2). Four phases of development of Building 1 were recorded.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Mr Stephen Taylor

Dunnicaer Sea Stack
Excavation
Gordon Noble and Cathy MacIver – University of Aberdeen
NO 8821 8464 As part of the Northern Picts Project surveys and excavations have been undertaken in an area stretching from Aberdeenshire to Shetland targeting sites that can help contextualize the character of society in the early medieval period in northern Pictland. A ten day field season carried out at Dunnicaer, 11–22 April 2016, aimed to further the investigation of settlement remains on the sea stack from which five Pictish symbols have been recovered.

During the 2016 season five trenches were opened. The main trench (c 7m x 5m) was located in the upper terrace and identified two stone-built hearths and associated floor layers in the SE half of the trench. A fragment of Samian pottery was found in the fill of cut features associated with one building. Adjacent to the floor layers were two pits, both of which had multiple sherds of handmade pottery and one pit also contained a burning stone for metalworking. Further trenches in the upper terrace identified a metalled surface towards the W part of the promontory and revetment material on the S side of the stack. The revetment material appears to have been put in place to level the sloping edge of the stack and may have supported a rampart.

In the lower terrace multiple floor layers and two hearths were identified. The floor layers abutted natural rock outcrops and one hearth lay on top of the other indicating successive phases of a structure on the lower terrace. No postholes were identified suggesting the walls of the structure were made of turf or non-earthfast timbers.

Archive: University of Aberdeen
Funder: Univeristy of Aberdeen
ABERDEENSHIRE

Upper Criggie Farm, Stonehaven
Watching brief
Robert Lenfert – Cameron Archaeology
NO 83399 83420 A watching brief was carried out, 9–11 February 2016, on land N of Upper Criggie Farm, during work associated with the construction of a wind turbine footing and associated access road. The area was considered of interest as the turbine base will be within 50m of the location of the Newlands stone circle. The removal of topsoil for the 400m long road and a 40 x 30m area for the turbine base recorded no finds or features of archaeological significance.

Ellon

Ellon Castle Gardens
Survey
Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd
NJ 95980 30743 A historic garden survey was undertaken, 14 June – 8 September 2016, at Ellon Castle Gardens as part of an assessment of the gardens before their restoration by the Ellon Castle Gardens Trust. The gardens, which are a scheduled monument, are situated on a series of three natural terraces above the River Ythan and comprise a lower walled garden, with an upper terrace dominated by the ruins of the old castle, originally built in the 15th century but considerably enlarged in the 18th century, and an area of woodland on a higher terrace.

A detailed survey and photographic recording of all existing and visible elements of the garden was undertaken, with standing building surveys of all structures. Documentary sources, including photographs and paintings of the garden in the 19th century, were incorporated with the survey evidence to allow some understanding of the development of the garden. In addition, a geophysical survey was carried out by Rose Geophysical Consultants; the resistance survey, at 0.5m intervals, covered the walled garden, the upper terrace and a short section of the drive adjacent to the ruins of the old castle. It detected a number of anomalies which may indicate remnants of paths predating the existing 19th-century path layout; it is hoped in the future to examine these anomalies with a series of small test pits.

There is little evidence of the garden before the 18th century but it is probable that there were courts along the middle terrace beside the original castle. Two sundials, considered to be of late 17th-century date, are likely to belong to this period. Between 1706 and 1752, the property was owned by a Baillie James Gordon of Edinburgh and a datestone of 1715 over a doorway into the walled garden has generally been understood to indicate that he created the garden; certainly the stonework of the walls is identical to the stonework of some of the 18th-century additions to the castle. The walled garden had been cut into the terrace below the castle with a garden house which originally contained a stair down from the upper terrace. This 18th-century garden appears to have been laid out at right angles to the old castle, with its central axis forming the view from the main rooms of the castle and from the garden house. At this time one of the earlier sundials was placed on this central axis, standing on a new 18th-century pillar. Surrounding it were the yews that are a main feature of the garden today.
In 1752 the property was bought by George Gordon, 3rd Earl of Aberdeen who made further developments to the castle between 1781 and 1787. Accounts for the building works at this period make no mention of any major works in the garden. The garden remained in the Gordon family until 1918, being very neglected between 1801 and 1845, but redesigned between 1845 and 1873 when Alexander Gordon demolished the old castle, leaving only a romantic ruin that became a focal point in a new garden layout. The new castle, built further along the upper terrace, changed the approach to the garden, with a promenade along the upper terrace past elaborately bedded borders illustrated in both paintings and photographs of the period. New steps were created to the lower walled garden, with a new layout, focusing on a central fountain among the yews. At this period a whole range of photographs of the period. New steps were created to the garden, with a promenade along the upper terrace past elaborately bedded borders illustrated in both paintings and photographs of the period. New steps were created to the lower walled garden, with a new layout, focusing on a central fountain among the yews. At this period a whole range of glass houses were constructed, and newspaper accounts of the Ellon Horticultural Society Shows give a fascinating insight into the range of plants being produced by the castle gardeners. The 19th-century layout was preserved through the 20th century and is the basis of the existing garden.

### Fetteresso

**Kempstone Hill, Stonehaven**  
**Watching brief**

Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd  
NO 88010 89790 A watching brief was undertaken, 2–26 May 2016, on the tracks and turbine positions for a wind farm at Kempstone Hill. With the exception of two worked flints, no archaeological features or finds were evident.

**Archive:** Aberdeenshire SMR and NRHE  
**Funder:** RM Energy

### Fintray

**Logie Farm, Fintray**  
**Standing building survey**

Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd  
NJ 86360 15790 A standing building survey was undertaken, 1 September 2016, on a large farm standing prior to demolition. An early 19th-century U-plan steading had been extended in the late 19th century by the addition of a free-standing stable and cart block and a small bothy. Details of the trevises survived in the stables. The bothy retained its wood-lining, fireplace and part of the framework of a box bed.

**Archive:** NRHE  
**Funder:** Mr and Mrs Stratton

### Fordyce

**Glenglassaugh, Portsoy**  
**Evaluation**

Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd  
NO 56060 65629 An evaluation was undertaken, 20 April 2016, on the site of new warehouses at Glenglassaugh Distillery, in the vicinity of the site of a cairn known to have been destroyed in the 19th century. Extensive rig and furrow covered most of the field. A cluster of four small pits with slight evidence of burning, but no artefacts, may represent residual prehistoric activity.

**Archive:** NRHE  
**Funder:** Ben Riach Distillery Company Ltd

### Forgue

**Aultdavie, Ythanwells**  
**Watching brief**

Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd  
NO 64743 75895 A historic building survey was undertaken, 16 August 2016, of The Bothy at Home Farm in advance of renovation work. The Bothy was probably constructed in the 19th century, and first appears on the OS map of 1868. It consists of a main single room bothy with a later annexe to the east side. A blocked fireplace and adjacent opening on the (now external) SW wall indicate that there was a (possibly earlier) building to the S of the main bothy building, which has been demolished.

**Archive:** NRHE  
**Funder:** NRHE intended

**Fettercairn**

**Home Farm, Fasque Estate**  
**Standing building recording**

Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group  
NO 64640 75925 A historic building survey was undertaken, 15–17 August 2016, of the redundant Home Farm steading range prior to its renovation. Home Farm was constructed in the 1870s in an area of open fields to the N of the Fasque Estate after the original Home Farm, which was located to the S of Fasque House, was taken down. The layout has changed little from the original, although some later barns have been added to the N and W, and some of the original openings have been blocked after some changes of function to the interior spaces.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)  
**Funder:** Historic Environment Scotland

**Hillhead of Ardlethen**

**Excavation**

Stuart Wilson – AOC Archaeology Group  
NJ 92218 30317 The excavation of a cist discovered in the grounds of a family home was undertaken, 5–7 October 2016, under the terms of the HES Human Remains call-off contract. The removal of the capstone revealed that the cist was constructed using sub-rounded stones supported by four large angular stones at the base, positioned at the N, S, E and W sides. The excavations revealed that the cist had already been disturbed, and the 19th-century building materials found throughout the fill of the cist indicated this disturbance was probably during the construction of the current house. After the cist was fully emptied the client requested that it be left in situ, partly due to personal interest but also due to its proximity to the house foundations.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)  
**Funder:** Historic Environment Scotland

**The Bothy, Fasque Estate**  
**Standing building recording**

Diana Sproat and Gemma Hudson – AOC Archaeology Group  
NO 64743 75895 A historic building survey was undertaken, 16 August 2016, of The Bothy at Home Farm in advance of renovation work. The Bothy was probably constructed in the 19th century, and first appears on the OS map of 1868. It consists of a main single room bothy with a later annexe to the E side. A blocked fireplace and adjacent opening on the (now external) SW wall indicate that there was a (possibly earlier) building to the S of the main bothy building, which has been demolished.

**Archive:** NRHE  
**Funder:** NRHE intended

**Fettercairn**

**Funder:** NRHE intended

**Fetteresso**

**Kempstone Hill, Stonehaven**  
**Watching brief**

Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd  
NO 88010 89790 A watching brief was carried out, 8–24 August 2016, during the removal of topsoil associated with planned work to lay electricity cables in an area of proposed wind turbines. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

**Archive:** NRHE  
**Funder:** Scottish and Southern Energy Ltd

**Fintray**

**Logie Farm, Fintray**  
**Standing building survey**

Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd  
NJ 86360 15790 A standing building survey was undertaken, 1 September 2016, on a large farm standing prior to demolition. An early 19th-century U-plan steading had been extended in the late 19th century by the addition of a free-standing stable and cart block and a small bothy. Details of the trevises survived in the stables. The bothy retained its wood-lining, fireplace and part of the framework of a box bed.

**Archive:** NRHE  
**Funder:** Mr and Mrs Stratton
NJ 65269 38649 A watching brief was undertaken, 7 February 2016, on the soil strip for a new house. No archaeological features were evident.

**Archive:** NRHE. **Report:** Aberdeenshire SMR and NRHE
**Funder:** Mr M Duncan

**Foveran**

**Meikle Haddo, Foveran**

**Standing building recording**

**Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**

NJ 98900 24840 A standing building survey was undertaken, 6 June 2016, on part of a farm steading which is due for replacement by a modern agricultural shed. One of the buildings, dating to the early 19th century, had been the N range of a U-plan steading, with trevis scars showing the former position of tied-cow stalls. A separate grain store, built between 1867 and 1899, had few surviving original features.

**Archive:** NRHE. **Report:** Aberdeenshire SMR and NRHE
**Funder:** Mr R Marshall

**Fraserburgh**

**Kirkton Cemetery, Fraserburgh**

**Evaluation**

**Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology**

NK 00097 65368 An evaluation was carried out on 18 July 2016 around the grave opened by Aberdeenshire Council staff on 8 July 2016 where human bones were recovered. A trench had been cut into this former agricultural land, possibly in the early 20th century prior to the 1977 extension of the cemetery, in which tin cans, glass bottles, ceramics, wood and human bones had been deposited. The presence of human bones in this early 20th-century trench outwith the extent of the graveyard suggests that graves may have been present within the agricultural field to the S of the 19th-century graveyard. These may have been associated with the 13th-century Philorth graveyard, but their original deposition site is at present unknown.

**Archive:** NRHE
**Funder:** Aberdeenshire Council

**Fyvie**

**East Mains of Folla, Rothienorman**

**Standing building survey**

**Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**

NJ 71920 33500 A standing building survey was undertaken, 4 August 2016, on a 19th-century farm steading prior to demolition. The main building was U-plan with stables, cart bay and a bothy with hay loft above in the W range, tied-cow stalls in the N range and a mill and loft in the E range. Two other freestanding buildings stood to the S.

**Archive:** NRHE. **Report:** Aberdeenshire SMR and NRHE
**Funder:** Mr D Delph

**Gamrie**

**Macduff Line, Bloodymire, Macduff**

**Watching brief**

**Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**

NJ 71560 63190 A watching brief was undertaken, 12 October 2016, during the insertion of new ground stays for an electricity cable. No archaeological features or finds were evident.

**Archive:** NRHE
**Funder:** Scottish and Southern Energy Ltd

**Mains of Melrose, Gamrie**

**Watching brief**

**Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology**

NJ 7468 6457 A watching brief was carried out on 15–16 December 2015 and 1, 22 and 23 February 2016. The machine excavation of topsoil for the access road, parking, crane base and associated works, turbine base and associated agricultural work and the cable, revealed no finds or features of archaeological significance.

**Archive:** NRHE
**Funder:** Melrose Wind Ltd

**Glass**

**Gallow Hill, Huntly**

**Evaluation**

**Steven Watt – AOC Archaeology Group**

NJ 422 415 An evaluation was carried out, 6 June 2016, in advance of development work at the summit of Gallow Hill, off the A920. The excavation of five trenches covering 126 linear metres of the c1250m2 area recorded a natural sand/silt and bedrock. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)
**Funder:** Mr A Mitchell

**Glenmuick, Tullich and Giengairn**

**Stultan Burn**

**Field visit**

**KC Cooper and S Farrell**

NO 26097 82129 The location of a possible whisky still was visited on 31 July 2016. The site consists of two small levelled platforms edged with a few granite boulders, suggestive of being the remains of low walls, NE side built into hillside. Overall measurements 3.8 x 1.8m and oriented NW/SE. It lies almost hidden in heather at OD 453m at the junction of Stullan Burn with Allt an Dubh Loch. The site corresponds with the location of a ‘black bothy’ mentioned in connection with a murder in a story in Alex Inkston McConnochie’s book, Lochnagar (1891).

**Tullich Kirk, Aberdeenshire**

**Evaluation**

**Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**

NO 39050 97540 Four small test pits were excavated, 27 June 2016, to examine the foundations of the wall of the ruins of Tullich Kirk prior to stabilisation work.

**Archive:** NRHE. **Report:** Aberdeenshire SMR and NRHE
**Funder:** NE Preservation Trust

**Huntly**

**4–8 George Street, Huntly**

**Watching brief**

**Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**

NJ 52778 40008 A watching brief was undertaken, 13 April 2016, during work on the foundations for a house extension. Part of the stone foundations of the original 18th- or early 19th-century frontage was exposed.

**Archive:** NRHE. **Report:** Aberdeenshire SMR and NRHE
**Funder:** John Wink Design

**Inverurie**

**Coldwells Steading, Inverurie**

**Standing building recording**
Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd
NJ 75540 20460 A standing building survey was undertaken, 14 January 2016, of a traditional 19th-century farm steading, shown on the 1st Edition OS map of 1867 as L-plan but extended by 1899 to the present U-plan. Reasonable survival of internal cobbled floors and other features indicate an expansion from 28 to 40 tied-cow stalls before the interior was made open plan. There had been stables for three horses, a cart bay and a mill with loft above. A mill stone in the adjacent garden may be from the farm.

Archive: NRHE. Report: Aberdeenshire SMR and NRHE
Funder: Mr M Singer

Keithhall and Kinkell

Portstown, Inverurie

Evaluation

Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd
NJ 77300 23400 An evaluation was undertaken, 26 October – 11 November 2015, prior to a housing development. Rig and furrow, probably of 18th-century date, was found at the top of the hill, near the modern farm. However, a medieval or post-medieval handle sherd found nearby in ploughsoil suggests the possibility that the rig and furrow was a continuation of earlier cultivation. A pit which yielded two flints and a sherd of pottery appeared to be of Late Neolithic or Bronze Age date and may relate to known prehistoric cairns and settlement beyond the present site, on higher ground to the east. Four small hearths on lower ground near the burn may reflect transitory prehistoric activity. Radiocarbon samples have been submitted.

Archive and report: Aberdeenshire SMR
Funder: Malcolm Allan Housebuilders Ltd

Kincardine O’Neil

Bridge of Canny

Walkover survey

Andrew Stenhouse and Alistair Stenhouse
NO 6490 9740 A walkover survey on 1 January 2016 identified a sub-rounded low mound, measuring c55 x 44m, with a perimeter wall c1.25m high and possible entrances on the S/E and W sides. The interior surface of the feature lies above the top of the perimeter wall and is soft without any apparent stones. It rises towards the centre and is c3–4m higher than the surrounding land surface.

The feature is out of context with the surrounding land which is wet, at times stony and exhibits evidence of extensive stone clearance, with a large unrecorded consumption dyke on the W side and improved land towards the S.

A satellite image indicates a possible smaller rounded feature, of estimated 14m diameter, to the N/W of the centre of the main feature, but this was not located during the survey.

Learney Arms Hotel, The Square, Torphins

Standing building recording

Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NJ 62404 01767 A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 2 June 2016. Two phases of the development of the building were recorded, including at least two buildings which appear on the 1st Edition OS map, and the second phase built around 1874 and fully developed by the date of the 2nd Edition OS map.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Mr A Shepherd

Kintore

Drumshalloch, Hillhead, Kintore, Inverurie

Standing building recording

Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NJ 76591 16186 A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 15 October 2015. A full photographic survey was completed and plans and elevations drawn of buildings adjacent to Drumshalloch. The main building was constructed in one phase visible on the 1st Edition OS map and the lean-to was added by the date of the 2nd Edition OS map. The interior has well preserved cobbled floors and animal stalls.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Mr and Mrs Robertson

Kintore East, Tofthills

Evaluation

Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd
NJ 80308 15119 A 7% evaluation was undertaken, 1 February – 1 March 2016, on a 45.5ha site SE of Kintore, on the S side of the River Don, prior to planned development for 600 houses and associated infrastructure. Although there was a small number of very truncated features and a thin scatter of prehistoric finds in several areas, there were three concentrations of significant survival on slopes where greater depths of topsoil had accumulated, protecting the underlying archaeology. One area, on a S-facing slope, included truncated pits and hearths with pottery and lithics of possible Early Neolithic date but two radiocarbon dates indicate intermittent occupation on the area to the later Bronze Age and Iron Age (749–403cal BC: SUERC-67866 and 66-223cal AD: SUERC-67867). A second well preserved area of prehistoric settlement lay on a sheltered SE-facing slope where there was evidence of several possible roundhouses with associated radiocarbon dates of 1686–1526cal BC (SUERC-67869) and 1611–1446cal BC (SUERC-67868). Some 200m to the S, across a stream, a hearth, possibly associated
with some non-metallurgical industrial process, was dated to 1659–1507 cal BC (SUERC-67870), although pottery and lithics suggest there had also been earlier activity in the area. Further N, nearer the modern farm, the evaluation revealed a scatter of truncated pits associated with furnace bottoms and slag relating to small-scale iron working, two features being dated to 128–323 cal AD (SUERC-67875) and 980–1151 cal AD (SUERC-67874) respectively.

Archive: NRHE and SAFAP. Report: Aberdeenshire SMR
Funder: Kintore East Consortium

Laurencekirk

Laurencekirk Business Park
Watching brief
Robert Lenfert and Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NO 7188 7183 A watching brief was carried out, 1–3 March 2016, during groundwork associated with the construction of industrial units. Traces of historic rig and furrow cultivation and stone field drains were uncovered.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Morrison Construction

Leochel-Cushnie

St Bride’s Church, Kirkton of Cushnie
Standing building survey
Kenneth Macfadyen, Tom Addyman and Andrew Morrison – Addyman Archaeology

Vegetation climbing the remains of St Bride’s Church

NJ 50635 10861 A historic building survey was carried out, 13–19 November 2013, of the ruinous St Bride’s Church. A drawn record was produced of the partly overgrown and rubble-clogged building, and analysis of the buildings development was undertaken. A topographic survey was carried out of the churchyard, including mapping of burial monuments, production of a gazetteer of the monuments and detailed digital rectified recording of five individual monuments. The results of the work will be used to inform future management of the site.

Archive: Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service and NRHE (intended)
Funder: Forestry Commission Scotland

Leslie

Mains of Duncanstone, Lazyfold
Standing building recording
Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NJ 5738 2664 A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 12 November 2015. The original C-shaped steading and separate bothy to the SE predate the 1st Edition OS map and there have been extensions to the stone building prior to the 2nd Edition, as well as further additions, some of which have subsequently been demolished, in the 20th century.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Mr and Mrs Skinner

Longside

Blackhills Farm, Rora
Standing building recording
Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd
NK 04998 52734 A standing building survey was undertaken, 12 November 2015, before the demolition of a small 19th-century watermill at Blackhills Farm. The mill building, mill pond and sluice are shown on the 1st Edition OS map of 1869. The building, which was single-storied, had a blocking for a wheel axle but few other surviving details. The lade remained but the mill pond has been infilled.

Archive and report: Aberdeenshire SMR
Funder: Mr Neil Godsman

Lumphphanan

Findrack House, Midmar
Watching brief
Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NJ 6018 0499 A watching brief was carried out on 6 July 2016 during the replacement of an electricity pole W of Findrack House. The pole was located at the S end of a dry stone dyke which had been increased in size with field clearance on all sides.

The removal of the pole was followed by the removal of stones from the dyke by JCB and the excavation of a trench for the new pole. No archaeological finds or features were recorded. Two cairns recorded on the HER as NJ60SW0025 and a possible enclosure or remains of a cairn (similar in description to NJ60SW0011 a ring enclosure or cremation cemetery recorded on the field to the W) were photographed.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Scottish and Southern Energy Ltd

Methlick

Mill of Kelly, Tarves
Standing building recording
Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NJ 8907 3537 A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 24 February 2016 of a 19th-century farm prior to its conversion to housing. Architects plans and elevations were checked and annotated and a full photographic survey
undertaken. There was no access to the W rooms or first floor of Building 1. Building 2 had a horse mill attached to the W elevation and apertures related to this were recorded. The buildings are 19th-century in date and primarily built in one phase with minor additions
Archive: NRHE
Funder: Haddo Estate

Mill of Kelly Sawmill, Tarves
Standing building recording
Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NJ 88026 35833 A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 6 October 2016 prior to demolition of these wooden sheds. Two wooden buildings were recorded. Building 1 had a concrete foundation and Building 2 a stone foundation at the N end. The buildings had been repaired many times after their construction prior to the 2nd Edition OS map and Building 2 had been extended to the N using asbestos cement roofing material for the walls and roof.
Archive: NRHE
Funder: Haddo Estate

Midmar

Auchorrie Wind Farm, Midmar
Survey and watching brief
Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd
NJ 66001 06451 A walkover survey and a watching brief were undertaken in 2016 on the line of a cable trench for Auchorrie Wind Farm. No archaeological finds or features were evident.
Archive: NRHE. Report: Aberdeenshire SMR and NRHE
Funder: Aegis Wind Turbines Ltd

Monymusk

Monymusk Home Farm, Monymusk
Standing building recording
Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd
NJ 69016 15286 A standing building survey was undertaken, 4 March 2016, on part of the Monymusk Home Farm steading. The buildings consisted of a two-storey coach house range with a central pediment flanked by two-storey blocks, the W of which had been the stables. Part of the buildings, which dated from 1830, had been badly damaged by fire, but the shell remains a fine example of early 19th-century estate architecture.
Archive: NRHE. Report: Aberdeenshire SMR and NRHE
Funder: Monymusk Land Company

New Machar

Broombrae, Newmachar
Standing building recording
Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NJ 8799 1893 A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 12 September 2016. A plan and elevations were drawn and a full photographic survey carried out. The standing is probably early 19th-century in date and was altered by the current owners around 65 years ago to create a piggery.
Archive: NRHE
Funder: Mr and Mrs Ingram

Old Deer

Aden Country Park, Mintlaw
Watching brief
Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NJ 9819 4784 A watching brief was carried out, 21 March 2016, during topsoil stripping in advance of the construction of garages and storage sheds. The area had been tree covered and the trees were removed with a tracked machine. The topsoil was up to 0.7m deep and garden-related finds included greenhouse glass and plant pot sherds.
Archive: NRHE
Funder: Morrison Construction

Aden Country Park, Mintlaw
Excavation
Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NJ 9821 4755 Further excavation of two stone structures in Aden Country Park was carried out, 6–19 June 2016, by a team of 36 archaeologists, Book of Deer members, students and volunteers, as well as staff and nearly 300 pupils from local primary schools and Mintlaw Academy.
Structure 1 is a T-shaped building, probably built in the medieval period, possibly as a tower house and possibly later used as an Episcopalian Meeting House. Nearly 20 coins of the late 18th century, a copper alloy heart-shaped brooch and copper alloy book fittings are included in the finds from the later use of the building. Burnt timbers and stone were excavated from the demolition of the building which had been burnt prior to demolition.
Structure 2 may have had an agricultural or mixed domestic and agricultural use. There is a hearth inside the S wall surrounded by a well-laid cobbled floor and a stone-lined pit in the NE corner of the N room which may have been an exterior courtyard.
Archive: NRHE
Funder: Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service

Book of Deer Project
Excavation
Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NJ 978 476 Twenty-six archaeologists, students and local volunteers took part in this community excavation, 3–16 September 2016, which was funded by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service. Sixteen trenches were located in Old Deer village, the Episcopal Church and the Parish Church graveyard.
The trenches in the village revealed the remains of cottages at 14 Abbey Street including a cobbled area, and a cobbled yard or roadway between 8–10 Abbey Street and the Kemp Hall, an area which appears to have been a track or road between the buildings. Nothing earlier than the post-medieval structures was recorded in these trenches. In the garden of 8–10 Abbey Street 19th to 20th-century deposits were recorded.
to a depth of 1m, although a 17th-century coin was recovered.

At the rear of the Episcopalian Church the ground had been prone to flooding and the area had been raised in height using stony rubble sealed with clay, but no other deposits were found and no finds earlier than the 19th century were recovered.

Eleven trenches were excavated in the Parish Church graveyard to determine the make-up of the ground. Trenches next to the medieval ruin contained large amounts of human bone (all reburied), suggesting that they were within the medieval graveyard. Other trenches contained domestic and building rubble. The robber trench of the 12th-century church was excavated, but no evidence of a deep geophysical anomaly was identified. No finds or other evidence that this is the site of the early monastery of Deer have been recovered during the three seasons of archaeological work within the graveyard.

Archive: NRHE  
Funder: Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service

Pitfour Lake, Mintlaw, Peterhead  
Watching brief  
Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology  
NJ 97930 49095 A watching brief was carried out on 11 July 2016 during top soil stripping associated with the construction of a single house (Plot 4). No archaeological features were recorded and the only find was an early green glass wine bottle, probably associated with the 19th-century house.  
Archive: NRHE  
Funder: Claymore Homes

Oyne

Pittodrie  
Survey  
Barry Foster – Bennachie Landscapes Fieldwork Group for the Bailies of Bennachie  
NJ 6943 2344 A landscape survey undertaken 26 February – 25 March 2016 recorded the remains of a building with intermittent stone footings and possible internal dividing walls, measuring c17 x 5m externally. It stands on raised ground, which drops away to the S and W beyond a possible yard, towards the ‘Linn’ or Rushmill Burn. It may be that
the ‘yard’ describes a lynchetted formation before the land drops to the south. The structure is not shown on the 1st Edition OS map, although a track/path is shown running from the nearby ‘Turnpike Road’ to this area. Lidar images also indicate an area of rig and furrow to the E of the turnpike that may well be associated with the house.

**Archive:** Moray Moray and Aberdeenshire Council SMR

### Peterhead

**Greenacres, Wester Clerkhill**

**Evaluation**

*Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology*

0K 10886 45257 An evaluation was carried out from 2–10 December 2015 prior to Phase 5 of a residential development. A total of 997 flints were collected from two fields and in topsoil in the 29 trenches over the area of the proposed development. They include bipolar and platform cores and a possible scraper. No features were identified and, with the shallow topsoil and extensive damage from agricultural practices, it is unlikely that shallow features will survive on this site.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Funder:** Claymore Homes

### Rhynie

**Rhynie Environ Archaeological Project**

**Excavation**

*Gordon Noble, Meggen Gondek, Cathy MacIver, Daniel MacLean and Ewan Campbell – University of Aberdeen*

NJ 49749 26345 An evaluative excavation was undertaken, 5 August – 1 September 2016, at Barflat, Rhynie. This was targeted over the 5th/6th-century palisaded enclosure and associated structures identified during previous geophysical survey and aerial photography and the seasons of excavation in 2011, 2012 and 2015.

The excavation targeted the western and southern parts of the enclosure complex and reopened an area over a possible structure adjacent to the Craw Stone. The enclosures surround the Craw Stone, a Pictish Class I symbol stone that stands in the fields to the S of Rhynie village (NJ 49749 26345). Elements of the inner and outer ditch system, the palisaded enclosure/outer box rampart, and a series of timber settings next to the Craw Stone, were excavated and further characterised in the 2016 excavations. Further sections were dug across the inner and outer ditches and the outer palisaded enclosure clarifying the structural elements of the enclosure complex that surround the Craw Stone. Artefacts recovered include further sherds from imported Late Roman amphorae, crucible sherds, mould fragments, evidence for metal working and iron smelting. Detailed post-excavation analysis, including radiocarbon dating will help further elucidate the significant archaeological remains identified at the site.

**Archive:** University of Aberdeen

**Funder:** University of Aberdeen

### Skene

**Garlogie Wood**

**Field visit**

*Alexander Jarvie*

NJ 78964 05504 A cup-marked rock with one cup was
recorded slightly to the W of Garlogie Wood on 28 October 2016. The cup measured 102mm long by 100mm wide and 40mm deep.

Strachan

Blackness Farm, Banchory
Standing building recording
Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NO 69670 92846 A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 14 October 2016 prior to part demolition and part conversion of part of this farmstead. Elevations and plans were checked and annotated and a full photographic survey carried out of Rooms 1–5 which are to be altered during the proposed development. Room 5 is ruinous and very overgrown; the other areas were fully accessible. The farm dates to the mid-19th century, and major renovation took place under the ownership of the previous owner who converted it to dairy use. At least three phases of development of the farm were recorded but the mill and farm were undergoing changes throughout their history.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Mr and Mrs Tame

Udny

Pitmedden Garden
Geophysical survey
Susan Ovenden – Rose Geophysical Consultants
NJ 88547 28039 A geophysical survey was undertaken, 11–17 January 2016, at Pitmedden Garden as part of a wider archaeological evaluation of the site. The aim of the survey was to attempt to map the original principal range of Pitmedden House, other related structures, including culverts, and earlier garden features. Resistance survey was undertaken over all available lawn areas of the walled garden, a total area of 1.35ha. Two areas of ground penetrating radar were carried out based on the resistance survey results; an area immediately to the E and S of Pitmedden House and an area towards the centre of the upper garden.

Parts the site had been used as a market garden, and established overgrown vegetation had preceded the remodelling of the garden in the 1950s. However, despite the level of disturbance across the site, the geophysical survey managed to detect numerous anomalies of possible archaeological interest.

A series of linear anomalies suggestive of a possible network of paths, and possibly other garden features, arranged systemically around the central axis of the garden has been detected in the centre of the upper garden. Although the full extent of these features is not clear, this is partly due to the limited areas available for survey due to existing parterres, hedges and trees. Indeed, the modern parterres appear to match the archaeological ones remarkably well. Well-defined anomalies were detected in the SW of the upper garden which coincide with parch marks. There is some evidence in the data that this may indicate a possible structure and associated paths. However, the geophysical survey has failed to detect anomalies consistent with an earlier principal range of Pitmedden House. Although available areas for survey were extremely limited in the lower garden due to the large extant parterres, the survey has confirmed the line of a culvert in the N of the area.

Archive: Rose Geophysical Consultants
Funder: The National Trust for Scotland

ANGUS

Arbirlot

Arbirlot
Metal detector find
John Johnston – ANGUSalive Museums
NO 60249 40518 A plain fede ring (13–15th century) found during metal detecting. The hoop of the ring is undecorated. The ring has trace of a mechanical fastening attached by brazing.

Accessioned into Arbroath Signal Tower Museum Collections (A2016.48)
Funder: ANGUSalive Museums

Arbirlot
Metal detector find
John Johnston – ANGUSalive Museums
NO 60278 40517 A copper alloy horse harness pendant found during metal detecting. Cast in the shape of a stylised scallop shell with engraved lines to represent the details of the shell. Traces of gilding remain on the front surface and there is a slightly off-centre perforation.

Accessioned into Arbroath Signal Tower Museum Collections (A2016.49)
Funder: ANGUSalive Museums

Auchterhouse

Auchterhouse
Metal detector find
John Johnston – ANGUSalive Museums
NO 35164 36896 A lead alloy medal (19th century) with lewd design incorporating figure forms.

Accessioned into Meffan Museum Collections (F2016.13)
Funder: ANGUSalive Museums
Brechin

Balanbreich Farm Steading, Careston, Brechin
Standing building recording
Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NO 54428 S8995 A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 14 March 2016 prior to the redevelopment of the farm. At least three phases of development were recorded at this farm which was probably built in the early 19th century, possibly utilising stone from the nearby demolished Fuirdstone Castle.
Archive: NRHE
Funder: Careston Ltd

Brechin

Metal detector find
John Johnston – ANGUSalive Museums
NO 58376 S7571 A fragment of copper alloy axehead or tool formed of short curved triangular section, which may form a butt or cutting edge.
Accessioned into Brechin Town House Museum Collection (B2016.80)
Funder: ANGUSalive Museums

Dubton Farm, Brechin
Evaluation
Stephen Cox – Headland Archaeology Ltd
NO 58675 60345 A trial trenching evaluation was carried out, 21–23 December 2015, in advance of a residential development. A total of 16 trenches were excavated, of which three contained features of archaeological significance. The features included three small undated pits, a stone spread and a large undated pit. These are interpreted as isolated features which do not require further mitigation.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Scotia Homes

Dubton Farm, Brechin
Excavation
Matthew Ginnever – Headland Archaeology Ltd
NO 58616 60622 An excavation was carried out, 29 February – 11 March 2016, in advance of a residential development. The excavation recorded two discreet concentrations of prehistoric settlement activity.

The first consisted of a large post-built roundhouse with an E-facing porch, within which was located a penannular souterrain. The souterrain consisted of two chambers accessed from the SW terminus and separated by a narrow doorway. A small tunnel connected the first chamber of the souterrain with a NW/SE running ditch, which allowed water to drain into the souterrain. Evidence for timber lining was found in the form of stakeholes spaced along the inner edges of the souterrain cut.

The second concentration of activity was located c125m to the NE and consisted of another post-built roundhouse with an E-facing entrance porch. Both structures appear to have been abandoned at a similar time during the Roman Iron Age and have associated ritual pits placed in their entrance ways.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Scotia Homes (North) Ltd

Kintrockat House, Kintrockat, Brechin
Standing building recording
Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NO 56841 59131 A Level 2 standing building survey was carried out on 29 January 2016 prior to renovations of the listed building. At least five phases of development were identified but these buildings have had several major and many minor changes since the 18th century. In the 18th century a two-storey house with attic and basement was constructed with parkland and views to the S. Two wings were added using the same decorative sandstone features, including raised sandstone string courses with large windows utilising the string course for lintels and sills, harled between the sandstone quoins and jambs. The W and E wings were extended and a N wing added with stables, bothy and other agricultural buildings, possibly in the late 18th or early 19th century. The wings were joined to the Phase 1 house and apertures opened and a corridor added running the full length of the N side of the Phase 1 house. The 1st Edition OS map shows corridors on the W and N side of the courtyard but these have since been demolished. There are several small additions within the courtyard, porch on the W façade and squash court added on the E façade in the 20th century by Brigadier Knox and his wife Elizabeth.
Archive: NRHE
Funder: Mr and Mrs M Baybut

32 Panmure Street, Brechin
Standing building recording
Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd
NO 59907 60370 A standing building photographic survey was undertaken, 4 April 2016, of the former Registrar’s Office and Council Chamber at 32 Panmure Street. The building, which had been designed in 1897 by Brechin architect D Wishart Galloway, retained many original Art Nouveau fittings, including door fittings, air vents and fireplaces.
Archive: NRHE. Report: Aberdeenshire SMR and NRHE
Funder: Tayside Builders Ltd
Carmyllie

Mains of Guynd
Survey and watching brief

Lyne McKeeggie – Highland Archaeology Services

NO 5663 4289 Fieldwork was undertaken, 19–23 October 2015, by Archaeology North on behalf of Highland Archaeology Services to record a section through a dry stone wall to be breached and to conduct a selective watching brief during works to install a solar electricity generation plant.

The field boundary was thought to predate the existing stone dykes and may therefore date from the early 19th century or earlier. There are thus likely to have been at least two phases of enclosure. Three different land drain types were also recorded across the site and these attest to repeated investment in improvement.

Archive: HAS. Report: Highland HER
Funder: BWE Partnership

Cortachy and Clova

Roineach Mhor, Glen Clova
Standing building recording

Suzanne MacGilliard – Headland Archaeology Ltd

NO 33065 73040 A historic building survey was carried out, 25 August 2016, in advance of the demolition of a stone farm building. The building is shown on the 1st Edition OS map of 1865 but probably predates the map and may date to the 18th century. The structure consisted of a main building with two internal rooms and external unroofed enclosures to the E and W. The enclosures appeared to have been added at a later date, and other alterations such as the blocking of a window and repair of the roof were also noted.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: KDM Architects

Craig

Montrose
Metal detector find

John Johnston – ANGUSalive Museums

NO 72280 54544 The mid section fragment of a Bronze Age sword was found during metal detecting.

Accessioned into Montrose Museum and Art Gallery Collection (M2016.47)
Funder: Angus Council

Dun

Dun Castle
Excavation

Daniel Rhodes – The National Trust for Scotland

NO 66749 59951 A third season of excavation was carried out, 12–19 August 2016, as part of the National Trust for Scotland Trail Blazer young person volunteer scheme. The excavation uncovered further evidence of substantial stone-built structures in the form of in situ foundations in an area adjacent to the medieval Chapel of Dun, and these are believed to be the remains of the Erskine Castle of Dun.

Archive: The National Trust for Scotland
Funder: The National Trust for Scotland

Edzell

Edzell Castle
Metal detector find

John Johnston – ANGUSalive Museums

NO 585 688 A copper alloy finger ring (post-medieval) was found during metal detecting. The ring bezel has lettering ‘IHS’ and symbol.

Accessioned into Brechin Town House Museum Collection (B2016.79)
Funder: ANGUSalive Museums

Glamis

Jericho
Metal detector find

Alison Sheridan – National Museums Scotland

NO 40 47 A Middle Bronze Age flanged copper-alloy axehead was found during metal detecting in 2015. The axehead is of short-flanged type, with broad curved flanges. Its butt is straight. Below the flange the sides curve in then out to an expanded, medium-depth blade. Length 127.2mm; width 51.8mm. In excellent condition, with a thin, iron-rich deposit of sediment over part of the surface.

Claimed by the Crown (CO.TT.46/16), allocated to the Meffan Museum
Funder: The Meffan Museum

Lochmill Steading, Forfar
Standing building recording

Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology

NO 42846 49763 A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on 19 September 2016. Plans and elevations were drawn and a full photographic survey carried out. At least four phases of construction were recorded. The building was probably constructed in the late 18th or early 19th century and was originally a mill located on the Dean Water, a tributary from Forfar Loch. The Phase 1 farmhouse was converted for general farm use after the new farmhouse was constructed before 1900. The mill building was also converted after the horsemill was demolished after 1922.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Guild Homes

Inverkeilor

Boghead Farm, Ethie
Standing building recording

Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group

NO 68037 46212 A historic building survey was carried out, 27 June 2016, in advance of the demolition of the steading and construction of new housing. Boghead Farm appears to have origins in the late 18th century. It consisted of a steading around a central courtyard with a cart shed and threshing barn to the NE side and a later farmhouse to the SW. Boghead was converted to a piggery in the 20th century and some of the former stone barns were partially rebuilt in brick. A modern tractor shed was also attached to the NE side of the farm.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Heinz Voight Partnership

Kinblethmont, near Arbroath
Watching brief

Lynne McKeeggie – Highland Archaeology Services

NO 6393 4722 A watching brief was undertaken, 16–20 November 2016, by Pete Higgins of Archaeology North on behalf of HAS during groundworks for a solar park. Seven land drains were found, scattered in the central part of the field where the depth of topsoil was greatest. Pottery was noted fairly frequently in the topsoil, mostly refined
earthenware with a few porcelain and one redware sherd was recorded.

Archive: HAS. Report: Highland HER
Funder: British Renewables

Kingoldrum

Kinnordy

Metal detector find
Alice Blackwell – National Museums Scotland

NO 33 54 An incomplete circular enamelled mount was found during metal detecting in the vicinity of Kinnordy. The mount contains a single colour of enamel (now yellow) in multiple fields: lobed pommel-shapes separated by irregular angular spokes from a central roundel containing a simple cross. The reverse is dished and undecorated, and part of an integral lug (with no perforation in surviving portion) survives. This is one of a group of enamelled mounts (including TT 21/01 from Luffness, near Aberlady, East Lothian) with fairly crude champlevé designs that have been regarded as early medieval in date (8th/9th century), and were perhaps mounts from a sword scabbard. None have been found in dated contexts however and they would repay further study as a corpus.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT/142/15), allocated to Kirriemuir Gateway to the Glens Museum

Kirkton of Kingoldrum

Metal detector find
Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland

NO 33 54 A fragmentary enamelled Iron Age harness strap fitting was found during metal detecting SE of Kirkton of Kingoldrum. Such sliding fittings, perhaps used on a martingale strap to restrain a horse’s head, are rare in Scotland, and this is likely to be an import from southern Britain.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 17/16), allocated to Kirriemuir Gateway to the Glens Museum

Kirriemuir

East Muirhead of Logie, Kirriemuir

Evaluation, watching brief and excavation
Alan Hunter Blair – GUARD Archaeology Ltd

NO 38981 52981 A trial trenching evaluation was carried out, 15–19 August 2016, on agricultural land S of Kirriemuir, off the A926, in advance of a proposed development. Rubble and tile drains were abundant across the area and seven prehistoric pits were recorded in the NE part of the site, along with a putative recumbent standing stone. A subsequent watching brief and excavation focused on the NE area of the development site. An area was stripped around the existing 300m² extended evaluation area, leaving a 20m archaeologically sterile buffer around any existing and new archaeological deposits uncovered. A further six pits were recorded in this area during the second phase of work. A sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from one of the pits and a burnt fragment of flint or chert from another, six of the pits contained charcoal-rich fills and flecks of burned bone, and these pits are probably the remnants of truncated cooking pits. Six of the smaller pits contained sufficient stones within their fill to suggest they represented postholes but these were relatively haphazardly arranged on plan.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Guild Homes

Mains of Glasswell, Kirriemuir

Metal detector find
John Johnston – ANGUSalive Museums

NO 40264 53764 A total of 20 medieval coins were found during metal detecting, by three finders, at Mains of Glasswell. All of the coins found are common English issue, Edward I dating from the late 13th to early 14th century. Seven are pennies issued in London, five are from Canterbury, three are from Durham, two from Newcastle and one each from Berwick and Bury St Edmunds. Accessioned into Kirriemuir Gateway to the Glens Museum Collection (K2016.141-160)
Funder: ANGUSalive Museums

Liff and Benvie

Muirhead

Metal detector find
John Johnston – ANGUSalive Museums

NO 339 349 A lead spindle whorl (16th/17th century) of biconical form with lettering on both sides was found during metal detecting. One side has the legend ‘FEIR GOD’ and the other ‘?OUTMEN’.

Funder: ANGUSalive Museums
Accessioned into Meffan Museum Collections (F2016.15)
Funder: ANGUSalive Museums

Lead spindle whorl, Muirhead. Copyright: ANGUSalive Museums

Maryton

Montrose
Metal detector find
John Johnston – ANGUSalive Museums
NO 68366 56141 A 16th-century copper alloy bezel of a finger ring engraved with a merchant’s mark was found during metal detecting. It has a sign-of-four set above an orb set between two vertical lines.
Accessioned into Montrose Museum and Art Gallery Collection (M2016.48)
Funder: ANGUSalive Museums

Old Monrose House, Old Montrose
Standing building recording
Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology

Old Montrose House – Building 2 exterior N wall; facing S

Monifieth

Ashludie House
Standing building recording
Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group
NO 49537 33260 A historic building survey was carried out, 15–17 October 2015, of the abandoned Ashludie House, formerly part of Ashludie Hospital. The work was required prior to the demolition of the later N and E hospital wings, and the conversion of the main house into flats.

Ashludie House was constructed in the 1860s as a country mansion, although by 1916 it had been converted for use as a sanatorium. Later wings were attached to the house to the N and E, and it was also joined by three tri-form hospital wards by the 1930s. The hospital slowly expanded into the mid and late 20th century, but by 2014 the hospital was abandoned. By early 2015 most of the hospital buildings had been demolished with the exception of Ashludie House and its attached wings.

Although the later wings were generally modernised and revealed few features of interest, the main house retains some of the original splendour of a mid-Victorian country house, such as the highly decorated ceilings to the original ground floor reception rooms and entrance, and the finely carved timber staircase.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Miller Homes

The Grange, Monifeith
Evaluation
Beth Spence – GUARD Archaeology Ltd
NO 489 333 A 5% evaluation was carried out, 11–18 January 2016, on the site of a proposed housing development. A total of 79 trenches 50m in length and one 17.5m trench, were excavated across the area. The archaeological features recorded consisted of eight pit and posthole features and one small spread. These were located in four separate trenches across the central and eastern areas of the site, mostly on more raised ground. Ceramic and lithic finds were recovered from some of the fills, suggesting prehistoric activity in at least three of these areas.
Archive: NRHE and OASIS
Funder: Taylor Wimpey

Newtyle

Kinpurnie Castle, near Newtyle
Standing building survey
John Gooder – ACCESS Archaeological Condition Services

Pow Burn Restoration, River South Esk
Watching brief
Suzanne McGalliard – Headland Archaeology Ltd
NO 64901 57359 A watching brief was carried out, 30–31 August 2016, during the construction of two overflow channels on the SE side of the Pow Burn. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: EnviroCentre
NO 28460 40540 (Canmore ID: 30900) A Level 1 historic building survey was carried out, 8–9 February 2016, in advance of minor refurbishment works at the Category B listed Kinpurnie Castle.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Mr and Mrs C Willis

Oathlaw

Tannadice

Metal detector find
John Johnston – ANGUSalive Museums
NO 49030 57498 A lead seal matrix (mid-16th century) was found during metal detecting. The seal has a central heraldic shield, bordered by inscription ‘S + DAUEHM (floral flourish) WDO?
Accessioned into Mefaan Museum Collections (F2016.14)
Funder: ANGUSalive Museums

Rescobie

Finavon Hill, Carsebank Farm
Watching brief
Lisa Bird – AOC Archaeology Group
NO 48039 53826 A watching brief was undertaken, 18 July 2016, during work associated with a cable route on a small stretch of the planned track for a wind turbine at Carsebank Farm. The only features recorded were two modern land drains.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Kilmac Energy (Finavon) Ltd

Tannadice

Easter Marcus Cottages, Finavon
Watching brief
Alison Cameron – Cameron Archaeology
NO 50828 58327 A watching brief was carried out on 8 January 2016 prior to a single house development on land 22m N of Easter Marcus Cottages. The site had previously been stripped of topsoil and strip foundations concreted. A walkover was carried out of the area of the foundations, surrounding field and spoil heaps. The topsoil which had been removed was c100–150mm thick and the area had been heavily planted with trees on the 1st Edition OS map. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.
Archive: NRHE
Funder: Mr and Mrs L Melville

Tealing

Tinkletap Cottage, Tealing
Watching brief
David Bowler – Alder Archaeology Ltd
NO 4192 3928 A watching brief, undertaken 22–23 August 2016 during work associated with the construction of a house extension, found 20th-century deposits over natural.
Archive: NRHE
Funder: Mr I Ross

ARGYLL AND BUTE

Ardochattan and Muckairn

The Old Smithy, Benderloch
Evaluation
Steven Black – Northlight Heritage
NM 90455 37696 An evaluation and basic standing building survey were undertaken, 18–20 April 2016, in advance of the proposed conversion and extension of the smithy building into a house. A total of six evaluation trenches were excavated, targeting areas that would be subject to ground disturbance during the construction. The only remains recorded were the ruins of a dry stone wall and a cobbled surface discovered in the western part of the development close to the current driveway.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Chris Morris of Craigneuk

Arrochar

Arrochar Parish Survey
Walkover survey
Heather James – Northlight Heritage
NN 31500 08000 (centred on) A walkover survey was undertaken, 24 March – 2 June 2016, of the parish of Arrochar. The work, which aimed to shed light on the history and archaeology of the traditional clan territory, was carried out by members of the local community, the Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists (ACFA) and students from the University of Glasgow, and was led by Northlight Heritage.
A total of 88 sites were identified, the majority of which were previously unrecorded. The new sites were rapidly recorded and included 22 single house/barn/byle sites, 21 single shielings or groups of shielings, 9 farmsteads consisting of groups of more than 1 structure, 4 earth or stone banks, 3 possible mills, 3 building platforms, 3 clearance cairns, 2 enclosures, 2 concrete platforms, 2 kilns, 2 bridges, 2 knocking stones and 2 sheepfolds. Earth banks and areas of rig and furrow were common features in the landscape, but were generally not recorded, unless they were associated with a structure.
Three probably 19th-century farmsteads were identified, and their place names have been identified from 18th-century maps and documents. Two of these farmsteads were located in Glen Douglas and identified as Greitnein and Garthanfearn. A third farmstead at the N end of Loch Lomond was identified as Tighfurl. The remains of a possible 18th-century mill at Camas nan Clais were also discovered.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Clan Macfarlane Worldwide

Campbeltown

South of Skeroblingarry
Watching brief
Clare Ellis – Argyll Archaeology
NR 71035 26503 A controlled topsoil strip was undertaken, 14 April 2016, in advance of the construction of a house. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.
Funder: Mr and Mrs Challoner

**Cardross/Luss**

**Ben Bowie**

_Radiocarbon dates_

_Sandra Kelly – North Clyde Archaeological Society_

A number of sites were surveyed and excavated by NCAS and reported in _DES_ 2014, 42. Three radiocarbon dates have now been obtained from two of the sites investigated.

**NS 33429 83061 (Site 4)** – Location of coal pieces, Neolithic pottery and flint tools: birch charcoal returned a date of c1154–1263 cal AD (95.4%) (SUERC-59621) and hazel charcoal returned a date of c1019–1169 cal AD (95.4%) (SUERC-64322).

**NS 33583 82342 (Site 1)** – A burnt mound deposit: hazel charcoal returned a date of c772–973 cal AD (95.4%) (SUERC-64321).

Sponsor: Robert Kiln Charitable Trust

**Dunoon and Kilmun**

**Ardentinny and Kilmun**

**Walkover survey**

_Clare Ellis – Argyll Archaeology_

NS 17440 89470 (centred on) A walkover survey was carried out, December 2015, in advance of a proposed hydro-electric scheme adjacent to Drynain Burn, near Ardentinny. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.
Funder: Adrian Laycock Ltd

**Burnmakiman**

_Walkover survey_

_Clare Ellis – Argyll Archaeology_

NS 15394 71983 (centred on) A walkover survey was carried out, July 2016, in advance of a proposed hydro-electric scheme along Burnmakiman Burn. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.
Funder: Co Hydrover Developments

**Glen Finart**

_Walkover survey_

_Clare Ellis – Argyll Archaeology_

NS 16608 91237 (centred on) A walkover survey was carried out, December 2015, in advance of a proposed hydro-electric scheme in Glen Finart. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.
Funder: Mr N Drover

**Hunter’s Quay**

_Field visit and survey_

_David Dorren and Nina Henry_

NS 18369 79510 On the W shore of the River Clyde at Hunter’s Quay, 2 miles N of Dunoon town centre, is a large disused building, stone-built and incorporating some natural rock. It is heavily obscured by vegetation. It lies on the shore at the inland edge of the stony beach which is cN/S. Its flat top is at the level of the A815 shore road from Dunoon to Sandbank. It is a disused boathouse. On the shore side at beach level is the entrance to a chamber that is 10m long and extends roughly to below the shore edge of the roadway. It is c2.9m wide and up to 2.5m high, and has a corbelled roof. The walls and roof are largely intact but have suffered some loss of stones. The floor is strewn with stony rubble, as well as rubbish washed in by the sea. It is constructed of mostly long thin flat stones and is mortared. Its orientation is roughly

_Arrochar Parish Survey (Macfarlane Survey Project) – Taped offset survey of early 18th-century joint tenancy farm, Greitnein, Glen Douglas, deserted by the early 19th century (see page 28)_
E/W at 260°. From the entrance across the stony beach to the sea is a path that has been cleared of larger stones, evidently for use as a simple slipway.

From the N edge of the entrance a straight section of wall continues E 4.4m into the open. It is 2.3m high and 1.5m thick. About 3m S of its E end, in front of the entrance to the chamber, is a detached column of walling of similar height and thickness and 1.3m long E/W. An iron bar is embedded in it. The two sections of walling are of the same construction as the interior of the boathouse. This work was undertaken on 15 March 2016.

**Gigha and Cara**

**Overhead Lines, Gigha**

*Watching briefs*

**John Lewis – Scotia Archaeology**

NR 65401 51285, NR 65477 51252, NR 65264 50023, NR 65076 48820, NR 65151 48788, NR 64660 48653, NR 64935 48487, NR 64974 48451, NR 65013 48415, NR 64956 47815, NR 65244 47926, NR 64196 47245, NR 64262 47226, NR 64283 47270, NR 64166 48126

Watching briefs were kept on 20–22 September and 4–10 October 2016 during trenching for new poles on several high voltage (HV) and low voltage (LV) overhead power lines on the Isle of Gigha. Some poles on HV lines were changed without excavation and are not listed here. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered in any of the trenches.

*Archive and report: NRHE*

Funder: Scottish and Southern Energy Ltd

**Glenurchy and Inishail/Lochgoilhead and Kilmorich**

**Croe Water and Allt Ghamhnain**

*Desk-based assessment and walkover survey*

**Steven Black – Northlight Heritage**

NN 2463 0621 and NN 28047 35927

A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken, 24 September – 12 November 2015, in advance of two proposed hydro-electric schemes on the Croe Water, NW of Ardgarten and on the Allt Ghamhnain, Glen Orchy. No archaeological remains were noted on the line of the proposed scheme or access corridor on the Croe Water. The only archaeological remains noted on the proposed Allt Ghamhnain scheme related to post-medieval dry stone enclosing walls and the possible route of an 18th-century road.

*Archive: NRHE (intended)*

Funder: Create Consulting Engineers Ltd

**Inverchaolain**

**Ardentraive, Colintraive**

*Watching brief*

**Magnus Kirby – CFA Archaeology Ltd**

NS 03874 75591 to NS 05320 74650

A watching brief was undertaken, November 2015 – January 2016, during groundwork associated with the construction of the Ardentraive hydro-electric scheme to the N of Colintraive. The watching brief targeted the lower altitude improved and semi-improved ground, as well as two locations on the higher moorland where the pipeline crossed two field banks. One of the field banks was used in conjunction with the steep natural escarpment above the Milton Burn to form a large irregular enclosure, while the other field bank may have been associated with a vestigial area of rig and furrow cultivation, which lay just outwith the watching brief area. Sections were recorded through the field banks.

*Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: NRHE and WoSAS*

Funder: Green Highland Renewables Ltd
Jura

Belnahua Quarries
Desk-based assessment and diver inspection
Isger Vico Sommer and Dan Atkinson – Wessex Archaeology
NM 7139 1274 Work to assess, survey and record the submerged evidence for slate quarrying and related activities at Belnahua in the Firth of Lorn was undertaken 12 October 2015 – 9 September 2016.

The two slate quarries were abandoned during WW1. They flooded after pumping ceased and have since, apart from one unsuccessful attempt at salvage in the 1940s, been left untouched. Although some underwater photography of quarry features had been undertaken prior to 2015, no archaeological survey had been carried out.

The archive assessment produced an archive of 550 digital files. Relevant material included terrestrial surveys and mapping, an equipment inventory of the similar Toberonochy quarry and an overview of the slate quarrying history in Scotland.

The snorkel and dive survey located, mapped and recorded a total of 31 archaeological features. Most have been identified and include slate bogeys, wall structures, pipes, rails, fire beaters, machinery and pottery. Three areas relating to different work processes were identified within the quarries: slate extraction, slate processing and slate waste areas. Photographs were geotagged using a GPS buoy.

Since the project was commissioned, the quarries have been added to the schedule of nationally important monuments (SM13216).

Archive: Historic Environment Scotland
Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

Finlayson Cottage
Evaluation
Stuart Wilson – AOC Archaeology Group
NM 79705 13397 An evaluation was undertaken, 23–24 June 2016, in advance of the construction of a house on the grounds of Finlayson Cottage. The planned 8% evaluation was reduced due to the presence of services; however, the evaluation trenches established that the area had been built up with a topsoil depth of 1.5m in some areas. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Kilchoan Management Ltd

Kilcalmonell

Abhainn Achachoish
Walkover survey
Clare Ellis – Argyll Archaeology
NR 84537 65720 (centred on) A walkover survey was undertaken, May 2016, in advance of a proposed hydro-electric scheme along Abhainn Achachoish. The work recorded a number of features.

NR 84513 65762 – Road – An estate road, shown on the 1st Edition (Sheet CCI) 1873 with a drain on its S side.

NR 84595 65696 – Wall – A dry stone estate wall, reduced to a low bank on W side of track.

NR 85480 65694 – Wall – A stone and earth bank/wall, up to 3m wide and 1m high, oriented N/S.

NR 85391 65824 – Sheepfold – As on 1st Edition OS map (Sheet CCI) 1873.

NR 85026 65578 – Wall – A low dry stone wall, possibly same as that shown on the 1st Edition OS map (Sheet CCII) 1873.

Funder: H20 Hydro Ltd

Willow Wind Farm, Tayinloan
Survey
Graeme Cavers – AOC Archaeology Group
NR 73129 49548 A walkover survey was carried out, 11–12 November 2015, in advance of the construction of infrastructure associated with a proposed wind farm. A total of 48 archaeological sites were recorded, of which 17 were new additions to the record. The majority of features recorded related to the probable medieval to post-medieval settlement and agricultural use of the area, with the majority of sites relating to the known historical settlements at Lergnahuisan, Sron Albhannach and Lagloskine. Prehistoric remains were restricted to possible standing stones in the SW of the survey area.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Arcus Consultancy Services Ltd

Kilchoman

Carn Farm
Watching brief
Clare Ellis – Argyll Archaeology
NR 24459 57093 A watching brief was undertaken, 29 February 2016, during a controlled topsoil strip in advance of the construction of a house SW of Carn Farm. There were no features of archaeological significance recorded; however,
three flakes of flint, including one possible scraper, were recovered from the topsoil.

**Funder: Mr and Mrs McFadyen**

**Bruichladdich Distillery, Coulcartsay, Islay**

**Evaluation and excavation**

Maureen C Kilpatrick – GUARD Archaeology Ltd

A programme of archaeological work was carried out, 7 September – 27 November 2015, in advance of the construction of warehouses and associated services for the Bruichladdich Distillery. A preliminary phase of evaluation during topsoil stripping was followed by excavation when significant archaeological remains were uncovered. These remains were located in four separate areas within the proposed development area and comprised predominantly prehistoric remains including pit and posthole clusters with Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery sherds and lithic artefacts, a timber post built D-shaped structure, pits/spreads containing hearth material and a large settlement/work site comprising a figure-of-eight groove structure with pits containing industrial waste and artefacts including possible Iron Age pottery sherds, a fragment of a shale bracelet, worked bone, a rotary quern and stone pot lids.

**Archive: NRHE**

**Funder: Bruichladdich Distillery**

**Slochd Measach – The Islay Prehistory Project**

**Excavation and survey**

Darko Maričević and Steven Mithen – University of Reading

NR 21045 56420 (NR25NW 3) A two week long excavation and geophysical survey of the chambered cairn of Slochd Measach (Giant’s Grave) was carried out, 20 August – 3 September 2016, by a team from the University of Reading and Bournemouth University.

Slochd Measach chambered cairn is located in the forestry plantation on the SE slopes of Beinn Tart a’ Mhill near the southern tip of the Rhinns of Islay (NR 21045 56420). The work was undertaken with scheduled monument consent and section 42 consent granted by Historic Environment Scotland. This was a second fieldwork season at the site following the evaluation and survey in 2015 (DES 2015, 42).

Two out of four planned trenches were excavated in 2016 (Trenches 1 and 3). Trench 1 was oriented SW/NE and positioned along the front two compartments of the chamber (C1 and C2) and the adjacent area at the NW side of the cairn. It measured 5 x 4m with a smaller 2.5 x 1m extension to the SW overlapping with the outer face of the third compartment C3. The excavation in Trench 1 revealed the presence of toppled façade stones lying in the peat in the NE part of the trench and the scant remains of a possible semi-circular shelter constructed against the outer side of the orthostats. Underlying the peat the entire area of the trench, including the interior of the chamber compartments C1 and C2, was filled with rubble. The top rubble deposits were loose and in places overlying rubble mixed with peaty soil. More compact rubble representing undisturbed cairn material followed, increasing in size with the depth. The initial stages of the cairn were built from stacked upright stone slabs wedged with smaller rubble on top of thin soil horizon, which survived in places, but was mangled in others under the weight of the construction.

One of the aims in Trench 1 was to investigate the kink in the alignment of the chamber visible in plan between the back compartments C3 and C4 and the front compartments C1 and C2. Excavation of the cairn material confirmed that the apparent misalignment was caused purely by the toppling of the othostats of compartments C1 and C2, rather than a separate construction phase. The cairn in this area was built as a single phase of construction, abutting the in situ orthostats and following the movement of those that toppled. Toppled and leaning orthostats of compartments C1 and C2 prevented the excavation inside these compartments except for the very front of compartment C1, which was much disturbed. The base of compartment C1 consisted of natural bedrock and glacial till.

Trench 3 measured 5 x 2m and was E/W oriented. It was positioned over a concentration of high resistance anomalies in the immediate area of an outlier stone
The excavation revealed an unexpected structural sequence consisting of a substantial wall built from stone boulders and incorporating the outlier stone, which was moved into this position from elsewhere on the site, most likely the chamber or the façade of the chambered cairn. The wall was N/S oriented, but it is not entirely clear how far it continues beyond the limits of the trench. The electrical resistance survey, conducted over the entire forestry clearing, suggests that it could continue S for another 20m and beyond the limits of the survey. The wall was overlying a stone platform or an area of hard standing built from medium sized cobbles, which covered the entire area of the trench, thus extending to either side of the overlying wall and beyond the limits of the excavation. To the E it was picked up in 2015 in test pit (TP11) located 4m from Trench 3, but its overall limits remain undetermined. Underlying this platform or area of hard standing was a tumble of larger stones, which might represent disturbed cairn material of the chambered cairn. Below this tumble was a well-constructed level platform built from large stone slabs and kerbed to the SE by a double line of long rectangular stone slabs running diagonally across the trench on the same orientation as the chamber of the chambered cairn. This was postulated to be the kerb of the chambered cairn, judging by the size of its construction, the alignment and the stratigraphic position towards the base of the sequence and on top of a thin soil horizon overlying glacial till.

A systematic environmental sampling strategy was employed throughout the stratigraphic sequence in both trenches, providing a suite of potential C14 dates to be added to those already obtained in 2015. A 3D photogrammetry survey of the monument was also conducted. The excavation will continue in 2017 with the opening of Trenches 2 and 4. Archive: Museum of Islay Life, Port Charlotte. Report: HES and WoSAS

**Kildalton and Oa**

**Imerivale, Port Ellen, Islay**

**Evaluation**

*Clare Ellis – Argyll Archaeology*

NR 35481 45876 An 8% evaluation was undertaken, 12 October 2015 – 18 March 2016, in advance of potential development. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

**Funder: MacLeod Construction Ltd**

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> Plan of the megalithic chamber of Slochd Measach chambered cairn showing 2015 test pits, geophysical anomalies and the layout of the trenches (see pages 32–33)
Kilfinan

Kilfinan Parish Church
Watching brief
Christine Rennie – GUARD Archaeology Ltd
NR 934 788 A watching brief was carried out, 23 November 2015 – 20 April 2016, during the lowering of an interior floor level as part of the redevelopment of the Lamont Aisle at Kilfinan Parish Church. Disarticulated human remains were uncovered along with fragments of stonework possibly from gravestones. The disarticulated human remains will be reburied.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Kilfinan Parish Church

Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon

Mull to Iona Pipeline
Desk-based assessment and watching brief
Steven Birch and Sam Williamson – West Coast Archaeological Services
NM 28906 24759 A desk-based assessment and watching brief were carried out, 30 March – 17 May 2016, along the route of a new water main pipeline on the Isle of Iona, which is to join with the existing pipeline at Port an Diseart on the E coast of the island. Despite being between the SAMs of Cladh an Diseart Chapel (SM804) and St Mary’s Abbey (SM12968), no archaeological finds or deposits were noted during excavations around the water tank and channel for a new pipeline.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Scottish Water

Kilmartin

Barr na Cille
Excavation
Roddy Regan – Kilmartin Museum
NM 80387 00657 (NM80SW 11) The owners of a stone enclosure at Barr na Cille wished to convert a small part of the site to a family burial plot. As part of this process Kilmartin Museum was asked to excavate the areas to be set aside for burial. The sub-circular enclosure (measuring 14.5 by 11.5m internally) is located on a relatively flat area between two escarpments that overlook Loch Craignish to the west.

The excavation, September 2015 – June 2016, established that the now ruined walls of the enclosure had been fairly substantial, although the internal deposits within the excavation area were relatively shallow. These, however, did contain charcoal and burnt seeds (barley) and are awaiting C14 dating. The presence of barley perhaps suggests a domestic use of the enclosure.

Archive: Kilmartin Museum, Report: NRHE, OASIS and WoSAS
Funder: Kilmartin Museum

Kilmartin

Barr na Cille – Trench and enclosure wall from NW

Carnassarie

Field visit
Roddy Regan – Kilmartin Museum
NM 83690 00972 At the southern end of a SE-facing rock outcrop above the deserted township of Carnassarie Mor is a cup- and ring-marked boulder. The rock has three cup and ring motifs: a cup with gutter surrounded by five rings, a cup and gutter with two rings and a cup with a single ring, the rock also has five plain cup-marks. The site was discovered by Rosemary Neagle, the farmer at Carnassarie Farm, and reported to Kilmartin Museum. The site was visited on 8 June 2015.

Carnassarie

Field visit
Roddy Regan – Kilmartin Museum
NM 83596 01102 A cup-marked boulder with 12 individual cup-marks on its surface, one with a possible faint ring, was discovered by Rosemary Neagle, the farmer at Carnassarie Farm, and reported to Kilmartin Museum. The boulder lies against the NW edge of a small valley lying above the deserted township of Carnassarie Mor. The site was visited on 8 June 2015.

Carnassarie Cist II

Excavation
Roddy Regan – Kilmartin Museum
NM 83442 01491 In August 2013 Rosemary Neagle the
proprietor of Carnassarie Farm, observed what appeared to be the shape of a large flat stone situated under the grass/topsoil cover and thinking this might represent a cist she approached Kilmartin Museum to investigate the site. During the ensuing visit the topsoil was removed from around the possible cist which revealed a large capstone with the remains of a possible small stone cairn sealing what appeared to be an intact cist structure. The site was then covered with geotextile and the topsoil reinstated. In early August 2015 a team from Kilmartin Museum assisted by Dr Alison Sheridon from the NMS returned to the site in order to more fully examine the site. The cist is situated on the top of a prominent raised knoll (187m AOD) affording extensive views down Kilmartin Glen to the sea at Crinan and overlooks Ford Glen at the E. The knoll mound also overlooks the prehistoric monuments of the Carnassarie Standing Stones (NMRS: NM80SW 22) and a burial cairn (NMRS: NM80SW 21) to the S and the impressive burial cairn Carn Ban (NMRS: NM80SW28) to the E. In addition the knoll can be seen from the cist excavated in 2012 which lies c500m to the NE. The pit that held the cist was cut into natural bedrock, the cist itself constructed from four closely fitting slabs forming the sides, these sealed by the large capstone. The cist contained a complete tripartite food vessel that no doubt accompanied a burial, although no skeletal remains had survived the acidic soils. The relatively small size of the cist suggests the individual it contained was probably a child.

Archive: Kilmartin Museum (intended). Report: WoSAS, HES and OASIS (intended)
Funder: Kilmartin Museum

**Carnassarie Mor**

**Excavation**

Roddy Regan – Kilmartin Museum

All five structures were examined during the excavation. Two of them turned out to be byre dwellings, while a third appeared to be a smithy or forge, judging by the amount of slag retrieved from the building and dumped in a midden just outside the structure. The other two structures that lay to the S of this grouping turned out to be small lime kilns, perhaps not surprising given that they are situated close to a prominent limestone ridge with evidence of quarrying. One, perhaps the earlier of the two, was a relatively crudely built rectangular construction with a double flue. The second was sub-circular construction with a central flue, and bottles recovered from its post use infill suggesting it was last used sometime in the 19th century, perhaps the lime used within the still extant buildings at Carnassarie Mor, which have lime mortar in their construction. We still await expert examination of the pottery associated with the other buildings but initial indications are that these date to the 17th and 18th centuries, suggesting the period of occupation of both the byre dwellings and the smithy or forge.

Funder: Kilmartin Museum

**Kilmichael Glassary**

**Barmolloch**

**Field visit**

Roddy Regan – Kilmartin Museum

NR 87675 99619 During groundworks for a new private forestry plantation, a machine excavator exposed two areas of rock with cup marks. The two exposures lay on a prominent knoll lying 60m E of a rock art panel previously recorded during a walkover survey undertaken by Kilmartin Museum on Kilbride Farm in 2008 (site 83). The two new exposures lie c20m apart, the most southerly has five plain cup marks while the other at the N has just two plain cup marks. The site was visited on 8 June 2015.
Kilmowan

Caol Ghleann

Survey

David Dorren and Nina Henry

NS 0663 9382 (vicinity) The sparsely populated Caol Ghleann is to the NE of the main populated area of Glendaruel. On the E side of Caol Ghleann is a narrow strip of forestry plantation along the E side of the main A886 road on the River Ruel. The Ruel is the main river running SW through Caol Ghleann (where it was earlier known as the Allt a’ Caol Ghlinne) and on through Glendaruel. On the hillside to the E of the forestry at an altitude of 215m are three small shielings, A and B on the S side of a tributary burn running W into the River Ruel, and C to the N of the same stream. The remains of each consist of a low oval or rectangular bank of turfed-over stone with a central hollow set on a low mound. All three are comparable in size. No entrances are evident. There is some uncertainty in measurement due to vegetation cover.

This site, which was surveyed on 10 May 2016, is 300m N of a similar shieling group and 250m N of the farmstead previously recorded by us (Dorren and Henry, DES 2015, 48).

Shieling A is on the S edge of the burn at NS 06625 93816. It measures 4.6 x 2.8m externally, with its longer axis at 280°, parallel to the burn. Some stone is visible in the bank or wall. It has a central hollow 3.0 x 1.1m. The ground slopes away steeply on the N side down to the burn and on the W side, where the shieling bank is 0.7m high.

Shieling B is 50m SW of A at NS 06580 93780 on the same S side of the burn but more distant from it and nearer the River Ruel. It is mounded and its orientation is the same 280° as A. It is 4.8 x 3.2m externally with central hollow 3.4 x 1.1m. There are several stones visible in the bank, which is 0.6m high at the W end where the ground drops off steeply towards the (modern) forestry and the River Ruel.

Shieling C is on the N bank of the burn at NS 06645 93828. It is on a mound, c.5.5 x 3.6m externally, c.3.7 x 2.1m in the central hollow. Its orientation is parallel to the burn at 290°. The shieling bank has several visible stones and is up to 0.3m high.

Kilmore and Kilbride

Barncarry hydropower scheme

Walkover survey

Clare Ellis – Argyll Archaeology

NM 88480 25900 (centred on) A walkover survey in March 2016 in advance of a proposed hydro-electric scheme identified a number of archaeological features.

NM 88492 25938 – Wall (19th century) Defunct dry stone wall, up to 0.4m high and 1m wide (with rubble). On 1st Edition OS map Argyllshire (Sheet CXI) 1875.

NM 88559 25983 – Path (18th century) Modified natural gorge forming path up natural cliff to cultivated land above. (Site 3).

NM 88646 26033 – Lazy bed cultivation (19th century probable) Area of lazy bed cultivation, oriented SW/NE.

Funder: Mr A Hodge

Dunollie Castle

Standing building recording, survey and excavation

Roddy Regan – Kilmartin Museum

NM 85240 31460 Three phases of work were undertaken at Dunollie Castle between March and July 2016. These involved the drawing of the SW and SE elevations of the tower stonework, a watching brief undertaken on removal of topsoil over the wall core at the SW corner of the tower, and the re-excavation of a previously excavated trench in the castle courtyard. The excavation revealed several built features that occupied the courtyard, these included: a wall and doorway of a building occupying the NW corner of the courtyard along with an associated external surface and drain. The trench also revealed a wall of what is likely a revetment to a raised area or platform around the castle tower. The finds from the trench suggest the features were last in use in the 18th century prior to their demolition or abandonment. The outlines of other buildings within the courtyard were also recorded, along with a previously unrecorded length of walling associated with the early historic enclosure to the S of the medieval castle.

Archive: Auchindrain Trust (intended). Report: HES, NRHE and WoSAS

Funder: Dunollie Projects Ltd

Dunstaffnage Castle

Watching brief

Paul Fox – Kirkdale Archaeology

NM 8821 3437 A watching brief was maintained, 21 September 2016, during the excavation of a trench to house a new information sign. Although nothing of particular archaeological interest was recorded, the work has helped to establish the nature of a sequence of changes which have affected this particular area of the castle grounds since the mid-19th century. It also showed that the area immediately outwith the scheduled area still retains high archaeological potential.

Archive: NRHE (intended)

Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

Kilninian and Kilmore

Baliscate, Cnoc Fada and Maol Mor

Survey

Jamie Humble and Lisa Bird – AOC Archaeology Group

NM 4996 5413 (Baliscate), NM 4390 5203 (Cnoc Fada) and NM 43604 53056 (Maol Mor) A survey was undertaken, 25–27 July 2016, of selected elements of three stone rows on Mull.
ARGYLL AND BUTE

The standing stones at Baliscate, Cnoc Fada and Maol Mor were surveyed using laser scanning and photogrammetry to create site plans, 3D visualisations including videos and flatpack nets to recreate the sites as models using paper.

**Archives:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Forestry Commission Scotland

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**Excavation**

**Kildavie, Isle of Mull**

**Excavation**

Ian Hill and Michelle Gamble – Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice Ltd (HARP)

NM 39210 53190 (Canmore ID: 21827, SMR ID 415) An excavation incorporating a training field school, and community outreach was undertaken, September 2014 to 09 Sep 2016, at the township of Kildavie, along with an assessment of the surrounding landscape.

Three seasons of excavation have been carried out at Kildavie with an international team of students and members from the local Mull Archaeology Interest Group. Trenches have been excavated within five structures of the township, with a series of smaller test pits excavated across enclosure walls and open-areas of the settlement. The excavation is being carried out to investigate the occupation period of the settlement, and potential reasons for abandonment. Thus far, the remains revealed by the excavation appear consistent with the, somewhat scant, historic evidence that indicates occupation during the 17th and 18th centuries. The structures excavated consist of a series of stone-built buildings, with a significant amount of collapse.

Structure 12 shows evidence of reuse following abandonment, with a series of small ‘cells’ built within the structure, possibly used as lambing pens or small animal enclosures.

Structure 4, consisting of two adjoined buildings, has the remains of a raised, stone platform in one corner, possibly the remains of a bedstead, whilst the remains of a small hearth and iron cookpot were revealed in the adjoining structure. No built floors or drainage work has been revealed in any of the structures thus far, and those investigated appear to have been sited on natural mounds of bedrock.

Structure 3 is architecturally different from the other buildings with significant masonry and more rectangular features. Mapping evidence suggests that this building appears to still be in use by the mid-19th century, whilst all other buildings had been abandoned by this stage.

A fragment of an onion bottle, date stamped 1713 from Tarbert, was found in Structure 12, with a small glass bead found in the same structure, and a further bead and heavily corroded coin found in Structure 4.

The test pits did not reveal any significant remains. The project and excavations will continue in 2017.

**Archives and reports:** HES (intended)

**Funder:** Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice Ltd

Website: www.harparchaeology.co.uk

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**Lismore and Appin**

**Lismore Nave, Lismore Cathedral**

**Excavation**

Clare Ellis – Argyll Archaeology

NM 86066 43501 Portions of the stone-built walls of the nave of Argyll’s medieval cathedral on Lismore were exposed in a recent community excavation, 12–19 August 2016, funded by the HLF and with a contribution from Argyll and Bute Council. The cathedral may have been built in the late 12th, 13th or even 14th century and served the newly created diocese of Argyll. Lismore was probably chosen because of its connection with St Moluag, who was a contemporary of St Columba and some argue a more influential missionary than St Columba, as well as its central geographic location and ease of access by sea.

The surviving walls of the nave are substantial, > 1m high and of white dressed sandstone, probably imported from Morven, form a drip course near the base. Fragments of white sandstone that would have lined a window have also been discovered within the old graveyard. The stone walls of the nave were bonded using a shell-rich mortar, and samples of charcoal from the mortar will provide a series of radiocarbon dates, finally revealing when the nave was built. Previous excavators in the 1950s discovered a small building built into the W end of the nave and interpreted this as a tower. However, the recent excavation has shown that at least some of the wall has a soil/sod core, and it is clear that this vernacular construction technique is one which would have been very unlikely to be able to support the weight of a tower; it is anticipated that a future investigation will aim to discover the purpose of this building.

The community excavation has allowed the condition of the remains to be assessed. The nave wall and abutting ‘tower’ wall were structurally very stable. However, water penetration of the walls, caused by overlying silty/clay soil and rubble debris has, and is clearly still having, a detrimental effect upon the survival of mortar and the dressed white sandstone drip course. The human (both articulated and disarticulated) and animal bone encountered was found to be in a moderate to good state of preservation.

Public access into the area of the nave was improved...
with the construction of a wooden gateway that allowed level entry from the modern cemetery. A colour information board was produced and is displayed upon this gate. The site was cleared of debris and a new fence with two gated points of access was also erected around the nave to ensure stock control and avoid unnecessary poaching of the site and potentially sensitive archaeological deposits.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Heritage Lottery Fund, and Argyll and Bute Council

Lochgoilhead and Kilmorich

Gypsy Travellers in Scotland

Desk based assessment

Ian Hill – Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice Ltd (HARP)
NN 15752 08442 (Canmore ID: 320140) Following a review of the current record for Tinker’s Heart by Archaeology Scotland, a desk-based assessment was carried out, 1–31 May 2013, on the evidence of Gypsy Travellers in Scotland. The study identified 26 sites associated with Gypsy Travellers in Scotland, which were categorised as follows: six sites of etymological origins; six camp sites; one settlement; four Wish Trees or Rag Wells; two commemorative monuments; and one historical residence. The study also identified 32 currently registered Gypsy Traveller sites across Scotland.

Archive and report: HES (intended)
Funder: HLF and HES

Ardkinglass Estate

Standing building recording

Elizabeth Jones and Jenni Morrison – Addyman Archaeology
NN 1751 1038 A programme of historic building recording took place over two-days in April 2016 on the Ardkinglass Estate, with archaeological staff working alongside staff and volunteers from the Here We Are Project and local shepherds. We recorded two fanks in full, Ardno (Site 4) and Clachan (Site 13). For both fanks we recorded wall elevations to demonstrate the building techniques that were used, and produced a hand drawn plan, indicating all the different elements and ‘rooms’ within the fank, annotated to show their use.

Ardno was interesting as it appeared to have been adapted and added on to from earlier field walls and was not as formally laid out as Clachan. The shepherds had previously worked in the fanks up until the 1980s and were able to tell us what each of the areas was used for and which of the fanks were easier to work with. At both fanks there were inserts into the walls, which were used to leave shears or to store ointments and medicines for the sheep, some of these bottles were found at both fanks.

The remaining 18 fanks on the estate will be recorded over the course of the project by volunteers, with a summary report and website to be produced once the project is completed in 2017.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Here We Are/Historic Environment Scotland
**Luss**

**The Mill, Port of Rossdhu**  
**Standing building recording**  
Rebecca Shaw – Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services  
NS 35518 89425 A standing building survey was carried out, 7 September 2016, of a mill in advance of proposed alterations. With the exception of the location, the style of the structure and the sack hoist door, few features remain to signify the use of this structure as a mill. Available cartographic and documentary sources indicate that the mill was probably built at the end of the 18th century/start of 19th century and was only in use as a mill for a very short period of time.  
Archive: NRHE. Report: WoSAS  
Funder: G and F Martin

**North Knapdale**

**Achnamara Bridge**  
**Survey**  
Gemma Hudson and Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group  
NR 77747 86987 A condition survey was undertaken of Achnamara Bridge on 17 March 2016. The site, which lies across a tributary on the E shore of Loch Sween, is a clapper bridge comprising three dry stone stacks with two long cross slabs. The bridge was laser scanned and photographed to produce pointcloud and photogrammetric models from which plans and elevations were drawn along with 3D visualisations.  
Archive: NRHE (intended)  
Funder: Forestry Commission Scotland

**Rhu**

**Duirland Farm, Glen Fruin**  
**Walkover survey**  
Magnus Kirby – CFA Archaeology Ltd  
NS 2811 8922 to NS 2790 8860 A walkover survey was carried out, November 2015, along the route of a proposed public access footpath on land NW of Duirland Farm, linking an upgraded permanent access track with the unclassified Luss Road. The ground covered consisted of unimproved bog and moorland, and there were no finds or features of archaeological significance.  
Funder: Iberdrola Engineering and Construction  
Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: NRHE and WoSAS

**Glennan Burn**  
**Field visit**  
Sandra Kelly – North Clyde Archaeological Society  
NS 2930 8370 The site of a WW2 heavy anti-aircraft gun installation was surveyed. Four gun positions are arranged in an arc around an underground command post and surrounded by a perimeter fence, all are poorly preserved. A further two gun positions were identified and these may be the remains of 4.7” guns installed after the usual 3.75” guns described above. Three ammunition stores were identified. Of particular interest at this site are four gun positions surrounded by earth banks and which may predate all of the others, indicating three phases of gun installation. A large 130m diameter platform nearby was the position of a radar mat installation. An adjacent camp area consists of the remains of 23 buildings, only seen as concrete platforms, some with collapsed roofs. The project is part of a complete survey of military remains along the North Clyde Estuary coastline.  
Sponsors: Luss Estates Company and Foundation Scotland

**Woodend**  
**Survey**  
Sandra Kelly – North Clyde Archaeological Society  
NS 2930 8370 The site of a WW2 heavy anti-aircraft gun installation was surveyed. Four gun positions are arranged in an arc around an underground command post and surrounded by a perimeter fence, all are poorly preserved. A further two gun positions were identified and these may be the remains of 4.7” guns installed after the usual 3.75” guns described above. Three ammunition stores were identified. Of particular interest at this site are four gun positions surrounded by earth banks and which may predate all of the others, indicating three phases of gun installation. A large 130m diameter platform nearby was the position of a radar mat installation. An adjacent camp area consists of the remains of 23 buildings, only seen as concrete platforms, some with collapsed roofs. The project is part of a complete survey of military remains along the North Clyde Estuary coastline.  
Sponsors: Luss Estates Company and Foundation Scotland

**Rosneath**

**Find spots**  
**Fieldwalking**  
Sandra Kelly – North Clyde Archaeological Society  
Random objects have been found at the following locations by fieldwalking:  
- NS 25879 81021 – Flint scraper  
- NS 2692 8152 – Flint scraper  
- NS 25190 81033 – Two flint scrapers  
- NS 2630 8060 – Two flint scrapers  
- NS 258 805 – Two flint scrapers  
- NS 251 817 – Piece of pitchstone  
- NS 258 805 – Two flint scrapers  
- NS 2640 8070 – Two pieces of pitchstone  
- NS 251 817 – Piece of pitchstone  
Of particular interest is the reporting of Arran pitchstone for the first time in this part of Scotland, see also (DES 2015, 42).

**Knockderry Hotel, Cove**  
**Watching brief**  
Maureen C Kilpatrick – GUARD Archaeology Ltd  
NS 21595 83506 A watching brief was undertaken, 15 September 2016, during ground-breaking work for a new house and associated services on land NW of Knockderry...
Hotel. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Mr M Pater

**Millbrae Cottages**

Excavation

Sandra Kelly – North Clyde Archaeological Society

NS 25018 81654 Excavation of an entire double cottage within a forestry plantation revealed its occupation from c1750–1860 through finds which included a large assemblage of crockery, much of it manufactured in Greenock potteries. One cottage had a stone floor, while the other was timber on beams; each had gable fireplaces, and many parts of cast iron fire ranges were also found. Small finds included gun flints, musket balls and cartridge pellets; the house is known to have been occupied by Argyll Estate gamekeepers. A large assemblage of clay marbles, some of them decorated, indicate the presence of children. Other finds included glass beads, various types of buttons, hat pin tops, thimble, crotal bell, clay tobacco pipe bowls and window glass of two types – thin glass from leaded windows and thick ‘bulls eye’ window panes. A complete and a broken bowl or pot quern were found and, taken with some early 18th-century wine bottle fragments, it became apparent that the building site was earlier than the evidence from the cottages suggested. Nearby, a midden deposit contained a large assemblage of broken onion and mallet wine bottles, datable to c1700, and a collection of red earthenware Staffordshire type pottery sherds with various designs of slip ware decoration.

NorthClydeArchaeologicalSociety/index.asp
Sponsor: Tilhill Forestry Ltd

**Portkil Cave Number 1**

Excavation

Sandra Kelly – North Clyde Archaeological Society

NS 24830 80488 (centred on) Excavation in Portkil Cave Number 1 (DES 2014, 53) was completed with further discoveries including AOC beaker sherds and a piece of faceted haematite which was used as a colouring agent in the Bronze Age. Three radiocarbon dates from charcoal were obtained from the deposits and these are as follows:

- Basal Bronze Age (birch): c2279–2251 cal BC (95.4%) (SUERC-64965)
- Event pre-dating rock fall (hazel): c255–301 cal AD (95.4%) (SUERC-64315)
- Event post-dating rock fall (hazel): c575–672 cal AD (95.4%) (SUERC-64319)

Further work in the vicinity is intended.

NorthClydeArchaeologicalSociety/index.asp
Sponsor: Tilhill Forestry Ltd

**Rosneath Castle Farm**

Survey

Sandra Kelly – North Clyde Archaeological Society

NS 2700 8122 The site of a Cold War heavy anti-aircraft gun installation was surveyed in 2016. Four gun positions are arranged in a slightly curving arc. All of the buildings are intact but as they were constructed to be underground,
they have been filled leaving only the roof tops and upper parts of the concrete installations visible. Each gun position consists of a gun pit, magazine and engine house. Nearby the concrete-built command post building, offices and workshop buildings survive intact.

Secret Scotland website (http://www.secretscotland.org.uk) allowed for further research on Scotland’s Cold War constructions which identified similar sites at Stockiemuir (Canmore ID: 105315), Pattiston (Canmore ID: 106350), Limekiln Viewfield (Canmore ID: 106351), Millthird and Wemyss Plantation. The principal difference between Stockiemuir and Barrhead is that, although identical in plan, the latter was built underground.


South Ailey Farm
Survey
Sandra Kelly – North Clyde Archaeological Society
NS 22478 81617 The site of a WW2 heavy anti-aircraft gun installation was surveyed in 2016. Four gun positions are arranged in an arc around an underground command post and surrounded by a perimeter fence, all are well preserved. A large 130m diameter platform nearby was the position of a radar mat installation. An adjacent camp area consists of the remains of 23 buildings, 5 of which survive nearly completely with metal framed windows in situ. The project is part of a complete survey of military remains along the N Clyde Estuary coastline.


Saddell and Skipness
Cour, North Kintyre
Survey and mitigation work
Samantha Hickman, Katie Sludden and Ewan MacNeilage – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NR 79731 48037 An initial survey in November 2014 identified 12 sites of cultural heritage interest within the boundary of a proposed wind farm and 19 within the
corridor for an access road. Additional survey work at two locations identified further shieling huts. A programme of mitigation work in April 2016 during ground-breaking work ensured that none of the known sites were affected by the development and no new archaeological remains were recorded.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended). **Report:** NRHE and WoSAS

**Funder:** SSE Renewables Developments (UK) Ltd and Blue Energy Co

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**Southend**

**Kildavie**

**Walkover survey**

Clare Ellis – Argyll Archaeology

NR 73109 11723 A walkover survey was carried out, August 2016, in advance of woodland planting. The work recorded the following features:

- **NR 73323 11984** – Track – A 4m wide hollow-way track, heads-off into afforested area (NR 73301 12030), shown on 1st Edition OS map (1869) running from W of Kildavie.
- **NR 73290 12038** – Bank – A 2m wide bank, up to 0.5m high. Straight, oriented N/S. Gap at NR 73279 11994 for access to Glennie. Joins a second bank oriented NW/SE which runs alongside another track, track ends at NR 73193 12032.
- **NR 73154 12079** – Structure and banks – Glennie farmstead and sheepfold. A dry stone-built structure, walls 0.6m wide and up to 0.8m high. Funnel wall (probably when used as sheepfold) attached to the northern long wall of the structure. This wall runs out to the E before curving down towards the S. Another short section of bank lies between NR 73134 12111 and NR 73124 12092, oriented roughly N/S. There may be more banks but high vegetation reduced visibility.

**Funder:** Scottish Woodlands Ltd

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**South Knapdale**

**Ardnaw Farm**

**Watching brief**

Clark Innes and Claire Shaw – GUARD Archaeology Ltd

NR 70168 75218 A watching brief was carried out, 30 November 2015 – 1 February 2016, during the conversion and renovation of farm buildings into houses. The watching brief monitored the reduction of the interior floor deposits within Barn B and the excavation of service trenches within the interior and exterior of Barn B. No features of archaeological significance were found.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Funder:** Bell Ingram Ltd

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**Strachur**

**Tom nan Clach**

**Evaluation**

Clare Ellis and Jamie Humble – Argyll Archaeology and AOC Archaeology

NN 09990 04560 During commercial felling the scheduled rock art panel was tracked over by a machine. Crushed pine needles, twigs and pulverized rock left on the surface of the rock art panel by the track was carefully removed and the whole rock art panel recorded using conventional scaled planning, laser scanning and photogrammetry. The track had left a scar across the panel which was up to 0.9m wide and 4m long and within which no rock art could be discerned. This work was carried out 18–21 June 2016.

**Archive:** HES (intended)

**Funder:** Scottish Woodlands Ltd

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**Tiree**

**Tiree**

**Survey**

Elaine Black – Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists

A survey programme was undertaken, 26 April – 2 May 2016 and 4–8 October 2016, as part of an on-going project to record upstanding settlement remains on the island of Tiree.

**NL 93747 40246** A house of possible late medieval date lies at c49m OD on a headland above Balephuil Bay with extensive views over the bay, Loch a Phuill and S to Hynish. The extent of the site is 14 x 10m. The walls are made of substantial field boulders and there is a single entrance to the SW end with a possible curved bank c.5m long which may have sheltered it. Internal and external corners are rounded and there is a possible small recess or cruck site on the SE corner. There are no other internal features or evidence of additional auxiliary units. The terminus of a significant boundary bank lies 34m to the W of the site, then sweeps E. A second dwelling and a hut or shieling feature also lie within the area of this boundary bank and were surveyed.

**NL 93788 40379** A house of possible late medieval date lies in rough grazing on a terrace at c47m OD, with a wide outlook to the SW over Balephuil Bay and Loch a Phuill. The extent of the site is 10 x 7m. There is a single entrance at the W end with possible evidence of re-alignment and blocking. At both E and W ends an outer short bank of stones may represent features associated with a roof or eaves. There are no obvious internal features, but the E end may contain a secondary feature where a spread of boulders enclosed a circular feature. A boundary dyke that also encloses NL 93747 40246 runs 32m to the N.

**NL 93837 40405** A hut is situated in rough grazing on the hill, 70m E of NL 93788 40379. Well-defined with turf covered field boulders, there is the suggestion of an extension to a large erratic to the E, now obscured by a wet depression. Corners are rounded externally and internally. The internal dimensions are 2.2m N/S x 1.6m E/W.

**NM 02765 48590** Recorded as a possible Norse dwelling on Canmore (ID 239562), this feature may be of a later date. It is a rectilinear building with curved internal and external corners and possible opposing entrances to the W end of the long walls (the N entrance may have a step up). It is constructed of well-pronounced dry stone footings. A potential secondary, amorphous structure is built up against the W wall consisting of an extended SW corner which may
be the remains of a room or an extension. However, this feature is faint and ruinous. Apart from tumble, the interior suggests a possible raised floor platform 1.0m wide, which follows the S and W wall. There is a small cairn 7.0m to the ENE which may represent clearance and a less defined ancillary feature on the N side where stones are arranged to suggest a rectilinear outline 2.9m x up to 4.8m long. The building and associated features are surrounded by a raised enclosure platform, and it is 50m from a fresh-water loch. A boundary shown on Turnbull's 1768 Argyll Estate map lies c125m to the S of the main building. The dwelling is situated on improved ground c150m from the marine shore and close to an erratic boulder known as the Ringing Stone (Canmore ID: 21529).

NL 94788 47119 A house, sub-rectangular detached structure and polygonal enclosure lie on open ground of grass and blown sand, N of the seasonal Loch Carrastaoin. The extent of the site is 40.0m x 40.0m. Internal dimensions of the possible domestic space are 10.0m N/S and 4.0m E/W with an entrance on the E length. The corners of the turf walls are rounded internally and externally. The feature incorporates a sub-rectangular compartment tentatively identified as a cart or tool unit. There is also a sub-rectangular detached feature external to the polygonal enclosure but connected to the SE corner of the house by a short turf and stone bank. There are no visible internal features within either feature or the enclosure. This site may be a type site with a small group of dwellings incorporated into polygonal enclosures which have been noted elsewhere on Tiree.

A possible late medieval dwelling, Ceann a’ Mhara, Tiree

NM 03660 48780 A house, modified platform and lazy beds were surveyed at Creagan Mora (Canmore ID: 349541). The house is situated on a flat area of short grass amongst rocky outcrops and above rough vegetation which shows the remains of cultivation. It sits on a possibly artificially modified platform and is slightly levelled into the slope at the W side. There is an entrance on the E wall of the house and a second entrance on the E wall of a small, attached annexe. Behind the W wall is a sub-circular attached feature and at the SW corner of the house there is a roughly diamond-shaped flat raised area, perhaps the remains of an ephemeral structure. A small platform lies to the NW, some 4.0m distant and there are lazy beds E of the house, some 13.0m distant. The house is sited near an extensive area of rig to the NW.

NL 96830 40149 (centred on) Extensive work is being carried out on the Hynish area of Tiree where structures of prehistoric and medieval date, along with sheltering huts, have been recorded. When completed, the results of this work will be highlighted in a future DES publication and a detailed account will be produced in an ACFA occasional paper.

Archive: Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists Website: acfabaseline.info

ARGYLL AND BUTE/EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE/STIRLINGSHIRE

Kilearn/Drymen/Old Kilpatrick/New Kilpatrick/Strathblane/Glenorchy and Inishail

Dalmally Substation to Windyhill Substation Overhead Line
Survey and watching brief
Samantha Hickman – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NS 514 828, NS 520 756, NS 516 783, NS 525 808, NS 507 841, NS 496 861, NN 142 294 – NS 490 921, NS 490 914 – NS 494 868, NN 32705 20972 for the borrow pit, NN 31647 20234 for centre point of track. Mitigation work was carried out, March 2015 – May 2016, along the route of an overhead power line from Dalmally Substation to Windyhill Substation in advance of line replacement works.

Preconstruction surveys were undertaken at the site of Braefoot Farmstead, which was to be crossed by an access route. No upstanding remains associated with this site were identified. A total of 19 sites were demarcated to protect them from construction work (at YW7-10, YW14-15, YW70-72, YW94-95 and YW104-106 and recorded features associated with sites 3, 11, 15 and 30, as well as additional sites 97, 98, 100, 101).

Walkover surveys were then undertaken at the locations listed below:

- In the vicinity of the access roads to Towers YW190 and YW197 no archaeological remains were recorded.
- YW207 is situated in an area of rig and furrow and the upstanding remains of two field boundaries. No further archaeological remains were found and no mitigation was required.
- An assessment along the route of a proposed new access track and the location of a borrow pit in Glen Falloch identified unimproved bog and moorland of low archaeological potential.
- The access route for Tower YW222 revealed a field bank, Site 80. The site was recorded and demarcated to ensure protection.
- During the construction of the EPZ at Tower TW215 field bank 63c was cut by the construction works. The exposed section of the field bank was photographed and recorded.

Funder: Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions and Iberdrola Engineering and Construction
Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: NRHE and WoSAS

DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND
### CLACKMANNANSHIRE

**Dollar**

**Castle Campbell**

*Standing building recording*

**Paul Fox – Kirkdale Archaeology**

NS 9613 9928 A standing building survey was carried out, 16–24 February 2016, comprising the production of an annotated measured drawing and feature descriptions of the various components of the external E elevation of the castle ahead of remedial works to prevent water ingress.

The opportunity to examine the features of the E elevation was a welcome one; this elevation is not directly accessible and can only be examined from a raking angle at the top of a steep slope. The survey provided information about the development and phasing of Castle Campbell. Of particular interest was the discovery that there is an earlier tower partially preserved within the current one, and that the historical record may allow us to ascertain an accurate date for the earlier tower’s destruction.

*Archive: NRHE (intended)*

*Funder: Historic Environment Scotland*

### Tillicoultry

**Tillicoultry Old Parish Church**

*Evaluation*

**Kevin Paton – AOC Archaeology Group**

NS 92390 97579 A non-intrusive evaluation was undertaken on 3 June 2016 under the terms of the HES Human Remains call-off contract. A number of disarticulated bone fragments had been identified within molehills by a student conducting a study of the site. Upon arrival at the site it was evident that maintenance of the graveyard had flattened the majority of the molehills. However, loose areas of spoil and some molehills were visible next to a number of the grave markers. All loose soil was sieved for human bone and artefacts. Eight of the molehills contained probable human bone, and an area of loose soil under a raised tombstone also contained a few fragments of human bone. A number of fragments of probable animal bone were also retrieved from the ground surface in the NW corner of the site.

*Archive: NRHE (intended)*

*Funder: Historic Environment Scotland*

### DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

**Balmaghie**

**Threave Castle**

*Inventory*

**Mary Mármus – Archetype**

NX 7329 6228 (NX76SW 7) Most of the stones in this small collection are unexceptional, but it was possible to see how corbels and drainage troughs are shaped by their functions. Two stones with similar mouldings may have formed part of the same mullion, possibly from a wide and imposing doorway.

This and other inventories of carved stones from Historic Environment Scotland’s properties in care are held by the Collections Unit. For further information please contact at collections@hes.scot

*Funder: SPIE*

**Buittle**

**Buittle Castle**

*Watching brief*

**John Pickin**

NX 8191 6162 A watching brief was undertaken during the removal of two 1930s lattice electricity pylons and the reduction and removal of their concrete support plinths; both towers were located within the scheduled enclosure NW of the castle mound (NX 81912 61679 and NX 81837 61623). The work exposed deposits interpreted as disturbed during the construction of the towers and no archaeological deposits were observed.

*Report: DGC, HER and NRHE (intended)*

*Funder: SPIE*

**Canonbie**

**Whisgills Cairn (alternatively Windy Edge) and standing stones**

*Survey*

**Gemma Hudson and Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group**

NY 4295 8391 (cairn) A survey was undertaken, 25 March – 13 April 2016, of Whisgills Long Cairn and two nearby standing stones in Kershope Forest. The cairn survives as two long piles of stone on an E/W alignment, which may be connected, with overgrown rubble in between, to form one long cairn measuring 75 x 10m at its widest points. Two standing stones, both fallen to some extent, survive to the E and SE of the cairn at the edge of the forestry clearing.

The cairn was laser scanned and photographed to create a comprehensive site plan. Photogrammetry was carried out of the stone with carved initials on the front of the cairn and on the standing stones. 3D visualisations of the stones were
created using the photogrammetry models which helped highlight a carved datum point on the furthest N stone.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Forestry Commission Scotland

**Colvend and Southwick**

**The Newbarns Project**

**Excavation**

**Liz and Alastair Penman – The Stewartry Archaeological Trust**


The medieval motte and bailey feature continued to be examined and the causeway entrance leading from the edge of the loch to the perimeter of the kerb of the cairn and then into the timber gateway pit was sectioned. This confirmed that the base of the causeway was constructed of medium and large granite and shale boulders set into grey loch bottom clay. The present hypothesis is that a walkway, bridge or similar had been laid over a stone foundation up to the level of the entrance to the gate. Excavation on the motte hill began from the gateway uphill to determine the location of steps or similar leading from the gate to the summit and revealed a plethora of postholes of varying sizes underneath a dark soil of downhill erosion from the summit. Timbers had been set into the original orange/brown clay and soil level of the natural hillside and two large clay infills were also recorded set into this surface. These have yet to be investigated. Two datable artefacts were recovered from the erosion debris at the foot of the hill. One was part of a small bronze key and the other a bronze strip with a rivet hole in one corner. The key fragment has been identified as being of 12th century AD date.

A finely cobbled and well-walked upon area was defined between the timber defences, parallel to the gateway and the outer stone founded defence wall pointing to some form of permanent use within the inner and outer areas of the defences.

A further four early cremation burials were identified in the eastern trench and two of these have been excavated to date. Neither had a capstone in place and the burials were underneath a medieval cobbled floor dating to the 13th century AD. The remaining two burials both have large orthostats overlying them, suggesting that they have remained undisturbed. The juxtapositioned burials both contained small cobbled cremation pits, one had two and the other three, one of which had, set into it, an offering of a small polished quartz pebble.

Further excavation in the western trench revealed evidence of buildings in the form of two platforms with finely cobbled surfaces set into loch clay and on three sides of each there was evidence of soakaways running downhill to the S. Although no definite dating evidence has been recovered from either of these floor features the adjacent trench, immediately to the N, contained similar platforms and dating evidence of 13th-century occupation was recovered from that location.

A number of granite stones bearing rock art and postulated industrial working marks were identified on two separate occasions by independent geologists.

Excavation next season will continue to answer some of the outstanding questions pending on both the fine example of a medieval defensive structure of the 12th/13th centuries and early burials of the Bronze Age.

Research has confirmed that the bailey at Newbarns is a juxtaposition adapted on top of part of an earlier prehistoric burial area. Similarly, several timber buildings were also set in place over the earlier features by raising up and flattening the earlier levels on the cairn.

**Archive and reports:** The Stewartry Museum, Kirkcudbright

**Funder:** Lt Gen Sir Norman and Lady Jillian Arthur, Dr Donna Moore and Mr Jeremiah Clepps

**Excavation on the Motte Hill, beginning from the gateway uphill to look for steps or similar, leading to the summit**

**Dalry**

**Grennan Mill Bridge**

**Field visit**

**David Bartholomew and John Pickin**

NX 64343 79895 A previously unrecorded mine level was identified on the W bank of the Garple Burn. The level has been driven SW and then S for a distance of 29.3m in a fine grained sandstone and appears to follow a broken vein of haematite (iron ore). The level is rectangular in profile, 1.7m high x 1.3m wide, and there are occasional shot holes with a diameter of 2.5cm. The size and regular form of the shot holes suggest that the level was worked during the 19th century. It may date from the 1840s when exploratory workings in search of lead mineralisation were made further upstream.

**Dryfesdale**

**Lockerbie**

**Metal detector find**

**Alison Sheridan – National Museums Scotland**

NY 12 83 A heavily corroded flat axehead was found during metal detecting in 2016. The butt is gently rounded and the
sides are mostly straight, splaying gently to a shallow blade. Much of the original surface has corroded away. Length 103mm; width 38.7mm; thickness 6mm. The axehead has not been analysed so it is impossible to tell whether it had been of copper (and therefore more likely to be Chalcolithic) or copper alloy (and thus Early Bronze Age); similarly, compositional analysis would be necessary to explore the small silvery patch visible on one edge of the object.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (CO.TT.23/16), allocated to Dumfries Museum

Funder: Dumfries Museum

Durisdeer

Enoch Castle

Watching brief

John Pickin

NS 8788 0088 A watching brief was undertaken during the construction of access tracks associated with the clear felling of a mature conifer plantation on the castle site. A short length of stone enclosure wall was found on the N edge of the bailey. A 6m section of stone wall was also exposed on the NE corner of the motte and a large architectural stone fragment, possibly a window or door surround, was recovered from top soil deposits in the same area. The fragment is probably 16th-century in date and it is likely that it and the two enclosure walls relate to a late medieval building which is known to have been constructed on the site of the earlier timber castle.

No internal features were observed in either the motte or bailey.

Report: DGCA HER and NRHE (intended)

Funder: Buccleuch Estates

Girthon

Syllodioch Factor’s House

Evaluation and excavation

David Devereux, Ron Forster and John Pickin

NX 59147 52925 (Canmore ID: 177005) Trial excavation on the site by the Fleet Valley National Scenic Area Volunteers group in 2015 (DES 2015, 57) revealed a substantial stone-built cellar with windows on two sides. Major structural wall foundations leading N and E from the cellar area appeared to indicate that the building had a more extensive ground plan. The building is thought to have been constructed around 1810 by the then factor, Alexander Craig. It is known to have been demolished in 1839, when its materials were reused to build Cally Mains Farmhouse.

Following the 2015 excavation, the Gatehouse Development Initiative commissioned Dr Richard Jones (University of Glasgow) to carry out a geophysical survey of the immediate area to the N and NE of the cellar. The survey was carried out in August 2015 and indicated spreads of debris and possible structural remains, together with possible lines of drains.

A further archaeological evaluation of the site was commissioned in 2016 by Forestry Commission Scotland with the aims of investigating and recording the site, to provide training and practical experience in archaeological excavation and post-exavagation processes for the volunteers involved, and to disseminate the results.

The evaluation, 29 July – 28 September 2016, involved the excavation of 12 trial trenches to the E and NE of the cellar area. Excavations were dug by hand, and proved to be relatively shallow, generally no greater than 0.4m deep, as mortared stone wall foundations were found generally immediately below topsoil and in one instance were visible on the ground surface. The site was not fully excavated, but sufficient evidence was found to indicate the extent and general plan of the building.

Although it was not possible to establish the precise N edge of the building, it seems to have occupied an overall area of c17.7m N/S and 13.7m E/W. The plan of the building was broadly a ‘T’ shape, with a S block with its roof aligned E/W, and a N block with its roof aligned N/S.

The S block’s external dimensions were c13.7m E/W and 7.2m N/S. The width of the wall foundation indicates a two-storey building with gable ends on the W and E sides. The S block also included the cellar area at its W end, partially lit by windows on the W and N sides projecting just above ground level. There was no indication of a cellar on the E side of the S block. There were two main rooms at ground level, separated by a corridor or hall. Given the S-facing aspect of the block, it is presumed that these were the principal rooms in the building, probably a dining room and drawing room/parlour. The distribution of decorative plasterwork, largely from ceiling cornices, exclusively from the trenches positioned over the S block, would appear to confirm this presumption. In all, four different decorative cornice types were identified, perhaps indicating four principal rooms – two at ground floor level and two at first floor level, probably bedrooms. The E ground floor room had a fireplace in its E wall, at least 1.2m in width. There would therefore have been a chimney in the E gable of the S block, and almost certainly a corresponding one in the W gable, although there was no indication of a fireplace in the cellar.

The N block’s external dimensions were c10.3m N/S from the N wall of the S block and 8m E/W. A substantial E/W wall towards the N of the block may indicate that it was two-storey to this point, but beyond this it may have been single-storey. On the wall’s S side was a wide fireplace recess, perhaps designed to accommodate a kitchen range, and thus
suggesting the location of the kitchen here. Adjacent, but
on the N side of the wall, a semi-circular brick and stone
base may have supported a wash boiler, perhaps indicating
that the laundry was located in the single-storey range at
the N end of the house. A range of smaller rooms forming
the W side of the N block may be interpreted as larders or
storerooms.

Excavation also indicated that the building was
comprehensively demolished in a methodical way, leaving
just a low, broad mound over the footprint of the building.
Walls were demolished to their foundations, below floor
level. With the exclusion of the cellar stairwell, building
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**Architectural Context**

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**Archive:** NRHE (intended). **Report:** Dumfries and Galloway HER
and NRHE

**Funder:** Forestry Commission Scotland

### Glasserton

**Black Loch of Myrton**

**Excavation**

_Graeme Cavers and Anne Crone – AOC Archaeology Group_

NX 3610 4283 (NX34SE 9) Excavations were carried out
at the Black Loch of Myrton in 2015 and 6–26 June 2016,
uncovering evidence for a very well preserved early Iron Age
settlement, located on the fringes of a boggy loch. In 2015,
excavations focused on one of the many large hearth mounds
identified on the site. This was found to be a large stone and
timber hearth setting, over 2.5m$^2$, located at the centre of
a timber roundhouse (Structure 2) c13m in diameter. The
hearth had been refurbished at least three times by adding a
new layer of cobbles, clay and timber on top of the previous
hearth base. Associated with the hearth was a sequence of
flooring deposits comprising reeds, wicker panels and clay
spreads, again showing evidence for repeated refurbishment.
The wall of the roundhouse was found to comprise a double
ring of stakes, around 300mm apart. In the better preserved
areas of the outer wall, woven withies survived _in situ_ to
a height of c200mm from ground level. In the area where
the walls approached the entrance to the house, the wicker
walling was replaced by vertically-set oak planks, forming a
façade-like outer face. The entrance of the roundhouse was
located and excavated in 2016, and was remarkably well
preserved. Like the central hearth, the entrance structure had
been refurbished at least three times. The lowest levels were
in very good condition, and comprised several dressed logs
showing evidence for jointing and dowelling. Two ‘sleeper’
beams were jointed with sockets, presumably for vertical
posts at the terminals of the roundhouse wall. Provisional
radiocarbon dates from the occupation deposits in Structure 2
indicate mid-1$^{st}$ millennium BC for its occupation.

Excavations near the perimeter of the settlement in 2016
located evidence for several phases of enclosure, the earliest
of which comprised a closely-set palisade of alder logs
c250mm in diameter, and the latest of which may have been
a heavy stone wall. Within the early perimeter, beneath the
later stone wall, the remains of two clay structures were
discovered, interpreted as cooking ovens. These structures
were very similar in design, comprising a clay dome, probably
supported by a wicker basket-like structure, still preserved in
the earlier example, over a base of flat greywacke slabs. In
the later oven, remains of cooking debris was recovered from
the oven base and contained large quantities of hazel-nut
shells, burnt bone and marine mollusc shell. The ovens were
probably located within a building, and were associated with
compacted reed floor deposits similar to those encountered.
within the roundhouses on the site. However, excavations in this area were too limited in extent to elucidate the form of this structure.

Artefacts were limited in number and variety from both seasons of excavation. However, a large number of stone tools was recovered, including querns, rubbers and grinders, as well as a small clay ‘thumb pot’. A decorated stone spindle whorl was recovered from deposits near the entrance to Structure 2 in 2016.

**Holywood**

**Holywood Parish Church**

**Building recording**

John Pickin

NX 95495 79655 Basic level building recording was carried out in advance of the proposed conversion of the church to a house. Three building phases were identified. The first phase relates to the construction of the T-plan church and tower in 1779, and the second phase to the remodelling of the church in 1864 which included the construction of porches, a northern extension and internal alterations. The third phase is associated with minor alterations, including the insertion of a door in the lower stage of the tower, undertaken during the 20th century.

**Report:** DGC HER and NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** M Bolton

**Kelton**

**Bridge of Dee**

**Metal detector find**

Trevor Cowie – National Museums Scotland

NX 73 59 A Middle Bronze Age flanged axehead of copper alloy was found during metal detecting in 2016. On the better preserved face of the axehead, the line of the flanges draws in to form a so-called shield pattern, in low-relief; this feature is absent on the other face due to corrosion. Although the surfaces are severely delaminated on exposed blade faces, the axehead is generally sound; the butt portion better preserved where protected by the flanges. L: 114.6mm.

This flanged axehead belongs to the series of early short-flanged axeheads which emerged around the 15th century BC (and mark the transition to the Middle Bronze Age metalworking traditions). Its classification is not entirely clear-cut, but it appears to belong to the so-called Cragg Wood type, named after a Yorkshire find, characterised by the presence of shield pattern ornament on the face of the blade and the form of the flanges.

**Claimed as Treasure Trove (CO.TT.24/16), allocated to Stewartry Museum**

**Funder:** Stewartry Museum

**Torr**

**Excavation and survey**

Fraser Hunter, Martin Goldberg, Tessa Poller, Michael Stratigos and Richard Tipping – National Museums Scotland, University of Glasgow, University of Aberdeen and University of Stirling

NX 776 615 Multi-disciplinary investigations, 26 August – 4 September 2016, explored the context of the Iron Age bronze pony cap found in a bog at Torrs in 1812.

Palaeoenvironmental prospection confirmed indications from early maps that the area had been extremely wet, with extensive bogs or lochs. Long sequences suitable for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction were located in different areas. Comparison of field evidence for drainage, with early accounts of the discovery confirm that Torrs Loch itself is the most likely findspot.

Extensive geophysical survey around the former loch produced few certain traces of settlement or other activity apart from the known hillfort (NX76SE 17), while metal detecting surveys produced only post-medieval finds. The hillfort is thus the only known Iron Age site in the immediate area which may be contemporary with the pony cap. Geophysical survey clarified the line of its bivallate enclosure, but revealed little sign of internal activity. Two extensive trenches confirmed this; there were very few features bar a 19th-century surveying point, and topsoil sieving (courtesy of local schoolchildren) provided no hints of domestic activity in the form of appreciable amounts of fire-cracked stone or charcoal. It thus seems the absence of evidence is a genuine one, not simply an artefact of plough-destruction.

A trench over the northern defences revealed three phases of rampart (initial revetted dump, augmented dump, and box rampart with stone-lined palisade trenches). The profiles and fill sequences of the two ditches differ markedly, the outer being single-phase and V-sectioned with a dump of stones and clay in its base, the inner more U-shaped, with evidence of a recut. However, there are good stratigraphic indications that the two ditches were initially cut at the same time. Samples were taken for dating, though field observations suggest there was little charred material on the site.

There were very few finds, not even post-medieval material, though traces on the geophysical plot indicate a later sub-rectangular structure was built into the rampart on the western side.

**Funder:** Private donor

**Kirkcudbright**

**126 High Street, Kirkcudbright**

**Watching brief**

David Devereux

NX 68232 50813 A watching brief was undertaken, 2 August 2016, during the machine excavation of foundation trenches for house extension. The site is located within the area enclosed by the town wall of the medieval burgh. The NE corner of the existing building, fronting directly on to the High Street, is c25m W of the site of the town’s former main gate – the Meikle Yett. The frontage of the present building is c7.5m wide, but the property would have formerly occupied the N end of a burgage plot extending c80m S from the High Street frontage to a boundary marked by the presumed southern line of the medieval town wall.
The two foundation trenches contained a subsoil consisting of a yellow brown clay overlying a natural deposit of rounded cobbles in a clay matrix. Evidence of human activity consisted of a mixed topsoil, including brick, stone and mortar debris, and trenches for 20th-century drainage pipes. No other earlier cut features or foundations were observed and the earliest pottery finds were 18th-century in date.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended). **Report:** Dumfries and Galloway HER and NRHE

**Funder:** Mr M Wilson (Site developer)

**Kirkcudbright**

**Metal detector find**

**Alice Blackwell – National Museums Scotland**

NX 69 50 A near complete copper-alloy, openwork, tongue-shaped strap end with knop terminal and simple debased foliate decoration was found during metal detecting near Kirkcudbright. This is a late 10th/11th-century strap end in Winchester style (type E1c). It is the northernmost example of the corpus (compiled by Thomas in 2000) by some distance.

**Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT/136/15), allocated to The stewartry Museum**

**Kirkpatrick Durham**

**Newhouse, Crocketford**

**Evaluation**

**John Pickin**

NX 82984 72855 An evaluation was undertaken to locate a burial ground associated with members of the Buchanite sect who lived and were buried at Newhouse between 1808 and 1846. Three trenches were excavated and one, close to the NW side of the house, exposed a shallow grave which had been truncated to the S by a service trench. The grave lay within the area of a small square enclosure shown on the 2nd Edition OS map. It is likely that much of the graveyard was destroyed by the construction of a 20th-century extension at the rear of Newhouse.

**Report:** DGC HER and NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** CCM Homes

**Kirkpatrick-Juxta**

**Beattock**

**Metal detector find**

**Alison Sheridan – National Museums Scotland**

NT 07 03 A decorated long-flanged axehead of copper alloy was found during metal detecting in 2016. Length: 123.5mm; width: 33.5mm. The butt is rounded; the sides have low flanges; the blade is deep and expanded; and there is a low stop-ridge. Between the stop-ridge and the place where the blade starts to splay, the upper and lower surfaces have an incised saltire design, its defining lines filled with diagonal strokes. The blade area and a large part of one face are fragile and much of the surface has flaked off; the finder collected detached fragments and placed them in a bag. The axehead can be attributed to the Gavel Moss metalwork assemblage of the later part of the Early Bronze Age, with an estimated date of 1750–1550 BC.

**Claimed as Treasure Trove (CO.TT.22/16), allocated to Dumfries Museum.**

**Funder:** Dumfries Museum

**Stanshiel Rig, near Beattock**

**Watching brief**

**David Devereux**

NT 05800 01900 (Canmore ID: 87587) A watching brief was undertaken, 19 January 2016, on the replacement of one overhead electric power line pole and one support stay for an overhead electric power line pole at Stanshiel Rig. The locations of the two poles lay within but close to the northern limit of the SM area for Stanshiel Rig (SM 4087) – an area of preserved ancient landscape including prehistoric enclosed settlements and field systems. The machine excavation of the two trenches recorded ground disturbance relating to the original installation of the poles, and there were no finds or features of archaeological significance.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended). **Report:** Dumfries and Galloway HER and NRHE

**Funder:** SPIE Ltd

**Langholm**

**Broomholm**

**Fieldwork**

**Tom Welsh**

NY 3763 8179 to NY 3776 8213 This appears to be a branch off the old road from the SW corner of Broomholm Knowe fort at NY 3771 8149 to NY 3757 8195 and NE to NY 3767 8214, formerly identified as Roman but now reassessed as 18th century. The branch is parallel to the NE arm but 50m SE. On level ground it is kerbed 9m wide, to just above the SE corner of an improved field at NY 3766 8188, but descends as a terrace through the field, and in woodland beyond. With thanks to the Buccleuch Estate for permission to undertake this work.

**Broomholm**

**Fieldwork**

**Tom Welsh**

NY 3165 8165 On E side of old road, there is a settlement, probably part of Broomholm on Roy’s Military Survey 1747–55. The old road here is distinctly cambered, 7m wide. The settlement comprises a scooped rectangular building platform 15 x 6m, and a walled round hollow, with mounds and other walls and outlines extending E and NE. With thanks to the Buccleuch Estate for permission to undertake this work.

**Broomholm**

**Fieldwork**

**Tom Welsh**

NY 3763 8185 An oval enclosure lies on the W side of the branch road, partly overlapping it. The enclosure measures 40m by up to 20m internally. Overlying the SW arc is a high mound, top 20 x 7m, and overlying the road near NE end is a rectangular foundation 10 x 11m. It is possible the mound is the site of Broomholm Tower (NY37NE 3) demolished in 1740s. With thanks to the Buccleuch Estate for permission to undertake this work.

**Broomholm**

**Fieldwork**

**Tom Welsh**

NY 3762 8199 In unimproved pasture above a field wall and SW of a sheepfold against the wall, is a subcircular enclosure, measuring 60m over 6m part bank, part rough stone wall. It contains, off-centre E, a circular enclosure 22m in diameter over a 4m rubble wall, incorporating some very large stones, and with an off-centre mound of 7m diameter. With thanks to the Buccleuch Estate for permission to undertake this work.

**Broomholm**

**Fieldwork**

**Tom Welsh**

NY 3794 8153 The rectangular pond at the NE corner
of the Roman fort is set diagonally within a rectangular mound, such that the NE and SW corners are extant. The mound is steep-sided, 2m high, 80m by 20m, top width 15m. A wall runs along the W crest. Plantation banks, probably 18th century, cross the S end of the mound, cutting through this wall, but are cut through by the pond. This suggests the mound is older than 18th century. With thanks to the Buccleuch Estate for permission to undertake this work.

Broomholm Knowe
Fieldwork
Tom Welsh
NY 3784 8164 Two ditches N of the Roman fort are considered to be developments. One runs W of the N end of the mound, the other is parallel 27m N, and accompanied by a bank on its S side. The N ditch extends 40m W of the modern fence, in a slight curve, where it turns S as a steep scarp. It is this that forms the defensive scarp near the fence on the W side of the fort, usually depicted as the continuation of the S ditch. The S ditch turns S at the fence NY 3786 8158, but forms a second scarp on W, 20m E, passing close to the W edge of the Roman fort. However, a diagonal bank or road camber comes off this corner in a SW direction, crossing the outer scarp. This seems to have been interpreted as the corner on some site plans. With thanks to the Buccleuch Estate for permission to undertake this work.

Broomholm Knowe
Fieldwork
Tom Welsh
NY 3778 8124 An apparent circular enclosure, c15m overall diameter, the W side appears on OS Explorer map 323 is a N/S deflection of a boundary. It might be the “small circular fort” described in J and R Hyslop (1912). It lies on the outside of a boundary bank and ditch that follows the crest of steep slopes NE, E and S of Broomholm Knowe (NY 3806 8145 to NY 3792 8140 to NY 3777 8124). With thanks to the Buccleuch Estate for permission to undertake this work.

Burrian Hill
Fieldwork
Tom Welsh
NY 3646 8173 About 80m N of the enclosure at c190m OD, set against a steep scarp, overlooking the head of a gully, is a structure measuring 18m long by up to 10m wide overall. The structure contains a series of rooms on two levels, the upper has two rooms 5 x 2m and 3 x 2m, the lower one room 6 x 2m. Other levels have annexes cut into the scarp at their E ends, 1.7m square at the upper, 5 x 3.5m at the lower. At 45m S, on the gully floor, around NY 3650 8169, are structures including a round platform, 4m in diameter, and a stony mound, measuring 6 x 3m. Within the enclosure at NY 3647 8162, on the upper terrace, is a circular enclosure with an 16m internal diameter, within a 6–8m bank, a rectangular platform overlying the SE arc. With thanks to the Buccleuch Estate for permission to undertake this work.

Easton’s Walk
Fieldwork
Tom Welsh
NY 3624 8345 On a narrow promontory there is a sub-rectangular enclosure, measuring 50m long by 10–15m internally, an oval structure is located within it, at the tip of the promontory. With thanks to the Buccleuch Estate for permission to undertake this work.

Middleholm
Fieldwork
Tom Welsh
NY 3749 8237 An apparent bridgehead 8m wide on W bank of Esk, at foot of a steep road cutting 9m wide from NY 3740 8235. It may be relatively modern. With thanks to the Buccleuch Estate for permission to undertake this work.

Murtholm
Fieldwork
Tom Welsh
NY 3711 8272 At a possible ford, a rectangular building, two rooms, overall 9 x 3m against a rock face. A linear bank, possibly a roadway, top 3–5m wide, approaches over 325m from NY 3701 8306. This continues as a terrace below a cliff. 70m S a semi-circular enclosure, measuring 15 x 7m within a 5m wall against top of cliff, at NY 3719 8265. With thanks to the Buccleuch Estate for permission to undertake this work.

Murtholm
Fieldwork
Tom Welsh
NY 3654 8361 On a knoll, on the W side of a dry gully, S of rising zig-zag trackways, and divided by a modern wall, are traces of an enclosure, three-quarters of a circle against gully edge, measuring 28 x 24m internally within a 10–12m bank. With thanks to the Buccleuch Estate for permission to undertake this work.

Leswalt
Kemp’s Grave Promontory Fort
Vegetation clearance
Cara Jones and John Pickin – Archaeology Scotland
NX 00780 63520 (Canmore ID: 60845, SMR ID: 1004) A programme of vegetation clearance was undertaken, 25 June 2015, at Kemp’s Grave, Aldouran Glen, as part of the Adopt-a-Monument scheme. The monument is situated within woodland managed by Woodland Trust Scotland, and a site visit in August 2014 identified piles of previously cut brash, as well as vegetation growth (such as bracken, brambles, and small shrubs). Vegetation clearance was undertaken to remove previously cut brash and vegetation that was no larger than 3cm in diameter. The cut vegetation was dispersed elsewhere within the woodland, outside the designated scheduled area of the site.
Archae and report: NRHE (intended)
Funder: HLF and HES

Lochmaben
Lochmaben Castle
Geophysical survey
Susan Ovenden – Rose Geophysical Consultants
NY 0883 8115 A programme of geophysical survey was undertaken, 12–16 September 2016, at Lochmaben Castle which aimed to answer research questions. A combination of gradiometer, resistance and ground penetrating radar (GPR) surveys was undertaken. Gradiometer and resistance surveys
were carried out over available areas within the Properties in Care (PIC) boundary and available areas of the Peel, to the S of the castle. GPR survey was undertaken within the available areas in the PIC boundary and available areas to the N of the PIC boundary and E of the Peel. Individual GPR transects were also collected across the Peel and in the wooded area to the SW of the Peel, where vegetation cover precluded a larger GPR survey.

Within the PIC area a well-defined high resistance anomaly to the N of the extant castle has been detected, although this may indicate a modern path. Other anomalies, suggestive of potential structural remains, have been detected within the castle. However, the anomalies appear to largely correspond with earthworks and, as such, their exact geophysical origin is unclear. The GPR survey of this area, which was detecting to a greater depth than the resistance survey, has recorded several anomalies of potential interest between 1m and 2m below the current ground surface and on a different alignment to the castle.

Within the area of the Peel broad areas of high resistance have been detected. While the majority of these are somewhat amorphous and likely to have a natural origin, some more discrete anomalies closer to the castle have been noted. There is broad correlation with the gradiometer results which suggest possible well-defined areas of activity just to the S of the castle entrance and respecting a likely trackway leading to the drawbridge. Selected GPR transects across the anomalies detected by the resistance survey, broadly support this interpretation.

**Archive:** Rose Geophysical Consultants  
**Funder:** Historic Environment Scotland

### Minigaff

**Bargrennan Chambered Cairn**

**Survey**  
*Jamie Humble and Graeme Cavers – AOC Archaeology Group*  
NX 352 783 (NX37NE 1) A laser scan survey of the White Cairn, Bargrennan was carried out on 30 March 2016. The chambered cairn is located in commercial forestry 400m W of Glentrool. The cairn was excavated by Piggott and Powell in 1949, and is well known as an example of the round passage graves of SW Scotland that came to be known as the ‘Bargrennan type’, standing in contrast to the more widespread ‘Clyde’ long cairns. The survey was undertaken for conservation management purposes.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)  
**Funder:** Forestry Commision Scotland

### Mochrum

**Myrton Castle**

**Evaluation**  
*Elizabeth Jones – Addyman Archaeology*  
NX 36016 43275 An evaluation was undertaken at Myrton Castle, 3–8 August 2015. The castle consists of a 15th-century tower on top of an earlier motte, possibly 12th-century in date, with a later range of 17th-century date extending to the north. The castle was partly dismantled c1800 and the tower’s remains converted for use as a doocot. The investigation was intended to address issues relating to the understanding of the structure and the viability of a proposed scheme for reuse of the tower house. The evaluation followed an analytical assessment and historic building survey carried out at the site in 2013.

The evaluation consisted of six trenches in the immediate vicinity of and within the tower ruin, each sited to address specific questions. The excavations revealed that the upper parts of the earlier motte mound comprised a hard dense clay matrix. The bases of the tower’s internal footings were found to have been excavated nearly 1m deeper than the footing base to the exterior. There was no indication of structural instability within the surviving walling of the E, S and W sides of the tower, or evidence for poor ground conditions on its N side where the tower’s walling had been removed. The loops in the E, S and W walls of the tower were situated immediately above the surface of the motte, above a projecting footing course; these were more fully revealed in respective trenches. A clay-cut drain with stone capping was found in Trench 3 on the E side of the tower.

**Trench 3, showing drain and gun loop, Myrton Castle**

The position of the original N tower wall was located in Trenches 1 and 2, although almost nothing of the wall itself
or its footings survived. Evidence to suggest the possible position of a stone turnpike stair was identified in the NW angle of the tower, this was possibly accessed by an external entrance at the N end of the W wall. The N wall of the tower seems to have been deliberately dismantled prior to the addition of the later range in the 17th century. It is possible that the keys of the earlier stair were recycled within the later range. An internal cross wall was built in the 17th-century range along the line of the original N wall. This wall was later removed, probably in the late 18th century, when other repairs and alterations to the range were evident. The doocot was added in the early 19th century.

Finds from the excavations consisted of 17th- and 18th-century domestic refuse, particularly ceramics and glass, and a 17th-century Dutch coin, with few finds post-dating 1800.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Prof and Mrs Watson-Gandy

White Loch of Myrton
Excavation
Graeme Cavers, Anne Crone, Maarten van Hardenbroek and Tony Brown – AOC Archaeology Group

NX 3585 4328 (NX35SE 8) As part of the Celtic Crannogs Project, a small trial trench was excavated on the surface of White Loch of Myrton Crannog, 4–6 April 2016, to assess the character of surviving archaeological deposits and to provide context for a programme of lake sediment coring undertaken in the loch. The remains of a possible ruinous wall were encountered in the upper deposits of the trench, beneath which was an ashy, charcoal-rich occupation deposit containing animal bone fragments. A surface of flat slabs, probably paving, was encountered at c1m below the surface of the crannog, approximately at the water table, which prevented further investigation. Environmental samples from the occupation deposit and organic-rich deposits below the paving produced a limited cereal assemblage including hulled barley (Hordeum Vulgare L.), barley (Hordeum sp), emmer/spelt (T dicoccum/Spelta sp) and a wheat (Triticum sp) Caryopsis. Animal bone including a cattle molar and a small quantity of daub was recovered from the samples. Coring of the crannog mound identified six layers of non-oak timber interspersed with peaty soils beneath the paved surface identified in the trench. Radiocarbon dating of wood samples from this core indicated that the lowest timbers were felled in the period 715–455 cal BC, while deposits from above the paving date to the period 393–206 cal BC. Core samples were also taken from lake deposits within the loch for multi-proxy analysis as part of the Celtic Crannogs Project; this analysis is ongoing.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: University of Southampton, AHRC

Moffat

Moffat Hills, Moffat
Watching brief
Leah Kyle – AOC Archaeology Group

NT 155 107 – NT 154 106 A watching brief was undertaken, 18 August 2016, during work to upgrade power lines in the Moffatdale area. The work was considered of interest as it was in the SM of Saddle Yoke, a pre-improvement township. The excavation of a pole mast at NT 15514 10711 and a stay for a pole mast at NT 15469 10665 recorded no finds or features of archaeological significance.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Connick

Old Luce

Glenluce Abbey
Inventory of carved stone
Mary Mármus – Archetype

NX 18452 58696 This substantial collection was partly catalogued in 2014, and the additional 46 stones, catalogued July–August 2016, are those located in the abbey museum. They include column capitals and ring-moulds with nail-head ornament, and a group of vault ribs which are related to vault springers still in situ in the E bays of the S transept. An impressive group of tomb stones, ranging in date from 11th–16th century, is also displayed in the museum. This and other inventories of carved stones from Historic Environment Scotland’s properties in care are held by the Collections Unit. For further information please contact at collections@hes.scot

String course, Glenluce Abbey Museum

South Boreland, Dunragit
Evaluation
Rob Engl and Stuart Wilson – AOC Archaeology Group

NX 17800 57190 An evaluation was undertaken, 17–21 August 2015, in advance of proposed mineral extraction at South Boreland. An 8% (4,256 linear metres) sample of an area of 10.64ha was investigated by trial trench. The proposed development area covered c16.8ha but areas of steep slopes, live services, trees and standing water, were excluded.

The evaluation recorded the presence of a presumed later prehistoric ring-groove, a flint rich deposit of Mesolithic date and a cluster of truncated cremation pits. Human bone and two shards of decorated later prehistoric decorated ceramic were recovered from the cremation pits. The remains were localised, being restricted to a low rise at the edge of the coastal fringe. A single sherd of unstratified post-medieval ceramic was also recovered from this area.

Topsoil was relatively thin across the site with pockets of colluvium occurring in many of the lower lying trenches. Sub-soil consisted of free draining sands and gravels of glacial origin.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: CgMs Consulting

Parton

Parton Mill, Castle Douglas
Standing building recording
Rebecca Shaw and Ros Francis – Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services

NX 71876 69023 Historic building recording was undertaken, 3–27 December 2016, of the upstanding remains of Parton Mill, a 17th-century corn mill, located near Castle Douglas. The works, undertaken prior to alteration work, indicated at...
least four phases of building as well as numerous sections of rebuilding, including the structure being heightened.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended). **Report:** DGC HER and NRHE  
**Funder:** Mr and Mrs Panther

### Sanquhar

**Glenglass Substation**  
**Walkover survey**  
**Ewan MacNeilage – CFA Archaeology Ltd**  
NS 72061 06695 and NS 71976 06627 A walkover survey was carried out, July 2016, at Glenglass to the SW of Sanquhar at the location of a proposed substation in order to record a sheep shelter, now visible after tree felling operations. The T-shaped sheep shelter was discovered in good condition at the location recorded on the 1st Edition OS map of 1859. An extant circular dry stone sheepfold was recorded to its W, which was also shown on the 1859 map.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended). **Report:** DGC HER and NRHE  
**Funder:** Roadbridge

### Stoneykirk

**Altain Glen, Sandhead**  
**Watching brief**  
**Rebecca Shaw and John Pickin – Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services**  
NX 09756 49057 A watching brief was carried out, 13–27 January 2016, during topsoil stripping associated with the construction of a poultry unit and a new access route. A total of 26 features of archaeological significance were noted. The features mainly consisted of pits, postholes or stakeholes, which appeared to be fairly randomly dispersed, but may form part of either smaller discreet features or a larger complex. The site has been radiocarbon dated to the Bronze Age (c3500–3700 years ago). Although a number of features had fragments or smears of charcoal associated with them, only one of the pits contained finds (a flint scraper and a hammerstone).

**Archive:** NRHE. **Report:** DGC HER  
**Funder:** Torrance Farms Ltd

### Culmore

**Watching brief**  
**John Pickin**  
NX 103 522 A watching brief was undertaken during ground-breaking work for a new building at Culmore Farm. The only archaeological feature observed was a circular pit, 0.80m wide and 0.22m deep, cut into the natural sand and gravel with a mixed fill of fine sand and gravel and some charcoal. The pit may have been truncated by later agricultural activity and its original form, function and date could not be established.

**Report:** DGC HER and NRHE (intended)  
**Funder:** EA Architecture, Design + Planning

### Tongland Abbey

**Evaluation**  
**David Devereux**  
NX 67 57 A Middle Bronze Age socketed spearhead was found during metal detecting in 2016. It is lacking its socket and tip. Although still sharp, the edges are badly fretted by corrosion and fairly severe corrosion pitting extends over the surfaces; soil still fills the midrib. L: 106mm.

Despite its incompleteness, the shape and cross-section of the blade indicate that this has originally been a side-looped spearhead of Coles’ Class D (Coles 1964) or, following the more recent classification scheme of Richard Davis, this may be defined as an example of a Type 6 Developed side-looped spearhead (Davis 2012), although the loss of the socket precludes more detailed classification. This is the most common type of Middle Bronze Age spearhead, with a widespread distribution in Scotland; previous finds from the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright listed by Coles (1964) include examples from Barend Moss, Balmaghie; Glenkens; Kells; Rerrick and Spearford Bridge. The dating evidence is still unsatisfactory, but the type is likely to have emerged during the early part of the Middle Bronze Age (c1500 BC) and probably had a currency of several centuries.

**Claimed as Treasure Trove (CO.TT20/16), allocated to Stewartry Museum.**  
**Funder:** Stewartry Museum

### Tongland Abbey

**Evaluation**  
**David Devereux**  
NX 69762 53894 (Canmore: 64048) A programme of trial trenching was undertaken, 19 April – 6 July 2016, following a geophysical survey in 2015 by Richard Jones over the lawn of the former Tongland Manse (DES 2015, 60). The evaluation aimed to locate any structural evidence for the Premonstratensian Abbey of Tongland, founded in 1218.

Three trial trenches were excavated on the N and E periphery of the survey area. A fourth was excavated in the SE corner of the lawn to investigate a particularly clear, linear positive anomaly. Trench 1 in the N revealed a 0.6m wide wall foundation, aligned cN/S and parallel to the extant W gable of the former parish church, built in 1633. An early 19th-century drawing of the church suggests that this served as a retaining wall for an access path to a doorway in the gable.

**Excavation in progress at Tongland Abbey**  
Trenches 3 and 4, to the E of the lawn, indicated that this part of the Manse garden has been considerably raised by deposition of material in the late 19th to early 20th century. This created a terrace over the natural slope down to the River Dee to the E. Consequently, any archaeological evidence for the abbey and its precinct in this part of the site may now lie at some depth.
Trench 5 was placed over the positive anomaly in the lawn, which proved to be a section of an abandoned 18th-century road running N through the site from the Old Tongland Bridge. The line of the road is depicted on a plan of 1794 surveyed by John Gillone. The road foundation lay over a distinct occupation level characterised by small and amorphous areas of burnt earth and charcoal and a relatively high density of animal bone. The only artefact found in this context was a disc-shaped stone gaming counter, of high density of animal bone. The only artefact found in this context was a disc-shaped stone gaming counter, of c28mm diameter, similar to examples found at Whithorn Priory in early medieval contexts. The occupation level may therefore possibly relate to an outlying area of the Abbey precinct.

Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: Dumfries and Galloway HER and NRHE
Funder: Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society

Tundergarth

Ewe Hill Wind Farm, near Langholm
Watching brief and excavation
Gary Savory – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NY 2680 8527 (centred on) A watching brief followed by an excavation was carried out, August – October 2015, at Ewe Hill Wind Farm. A stone surface, measuring 22 x 12m was identified. The stone spread was overlying the vestigial remains of cord rig. Only modern finds were recovered and there was no other indication of the function of the stone surface. However, the OS map of 1899 indicates that there was a possible structure in the immediate vicinity, and it may have formed part of this structure.

Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: Dumfries and Galloway HER and NRHE
Funder: Scottish Power Renewable (UK) Ltd

Whithorn

Whithorn Market Garden
Geophysical survey
Susan Ovenden – Rose Geophysical Consultants
NX 44476 40313 A geophysical survey was undertaken, 13–14 June 2016, within a field to the SW of Whithorn Priory known as the Market Garden. The aim of the survey was to answer research questions raised by excavations immediately to the NE in the Glebe Field. Although the field under investigation covers c0.2ha, areas at the N and S limits of the field could not be investigated due to dense vegetation. A large spoil heap dominates the centre of the field and a further spoil heap and raised garden beds along the W limits of the field greatly reduced the area available for survey.

Although the three techniques applied – gradiometry, resistance and ground penetrating radar – detected anomalies of possible interest, interpretation is extremely cautious, given the ephemeral nature of many of the responses and the limited area surveyed. Current and past use of the site also confused the data sets.

The gradiometer data set is extremely noisy and no clearly defined anomalies, other than strong ferrous responses, have been detected. However, both the resistance and the GPR data have detected anomalies which could be consistent with potential structural remains, although such an interpretation is extremely cautious. There are suggestions of a possible ditch-like feature running through the S of the survey area, though it is extremely ephemeral and only apparent in the resistance data.

Archive: Rose Geophysical Consultants
Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

Whithorn Priory
Watching brief
David Murray – Kirkdale Archaeology
NX 4447 4028 A watching brief was carried out, 21 September 2016, during the excavation of a small trench to allow the installation of a new information panel. Below the topsoil, abundant stone and mortar fragments were seen, which probably represented demolition debris. Considering the ruinous state of the nearby priory, this is unsurprising, and the deposits seen are likely to have been further disturbed during grave digging.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

DUNDEE

City of Dundee

Broughty Castle, Dundee
Watching brief
Ewan MacNeilage – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NO 46476 30433 A series of watching briefs was carried out, August 2015 – March 2016, during test pitting and excavation in advance of the installation of a new gravity sewerage system within the grounds of Broughty Castle.

In the first phase three test pits were excavated, one of which revealed a brick and stone drain and a ceramic pipe, which probably related to drainage systems in place for now demolished 19th-century military and artillery buildings within the castle grounds. Modern service cables and field drains were discovered in the other two test pits.

In the second phase the remains of the former perimeter wall, the artillery store and a primer pit were discovered, all of which correspond to their locations on an early 20th-century plan of the castle and grounds. Part of a circular brick and concrete structure was also revealed.

Archive: NRHE (intended). Reports: Dundee City Archaeology Service and NRHE
Funder: Scottish Water

EAST AYRSHIRE

Auchinleck

Dumfries House – Farm Education Centre
Watching brief and excavation
Philip Karsgaard and Elizabeth Jones – Addyman Archaeology
NS 54039 21239 A watching brief was carried out, February – June 2016, on the site of a former WW2 military training
and POW camp within the Dumfries House estate in advance of the redevelopment of the site for a new Farm Education Centre.

The camp is known as Auchinleck, Temple, Camp 22 or Base Camp and is visible on vertical air photographs flown by the RAF in 1945. It was used as a Military Training Camp before and during the war, becoming a POW camp towards the later years of the war. After the war it housed resettled Polish soldiers and was later used for local families. Examination of the air photographs revealed well over 100 huts in the compound, several of which have ‘formal gardens’ to the rear. In the central area of the camp is a group of larger huts, presumably the mess, kitchen and recreation buildings. Later photographs show that by 1951 the camp had been almost totally demolished, with only a few huts surviving at the N end.

Over 80 buildings were recorded, with brick foundations, concrete floors, pathways and shower blocks all identified. The finds from the site include metal badges, NAAFI crockery and cutlery, concrete moulds and children’s toys. Recreation areas and more formal garden areas associated with the camp were identified, as were a small number of features predating the camp and associated with the Dumfries House Estate; these included an area of rig and furrow, as well as a former roadway.

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in the standing building and the subsequent reduction of the ground level. In general, below the current floor surfaces, the monitored excavations revealed a fairly shallow infill deposit directly overlying a fairly gravelly and/or stony subsoil. No finds or features predating the late 19th century were identified.

**Archive**: NRHE. **Report**: WoSAS

**Funder**: Mr and Mrs Scouller

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**Chapel Lane, Galston**

**Evaluation and watching brief**

**Magnus Kirby – CFA Archaeology Ltd**

NS 4993 3670 A programme of work was undertaken August 2014 – December 2015. An evaluation, consisting of 15 trenches covering 400m² established that a layer of 0.2–2.0m deep rubble covered the site. In most trenches the rubble deposits directly overlay the natural or probable 19th-century features cut into or founded on the natural. Where buildings had been recently demolished the natural surface had been significantly truncated.

Away from the recently demolished buildings and the associated disturbed areas isolated islands of archaeological survival were identified. A number of archaeological features associated with disturbed areas were identified. A watching brief was undertaken next to the Old Galston Church and Graveyard, in an area not available during the evaluation. The formation level in this part of the development site was above the natural and all the deposits were recent in date.

**Archive**: NRHE (intended). **Report**: WoSAS

**Funder**: Central Building Contractors (Glasgow) Ltd

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**Muirkirk**

**Auldhouseburn Farm, Muirkirk, Cumnock**

**Walkover survey**

**Magnus Kirby – CFA Archaeology Ltd**

NS 7088 2669 A survey was carried out, July 2016, in advance of the construction of an agricultural building. Information from the 1896 OS map suggested that there was a pond, dam and sluice in the proposed development area. These features were a part of a system for taking water from the Auldhouse Burn to Auldhouseburn Farm and Auldhouseburn Coal Pit, presumably to drive machinery such as a threshing mill at the farm or a water wheel for driving a pump at the mine. The survey recorded the remains of a stone-faced earth dam constructed across a natural gully with an inlet channel from the Auldhouse Burn and an outlet channel exiting to the NW. The sluice was no longer present. A stone weir was identified where the inlet channel exited the Auldhouse Burn and an earth and stone aqueduct was identified where the outlet channel crossed an area of deep quarry workings, but both of these features lay well outside the development area.

**Archive**: NRHE (intended). **Report**: WoSAS

**Funder**: Alan Blackwood

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**New Cumnock**

**Hare Hill Wind Farm**

**Watching brief**

**Alan Duffy – AOC Archaeology Group**

NS 628 090 – NS 650 091 A watching brief was undertaken, 28 September 2016, during the construction of an overhead power line from the wind farm on Hare Hill to the SE of New Cumnock. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded during ground-breaking work associated with the setting of four electricity poles.

**Archive**: NRHE (intended)

**Funder**: Connicks on behalf of SPIE

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**Stewarton**

**Dunlop Road, Stewarton**

**Evaluation**

**Maureen C Kilpatrick – GUARD Archaeology Ltd**

NS 4140 4649 An evaluation was carried out, 6–12 April 2016, in advance of a residential development. The planned trial trenching 8% evaluation of 5698m² was reduced to 4752m² due to partial flooding of the northern area and the presence of buried services in the western half of the site. A total of 49 trenches, which varied between 5–62m in length, were excavated and revealed evidence of field drainage and broad rig and furrow cultivation.

**Archive**: NRHE (intended)

**Funder**: Persimmon Homes Ltd

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**EAST AYRSHIRE/SOUTH AYRSHIRE**

**Straiton, Dalmellington, Barr, Coylton, Ochiltree, Colmonell**

**Coylton to Mark Hill Overhead Line**

**Survey**

**Katie Sludden – CFA Archaeology Ltd**

NS 4621 1963 – NX 2366 8609 Mitigation work was carried out, September 2016, during work associated with the upgrading of an overhead power line between the substation at Alwyn Cottage on the A70 to the E of Coylton and Mark Hill Substation, Craigcannochie Hill to the N of Barrhill. The work did not have any negative impacts upon any of the known archaeological sites and all were preserved in situ.

**Archive**: NRHE (intended). **Report**: NRHE and WoSAS

**Funder**: Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions Ltd

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**EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE**

**Baldernock**

**Craigmaddie Muir Standing Stones**

**Archaeoastronomy survey**

**Douglas Scott**

NS 58700 76396 On Craigmaddie Muir there is an E/W V-shaped setting of three c1.5m high standing stones, A-B-C. Two holes on the eastern stone A show that it was used as a gatepost to a ruined building immediately N of the stones, but as it has packing stones at its base, and stone C is cup-marked, it is likely that stone A is a Bronze Age standing stone. From stone A, stone B indicates the setting sun or moon some 20 days before and after the equinoxes, while the stone C marks the equinox sunset on the 21st March and September. From stones B-C, stone A indicates the rising sun or moon near the equinoxes. This work was undertaken on 8 April 2016.

**Archive**: Douglas Scott

**Funder**: Douglas Scott

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**Campsie**

**St Machan’s Church, Clachan of Campsie**

**Survey**

**Adrián Maldonado – Centre for Open Studies, University of Glasgow**

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NS 61021 79641 A standing building survey and gravestone recording exercise undertaken, 27–31 July 2016, at St Machan’s Church formed the field school element of the Certificate in Field Archaeology course. Students completed a measured drawing of the severely truncated remains of the church, created a ground plan of the church ruins and the shape of the churchyard using tape offsets, and recorded grave memorials in the churchyard using the pro-forma Mytum system.

A desk-based assessment of the site established the medieval background of the church, first documented in the 12th century, and the traditional burial place of St Machan. An octagonal medieval font, which once resided on site, is now kept in St Machan’s Church, Lennoxtown. The church was made redundant in 1828 but the graveyard remained in use until the 20th century.

As this was a training exercise, only a fraction of the total number of memorials was recorded. This established the rapidly deteriorating nature of the gravestones since their last recording. Collapsing sections of the churchyard wall were noted as an imminent threat to the survival of several memorials. The pear-shaped churchyard wall may retain the partial footprint of an earlier curvilinear enclosure. The site of the supposed St Machan’s Well (NS67NW 17) was not located with confidence, as the area N of the churchyard was severely modified by 19th-century bleachworks, but a small spring currently marked with floral tributes and initials carved into tree trunks indicate continued use of the site.

The survey of the church fabric determined that the remnants of the N gable are in a precarious state, exacerbated by plant growth causing cracking and spreading of the masonry towards the E end. The W gable is in very good condition and was drawn up to the level of the doorway lintel. Breaks in the coursing and differences of masonry and pointing techniques were recorded which suggest a provisional phasing of the building with the N wall being earliest, and the W gable added on possibly in the 17th century, with further phases of building above sill level. At a later stage, the surviving foundations of the S wall were consolidated with a hard capping, and the stump of the exposed wall core in the W gable was also consolidated with recycled masonry and cement pointing. There were no diagnostic traces of an in situ medieval predecessor, although it is clear that masonry from previous structures was incorporated into the early modern fabric. The clearest example of this is what appears to be an early cross-incised stone built into the consolidation of the wall core as seen in the E-facing (interior) elevation drawing of the W gable (shown). This oblong stone bears a simple incised equal-armed cross. It is difficult to date this as the surface of the stone has clearly been cut back with a wide chisel, but the incised cross appears to predate these modifications. Early Christian cross-marked stones are rare in this area; the nearest parallels are from St Kessog’s, Luss.

There are no current plans to continue this work, but using existing local heritage groups to mobilise an effort to fully record the conditions of the gravestones was recommended. The N gable of the church is also in need of stabilisation.

This report was prepared by the contributor, assistant supervisor Jamie Barnes and the following students: Irene Dayer, Hilary Fawcett, Lynda Frazer, Eric Gardner, Andrew Gemmell, Alan Gifford, Carol Hewitt, Catherine Hooper, Jacqueline Macmillan, Chris Morrison, Karen Norton, Hannah Ridley, Marion Sandilands, Edward Smith, Alisa Smith, and William Yates.

Archive: East Dunbartonshire Council HER (intended)

Kirkintilloch

Town Hall, Kirkintilloch

Evaluation

Warren Bailie – GUARD Archaeology Ltd

NS 65277 73987 An evaluation was carried out, 2–4 December 2015, in advance of a proposed extension to the town hall. The work was required as the western extent of the site lies within the defined boundary of the Antonine Wall, and c75m to the E of one of the Antonine Wall’s forts, which also contains the earthworks of the medieval Kirkintilloch Castle. Four machine excavated trenches (c45m² equivalent to 13% of the development area) were excavated across the existing car park. Natural clay was encountered below layers of overburden. No finds or features attributable to the Roman period were uncovered.

Archive: NRHE (intended) Funder: Michael Laird Architects

New Kilpatrick

Burgh Halls, Bearsden

Watching brief

Warren Bailie – GUARD Archaeology Ltd

NS 54192 72132 A watching brief was carried out, 5 April – 3 August 2016, during groundworks associated with the construction phase of the redevelopment of the Burgh Halls. The building lies in the buffer zone for the Antonine Wall and there was the possibility that the buildings may have been built over the perceived line of the infilled Antonine ditch and/or wall. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended) Funder: CCG Scotland Ltd

Douglasmuir Quarry, Milngavie – Phase 4

Excavation

Dave McNicol – GUARD Archaeology Ltd

NS 514 748 A programme of strip and map was undertaken,
29 August – 9 September 2016, during quarry expansion works. An area of c9911m² was stripped and revealed a single possible pit towards the southern end of the site.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Tarmac Ltd

**11 Glenburn Road, Bearsden**

**Evaluation**

*Maureen Kilpatrick – GUARD Archaeology Ltd*

NS 54060 72133 An evaluation was carried out, 12 September 2016, in the rear garden of 11 Glenburn Road in advance of the construction of a proposed house extension. The site was considered of interest as it lies in the buffer zone for the Antonine Wall. No finds or features relating to the Roman occupation of the area or other periods were identified.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: J Campbell

**23 Glenburn Road, Bearsden**

**Evaluation and watching brief**

*Kevin Mooney – GUARD Archaeology Ltd*

NS 53959 72120 An evaluation and watching brief were carried out, 4–17 March 2016, in advance of and during groundwork associated with the construction of a house extension. The site was considered of interest as it lies partly in the buffer zone for the Antonine Wall. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded during the excavation of a 5m² trench and subsequent groundwork.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: J Setterington

**EAST LOTHIAN**

**Aberlady**

**Glebe Field, Aberlady**

**Excavation**

*Ross Murray – AOC Archaeology Group*

NT 46l 800 (NT48SE 3) An evaluation was carried out, 23 April – 9 May 2016, in the Glebe Field. The excavations targeted geophysical anomalies reported to be two timber buildings of possible Anglo-Saxon date. The work uncovered structural remains, all were of stone, including cellular buildings and a possible, but still undefined, large wall, probably part of a larger structure identified in the earlier geophysical surveys.

The recovered artefacts are indicative of activity from the mid first millennium AD into the post-medieval period. More specifically, bone combs and an Anglo-Saxon coin show activity during the c7–9th centuries, a date supported by a C14 date on material from under one of the stone features, which returned a date between the 7th and 9th centuries cal AD.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Aberlady Conservation and History Society

**Luffness Mains**

**Metal detector find**

*Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland*

NT 48 79 A Romano-British headstud brooch and an enamelled button-and-loop fastener (Wild class VI) were found during metal detecting SW of Luffness Mains. Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 173/15), allocated to East Lothian Council Museums Service

**Dirleton**

**Gullane**

**Metal detector find**

*Martin Goldberg – National Museums Scotland*

NT 49 82 A gold ingot was recovered during metal detecting. Its general appearance indicates it was cast in an open mould, a typical method for an artisan to store surplus metal from a casting. The ingot has a sub-triangular profile formed from a mould with a deeply gouged ‘V’-shape.

Preliminary analysis indicates the ingot is a majority gold alloy with traces of copper and silver, which suggests a pre-modern date. It is difficult to ascertain an exact period of use without further analysis so currently a broad early medieval/medieval date is suggested. Length 23mm; Width 6 x 6mm. Weight 6.1g. Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT/221/15), allocated to East Lothian Council Museums Service

**Hareup Plantation, Archerfield Estate – Medieval Dirleton**

**Excavation**

*Bill Nimmo, Gillian Dick, George Simpson, Donald McDonald and Michael Thomson – Gullane and Dirleton History Society*

NT 51255 83784 Six test pits were dug in the wood behind the estate wall to the N of the road which Roy’s Map of 1755 suggests is the core of medieval Dirleton. The aim of the work undertaken, 20 June – 8 August 2016, was to seek remains of the medieval settlement. No such remains were found. This implies that the N side of the medieval village was elsewhere. It is possible that the road through the village was widened to accommodate the turnpike road in the second half of the 1700s and that this was done by demolishing the line of houses on the N side of the original road. Any remains would therefore be under the current road. A considerable number of items were found to the N of the estate wall, but they appear to be mainly domestic rubbish dumped over the wall in the mid-20th century.

Archive: East Lothian Council
Funder: Gullane and Dirleton History Society
James Darg’s Property, Dirleton
Excavation
Bill Nimmo, Sally Metcalf, Gillian Dick, Michael Thomson, George Simpson, Donald McDonald, Tom Neill, Sheila Smith, Fred McClintock, Deborah Russell, Peter Ramage, Richard Gillanders, Fiona Christison, Fiona Keightley, Andrew Burns, Derek Carter and Keith Cornwell – Gullane and Dirleton History Society
NT 51370 84000 The aim of the investigation, undertaken 5–12 September 2016, was to find the remains of a house probably built in the late 17th century and demolished in the early 19th century. It was shown on an 1809 estate plan but had disappeared by 1830. Several trenches were dug to search for traces of foundations, but none were found. However, a cobbled path was found c0.3m below the current ground level and exposed over an 8m length. A stone walled enclosure c2 x 1.5m was also found. These features appear to be associated with the early 17th-century manse adjoining the site. More archive investigation is planned to try to interpret their purpose. This was a community project involving 17 people and attracting over 100 visitors. It was supported by East Lothian Council’s Archaeology Service.
Archive: East Lothian Council
Funder: Gullane and Dirleton History Society

Dunbar
Brunt Steading, near Spot
Standing building recording
Mike Cressey – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NT 68569 73737 An enhanced standing building survey was carried out, March 2016, at the Brunt Steading prior to its conversion into a series of modern dwellings. The farm was Category B listed. The E, N and W ranges contained a range of single and two-storey structures with a series of five large cattle courts at the centre of the farm complex. The remains of a mid- to late 18th-century farm house still survived, which was occupied by a family in 1901 and later converted into a lofted barn. It went out of use when the barn became linked to a mechanised granary building situated on its N side. This building resembles a small two-storey cottage and has the remains of a fireplace at first floor level. This building was converted into a mechanised granary with both belt and electrical driven grain dispensing apparatus. As with many large improvement farms in East Lothian, Brunt had a chimney and boiler house for corn drying.
Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: East Lothian SMR and NRHE
Funder: Mr and Mrs Robertson

Innerwick
Black Castle Farm, near Innerwick
Evaluation
Samantha Hickman – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NT 736 725 A trial trenching evaluation was carried out, in February 2016, in advance of the construction of a new Community Hospital at Roodlands Hospital. Consultation of early map editions suggested that the proposed development area was agricultural land prior to the construction of the hospital in the late 19th to early 20th century. Vestigial traces of rig and furrow cultivation were identified.
Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: East Lothian SMR and NRHE
Funder: Morrison Construction Scotland

Nunraw Barns
Standing building recording
Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 58845 70401 A historic building survey was carried out, 9 July 2015, of the ruined former Nunraw Barns prior to its part demolition and development. There has been a settlement at Nunraw Barns since at least the late 18th century, but it was unclear how much of the present remains were from this date, and much of the surviving farmsteading buildings may date to the early to mid-19th century. It is clear that there were several phases of construction and rebuild, including many blocked openings, reflecting changes in the function of the buildings over time. One of the barns contained evidence of the power transmission for threshing machinery, in the form of a bracket for an inserted bearing block. Several of the former barns of the steading have already been converted into housing.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Mr A Wilkie

Gladsmuir
22a Kings Road, Longniddry
Watching brief
Katie Sludden – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NT 43321 75946 A watching brief was undertaken, 2–4 May 2016, during topsoil stripping associated with site preparation for a new house. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.
Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: East Lothian SMR and NRHE
Funder: Mr and Mrs Robertson

Haddington
Roodlands Hospital, Haddington
Evaluation
Magnus Kirby – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NT 5028 7411 A trial trenching evaluation was carried out, in February 2016, in advance of the construction of a new Community Hospital at Roodlands Hospital. Consultation of early map editions suggested that the proposed development area was agricultural land prior to the construction of the hospital in the late 19th to early 20th century. Vestigial traces of rig and furrow cultivation were identified.
Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: East Lothian SMR and NRHE
Funder: Morrison Construction Scotland

West Barns
Evaluation
Nicholas Johnstone – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 66352 78229 A 5% evaluation of a 5.7ha site was carried out, 5–7 July 2016, prior to a residential development. The excavation of 1449 linear metres of trenches recorded a complex sub-surface geology of gullies and pools filled with decayed organics and peat in between higher sandy ridges. On a flatter area of sand at the N end of the site a group of three possible pits were discovered.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: CALA Homes Ltd

Garvald and Barra
Chapel Point, Skateraw
Geophysical survey
Ian Hawkins and Donald Matthews – Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society
NT 7393 7580 Following fieldwalking finds, of predominantly 12–13th-century pottery, a ground resistance survey was undertaken, 16 April 2016, at Chapel Point. It is thought that St Dennis’s Chapel was washed away by the sea in 1836. It is recorded that some human remains were found in the vicinity. The East Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalists Society
was consulted and Roddy Martine sent this very revealing reply.

“When I was writing my book Haunted Scotland (2010), I spoke to an Avril Kirk who was then living in Humbie. Some years ago she had gone to Skateraw Harbour and come across some old cottages and a wooden Cross. I subsequently went to Chapel Point but found nothing. Avril said that she had spoken to somebody at Dunbar House Museum who had told her about St Dennis Chapel and that it had been demolished before the lighthouses were built. Prior to that, a lot of ships were wrecked on the offshore rocks and a lot of bodies washed ashore. Allegedly the bodies were brought up from the beach by locals and stored in the chapel before they were either claimed or buried in nearby fields. All that remained of the chapel was a large wooden cross, which was moved to a car park when a WW2 memorial was erected”. My relative John Martine wrote in 1890 (Reminiscences and Notices of the Parishes of the County of Haddington) “There stood at one time on Skateraw shore, on a projecting piece of land N of the old limestone quarry, a chapel dedicated to St Dennis. Remains of the edifice were visible 60 years ago but the sea washed them all away. Bones found in the vicinity of the place gave reason for supposing that a burying-ground was connected with the chapel.”

Eight full and partial 20 x 20m grids were surveyed. A wide spread of sub-surface rubble made interpretation difficult, but a faint lower resistance anomaly running from NW to SE could be discerned at the approximate location shown on early maps (Adair 1682, Armstrong 1773).

Archive: East Lothian SMR and NRHE (intended)
Funder: East Lothian Council, Michael Bowe and Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society

Crystal Rig III Wind Farm, Bransly Hill
Survey, watching brief and evaluation
Bruce Glendinning – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NT 67053 70509 A programme of work was carried out, September – November 2015, in advance of the creation of a temporary compound in an area of relict post-medieval farming remains. A preliminary survey identified short sections of three or four curving rigs with a wavelength of 5–6m. An end rig or field boundary ditch was also identified. A subsequent watching brief on site investigation test pits and a trial trenching evaluation did not identify any features or deposits of archaeological interest.

Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: East Lothian SMR and NRHE
Funder: Natural Power Consultants Ltd

Innerwick/Spott

Crystal Rig III Wind Farm
Watching brief
Ewan MacNeilage – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NT 674 697 and NT 649 699 (centred on) A programme of work, 20 April – 26 July 2016, which included the demarcation of sites and a watching brief, identified two pits containing burnt material.

Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: East Lothian SMR
Funder: Jones Bros Ruthin (Civil Engineering) Co Ltd

Inveresk

Hope House, Loretto School, Musselburgh
Watching brief
Matthew Ginnever – Headland Archaeology Ltd
NT 34838 72694 A watching brief was undertaken, 20 January 2016, during the excavation of 40m of pipe trench across undeveloped land. A c0.5m deep topsoil overlay a subsoil containing late 18th-century pottery. A spread of modern building debris at the W end of the trench located between the topsoil and subsoil may have been used to level the lawn.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Loretto School, Musselburgh

The Ice House, Newhailes
Standing building recording
Diana Sproat and Gemma Hudson – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 32682 72564 A baseline standing building survey was carried out, 13 September 2016, of the ruined ice house on the Newhailes Estate. The ice house, which is located NW of Newhailes House, was built in the late 18th century. The main storage area for the ice was built below the ground in an egg-shaped chamber, accessed via a small NE/SW passageway with a small entrance on the SW side. A large mound was created over the structure to further insulate the space. A building and a spiral path were built on top of the mound in the Victorian period. However, only a few foundation stones, and one inscribed stone, remain of this garden feature in an area which was, until recently, covered in trees and animal burrows. The icehouse has been abandoned for some time, there is rubble and debris to the base of the main chamber and it has been used as a roost by bats.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: The National Trust for Scotland

North Berwick

Tantallon Castle
Geophysical survey
Susan Ovenden – Rose Geophysical Consultants
NT 59587 85029 A programme of geophysical survey was carried out in 2013 which identified a wealth of significant anomalies, many of which have been targeted in subsequent excavations. A ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey has been carried out, 25–28 November 2015, over selected areas to further refine and inform interpretation.

GPR survey over the ravelin at Tantallon Castle

Within the outer close several trends and ephemeral anomalies suggestive of a possible broad ditch on an E/W alignment are evident within the N of the area. The data also suggests remnants of possible rig and furrow cultivation. Given these discrete anomalies and broader areas of increased response, it appears that some of the anomalies detected in the previous resistance survey may...
be the result of different phases of activity, rather than contemporaneous features.

Although numerous very strong anomalies have been detected within the ravelin area, many are associated with the extant earthworks. Variations in response over the ravelin bank may indicate areas of reconstruction. The survey has added more information regarding potential features within the ravelin. However, the data from the outer ditch is not conclusive. No clear profile is evident suggesting a very shallow feature.

Survey of the crossing points over the main ditch behind the ravelin proved disappointing. There are no clear suggestions of structures within these earthworks consistent with buried caponiers. However, the survey may have revealed an earlier profile of the northern crossing point and the lack of response from the southern crossing point may itself be significant.

Archive: Rose Geophysical Consultants
Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

Pencaitland

Redmains Farm, Pencaitland
Watching brief and evaluation
Rob Englı – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 44609 69183 A watching brief and evaluation were carried out, 28 September – 8 November 2016, in advance of a proposed housing development. The planned work was reduced from the monitoring of nine test pits to seven pits and from the excavation of 675m of trenches (5% of the 2.75ha area) to 575m, due to restricted access. The trenches recorded two ploughsoils overlying glacial clays. The natural was cut by 19th-century ceramic drains set at 5.0m intervals.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: East Lothian Council

Stenton

Meiklerig Steading, Stenton
Standing building recording
David Connolly – Connolly Heritage Consultancy
NT 63229 74115 A Level 1 building survey was carried out, 3 March 2016, of Meiklerig Steading prior to its redevelopment into flats. A desk-based assessment was followed by the production of a photographic and written record of the interior and exterior of the structures. Portions of at least two yards survive, one possibly from at least the mid-18th century and the other from the 19th century. However, the site had been significantly altered by 20th-century alterations and no architecturally outstanding features have survived.

Archive: Connolly Heritage Consultancy and NRHE (intended)
Funder: Mr J Kinnaird

Whitberry Point, Tyninghame

Knowes
Metal detector find
Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland
NT 61 78 Metal detecting near Knowes recovered an extremely unusual Romano-British brooch which combines elements of different brooch traditions (L 66.5mm). The humped form and spring fastening are taken from a Polden Hill brooch, and the ribbed decoration also finds parallel on such brooches, but the knobbled decoration on the bow is derived from a trumpet brooch. It may derive from one of the Iron Age settlements known in the vicinity.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 174/15), allocated to East Lothian Council Museums Service

Unusual Romano-British brooch from Knowes (Drawn by Alan Braby)

Tyningham, East Linton

Metal detector find
Trevor Cowie – National Museums Scotland
NT 60 79 A very worn blade portion of an Early Bronze Age flat axehead was found during metal detecting in 2015. It had been broken approximately at midpoint; what is left of the sides, one straight, one more irregular, diverge to meet very worn ends of a ‘cutting edge’ that is only slightly expanded. The blade is corroded and irregular; brown/green; delaminated, currently sound and stable. Length: 40mm; width (cutting edge in worn state) 41mm; thickness 5mm; weight: 46.1g. The axehead would originally have been small. It is unclassifiable due to its fragmentary condition. Date c2200–1900 BC. Uncertain whether deliberately broken, or broken through wear and tear, in antiquity.

Despite its worn state, it usefully adds to the improbably small and clearly unrepresentative number of EBA axeheads known from East Lothian including a copper axehead from Doune Hill, Dunbar, two bronze axeheads from Camptoun, Haddington and a further example from Waughton, Prestonkirk. The only previous recorded metal detector find is a developed flat axehead from Athelstaneford found in 1997 (see DES, 1999, 27).

Claimed as Treasure Trove (CO.TT.147/15), allocated to the East Lothian Council Museums Service

Whitberry Point, Tyningham

Evaluation and survey
David Connolly – Connolly Heritage Consultancy
NT 6371 8125 (NT68SW4) A programme of fieldwork incorporating a topographic survey, a geophysical survey and a trial excavation was undertaken, 29 August 2015 – 23 April 2016.

The topographic survey generated an accurate plan of the monument, which significantly increased understanding of the layout and location of the site. The geophysical survey provided evidence of surviving sub-surface features. The two trenches excavated contained no artefacts or datable material, but did demonstrate in situ survival of the cairn below the WW2 and later alterations. The work also established that the WW2 pillbox construction and decommissioning works have substantially altered the original shape of the mound/cairn.

Archive: NRHE
EAST RENFREWSHIRE

Whitberry Point, TYNIEGHAME

Survey and evaluation

David Connolly – Connolly Heritage Consultancy

NT 6371 8125 An assessment was carried out, 29–30 August 2016, of the cairn known as St Baldred’s Cradle as part of a community participation programme. The work consisted of a topographic and geophysical survey, plus the excavation of two small evaluation trenches. The cairn was said to have been destroyed by the insertion of a type 22 pillbox during WW2. However, D Easton (2001) suggested this was not the case. The trenches uncovered evidence of the brickwork for the emplacement; and more tellingly, the original cairn seems to be largely extant. Although it has been partially damaged by the 20th-century defensive structure, it is definitely a mound of human creation and may represent a prehistoric site.

Archive: Connolly Heritage Consultancy

Yester

Longyester Quarry

Watching brief

Bruce Glendinning – CFA Archaeology Ltd

NT 52658 64362 A watching brief was carried out, October – November 2013, during the removal of topsoil in advance of quarrying. An earlier evaluation had identified possible linear ditches. Features in three of the trenches were aligned E/W and were interpreted as sections of possibly the same feature, whereas two other features were on different alignments, although their fills were similar, and were interpreted as sections of different features. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded during the watching brief and it is considered that the previously identified features probably represented isolated features rather than linear features running over any distance.

Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: East Lothian SMR and NRHE
Funder: Tillicoultry Quarries

Sheriffside

Excavation

Murray Cook and David Connolly – Rampart Scotland

NT 55505 67739 The fifth season of work at the cropmark enclosure at Sheriffside comprised a major phase of evaluation. The work was carried out during July 2016 as part of a training fieldschool. One large open-area trench, measuring 5m N/S and 16m E/W was opened, all features identified were planned and recorded, and a proportion excavated. A geophysical survey had already been undertaken in the field surrounding the trench and topographic work and a magnetometer survey were extended across the area.

The excavations re-examined a series of features first located in 2010, which were thought to represent platforms. A number of sherds of pottery, which may date to the 2nd century AD, were recovered as well as a broken beehive quern built into a platform structure. Charcoal was obtained during the excavation and is currently being dated.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Rampart Scotland

EAGLESHAM

Glasgow Road CSO, Waterfoot

Watching brief

Kevin Mooney – GUARD Archaeology Ltd

NS 56912 55000 A watching brief was carried out, 11 April – 4 May 2016, during groundwork associated with upgrades to the water supply. The watching brief monitored areas of archaeological sensitivity and uncovered evidence of a lade associated with the 18th-century Dripps Mill (NS55NE 43), also known as Waterfoot Mill. No other archaeological features were identified.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Scottish Water

Eastwood

Thornliebank House, ROUKEN GLEN

Excavation

Phil Richardson – Archaeology Scotland

NS 54901 58261 (Canmore ID: 197155) Archaeology Scotland conducted an excavation in partnership with East Renfrewshire Council, 4–12 September 2015. The investigation aimed to assess the location and integrity of any archaeological features or deposits relating to Thornliebank House (1839–1965). The excavation followed on from a smaller investigation carried out in 2013. Both excavations were part of a wider programme of public engagement with Rouken Glen Park’s heritage, undertaken as part of East Renfrewshire Council’s HLF funded Parks for People initiative. In keeping with this, the excavation team consisted of public and student volunteers, supervised by the archaeologists from Archaeology Scotland.

A total of five trenches were excavated on the site of Thornliebank House, their locations based upon plans from 1858 and 1895/6. In four of the trenches structural features relating to the house were located at a depth no greater than 0.8m. These features consisted of internal and external wall foundations, a chimney base and surfaces. The structural features were capped by deposits relating to the house’s demolition and subsequent site-levelling events.

Archive and report: NRHE (intended)
Funder: East Renfrewshire Council and Heritage Lottery Fund
Parks for People, and HES

Eastwood/Mearns

Rouken Glen

Standing building recording

Phil Richardson – Archaeology Scotland

NS 55104 57898 – Boathouse
NS 54560 57792 – Dovecot (Canmore ID: 43909. SMR ID: 8402)

Archaeology Scotland conducted a building survey, 14–15 March 2015, in partnership with East Renfrewshire Council as part of their HLF funded, Parks for People project at Rouken Glen Park.

A basic survey was carried out of both buildings and this will act as a baseline for future assessments. The boathouse was constructed in the 1920s and from exterior appearances remains largely unchanged. The building is currently used as a café and public toilet block. Recent refurbishments include a new roof and guttering/down pipe system.

The dovecot is a Category B listed building (Historic Building Number 18538), and is located in the grounds of the Deaconsbank golf course, just to the W of the S end of Rouken Glen Park. A 20th-century railing surrounds the dovecot to restrict access. The date of the dovecot is unknown, but it has been speculated that it may date from the 16th century. The dovecot is in the ‘beehive’ style, and is in a poor state of repair. There is no visible, formal entrance into the dovecot.

Archive and report: NRHE (intended)
**Mearns**

**Barrhead**

*Metal detector find*

Trevor Cowie – National Museums Scotland

NS 50 56 A small flanged chisel was found in 2015 during metal detecting. Its cutting edge is set adzewise to the flanges; the butt is straight but slightly irregular; the sides expand slightly to form a rounded shoulder, corresponding with the highest point of the flanges; there is a gentle V-shaped sloping stop; and the cutting edge is worn and irregular. Greenish-brown; very good, sound condition. L: 63.2mm; max W: 19.4mm; W (blade): 11.3mm.

Middle Bronze Age flanged chisels appear to fall into two types depending on whether the blade is set adzewise or axewise to the flanges, and recorded examples range in size from c70–140mm. Even allowing for the reduction of length as a result of reworking and loss of the cutting edge, this elegant little implement will clearly have been at the lower end of that size range. While their suitability as light woodworking tools is not in doubt, precisely how they were used is uncertain. The date range of such implements probably corresponds with that of flanged axeheads (c15/12th centuries BC). Only a small number of flanged chisels are known from Scotland, so well-provenanced metal detector finds are a welcome addition to the overall inventory of Bronze Age tools.

**Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT.137/15), allocated to Glasgow Museums**

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**EDINBURGH**

**Currie**

**Kirkgate, Currie**

*Standing building recording*

Elizabeth Jones – Addyman Archaeology

NT 18165 67620 A historic building survey was undertaken, 16 May 2016, of the former goods shed at 14 Kirkgate prior to its conversion to a house. The goods shed and sidings are to the S of the former Currie Station, part of the Slateford-Ravelrig (Balerno) line, a branch of the Caledonian Railway from Carlisle to Edinburgh. The line was closed in 1968 and the tracks taken up, and the former railway line to the N of the site is now the Water of Leith walkway.

The building is a single large brick shed with sandstone copes and a modern cement tiled roof, dating to the late 19th century. There are large entrances at the gable ends, where trains would have run through along the sidings, and smaller arched entrances on the N elevation (facing the railway) for carriages or trucks. The small office building adjoining the E has a raised floor, level with the former internal loading platforms, and a stepped entrance from the outside. Inside the building, burnt timbers along the walls provide evidence of the location of the former loading platforms, and burnt timbers with iron fittings at the wall heads indicate the fittings for the former sliding doors across the arched entrances. The recent concrete floor of the building is absent in places revealing an earth floor with no evidence of the former tracks. Since the closure of the railway, the building and yard have been used as a coal yard, as a youth training facility for carpentry by Edinburgh City Council and most recently by the Ranger Service.

**Archive**: NRHE  
**Funder**: K Perry and A Gordon

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**Lord Home Hall, Lord Home Road, Currie**

*Evaluation*

Matthew Ginnever – Headland Archaeology Ltd  
NT 17486 68854 A trial trenching evaluation was carried out, 3 August 2016, in advance of the construction of a maintenance shed and associated landscaping and service trenches on land 125m SE of Lord Home Hall. The excavation of two trenches, covering a combined area of 310m², recorded a series of modern agricultural field drains.

**Archive**: NRHE (intended)  
**Funder**: Heriot-Watt University

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**Edinburgh**

**Abbey Lane, Edinburgh**

*Evaluation*

Dave McNicoll and Dougie Allan – GUARD Archaeology Ltd  
NT 2728 7429 An evaluation was carried out, 22 August – 21 October 2016, in advance of a proposed residential development at Abbey Lane, on the site of a former railway yard. A total of 14 trenches, varying in length from 14–40m, were excavated across 10% (794 m²) of the area. A number of features of early modern date, relating to the late 19th-century railway yard, were uncovered, along with an earlier boundary or garden wall associated with Comely Green House, which was located immediately to the E of the present site. This wall is shown on mid-19th-century maps prior to the construction of the railway yard. The site had clearly been heavily truncated and built up during the late 19th century.

**Archive**: NRHE (intended)  
**Funder**: Bellway Homes Ltd (Scotland)

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**Albert Docks, Leith**

*Evaluation*

Rob Englı – AOC Archaeology Group  
NT 26702 76960 (centred on) An evaluation was undertaken, 11–13 May 2016, in advance of proposed development work. The machine excavated trenches covered an area of 500m² and were located to investigate the survival of any structural remains associated with the former Albert Docks.

The area was split E/W by an existing service road. To the N of the road the area had been subject to extensive demolition. However, substantial modern structural remains survived at a depth of 0.5m below ground level (BGL). To the S of the road in the area of the former dry docks, the ground level had been increased by 1.50–1.75m. The evaluation recorded the truncated remains of a substantial sandstone wall and a set of ‘frogged’ bricks at 3.0m BGL. Several modern features were also recorded at 1.5–2.2m BGL, including several tarmac road surfaces and concrete floors.

**Archive**: NRHE  
**Funder**: Cala Homes Ltd (East)

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**Allermuir Hill**

*Casual find*

Alison Sheridan – National Museums Scotland  
NT 22306 66676 A small barbed and tanged arrowhead of grey flint was found on Allermuir Hill in 2015. Length: 19mm; width: 16mm. Rounded tang; irregular bifacial retouch; slightly asymmetrical in plan. The findspot is high on the shoulder of Green Craig, on the NW-facing slope at c350m. Probably a hunting loss. Chalcolithic or (more probably) Bronze Age; the currency of barbed and tanged arrowheads in Scotland ranges from the 25th/24th century BC to c1000 BC.

**Claimed as Treasure Trove (CO.TT.02/16), allocated to the Museum of Edinburgh**

**Funder**: City of Edinburgh Museums and Galleries

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**DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND**

63
Bevan House, Craighouse  
**Standing building recording**  
Ariane Buschmann and Frank Giecco – Wardell Armstrong Archaeology  
NT 23429 70558 An enhanced building survey incorporating a photographic and written record was undertaken in June 2015. Bevan House is part of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum Complex built at Craighouse by the architect Sydney Mitchell in 1894. Bevan House is a Category A listed building and is of a high historical and architectural significance. Its history is legible in its architectural alterations, though it retains some of its original features. The original layout of Bevan House has been only slightly modified over the past century, with the most changed floor plan being on the second floor. Several unusual features, such as a branched perron staircase survive. The interior, while affected by a number of refurbishments, still retains several historically significant features. Bevan House overall is in a poor to average condition for a non-ruinous structure. It is severely affected by mould infestation and water damage, which have started to affect its structural stability. The building had been owned by Edinburgh Napier University till 2013.  
**Archive:** NRHE  
**Funder:** Clearbell Capital LLP  

Blackfriars Street, Edinburgh  
**Standing building recording**  
Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group  
NT 26045 73626 A historic building survey was carried out, 17 August 2015, of the former United Presbyterian Church, 17–21 Blackfriars Street, in advance of refurbishment. The church was originally built in 1871 to a design by Richard Morham. It replaced the previous tenement building, one of many in this part of the Old Town which were removed in the clearances of the 1870s. The building has been derelict for several years and, at the time of survey, had already undergone some partial refurbishment, including the stripping of many walls, partial removal of a stair and an alteration of floor levels.  
**Archive:** NRHE (intended)  
**Funder:** Stone Acre Projects Ltd  

Bonnington Road Lane, Edinburgh  
**Standing building recording**  
Michael Cressey – CFA Archaeology Ltd  
NT 2616 7596 A desk-based assessment and Level 2 standing building survey were carried out, August 2016, of the industrial buildings at Bonnington Road Lane. The work established the following:  
- Building A and its canopy (B) were constructed during the second half of the 20th century  
- Building C is modern (20th/21st century)  
- Building D dates to the second half of the 20th century (1970s)  
- Buildings E and F probably date to the early 20th century (post 1908) reusing the shell of an earlier 19th-century rectangular building  
- Building G is late 20th century  
- Building H dates to the first half of the 20th century (c1940s)  
- The sandstone elements of Wall 1 were possibly part of the mid-19th-century Adelphi Fruit and Flower Gardens which, according to the 1st Edition OS map of 1852, had an extensive walled garden that ran alongside Bonnington Road SE to Bonnington Bank. The earlier stonework then appeared to have been augmented with brick to create the gable wall for a large rectangular building that occupied the site to the east. This was shown on maps dating from 1852–1933.  
Wall 2 was probably the remains of a stone-built gable wall associated with an iron works that stood just outside the proposed redevelopment boundary.  
Wall 3 represents the upstanding remains of a rubble-built side wall of a rectangular building shown on the 2nd Edition OS map of 1877.  
**Archive:** NRHE (intended)  
**Report:** City of Edinburgh Council and NRHE  
**Funder:** Miller Homes  

Botanic Cottage – Royal Botanic Gardens  
**Watching brief**  
Andrew Morrison – Addyman Archaeology  
NT 24357 75534 A watching brief was carried out, 8 September 2014 – 20 January 2015, during ground-breaking work associated with the rebuilding of the Botanic Cottage along the northern perimeter of the Botanic Gardens at Inverleith Place. The project involves the reuse of salvaged materials from the 18th-century two-storey building, which formerly stood on the original site of the Botanic Gardens along Leith Walk.  
The Royal Botanic Gardens are a designated Historic Environment Scotland, inventory garden and designed landscape, and are the second oldest botanic gardens in the UK. The map regression showed that, prior to its integration with the botanic gardens, the land was once part of the grounds of Inverleith Estate; the origins of which can be traced back to the 17th century or earlier.  
No archaeological features were recorded, and imported garden soils, overlying natural sand and clay subsoils, were encountered across the entire area. The lack of finds or features predating the area’s association with the Botanic Gardens suggests a levelling of the subsoil may have taken place in the past, possibly in preparation for use as a nursery in the late 19th century.  
**Archive:** NRHE  
**Funder:** The Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh  

Buccleuch Place and Meadow Lane  
**Watching brief and excavation**  
Philip Karsgaard – Addyman Archaeology  
NT 25960 72812 A watching brief and excavation were carried out, 10 February – 8 April 2016, prior to the development of a car park and mews between Buccleuch Place to the N and Meadow Lane to the S, for student housing.  
The work uncovered evidence for cultivation predating the Georgian development of the site in the form of linear furrows, plough marks, and ditches, with associated finds from the earlier 17th century. A large ditch, up to 4.42m wide running parallel to Buccleuch Street, was excavated to a depth of 2.8m, and a substantial, sandstone capped and lined water channel uncovered. This large feature was associated with the increasingly urgent problems of water management in an expanding urban space of the late 17th and early 18th century, and is well stratified below later garden soil deposits and midden pits, from which a sequence of datable finds was recovered.  
The excavations also recorded the developmental history of the tenement buildings fronting Buccleuch Place and their associated garden spaces. The initial four-fold feu divisions on either side of Buccleuch Place Lane were identifiable, as well as the later elaborations of the garden plots, with their associated midden and garden soil deposits, post-emplacements, and garden path networks. The insertion of new walls along old boundary lines was identified. On the W flank of the site, a well structure below the standing coach house at 11A and B Meadow Lane was found and preserved in situ.
Comiston House Stables
Standing building recording and watching brief
Jenni Morrison – Addyman Archaeology
NT 23996 68618 (NT26NW 42 and NT26NW 1) A programme of archaeological work was undertaken, 15 February – 13 April 2014, at Comiston House Stables prior to its conversion into a house with garage. The stables served the nearby Comiston House which was built in 1815. The survey established that the stables’ interior mostly related to its recent use as a social club. However, the E end of the main block was largely untouched and retained the original cobbled floor and evidence of the timber stalls. On the S elevation an armorial panel was found, thought to be of 17th-century date, probably relating to the earlier Comiston House, shown on Roy’s Military Survey. The remains of a 16th-century tower, later converted to a dovecot, survive in the corner of the site.

The monitoring of ground-breaking work did not uncover any archaeological remains or artefacts.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Mr D Tedesco

Craighouse, Craighouse Road
Evaluation
Damion Churchill and Frank Giecco – Wardell Armstrong Archaeology
NT 2340 7060 A trial trenching evaluation was undertaken, 25–26 April 2016, at Craighouse in advance of development. A total of five trenches was excavated. Four of the five trenches contained no archaeological features. Trench 12, which was excavated in the wooded area to the N of New Craig, contained the remains of a Victorian rubbish pit, with layers of ash presumably from the nearby boiler house. A number of post-medieval finds were recovered from contexts within this trench, which was recorded to a maximum safe depth of 1.2m before natural was encountered at c2m.

Archive: Edinburgh Museum and NRHE
Funder: Clearbell Capital LLP

Craighouse, Craighouse Road
Evaluation
Mike McElligot, Richard Buckle and Frank Giecco – Wardell Armstrong Archaeology
NT 23450 70660 An evaluation was undertaken, 27 April – 17 July 2015, in advance of development on land at Craighouse. The evaluation was undertaken in two phases.

The first phase took place over nine days and involved the excavation of eight trenches. Archaeological remains were identified in Trenches 2, 4, 5A and 5B, 10, 11A and 11B. The remains of a substantial stone wall were recorded in Trench 2 and two walls in Trench 4, which respectively appeared to be parts of the N and SE sections of a structure located to the NW of Old Craig House, and possibly contemporary with it. A review of 19th-century OS maps suggested this structure was built between 1882 and 1893 and was altered from a single L-shaped structure into two separate structures. Trench 4 also contained the remains of a stone culvert and inner stone surface, along with an outer cobble surface with a later cobble surface above it. This later cobble surface was also recorded in Trenches 5A and 5B, along with the remains of an outer stone wall in 5B and an inner stone wall in 5A. There was also evidence of a hearth in Trench 5A that had been constructed after the removal of a section of the cobbled surface. A buried soil was observed in Trenches 10, 11A and 11B, and this soil was cut by a small posthole located in the N end of Trench 11A. Trench 11C was devoid of any archaeological features.

The second phase of the evaluation, 13–17 July, involved the excavation of six trenches, including the investigation of the remains of a partially extant dovecote (Trench 1). Wall footings were discovered in Trench 7 immediately to the S of Old Craig but were not dated conclusively. Trench 9 uncovered the remains of the property boundary wall associated with Old Craig directly to the N of the extant retaining wall.

Archive: Museum of Edinburgh and NRHE
Funder: Clearbell Capital LLP
**Cramond House/Cramond Glebe Road**

**Casual find**

Val Dean

NT 19120 76870 Following landscaping of a children's playground on the S side of Cramond House, a walkover of spoil heaps recovered five Roman amphora body sherds. These have been lodged with the Treasure Trove Unit.

NT 18990 76680 A rectangular sandstone block, 0.15m high by 0.36m wide, with incised cross-hatching on its face, is built into the former field wall on the E side of Cramond Glebe Road, 16m S of the N end of the wall. Its location is 60m S of the S rampart of Cramond Roman fort.

Archive: Val Dean

**Donaldson’s College**

**Evaluation**

Rob Engl and Steven Watt – AOC Archaeology Group

NT 23195 70041 An evaluation was undertaken, 20 April 2016, at Donaldson’s College in advance of its proposed redevelopment. Twelve trenches were excavated to the E and W of the college and to rear (N) of the college. The excavations recorded mostly rubble drainage and made ground, there were no finds or features of archaeological significance.

Archive: NRHE (intended)

Funder: Cala Evans Restoration Ltd and City and Country Edinburgh Ltd

**Duncan Place Resource Centre, Leith**

**Standing building recording**

Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group

NT 27163 75845 A historic building survey was carried out, 8–9 August 2016, of the resource centre, which is a listed building, in advance of its partial demolition and renovation. The building was constructed in c1920 as an additional educational establishment to the adjacent Leith Primary School, which was built in 1898. Both buildings were constructed to a design by George Craig, Architect. The building has lain empty since 2014.

Archive: NRHE (intended)

Funder: City of Edinburgh Council

**East Craig, Craighouse**

**Standing building recording**

Ariane Buschmann and Frank Giecco – Wardell Armstrong Archaeology

NT 23431 70626 An enhanced building survey was undertaken, 1 June – 11 September 2015, of the category A listed East Craig building. East Craig is part of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum Complex built at Craighouse by the architect Sydney Mitchell in 1894. It was constructed as a small clinical hospital building for women.

The building, which is in average condition, retains some of its original features. There is clear evidence of 20th, and 21st-century alterations in its general layout. The building has undergone several treatments for wet rot and general dampness, but further measures may be necessary.

While the building is less decorative, and more functionally oriented in its design, the overall architectural value is still of significance, not only as part of the Craighouse complex, but also as a distinctive hospital building of the late 19th century. In comparison with the other buildings of Craighouse, East Craig is the most affected by successive past refurbishments. These changes have had a negative impact on the aesthetic and historic value of the building.

Archive: NRHE

Funder: Clearbell Capital LLP

**East Suffolk Road, Edinburgh**

**Evaluation**

Gary Savory – CFA Archaeology Ltd

NT 27178 71459 A trial trenching evaluation was carried out, September 2016, on land to the E of East Suffolk Road in advance of a housing development. A total of 18 trenches covering 906m² (over 10% of the development area) was excavated.

Extremely deep deposits of redeposited made ground were encountered down to a depth of at least 3.8m within the northern part of the site; it was clear in the trench sections that the natural land formation sloped extremely sharply in a northerly direction down towards the Pow Burn. Therefore, it appears that the land had originally sloped from S to N and was levelled to accommodate the playing fields.

Archive: NRHE. Report: City of Edinburgh Council

Funder: Miller Homes

**East Suffolk Road Sports Pavilion**

**Standing building recording**

Mike Cressey – CFA Archaeology Ltd

NT 27165 71497 A Level 3 historical building survey was carried out, August 2016, of a derelict sports pavilion off East Suffolk Road. The category C listed building was built in 1895 for a 9-hole golf course. It was then owned by a hockey club. The nearby St Margaret’s Girls school used it until 1976, when it was taken over by the University of Edinburgh. The building was modified extensively with the addition of an E wing and a flat roof extension was added in 1982. The building has lain derelict since 2008. The survey showed that the 1895 core had a timber-framed construction. The 1982 E extension was also timber framed to a lesser extent. The N or rear extension was built of mono-blocks. The interior was also refurbished in 1982.

Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: City of Edinburgh Council and NRHE

Funder: Miller Homes

**Edinburgh Castle (Esplanade)**

**Watching brief**

Paul Fox – Kirkdale Archaeology

NT 25376 73508 (NT27SE 1.33) A watching brief was undertaken, 24 March – 4 May 2016, during the excavation of the footprint for a replacement kiosk at the E end of the esplanade. The removal of whin setts revealed only modern infill and no features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended)

Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

**Edinburgh Castle (Johnston Terrace)**

**Watching brief**

Gordon Ewart – Kirkdale Archaeology

NT 2514 7338 (centred on) A watching brief was maintained, 28 October 2015 – 1 March 2016, immediately below the S side of Edinburgh Castle, during path relocation work on the N side of the road. At Johnston Terrace’s SW end, where the present work was concentrated, it skirts the base of the cliffs that form this side of the rock, while further to the NE it runs across the slope below the esplanade. Earlier work had shown that well preserved deposits predating Johnston Terrace’s construction survived along its SE side at the NE end. This was thought to be at least partly because the NW (upslope) side was quarried into the slope, with the material removed from here spread to the SE to provide a level terrace for the road, sealing earlier deposits.

No evidence of natural in situ deposits were recorded in
any of the monitored areas, with even the deepest areas of excavation, to 1.10m, containing only evidence of deposits of anthropogenic origin. This is almost certainly a testament to the immense amount of landscaping that the construction of Johnston Terrace involved. The SW end of the road feeds onto a substantial bridge crossing King’s Stables Road, with clear evidence of the creation of a substantial bank connecting the lower end of Johnston Terrace to this bridge. Indeed, the regularity and coincidence of positioning of the whole slope below the lower end of Johnston Terrace suggests that this is all artificial, relating to the road’s construction.

Archives: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

Edinburgh Castle (St Margaret’s Chapel)
Standing building recording
David Murray – Kirkdale Archaeology
NT 2515 7350 A standing building survey was undertaken, 1 February – 31 March 2016. The chapel is now associated with St Margaret who died in 1093 but it was initially dedicated to St Michael, during the reign of David I (1124–53). The chapel was ultimately converted for use as a gunpowder store in the 17th century and the late-medieval chapel which adjoined the E end of St Margaret’s Chapel continued as the garrison chapel until the late 18th century. This in turn was replaced by a new chapel which lasted to the later 19th century. Queen Margaret’s Chapel was heavily restored from the early 1850s in order to create the Romanesque style of chapel which exists today. The recording programme revealed evidence of all these building phases and significantly did confirm that the 12th-century chancel arch and associated arch were inserted within an existing structure, but whether the latter is contemporary with the 11th-century Queen Margaret is not known at present.

Archives: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

Former Odeon Cinema, Edinburgh
Standing building recording
Jürgen van Wessel – Headland Archaeology Ltd
NT 26184 72794 A Level 2 standing building survey was carried out, 18–19 October, 2016, of the former cinema at 7 Clerk Street. The building opened in 1930 as the ‘New Victoria’ cinema, and was designed by W E Trent and J W Jordan for the Gaumont Company. It represents an unusual example of the ‘atmospheric’ style in Scotland with only one other surviving example, and has a number of interesting decorative features, not least the bright white Hathernware faience façade to Clerk Street. The cinema underwent a number of structural changes in the 1950s–80s, including the division of the main auditorium to allow insertion of additional screens, before eventual closure in 2003. The current redevelopment aims to convert the building into a modern multi-screen cinema while restoring the 1930 interior to original condition. Recent removal of modern partitions, ceilings and finishes has revealed much of this original decorative scheme.

Archives: NRHE (intended)
Funder: GI Group

Frogston Road East, Edinburgh
Excavation
Kevin Paton and Rob Engl – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 27198 67690 A programme of top soil stripping and excavation was undertaken, March 2016, in advance of development of land at Frogston Road East. The work sought to investigate remains discovered during an initial evaluation. The removal of topsoil from a c100 x 70m area long the W perimeter of the site revealed a suite of features, including a clay lined kiln, a truncated stone platform, a stone hearth with post built super-structure and numerous pits, postholes and curvilinear ditches. Small finds were largely absent and restricted to modern ceramics and a single small ceramic body shard of uncertain date. Based on form and existing archaeological parallels it is likely that the majority of the features are medieval/early post-medieval in date and represent the truncated remains of field systems and delineated activity areas. This will hopefully be clarified by post-excavation analyses.

Archives: NRHE (intended)
Funder: BDW Trading Ltd and The Catchelraw Trust

Gilmerton Dykes Road, Gilmerton
Evaluation and survey
Rob Engl – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 28950 68050 (centred on) An evaluation and metal detector survey were undertaken, 15–21 June 2016, in advance of a residential development on a 2.5ha area of two open fields partially covered by mature scrub vegetation. The presence of the mature vegetation reduced the planned machine trenching from 1250 to 1250 linear metres. A previously unmapped pre-18th-century dry stone boundary wall was recorded crossing the western field on a N/S alignment. The structural remains of walls associated with the post-medieval track the ‘Long Walk’ were also recorded. A metal detector survey of the spoil heaps recorded no significant finds.

Archives: NRHE
Funder: Miller Homes Ltd

Gladstone’s Land
Standing building recording
Tom Addyman, Kenneth Macfadyen, Jenni Morrison and Nicholas Uglow – Addyman Archaeology
NT 25549 73582 A comprehensive review of the history of Gladstone’s Land, 483 Lawnmarket, was undertaken 1 November 2014 – 1 March 2015. The work aimed to develop a detailed understanding of the site, and this information will be used to inform future management and development proposals.

Archives: NRHE
Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

Detail of interior at Gladstone’s Land

The work confirmed previous theories that the building was built in several stages from perhaps as early as the late medieval period. It was significantly extended southwards c1620 with the addition of the front column of rooms with painted beam and board ceilings, probably with a timber

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frontage to the street. This was subsequently rebuilt in masonry to its present appearance. The newly formed NTs purchased the building for housing in the 1930s, without knowing of the remarkable survival of the painted ceilings. Their conservation in the 1930s, which involved the removal of almost all interior features not considered authentic to the 17th century, revealed the ceilings concealed under later plaster. These ceilings have been restored and de-restored several times and the building itself altered internally and externally several times in the 20th century.

Archive: NTs and NRHE (intended)
Funder: The National Trust for Scotland

4–6 Grassmarket
Evaluation
Andrew Morrison – Addyman Archaeology
NT 25286 73371 A trial trenching evaluation was carried out, 21–22 September 2015, on land to the rear of 4–6 Grassmarket in advance of development of the area as a bar/restaurant and event space.

The excavation of three trenches established the presence of significant late modern demolition deposits to the maximum depth of 1.2m reached during the excavation. A thin band of archaeological deposits was discovered at the northern extent of the site, between the demolition deposits and the southern wall of Dance Base. The artefactual evidence from these deposits suggested they date to the late 19th to early 20th centuries.

It is considered that the demolition deposits were probably generated during the dismantling of buildings and various recent phases of rebuild and repair to the Flodden Wall. Access to this plot of land is difficult and it seems likely that rubble was heaped to the rear of the site rather than removed. It is thought that in situ archaeological deposits are likely to exist below the depth of the rubble deposit.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Signature Pubs Ltd

Holyrood Park
Watching brief
David Murray and Alan Radley – Kirkdale Archaeology
NT 27 73 (individual locations shown below) Watching briefs were maintained, 14 January – 22 March 2016, during three programmes of work in Holyrood Park. These were part of an ongoing repair programme. Monitoring of remedial work was undertaken on the main path to the summit of Arthur’s Seat from the N side. This path runs into the park on a roughly NW/SE alignment up to Saint Anthony’s Well where it turns from the N side. This path runs into the park on a roughly NE/SW, sloping up along the NW side of the gully known as Dry Dam. This represents perhaps the most obvious way to the summit, as well as a possible route connecting the Holyrood area with Duddingston on the S side of the hill.

NT 2756 7325 and NT 2757 7345 Work in this phase was on three areas. The first two revealed nothing of interest but a third area (NT 2751 7366) revealed redeposited material, with path gravel and flecks of blaze throughout all the deposits. Significant amounts of 19th-century (or later) material were noted, with a small selection retained. A single body sherd of broadly medieval date was retained from an erosion scar adjacent to the path. These finds may represent more than simply casual loss – perhaps midden (enhanced) material was introduced in the 19th century to landscape the approach to Anthony’s Chapel and associated features.

NT 2701 7370 This work comprised the monitoring of a small excavation to repair a blocked drain at the foot of Arthur’s Seat where the cycle path meets the ‘grass-crete’ surface of the lowest stretch of Volunteer’s Walk. These excavations revealed evidence for extensive infill deposits, of unknown date. The lack of any evidence for stabilisation suggests that the three basal deposits represent a single event. The most likely date for this would be the mid-19th century, when the Queen’s Drive was constructed.

NT 2701 7370 A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a long drainage trench adjacent to ‘Jacob’s Ladder’, a steep set of steps on the SE edge of Arthur’s Seat. These steps run from near Duddingston Loch at the base of the hill up towards Dunsapie Loch, and poorly drained ground at both top and bottom has caused long term drainage issues. To the W of the bottom of the steps is the site known as Delf’s Well, today covered by a stone and brick built box and shown on the 1850s OS maps. An extant drain was believed to run from this structure SE towards a drain cover visible adjacent to the Duddingston Loch car park. The machine-excavated trench was 220m in length x 0.4m wide x 0.75m deep. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance.

The opportunity was taken to make a detailed written and photographic record, including a measured sketch plan, of Delf’s Well. The well appears to be fed by springs coming off the slope, with a vigorous inflow observed coming into the well chamber from the brick built arch low down in its northern wall. It was thought that the well is most likely a mid-19th century construction over a natural spring.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

Jamaica Street, Edinburgh
Standing building recording
Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 24963 74348 A historic building survey was carried out, 30 May – 2 June 2016, of 18a/18c Jamaica Street in advance of the renovation of the building. The building was probably constructed at the same time as the house at No 5 Royal Circus, acting as its mews building as part of the New Town development of Edinburgh in the early 19th century. The building was later raised to the first floor level, with the insertion of two dormer windows and a fireplace to create accommodation. A central partition was later removed to create an open plan workshop.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Mr R Coulthard

James Gillespies High School
Standing building recording
Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 25064 72149 A historic building survey was carried out, 11 November 2015, of a newly exposed area of the Avenue Wall at James Gillespies High School, prior to its being faced with concrete as part of development work. The exposure of c.0.8m at the base of the stone rubble-faced wall revealed no features. Cartographic evidence suggests that a small projecting section to the E was added 1897–1909.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Morrison Construction Scotland Ltd

John Knox House
Standing building recording and dendrochronology
Diana Sproat and Anne Crone – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 26100 73701 A programme of detailed recording and dendrochronological sampling of joists on the first floor of the medieval John Knox House on the Royal Mile was undertaken on 18 May 2016. The joists have suffered from wet rot, and repairs are required to make them safe. The dendrochronological analysis has resulted in the dating of two of the joists. The timber used in John Knox house comes
from southern Norway and the dendrochronological dates suggest that the joists were used in the construction of the jetty soon after 1560.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: ARPL Architects

Leith Story and Leith at War
Heritage Trail and Soundscape
Fiona Watson and Liz Hare – Archaeology Scotland
NT 27270 76450 The Story of Leith Project brought together the Citadel Arts Group (CAG) and the Workers Education Association Playwrights Group (WEA) to create a heritage trail with a 360° soundscape. To do this they employed the use of binaural sound recording, which uses a dummy head and two recorders placed in the ‘ears’ to mimic the way humans pick up sound. CAG and WEA worked on script and extra text to be included in an accompanying booklet. Adopt-a-Monument worked with these projects to help produce the booklets and provide guided tours from 19–21 June 2014.

Archive and report: NRHE (intended)
Funder: HLF and HES

Lochrin Basin, Edinburgh
Watching brief
Kevin Paton and Martin Cook – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 24699 72767 A watching brief was undertaken, 29 September – 2 December 2015, during the initial construction phases of a new development at Lochrin Basin. This work follows on from a excavation of the proposed building footprint (DES 2015, 76).

The work fully exposed the canal basin and fully excavated all the deposits within. The exposure of the structure has shown the basin footprint still exists in situ, but has been truncated throughout, with the wall reduced in height (up to 1.5m in places). The best surviving portion is at the W edge where the original coping stones survive in situ, and have been built upon by a later sandstone structure, now demolished. As well as the full exposure of the basin, the steam engine structure partly located in the excavation was also fully exposed and recorded. No artefacts were recorded from the basin deposits.

Finally, two areas of existing basin wall were removed by the construction works. A full survey of the remaining basin structure has been created for future reference.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Knightsbridge Student Housing Ltd

142 Lothian Road/Semple Street, Edinburgh
Watching brief
Rob Engl – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 24799 73087 A watching brief was carried out, 10 August – 2 November 2016, during ground-breaking work. The removal of demolition material revealed foundations relating to 20th-century buildings associated with Lothian House, constructed during the 1930s and 1950s. The foundations were cut through deposits of natural clay. No evidence of the Port Hopetoun terminus for the Grand Union Canal, known to occupy the site in the 19th century, was observed.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Michael Laird Architects

Merrickton Castle
Evaluation
Kenneth Macfadyen – Addyman Archaeology
NT 24259 71806 A watching brief was carried out, 14–18 August 2015, during the removal of a mid-20th-century reinforced concrete stair built against the 15th-century tower house at Merchiston. The breaking of foundations at ground level, and the removal of the reinforced concrete of the stairs built into the S frontage of the tower at first floor level, recorded no features predating the mid-20th-century concrete.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Hart Builders (Edinburgh) Ltd

22A Milton Street, Edinburgh
Desk-based assessment, standing building recording and watching brief
Ian Hill – Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice Ltd (HARP)
NT 27153 74159 A programme of archaeological work was undertaken, 15 May – 18 July 2012, prior to and during partial demolition of the existing warehouse complex and its conversion into two new houses. The buildings date from the late 19th century and were part of the original Milton House Works. Since their original construction there have been several alterations to the original structure, including a likely demolition and rebuilding of the western building. Following redevelopment all of the original eastern building and the additional steel roof beams remain standing, and have been incorporated into the new building. The rebuilt western building has been demolished and will be replaced by a new building. Other than the original foundations for the western building, and a possible tank stand associated with the foundations, no other archaeological remains were recorded.

Archive and report: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Engineshed LLP

Nelson Monument, Calton Hill, Edinburgh
Evaluation
Kenneth Macfadyen – Addyman Archaeology
NT 26138 74134 An evaluation was undertaken, 8 September 2016, of an uncovered stone feature. The feature was partially exposed during the formation of a series of planting beds to the E of Nelson’s Monument on Calton Hill. A trench was excavated across the top of the feature to identify its extent and purpose. The feature was formed from a deep cut into the bedrock of the hill, forming a large square chamber. The chamber was lined with dry stone and sealed with a 1m square stone capping. Two ceramic pipes ran in/out of the chamber; one of these was possibly from a down pipe and the other was perhaps an overflow. The feature proved to be drainage related. Its full purpose was not clear, but it was possibly a cistern tank for collecting rainwater.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: CECAS

Newhaven Place, Edinburgh
Evaluation
Matthew Ginnever – Headland Archaeology Ltd
NT 25743 77107 A 10% trial trenching evaluation was planned, 21 October 2016, on land 50m E of 20 Newhaven Place in advance of a residential development. Due to the depth and unstable nature of made ground deposits encountered, this was reduced to a series of six trial holes across the site.

The evaluation revealed clean marine sands at depths of 2.00–3.20m below current ground levels across the site. These were overlain by 20th-century made ground deposits of boulders, rubble, bricks and other substantial debris. The remains of concrete foundations and utility trenches relating to recent buildings were also found across much of the site.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: NRHE (intended)
Old Craig, Craighouse
Standing building recording
Ariane Buschmann and Frank Giecco – Wardell Armstrong Archaeology

NT 23459 70660 An enhanced building survey was undertaken, 1 June – 11 September 2015, of Old Craig a category A listed 16th-century tower house built on a L or T plan. The tower has a date stone of 1565 with the initials LS CP dedicated to the owners, Laurence Symson and his wife, who purchased or inherited the house at this time. The three-storey building with tower, attic and vaulted cellar went through numerous changes over the following centuries, but the original structure is still identifiable.

There is clear evidence of alterations in the fenestration and in later structures and extensions that were added in the 18th and late 19th century. Major alterations to the roof and interior were made by Sydney Mitchell in the late 19th century, following the incorporation of the building as part of the new Royal Edinburgh Asylum.

The overall layout of the building has been only slightly modified in the last century, mainly to accommodate easier disabled access and fire protection. The majority of the modern changes appear to be reversible; however, some have directly affected the historic material. For example, a modern elevator shaft has been inserted into the 16th-century room with vaulted ceiling.

The building is of exceptional historic and archaeological significance as a 16th-century tower house. There is the possibility of the survival of further below ground archaeological remains related to the several outbuildings and garden walls of the property, which have been removed and changed over the last few centuries.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Clearbell Capital LLP

Old Mill Lane, Edinburgh
Watching brief
Ian Hill and Samira Hill – Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice Ltd (HARP)

NT 27325 70719 A watching brief was carried out, 25–26 May 2012, during ground-breaking work associated with the construction of an extension to the rear of 2 Old Mill Lane. The machine excavation of 0.8m wide and up to 0.83m deep foundation trenches recorded no finds or features of archaeological significance. Deposits consisted of garden soil and modern building remains. The only feature revealed were parts of the foundations of a modern washhouse that had been previously demolished.

Archive and report: NRHE
Funder: Forth Property Management

Panmure House, Canongate
Evaluation
Kenneth Macfadyen – Addyman Archaeology

NT 26510 73872 In advance of works involving ground reduction and underpinning to the building a series of seven evaluation trenches were excavated, 2–8 April 2013. Within four of these natural deposits were noted beneath a removed concrete floor, and it appears that the ground level had been reduced by 0.50m or more in works undertaken in the 1950s within the western part. However, to the east two trenches (Trenches 2 and 4) exposed a number of deep cut pits containing 13th/17th-century pottery in tightly dated groups, and also exposed deep deposits of made ground containing 13–15th century pottery.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Edinburgh Business School

Potterrow, Edinburgh
Watching brief and excavation
Nicholas Johnstone – AOC Archaeology Group

NT 25946 73111 A programme of archaeological work was undertaken, 7 March – 24 April 2016, during the construction of a new Data Technology Institute building adjacent to Potterrow. Prior to work commencing, the site was a landscaped area of grass and gravel walkways recently installed during the construction of nearby university tower block buildings. Before this the area had been a patch of disused waste ground used as a car park since the demolition of the last standing buildings in the 1970s. According to historic maps the site had been under development from at least the 18th century.

The watching brief initially discovered the tarmac and hard-standing of the recent car park just below the grass of the current park. Below this a compact layer of demolition material was uncovered which overlay the remains of numerous walls. At this point the watching brief was escalated to an excavation to record the remains prior to their removal.

Over the course of the excavation the site produced a series of stratified remains including a 19th-century school, 18th-century tenements and commercial buildings, post-medieval industry, a stone lined well, and large scale quarrying activities. Alongside this a wide range of artefacts was recovered from the site including a concentrated dump of non-local stoneware ceramics, numerous fragments of Scottish post-medieval reduced ware with a green glaze, and a substantial quantity of metal working material in the form of copper rich slag and ceramic forming material.

Once excavated and recorded, the structures of the site were removed to uncover any further remains. This
was continued across most of the site until sterile natural subsoil was reached. Due to the quarrying activity natural subsoil could not be reached across the middle of the site. At this point deposits of quarry fill continued below the 5m maximum depth of the current development and as such will be partially preserved in situ. Archive: NRHE (intended) Funder: University of Edinburgh

Potterrow, Edinburgh
Excavation
Nicholas Johnston and Kevin Paton – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 25959 73201 An excavation was undertaken, 10–31 May 2016, ahead of the construction of student accommodation at Potterrow. The excavations were required after a previous evaluation revealed surfaces and walls related to possible 19th-century building remains.

The excavation, which covered 28 x 18m, at first revealed similar archaeological remains to those encountered in the evaluation. Several cobbled surfaces that show re-use of the site as an internal courtyard were revealed to the S of a large sandstone wall that forms the S gable of a probable 18th and 19th-century tenement. However, along with these late, post-medieval and modern features, were remnants of walls and surfaces that may relate to earlier periods.

The presence of a probable turnpike staircase at the front of the tenement building suggests that the earliest use of the structure predates the courtyards found initially. This was proven by the discovery of earlier courtyard remnants associated with a well, coal store and sunken-floored outbuildings underneath the later cobbles. This phase would have contained the road or close to the E of the tenement structure that was later cut by the redevelopment of the tenements.

Finally, the earliest phase of site use could date to the 16th century, and it included a large kiln/furnace associated with a thick walled, dry stone structure that does not appear to relate to the street front of Potterrow. Several cut features were also found under the earlier garden soils that could predate the kiln/furnace and dry stone structure. Archive: NRHE (intended) Funder: KR Developments

Princess Elizabeth Nursery School, 14 Clearburn Crescent
Standing building recording
Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 27500 71697 A historic building survey was carried out, 3 June 2016, of the former nursery prior to its demolition and the construction of new houses. The nursery was built in one phase in the late 1920s/early 1930s. The exterior has remained as it was originally constructed, with a much neater and ordered E elevation to the roadside and a more ancillary and messy rear W elevation. Internally, the building has retained its original layout, although some of the original fixtures and fittings have been replaced over time, with fireplaces blocked-up and replaced, and door fittings upgraded. However, the main doors into the building at ground floor level and some original door fittings had survived.

Archive: NRHE (intended) Funder: Invincible Scotland Trust

Queen Charlotte Street
Watching brief
Lisa Bird – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 27307 76228 A watching brief was carried out, 18–19 October 2016, during ground-breaking works associated with the construction of an extension to the rear of 53B Queen Charlotte Street. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded. Archive: NRHE (intended) Funder: J Walker

Queen’s Craig Villa, Craighouse
Standing building recording
Ariane Buschmann and Frank Giecco – Wardell Armstrong Archaeology
NT 23249 70658 A Level 2 standing building survey was undertaken, 1 June – 11 September 2015, of the category A listed Queen’s Craig Villa in advance of development. Queen’s Craig Villa, attached to the West Hospital, was part of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum Complex built at Craighouse by the architect Sydney Mitchell in the late 19th century. It was designed as a separate villa for men, with its own parlours, dining room and a large billiard room. From 1994 to 2013 the building was owned by Edinburgh Napier University and was part of their Craighouse campus.

The building, which is in average to good condition, retains some of its original features and there is clear evidence of alterations in its structures that have taken place during the 20th century. However, the lower ground floor is in a poor condition, due to severe mould infestation and water damage, focusing on the timber conservatory and the rooms forming the exterior light well.

Being situated in the Craiglockhart Hills Conservation area, the building is of cultural and archaeological significance. In the composition with the other buildings and as part of Sydney Mitchell’s design, the building is of a high aesthetic and architectural significance. With the large amount of exterior and interior details still present, the building is of significant value as an example of a 19th-century hospital.

Archive: NRHE Funder: Clearbell Capital Ltd

14 Ramsay Garden
Standing building recording
Jenni Morrison – Addyman Archaeology
NT 25363 73542 Number 14 Ramsay Garden came under the guardianship of The National Trust for Scotland in 2000 following the death of the owner. Ramsay Garden forms an intrinsic part of Edinburgh’s world famous skyline, with number 14 being of particular significance as it was the family home of the building’s architect, Patrick Geddes. A conservation plan for the property was produced in 2006 by Andrew PK Wright, which provides a detailed account of the property.

A measured survey was undertaken, 18–25 February 2014, during building works to repair areas of dry rot within two rooms. The work recorded both the structure of the building, and the decorative plaster and timber finishes in the areas affected by rot. The drawn and photographic survey was created to allow for reinstatement of the rooms in the event of any damage being caused during the repairs.

The area that had been affected by the rot was stripped revealing the masonry and timber structure beneath. These areas were recorded together with the surrounding intact timber and plaster finishes. A reflected plan of the E end of the ceiling of bedroom 3 was also drawn. The elevations were drawn at 1:10, details of all timber and plaster mouldings were drawn at 1:1, and the reflected ceiling plan was drawn at 1:20.

Archive: NRHE (intended) Funder: The National Trust for Scotland
CITY OF EDINBURGH

Royal Botanic Gardens, Leith Walk, 34 Haddington Place
Excavation
Andrew Morrison – Addyman Archaeology
NT 26314 74839 A programme of work was undertaken in advance of the development of the former site of the Royal Botanic Gardens. Located between the McDonald Road Library to the N and the St Cuthbert’s tenements to the S, the site of the former gardens and the original location of the Botanic Cottage is being developed into a mix of student housing and commercial space.

Haddington Place was the home of Edinburgh’s Royal Botanic Gardens from 1763 until 1821, at which point they were relocated to a larger, more remote site at Inverleith where they remain today. In 1764, a gardener’s cottage was constructed at the entrance to the gardens to provide accommodation for the gardeners as well as lecture space for students. After the gardens left the site, the lands were sold off and subsequently developed. Though the grounds had changed, the cottage remained, over time becoming known as the ‘Botanic Cottage’. By the end of the 20th century, the cottage was derelict. Permission to demolish the cottage was granted by the City of Edinburgh Council in 2007.

With the demolition of the cottage imminent, a number of interested parties formed the Botanic Cottage Project Group. Working in close conjunction with The Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden, a grant was secured from the HLF to investigate the history of the site and record the cottage prior to demolition. Part of this remit was to undertake an investigation of the cottage and surviving grounds in conjunction with community involvement.

The archaeological works that followed on the site of the former garden occurred over a two year period and took the form of multiple stages of investigations. These investigations included: a two-phased evaluation, the excavation of the Botanic Cottage footprint with the help of volunteers from the RBGE and wider community, the monitoring of engineering test pits, the recording and controlled dismantling of the surviving garden boundary wall, and the full scale site excavation immediately prior to development.

Evaluation – cottage site (January 2013) An initial small-scale evaluation aimed to answer a number of architectural questions relating to the re-erection of the cottage in Inverleith, as well as to gain information on stratigraphy and depth of deposits prior to the community excavation in 2014. In all, three trenches were excavated. Trenches 1 and 2 across the foundations of the Botanic Cottage, and Trench 3 along the top eastern face of the surviving garden boundary wall. Trench 1 did not show how the floor levels were constructed, but hinted at the use of flagstones on top of an infilled layer of sand and gravel. Both Trenches 1 and 2 showed that the cottage had no substantial foundations, but was instead constructed directly upon the existing ground surface. Trench 1 conclusively proved that the floor across this part of the cottage was of timber construction, although it is not possible to confirm that this was always the case. The evaluation of Trench 1 and the area to the exterior of the cottage demonstrated that major site works had removed all upper deposits relating to the cottage, although clearly some remnants of the botanic garden soil set within negatively cut features could survive. Trench 3 was problematic to excavate, but certainly indicated that the upper dressed stones facing the W and Leith Walk were simple, without the elaborate design indicated in the drawings of c1780.

Evaluation – wider site (July 2014) The wider site evaluation and excavation of the Botanic Cottage footprint was led by Ross Cameron with assistance from Andrew Morrison, and included volunteers from the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh as well as members of the Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden. The evaluation was conducted by Kenneth MacFadyen and involved the excavation of six trenches spread across the proposed development area.

The excavation and evaluations at Haddington Place at this point had shown that the soil and ground surface of the botanic gardens survived near intact across much of the lower-lying part of the site, to the W of the still-surviving former garden boundary wall. Garden related deposits were located in every trench, with only Trench 02 from 2013 and Trench 4 excavated in 2014 indicating that this had been disturbed to some degree. However, in both trenches it was clear that garden features still survived, with patches of garden soil being uncovered in Trench 02 and negatively cut features revealed across Trench 4.

Where the trenches cut through the garden soil, a wide variety of features were located as well as a large volume of terracotta garden pot fragments. The discovery of a possible well in Trench 2 was unexpected, with none of the historic maps consulted indicating that a well was on site. Surviving garden features were recorded within the evaluation trenches, particularly to the S, and included possible pathways and a buried stave-built barrel filled with lime. Where garden features were recorded, these were often seen to contain deposits of cinders.

The survival of the old ground surface and significant deposits of garden soils was noted as remarkable for an area that was so heavily used. Clearly, important negatively cut features including paths and bedding plants survived which have the potential to shed an enormous amount of light on the use and layout of the garden during the 18th and 19th centuries.

The stratigraphy within the Botanic Cottage was relatively simple, with few internal architectural features or partitions noted relating to the building’s use during the garden’s occupation. Evidence suggests that the northern side of the cottage had a timber floor as part of its original construction, while the southern side was more likely to have been laid with a flagstone floor, since robbed. A cobbled surface was also located below one of the windows along the building’s frontage, providing a glimpse at the type of landscaping that likely would have filled the area within the curve of the boundary wall in front of the cottage.

One important discovery was the strengthening of the foundations in the NW corner of the cottage. This can only have been done if a particularly heavy object or structural works were placed above. It seems likely that this was the location of the staircase prior to the construction of the external stair tower. The strengthening of the foundations in this point may also have been due to the lack of substantial buried foundations as the excavation proved the cottage had been built directly onto the existing ground surface.

Engineering test pits – monitoring (November 2014) A series of 13 engineering test pits placed and excavated to the requirements of the site engineers were monitored and recorded. In addition, a large trench was excavated along the eastern face of the E wall that formed the original boundary of the botanic gardens prior to its dismantling.

Excavations revealed the eastern face of the boundary wall to be in excellent condition, with the entrance quoining intact and showed that the doorway within the wall had probably found a secondary use after the botanic gardens had left the site, prior to being blocked with bricks before the service station was built. A small sondage NE of the entrance potentially revealed the original 18th-century exterior ground surface, and also yielded datable artefactual materials.

Test pitting revealed the made ground on the eastern half
of the site to be mostly demolition deposits overlying garden soils. The eastern boundary wall was shown not to survive beneath the made ground, N of the upstanding section and crosswall. It was also revealed that the petrol tanks relating to the service station had previously been removed from site. The test pits that were excavated along the N and S boundaries of the site did not reveal any new information, but did locate the foundations of the library building, tenement block, and southern boundary wall.

**General excavation (February – March 2015)** An excavation, led by Andrew Morrison, was undertaken which included opportunities for regularly scheduled public tours organised through the RBGE whilst work was in progress. The tours allowed interested parties, specifically the volunteers who had participated in the dig, one final opportunity to see and experience the original botanic gardens prior to development.

The excavation area measured c50m N/S by 16m E/W, and was confined to the lower portion of the site along Annadale Street Lane. The area to be affected by the new building’s footprint. After the monitored and recorded dismantling of the surviving botanic garden boundary wall, mid- to late 20th-century rubble and overburden deposits across the site did not reveal any new information, but did locate the foundations of the library building, tenement block, and southern boundary wall.

The excavation area measured c50m N/S by 16m E/W, and was confined to the lower portion of the site along Annadale Street Lane. The area to be affected by the new building’s footprint. After the monitored and recorded dismantling of the surviving botanic garden boundary wall, mid- to late 20th-century rubble and overburden deposits across the site were removed using a mechanical excavator. With the underlying soils revealed, excavations proceeded by hand. A comprehensive soil sampling strategy was employed for the garden soil deposits and written and photographic record produced. The excavations established that a considerable depth of garden soils and garden related features survived in situ below the later 19th- and 20th-century occupation deposits. Deep deposits of garden soils were well preserved to the S and N ends of the site, with most of the central area having been compacted and disturbed by the construction of a structure relating to the 20th-century service station. Significant garden features were uncovered including: garden paths, drainage systems, planting beds, hedge-lines, and tree throws; these features are thought to relate to the 18th- and early 19th-century botanic gardens, and the later use of the site as a market garden. Earlier finds and features relating to the site’s use as feu lands prior to the foundation of the botanic gardens were also noted, with isolated plough strikes and pit features underlying the garden soils and cutting into the natural subsoil. Overlying the garden deposits in the N end of the site, the remains of a cluster of Victorian brick structures and features were uncovered. Features here included a post alignment, low walls and floor surfaces, and a group of in situ Minton polychrome hearth tiles.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** S Harrison Developments Ltd and the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh

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**Royal Botanic Gardens Nursery, NE Corner Development**

**Evaluation**

**Ian Suddaby – CFA Archaeology Ltd**

NT 2457 7585 A trial trenching evaluation was carried out in March 2016 in the NE corner of the botanic gardens in advance of development. A total of four trenches covering 140m² were excavated. The areas had been disturbed by previous development related to the areas use as a garden nursery. Two field drains and a modern service were identified. A narrow undated linear feature was found in Trench 4, but it was considered to be recent on the basis of the profile and mixed fill.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended). Report: City of Edinburgh Council and NRHE

**Funder:** Smith Scott Mullan Associates per Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

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**Salamander and Baltic Street, Leith**

**Evaluation**

**Anthony Taylor – Headland Archaeology Ltd**

NT 2753 7642 An evaluation was carried out, July – August 2016, in advance of potential development on a site between Salamander Street and Baltic Street. The evaluation trenches provided evidence for multiple phases of structures associated with the 18th-century Edinburgh and Leith Glassworks and the 19th-century Edinburgh and Leith Gasworks, including foundation walls and associated interior structures and surfaces. The work demonstrated that the level of preservation across the site is generally very good, with the only truncation identified from concrete footings of mid-20th century sheds.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Travis Perkins PLC

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**Salamander Place, Leith**

**Evaluation**

**Kevin Paton – AOC Archaeology Group**

NT 27800 76026 An evaluation was undertaken, 14–19 September 2016, on the site of a former 19th-century Smallpox Hospital and surrounding land off Salamander Place. The evaluation was conducted in this area due to the possibility that a Smallpox Hospital burial ground or an earlier 17th-century burial ground, found within the school grounds to the S, may have extended into this area. The trenches established that the former hospital, the earlier ropeworks and the later industrial buildings were all removed by modern demolition. A series of 19th-century industrial features such as pits, postholes and drainage ditches were recorded throughout most of the trenches.

The most significant features found were a boundary ditch with associated stakes or posts that may relate to the northern hospital boundary, as well as a small section of ditch that predated the hospital, and may form an earlier boundary for the 17th-century burials to the south.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Teague Homes UK Ltd

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**65 Salamander Street, Leith**

**Watching brief**

**Gary Savory – CFA Archaeology Ltd**

NT 27930 76232 A watching brief was carried out, September 2016, during ground-breaking operations associated with the excavation of a car wash bay at 65 Salamander Street. The site was developed during the early/mid-19th century for industry. Kirkwood’s plan of 1817 shows the western boundary of the site overlaying the site of Mr Geddes’s...
Crystal (glass) Works, the last in a chain of glass works stretching along Salamander Street, which had started in the 18th century. By the 1st Edition OS map of 1849 the site had become fully developed with a bone mill but principally a large chemical works which remained in operation into the 20th century.

The trench measured 1.7 x 1.3m, and 1.9m deep. The deposits within the trench consisted of 0.1m of concrete overlying 0.45m of rubble and sandstone stones. Underlying this was 1.35m of furnace ash and gravel. The natural subsoil was not exposed.

Funder: Capita Property and Infrastructure

Saughton Hall, Edinburgh

Evaluation

Kevin Paton – AOC Archaeology Group

NT 219 719 An evaluation was carried out, 18–20 May 2016, in advance of development work at Saughton Hall. The excavations were localised to four trenches that were positioned to investigate the walls of Saughton Hall, as well as areas requiring up to 3m deep investigations for engineering purposes.

Three of the trenches revealed remains relating to the various phases of Saughton Hall. The main external wall of the house, some internal walls and drainage features were all revealed within 14m of trench. The findings from these works match the findings of the earlier evaluation and community excavation that showed the foundation levels of the former house all survive under the modern compound and landscaping.

Archived: NRHE (intended)
Funder: The City of Edinburgh Council Parks and Greenspace

Shrub Hill Transport Depot, Edinburgh

Watching brief

Magnar Dalland – Headland Archaeology Ltd

NT 2640 7505 Watching briefs were carried out, 6–12 October 2016, during groundworks associated with redevelopment at the site of the former transport depot. The work monitored part or full removal of a tunnel associated with a late 19th-century steam power plant for a cable driven tram system.

The tunnel ran from the engine room at the back of the site across to the former tram line along Leith Walk. Features recorded within the tunnel indicated that it had been roofed and was further modified after it went out of use as a cable shaft in 1922.

Archived: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Places for People

85–87 South Bridge

Standing building recording and watching brief

Mike Cressley – CFA Archaeology Ltd

NT 25965 73502 Numbers 85–87 South Bridge are a former office block facing onto South Bridge, the Cowgate and Blair Bridge spanning the Cowgate. The communication bridge was built for J and R Allan, Edinburgh, a large clothing store, as access between their offices in 85–87 South Bridge and their main clothing store which once occupied 79 South Bridge and southwards and round onto Chambers Street.

A photographic survey took place of the interior of a link bridge that was built in c1930 on the W side of the South Bridge spanning the Cowgate. The communication bridge was built for J and R Allan, Edinburgh, a large clothing store, as access between their offices in 85–87 South Bridge and their main clothing store which once occupied 79 South Bridge and southwards and round onto Chambers Street.

Funder: Mr J Crolla

South Craig, Craighouse

Standing building recording

Ariane Buschmann and Frank Giecco – Wardell Armstrong Archaeology

NT 23434 70500 An enhanced building survey was carried out, 1 June – 11 September 2015, of the category A listed South Craig building, which was part of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum complex built at Craighouse by Sydney Mitchell in the late 19th century.

The building retains some of its original features and there was also clear evidence of alterations in its structure that had taken place in the 20th century. The original layout of South Craig has been slightly modified over the last century, with areas on all floors affected. The building is in an average condition, with some areas affected by mould infestation, which affect the historical fabric of the building. The aesthetic and historic value varies between individual rooms. The upper ground floor contains elements of a higher aesthetic significance, such as the entrance hall and the original staircase. Other areas, however, are negatively influenced by modern alterations.

Archived: NRHE
Funder: Clearell Capital Ltd

South Gilmerton Farm, Edinburgh

Evaluation

Ross Murray – AOC Archaeology Group

NT 29529 68361 A 10% trial trenching evaluation was undertaken, 27 June – 1 July 2016, in advance of a proposed housing development on 7.4ha of arable land. The excavation of 7400m linear metres recorded two post-medieval boundary ditches, one containing two sherds of 17th/18th-century green-glazed ceramic. In addition, a possible small stone structure, likely to be contemporary with the ditches, and two pits relating to the historic mining activity in the area were also recorded.

Archived: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Miller Homes Ltd

15–19 South St Andrew Street and 28–50 West Register Street

Standing building recording

Diana Sproat and Gemma Hudson – AOC Archaeology Group

NT 25720 74039 A historic building survey was carried out, 14–29 March 2016, of the former Royal Bank of Scotland headquarters building in advance of development work. The earliest building on the site is the stone-built block to the NE of the complex, dating to the 1850s. This was joined in the late 1860s by a building to the S, which is the most interesting element to the complex due to its Venetian Gothic architecture associated with the former Cowan Printworks. The exterior walls of this building will be retained as part
of the development. The 1850s building was subsequently raised by three-storeys in the late 1870s and more internal refurbishments were carried out in the 1890s. In the 1960s, the 19th-century buildings to the W of the plot at South St Andrew Street were demolished to make way for a seven-storey office block. Major internal refurbishments were also carried out which saw the three buildings opened up to accommodate the banking staff for the Commercial Bank, later the Royal Bank of Scotland. This 1960s development, the original 1850s building, and the internal space to the later 1860s building, will be demolished.

The building at the time of survey had undergone a large amount of soft strip, although some suspended ceilings and partitions still remained. The basement looks to have survived in two phases, with the stone-built basement in the NE corner and S of the building, the rest brick or rendered survived in two phases, with the stone-built basement in the NE corner and S of the building, the rest brick or rendered survived in two phases, with the stone-built basement in the NE corner and S of the building, the rest brick or rendered survived in two phases, with the stone-built basement in the NE corner and S of the building. The basement looks to have greatly modified the space at ground floor level. Internally, the building has undergone a large deal of change, with the three separate buildings linked together in the 1960s to create large office space for the staff at the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The detached steel-framed and brick built bell tower occupied an H-shaped footprint and was c30m high with a pitched pan-tile roof.

102 St Leonard's Street, Edinburgh

Evaluation and excavation

Kevin Paton – AOC Archaeology Group

NT 26597 72652 An evaluation and excavation were undertaken, 3–15 February 2016, prior to the construction of a new residential and commercial development. The initial evaluation showed that a large part of the site had been truncated by the previous modern development. The earliest buildings along the street frontage had all been removed and the site had clearly been reduced to below the 18th- and 19th-century ground levels. However, the central portion of the development area showed potential for the survival of subterranean structures. Therefore, an area of additional excavation, measuring 30 x 20m, was undertaken in this area.

The excavations revealed the surviving walls and floors of 19th-century warehouse cellars. The cellars were constructed on two levels, with the ‘Upper Area’ consisting of sandstone walls with bitumen and wooden floors and the ‘Lower Area’ consisting of sandstone walls with sandstone flagstone flooring. In total, 23 rooms were identified, with 10 linking corridors, a large stairwell, 6 light wells, 5 hearths or fireplaces and 3 external entrances.

Modern repairs and additions were visible throughout, suggesting the buildings and rooms were altered and re-used, with some possibly blocked up and the floors removed for use elsewhere. With modern concrete used in the reparations, it was not unusual that all of the material culture from the infilling deposits was modern in date.

NT 27750 75980 During work at the school a single area, to allow the development of a single storey, two classroom building with ancillary accommodation.

The excavation revealed a large burial ground containing coffined and uncoffined burials plus four plague pits. A total of 81 individuals were interred at the site; 68% comprise adults and 32% comprise non-adults. Grave goods included two wooden lice combs, several wooden rosary beads, a key, leather shoes and two sets of coins; these were recovered from pits [514] and [558] and date to the reigns of King James VI (1567–1625) and King Charles I (1625–1649), with coins minted between 1637 and 1642 recovered of the latter. These burial pits were cut by later coffined burials, with the majority of the burials buried on an E/W alignment, with fewer interred on a N/S alignment. The precise meaning of this is unclear, but the difference in orientation may infer
the visual integrity of the Craighouse building complex.

Archaeology associated with the burial of human remains to
be encountered during the placement of services within the
school grounds. A watching brief was undertaken, on 7 July
2016, during the excavation of two areas for services. The
work revealed levelling deposits probably associated with the
construction of the school. There were no finds or features of
archaeological significance.

Archive: Edinburgh Museum and NRHE
Funder: Morrisons Construction

St Mary’s RC Primary School, 30 Links Gardens, Leith
Watching brief
Megan Stokley, Damian Churchill and Richard Newman –
Wardell Armstrong Archaeology

NT 27750 75980 Previous and on-going archaeological work
at the school has incorporated an evaluation and open-
area excavation. These investigations have revealed both
coffined and shrouded human burials, indicating that there
was considerable potential for the significant below ground
archaeology associated with the burial of human remains to
remain to be encountered during the placement of services within the
school grounds. A watching brief was undertaken, on 7 July
2016, during the excavation of two areas for services. The
work revealed levelling deposits probably associated with the
construction of the school. There were no finds or features of
archaeological significance.

Archive: Edinburgh Museum and NRHE
Funder: Morrisons Construction

St Nicholas Court, Madeira Street
Watching brief
Rob Engl – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 26321 76441 A watching brief was undertaken, 19 May
2016, during the demolition of a single storey building at
St Nicholas Court, Madeira Street. The demolition work
involved the removal of concrete slabs which were c.0.5m
above the surrounding ground level. No finds or features of
archaeological significance were recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Hackland and Dore Architects

St Paul’s Church, 4 Muirhouse Avenue
Standing building recording
Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 21949 75995 A historic building survey was carried out,
29 June 2016, of the former Roman Catholic church prior
to its demolition and the construction of new houses. The
church was constructed in 1968 and designed by architect
Peter Rice Whitson in an international modernist style, in
response to the need for Catholic church buildings in Edinburgh.
The church was constructed in 1968 and designed by architect
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recorded was the trace of a former sandstone wall, probably the NW wall of a building probably dating to the early 19th century and demolished between 1905 and 1914. Unstratified finds from this area dated to the late 19th or early 20th century. No finds or features of earlier origin were encountered, and the natural was observed at a depth of 0.6m below the current ground surface.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Edinburgh City Council

Victoria Primary School, Newhaven
Watching brief
Genevieve Shaw – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 25681 77027 A watching brief was carried out, 4 August 2016, during the drilling of boreholes associated with the proposed construction of an extension to the school. The work was required due to the proximity of the school to the medieval core of Newhaven and the discovery of an intumation during a previous evaluation and subsequent excavation in the school grounds.

Three test pits, measuring 0.3 x 0.3m, were hand excavated to a depth of 1.2m with a borehole drilled through each to a depth of 5m below ground surface. The spoil from the test pits and the boreholes was inspected, and ceramic pot sherds, ceramic building material and industrial slag recovered. These are likely to date to the post-medieval period and relate to demolition and midden layers pre-dating the construction of the school. Boulder clay was encountered at a depth of between c.3.5–4.5m below ground level.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: RSK Environment Ltd

Westerlea House, 9 – 11 Ellersly Road, Edinburgh
Standing building recording
Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 22183 73308 A historic building survey was carried out, 4–10 August 2016, of Westerlea House and its related buildings prior to their partial demolition and renovation. Westerlea House and its ancillary buildings, which include a chalet, gardeners’ buildings and stable block, were constructed between 1860 and 1869 to a design by Campbell Douglas and J J Stevenson. The layout of the buildings did not change throughout the 19th century, although in 1913, the rear gardens were re-designed by Robert Lorimer. After the Second World War, the house and grounds were bought by the British Red Cross and additional buildings were constructed in the 1950s–1990s to accommodate the care of special needs children and young adults, and it acts today as the headquarters for Capability Scotland.

Westerlea House has gone through some minor development and changes to cater for its new function in the late 20th/early 21st century, although many original features still survive including cornices, fireplaces and the attractive leaded casement windows in keeping with the Jacobean style of the architecture of the building.

All of the later 1950s–1990s buildings will be demolished together with the 1860s gardeners’ buildings and the western modern extension to Westerlea House. The remaining buildings (Westerlea House, the Stables and the Chalet) will be retained and renovated to form part of a new development with new builds to the E of the site after demolition.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: S1 Developments

Westfield, Whitehouse Road
Standing building recording and watching brief
Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 18435 76073 A historic building survey of an outbuilding in the grounds of Westfield, prior to its incorporation into a new house, as well as a watching brief on all ground-breaking work was undertaken, 9 February – 18 April 2016. The outbuilding was probably built at the same time as Westfield in the early 19th century and, with a chimney to the NE gable, it is possible that the building was originally designed as a small abode, or temporary accommodation. It was later converted to a garage with the insertion of garage doors to the NE side.

The watching brief saw the removal of topsoil which overlay an orange sandy gravel natural subsoil. The foundation wall for the outbuilding was also exposed on the NW side, 0.40m below the present ground level. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Notum Developments Ltd

Kirkliston

Path Brae, Kirkliston
Standing building recording and watching brief
Michael Cressey and Stuart Mitchell – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NT 12292 74239 A Level 2 building survey was undertaken, February – March 2015, on a category C listed former still house. The original rubble-built walls of the structure date to the mid- to late 19th century. The five-storey building had openings in the second to fourth floor to accommodate a Coffey Still that had two large vertical chambers running between these floors. The exterior E-facing elevation had evidence of two phases of building additions, which had been demolished in 2006.

A watching brief that was carried out to monitor the main drainage track recorded a section of wall. It also confirmed that the site had been built up to create a construction platform using oil shale waste (blaes) to a considerable depth. Apart from the main drainage track, the development was designed not to penetrate the layer of blaes, thus protecting any surviving archaeological remains in situ.

Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: City of Edinburgh Council and NRHE
Funder: Cruden Homes (East) Ltd

Plot 9, Newbridge
Watching brief and excavation
Stuart Wilson – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 12054 73248 A watching brief and subsequent excavation were undertaken, 1–11 July 2016, on Plot 9, a parcel of derelict land associated with a large scale commercial development at Newbridge. The site was top soil stripped without archaeological supervision. After consultation, it was decided to clean the site by a combined programme of machine and hand cleaning. The removal of the top soil had revealed a small number of sterile pits as well as a cluster of linear ditch features located at the SW corner of the plot. All of the features found had been truncated by the topsoil stripping. It is likely that these features represent a northerly extension of the medieval field system recorded by AOC Archaeology during 2007 and 2014.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: GM Mackenzie Ltd

The Stables, Foxhall
Standing building recording
Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 13084 74105 A historic building survey was undertaken, 21 December 2015, of the former stable block at the Conifox

DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND 77
Nurseries to the E of Kirkliston, prior to its conversion and renovation. The building, which forms part of the former Foxhall Estate, was built in the late 19th century, and consists of a stable block to the SE and two cottages to NW, forming a T-shape. Unfortunately, many of the original stable fixings had been removed, bar a few tether rings and a hay rack. The remains of the fireplaces to the cottages were exposed, but the fittings had been removed.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: James Gammell

FALKIRK

Airth

Metal detecting find
Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland
NS 90 86 The head of an enamelled Romano-British trumpet brooch was found during metal detecting S of Airth. Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 51/16), allocated to Falkirk Museum

Bo'ness and Carriden

Kinneil House
Watching brief
Paul Fox – Kirkdale Archaeology
NS 9825 8060 A watching brief was maintained, 28 April 2016, during the excavation of two test trenches against the N face of the S orchard wall ahead of stabilisation works. Several trees to the S of the wall were removed and this was also monitored. Evidence was seen of landscaping work, including redeposited clay but there was no clear dating evidence.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Iberdrola

Kinneil House
Geophysical survey
Nick Hannon – Canterbury Christ Church University
NS 982 805 A magnetometer survey was carried out in April 2016 of a 220m by 60m area immediately to the E of Kinneil House. This revealed the line of the Antonine Wall shown on recent OS maps is correct with the line of the ditch showing clearly in the data. The line of the rampart base could not be seen in the data but a second linear feature to the S of the ditch was observed converging with the line of the ditch as it headed E towards Dean Burn; this has been tentatively interpreted as the line of the Military Way. A possible quarry pit and a number of modern features were also identified.

Archive and report: NRHE (intended), Falkirk SMR and OASIS
Funder: The Hidden Landscape of a Roman Frontier Project – Canterbury Christ Church University and Historic Environment Scotland

Kinneil House
Inventory of carved stones
Mary Márikus – Archetype
NS 98197 80557 (NS98SE 7) The collection, which was assessed December 2015 – January 2016 and August – September 2016, falls into two groups, one being architectural stones and the other commemorative/ecclesiastical pieces. The latter stones, which include the earliest examples in the collection, come not from the house but from the nearby chapel, now disused.

One group of architectural stones once occupied a prominent position on the façade of the house. Originally, two large heraldic panels were set in the front wall of each of the N and S wings. The frame of one of these is still in situ, but that of the other is in pieces in the carved stone collection. It includes jambs, a lintel and a cill. Moreover, the very elaborate heraldic panel once contained in this frame is also in the collection and on display inside the house.

Finials and sections of their moulded plinths from the roof balustrade, and from a staircase in the house are represented in the collection, and Canmore has photographs of the house before these stones became ex situ, showing the extent to which the house exterior and interior has changed in the last hundred years.

This and other inventories of carved stones from Historic Environment Scotland’s properties in care are held by the Collections Unit. For further information please contact collections@hes.scot
the nearby Tappoch Broch has 6m thick walls. A possible entrance may be discernible to the SE (the entrance at Tappoch Broch lay just south of east), and it is possible that features identified could represent the remains of outlying buildings (or simply collapsed masonry). The site appears to be truncated to the E, possibly as a result of later quarrying activity, while the spread of material to the W probably represents collapsed material.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)
**Funder:** Iberdrola

### Dunipace/Falkirk

#### Denny to Bonnybridge

**Desk-based assessment and survey**

*Alastair Becket – Northlight Heritage*

NS 8260 8460 – NS 8410 8130 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken, 6–26 April 2016, in advance of work associated with an overhead power line. A number of archaeological sites were identified around the route, but they are unlikely to be directly affected by the work.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)
**Funder:** Iberdrola Engineering & Construction

### Falkirk

#### Adrian House

**Excavation**

*Geoff Bailey – Falkirk Local History Society and Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society*

NS 8859 7974 An excavation undertaken, 16–30 July 2016, determined that a Roman timber building associated with stone and iron working and housing a tile kiln was cut through by a previously unknown third and outer ditch on the W side of the fort. The position of the middle ditch was also confirmed.

**Archive:** Falkirk Museum
**Funder:** Falkirk Community Trust, FLHS and EAFS

#### Easter Carmuirs Primary School

**Survey and excavation**

*Geoff Bailey – Falkirk Local History Society and Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society*

NS 8598 8058 As part of a community archaeology project a resistivity survey of the playing fields of the school was undertaken. This was followed by a one-day excavation during which the ditch of the Roman camp was located 4m S of that plotted by RCAHMS from aerial photographs. This work was undertaken on 29 September 2016.

**Archive:** Falkirk Museum
**Funder:** Falkirk Community Trust, FLHS and EAFS

#### Mumrills Fort

**Fieldwalking**

*Geoff Bailey – Falkirk Local History Society and Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society*

NS 9184 7941 The site of the Roman fort was fieldwalked on 6 March 2016 after ploughing, and a range of Roman pottery was recovered.

**Archive:** Falkirk Museum
**Funder:** Falkirk Community Trust, FLHS and EAFS

#### Tamfourhill Cottage

**Excavation**

*Geoff Bailey – Falkirk Local History Society and Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society*

NS 8612 7986 Excavation on the line of the rampart of the Antonine Wall, 25–26 June 2016, in advance of an extension to Tamfourhill Cottage, showed that the area had been completely levelled for a drive in the 1880s when the house was built.

**Archive:** Falkirk Museum
**Funder:** Falkirk Community Trust, FLHS and EAFS

### Grangemouth

#### Zetland Park, Grangemouth

**Excavation and survey**

*Graeme Cavers, Jamie Humble, Gemma Hudson and Geoff Bailey – AOC Archaeology Group*

NS 9295 8140 A programme of work was undertaken, 20–23 June 2016, by the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative, with local volunteers and AOC Archaeology Group. The work focused on the 17th-century orchard and the site of a probable medieval grange, of which an enclosing bank and ditch survive as a slight earthwork. The more recent war memorial and fountain were also recorded by laser scanning and photogrammetric recording.

A trial excavation, plus geophysical and topographic surveys, investigated the putative medieval monastic grange. Trench 1 demonstrated the existence of an earthen bank and ditch enclosing the site. Trench 2 was excavated across the dog-leg in the upstanding earthworks and, while not conclusive, the excavation supported this being the entrance into the enclosed grange. Three small trenches were excavated within the enclosed grange. These contained deep deposits of relict cultivation soils that possibly derived, in part, from the sites’ later use as an orchard. The ceramic assemblage collected during the excavations included several late medieval to post-medieval sherds, which may relate to the later history of the grange.

The geophysical survey indicated the presence of features probably related to modern use of the earthwork, most notably the location of a bandstand and post-abandonment agriculture. These results are consistent with the results of the excavations, and yielded only one feature which could be related to the medieval use of the site, namely the area of low resistance in the N.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)
**Funder:** Inner Forth Landscape Initiative – Heritage Lottery Fund

*View of the slot trench over the moat and bank at Zetland Park grange.*
Larbert

Larbert Churchyard

Recording

Geoff Bailey – Falkirk Local History Society

NS 8555 8220 Following the removal of ivy over 1000 gravestones were transcribed and the more ornate trade stones drawn to scale. A structural history of the churchyard and its monuments was then compiled to compliment that undertaken for the Bruce Monument already published in Calatria.

Archive: Falkirk Museum
Funder: FLHS

Slamannan

Burnhead Wind Farm

Watching brief

Stuart Mitchell – CFA Archaeology Ltd

NS 8880 6940 (centred on) A watching brief was carried out, February – May 2015, during construction of a wind farm. Six of thirteen turbine bases were monitored; the others having been discounted as they were in an area that had already been subject to heavy disturbance by forestry or quarrying. The remains of cultivation furrows were identified and the remains of probable mining adits discovered.

Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: Falkirk Museum and NRHE
Funder: EDF Energy Renewables Ltd

FIFE

Aberdour

Aberdour

Metal detector find

Alice Blackwell – National Museums Scotland

NT 20 86 A copper-alloy pin with undecorated mushroom-shaped head, probably early medieval in date, was found during metal detecting in the vicinity of Aberdour.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT/133/15), allocated to Fife Cultural Trust (Pittencrieff House Museum)

Anstruther Easter

9 East Shore, Anstruther

Evaluation

John Gooder – ACCESS Archaeological Condition Services

NO 56910 03470 An evaluation consisting of a single hand dug trench was undertaken, 14 July 2016, prior to the construction of an extension in the rear yard of 9 East Shore. No archaeological features were recorded. The earliest small find was a late 19th-century clay bowl for a tobacco pipe.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Mr J O'Neill

Ballinry

Lochore Castle – Discover the Ancient Lomonds

Geophysical survey and excavation

Oliver O’Grady – OJT Heritage

NT 17532 95883 A geophysical survey and excavations were undertaken, November 2014 – August 2015, at Lochore Castle as part of a scheme of community heritage training events for the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership. Magnetometer, resistivity and ground penetrating radar surveys were undertaken across the site and island mound.

Three trenches were opened around the perimeter of the castle and the former island shoreline. Ongoing conservation works precluded excavation closer to the central tower or within the barmkin. The lower courses of an artillery tower on the barmkin were revealed. A slot was cut across a collapsed section of the barmkin wall. A L-shaped trench investigated the makeup of the island shoreline. Finds included several later medieval pottery sherds, fragments of window glass, a ceramic gaming piece, and part of a carved stone shot-hole. Large quantities of modern finds were also recovered from redeposited mining waste and landfill related to landscaping in the 1970s. A radiocarbon date from the shoreline deposits suggests occupation on the island during the 10th/11th century AD. A photogrammetry 3D digital model was also generated of the castle prior to conservation works. Scheduled monument consent was granted by Historic Scotland prior to works commencing.

Archive: FCCT, NRHE and Fife Council (intended)
Funder: Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland

A team of community volunteer excavators at Lochore Castle. © Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership.
Cavity revealed in the NW elevation of Lochore Castle. © Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership

Burntisland

Kirkton Old Church, Burntisland

Standing building recording

Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group

NT 23041 86381 In 2015 Fife Council was awarded a HLF grant to record, conserve and consolidate the ruined church in Burntisland. A detailed measured survey was undertaken, 3 February – 8 April 2016, as part of the initial phase of works. The church is thought to have been built in the 13th century, originally forming part of the town of Wester Kinghorn, later to become Kirkton, and was dedicated to St Serf. It was abandoned in the late 16th/early 17th century in favour of a newer larger church to the S.

The Kirk now exists as an enclosed former chancel to the E with the remains of one single gable wall of the nave to the W. The adjoining walls between the two have only partially survived and exist in part as footings. Two small walls to the S of the chancel form a S aisle to the kirk, which now only survives in part and only a few courses above ground level. To the S of this is a small building known as The Cell, which was possibly an original vestry. Roofless, this once had a vaulted roof (springing from the N and S walls) with only fragmentary remains of its features such as the opening in the S and E elevations and blocked doorway to the W. The chancel arch is modest by contemporary standards and, as with many other kirks that were abandoned relatively early, was blocked to create a smaller doorway when the ruins were converted for use as a burial aisle.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Fife Council

Dunfermline

Crossford Waggon Way

Survey and fieldwalking

Fiona Watson and Mark Seabourne – Archaeology Scotland

NT 07087 86246 Crossford Waggon Way was a late-18th-century precursor to the steam railways. It was composed of a track for horse-drawn wagons and would have had associated features such as bridges, a washing pool, and possibly even a winding engine to help lower the full carts downslopes. Members of the local community in Crossford and Crossford Primary School wished to investigate and record the remains of the waggon way, as well as produce interpretation to locals and visitors alike to help them better understand the waggon way’s importance to the local coal mining industry. To do this participants worked with the Adopt-a-Monument scheme through several community action days and worked closely with the local primary school to produce interpretation in the form of a booklet based around their class project and the project results as a whole. Volunteers took part in vegetation clearance as well as a photographic survey of the waggon wash and the ‘Little Coal Bridge.’ Crossford Primary School Pupils searched for sleeper stones along the wall by the Waggon Road, recording their position with GPS, and received training in standing building survey. A woodland survey was carried out in the woods behind Knock House Farm, identifying trees species and location in relation to the archaeology in the wood. School children also took part in fieldwalking, recovering artefacts from Knock House Farm. Geophysics and metal detecting were also carried out at Knock House Farm, the finds from which are still being processed. This work was undertaken 26 February – 4 October 2015.

Archive and report: HRHE (intended)
Funder: HLF and HES

St Catherine’s Chapel and Alms House

Vegetation Clearance

Phil Richardson and Cara Donald – Archaeology Scotland

NT 08920 87360 (Canmore ID: 49407) Two-days of vegetation clearance and management were undertaken at the site as part of the Adopt-a-Monument scheme. The work involved the removal of weeds and vegetation from the buildings and surrounding land. The vegetation was either removed or treated with appropriate chemicals in order to help stabilise the building and control the growth of vegetation in the area. A basic elevation of the building was recorded by volunteers and in future years a full building survey is hoped to take place. The work was undertaken 22 April – 15 October 2015.

Archive and report: NRHE (intended)
Funder: HLF and HES
Falkland

Cash Wood – Discover the Ancient Lomonds
Geophysical survey and excavation
Oliver O’Grady – OJT Heritage

Members of the University of St Andrew’s Student Archaeology Society assisting with GPR survey at Cash Wood near Falkland. © Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership

NO 23908 08574 An excavation was undertaken, February – May 2016, at the southern end of an extant bank thought to be remains of a medieval deer park pale associated with Falkland Palace. This formed part of community training activities for the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership. A 20 x 1m trench was opened through field soil and a section cut across the truncated end of the bank. A post setting was revealed in section in the top of the bank. A small ditch and fence setting were discovered to the E of the bank. Rubble remains of the bank’s base were evident, as was a shallow depression at the W side of the bank. Two sherds of 13th-century pottery were recorded from the ditch and bank material, which indicates that the park pale predated the royal confiscation of Falkland from the earls of Fife in 1437. A ground penetrating radar survey was undertaken to the S of the extant bank. This traced the continuation of a levelled section of the bank and the line of the associated ditch. 

Archive: FCCT, Falkland Estate, NRHE, Fife Council and PKHT (intended)
Funder: Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland

Chancefield – Discover the Ancient Lomonds
Geophysical survey and excavation
Oliver O’Grady – OJT Heritage

NO 2345 0790 An excavation was undertaken with scheduled monument consent, June – July 2016, as part of a scheme of community heritage training events for the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership. A 10 x 2m trench was excavated at a location on the N side of the site where two earthworks appeared to overlap. The hollow-way was revealed to be cut and eroded through natural bedrock with the remains of phased banks on either side. The banks associated with the largest hollow were found to overlay the smaller hollow. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal taken from the fills of the main hollow and the bank material indicated use from at least the 16th century AD, with additional ‘old wood’ samples returning inconclusive 5th/12th century AD dates. A small collection of prehistoric worked flints was found in redeposited sands at the S side of the trench.

A geophysical survey was undertaken in farmland to the E
of the hollow-ways. The survey sought to investigate whether the features previously extended into the area. Results were inconclusive due to background geological constraints. 

**Archive:** FCCT, Falkland Estate, NRHE, Fife Council and PKHT (intended)

**Funder:** Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland

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**East Lomond Hill – Discover the Ancient Lomonds**

*Geophysical survey and excavation*

**Oliver O’Grady – OJT Heritage**

NO 2440 0620 A series of geophysical surveys and excavations was undertaken, August – September 2014, on East Lomond Hill as part of a scheme of community heritage training events for the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership. Magnetometer and resistivity surveys were undertaken across three areas, respectively over the summit, the southern shoulder of the hill and across a terrace on the eastern slope. Ground penetrating radar profiles were also recorded on the summit and largest rampart. Scheduled monument consent was granted by Historic Scotland prior to the surveys commencing. Radar survey across a summit mound indicated the possible presence of stonework and rubble interior, this may be a cairn or stone building such as a small fort or broch. Survey on the southern shoulder indicated the outlines of several possible curvilinear buildings and enclosures.

Three excavation trenches were opened outside of the scheduled area. These included a slot excavated across a stone-lined bank on the southern shoulder. The largest trench investigated the site of a possible building. This revealed parts of stone walls, post settings, deposits containing charcoal and burnt bone, a possible stone-lined hearth, and a cut feature that contained iron-working debris. A ditch and remains of a collapsed rampart or stone revetment were uncovered on the eastern slope. Finds included a spindle whorl, whetstones, fragments of polished shale, stone tools, part of a quern stone, a stone pot lid, and a sherd of prehistoric pottery. Part of an iron horse harness bit was also found. Radiocarbon dates from charcoal samples indicate that the remains derive from the 1st/7th century AD and are probably part of a southern annexe to the hillfort.

**Archive:** FCCT, Falkland Estate, NRHE and Fife Council

**Funder:** Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland

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**Falkland Amateur Football Club**

*Watching brief*

**Derek Hall**

NO 253 076 A watching brief was carried out on 21 July 2016 during the excavation of a new water/drainage trench to the clubhouse. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Funder:** Falkland Amateur Football Club

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**Lomonds and Benarty Hills – Discover the Ancient Lomonds**

*Walkover survey*

**Oliver O’Grady – OJT Heritage**

NO 22186 06170 (approximate centre point of event) A walkover survey was undertaken, February – May 2014, across the Lomonds and Benarty Hills as part of a scheme of community training events commissioned by the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership. The survey recorded the locations and basic characteristics of 102 sites, the majority of which were previously unrecorded. These included...
post-medieval stock enclosures, lime kilns, prehistoric hut circles and a possible burial cairn. A data structure report detailing the findings was produced and archived with local and national collections.

Archive: FCCT, Falkland Estate, NRHE, Fife Council and PKHT (intended)
Funder: Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland

Volunteers undertaking walkover survey in the Lomond Hills. © Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership

Lomond Hills of Falkland – Discover the Ancient Lomonds
Walkover survey
Oliver O’Grady – OJT Heritage

A ‘WR 1818’ boundary stone recorded in the Lomond Hills. © Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership.

NO 22186 06170 (centred on) A further walkover survey was undertaken, April – May 2015, to locate and assess the condition of 19th-century boundary stones associated with the historic commonty of the Lomond Hills of Falkland that was enclosed by an Act of Parliament between 1815 and 1818. The stones are made from sandstone, shaped either cuboid or rectangular, and carved with ‘W.R 1818’ on the upper surface and with vertical lines on the sides. Of the 200 stones that were originally placed to mark new boundaries, the survey recorded 134 with the assistance of volunteers. Photogrammetry 3D digital models were created of two of the stones.

Archive: FCCT, Falkland Estate, NRHE, Fife Council and PKHT (intended)
Funder: Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland

Meadows Park – Discover the Ancient Lomonds
Geophysical survey and excavation
Oliver O’Grady – OJT Heritage

NO 25394 07896 A ground penetrating radar survey was undertaken, February – May 2016, across the site of linear features identified on aerial photographs in 2007. Despite geological constraints the location of a possible ditch was located.

An excavation was undertaken across the geophysical anomalies to assess whether these related to a levelled section of medieval deer park pale. A machine digger removed approximately 1m of field soil and subsoil sands from an 18.5 x 1m trench revealing several linear features in the natural subsoil. A 2m wide ditch was half-sectioned in the centre of the trench. No finds were recovered.

Archive: FCCT, Falkland Estate, NRHE, Fife Council and PKHT (intended)
Funder: Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland

Forgan

Wormit Solar Farm
Excavation
Steven Black – Northlight Heritage

NO 4075 2525 An excavation was undertaken, 1–6 November 2015, in advance of the construction of a proposed solar farm SE of Wormit. Four trenches were opened to fully expose and excavate a series of archaeological features discovered during a previous phase of evaluation. Overall, five postholes, a fire pit and three ditches were excavated at the S end of the proposed development area, while one possible pit was excavated at the NE end. At this stage interpretation and dating of the excavated features remains unclear.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Wormit Solar Farm Ltd

Kingsbarns

Kingsbarns
Metal detector find
Alice Blackwell – National Museums Scotland

NO 58 12 Part of a large silver ingot (57.4mm x 15.3mm, 53.2g). The cast is a finger-shaped, open mould. The ingot has been cut and there are possible nick marks along the edge indicating the quality of silver being tested. Without analysis of the silver composition it is only possible to suggest a likely early medieval date.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT/52/16), allocated to Fife Cultural Trust (St Andrews Museum)
Kirkcaldy and Dysart

Orchard Lane, Dysart

Evaluation

John Gooder – ACCESS Archaeological Condition Services

NT 30380 93200 An evaluation (two trenches amounting to 36m²) was undertaken, 23 February 2016, prior to a small residential development within a former backland area of Dysart High Street. Other than a small stone-lined drain, this work revealed only modern made ground directly overlying disturbed natural subsoil.

Archive: NRHE (intended)

Funder: Mr J Paterson

Scoonie

Law View, Cupar Road, Leven

Excavation

John Gooder – ACCESS Archaeological Condition Services

NO 38380 01960 (Canmore ID: 128708) Following a 2015 evaluation (DES 16, 2015, p.83), the subsequent topsoil stripping of an E to W aligned ridge (c4200m²), defined as archaeologically sensitive revealed a truncated round barrow, together with a disassociated series of probable prehistoric pits and curvilinear features of currently unknown date. Finds associated with the truncated round barrow included an all-over-cord (AOC) beaker and a flint barbed and tanged arrowhead. This work was undertaken 25 April – 18 May 2016.

Archive: NRHE (intended)

Funder: Campion Homes Ltd

St Andrews and St Leonards

Boarhills

Metal detector find

Alice Blackwell – National Museums Scotland

NO 56 13 An incomplete Insular penannular brooch made from a gilt silver-copper alloy was found during metal detecting in the vicinity of Boarhills. Both terminals and a portion of the hoop survive and are decorated with chip-carved interlace, small amber insets (some surviving in situ) and has missing decorative inserts on the lobed terminals. The edges of both pieces appear broken rather than cut/hacked. The form of the brooch has been associated with Pictish metalworking, and suggests a manufacture date during the 8th–9th centuries. The terminal consists of four lobes (one at the junction with hoop) filled with chip-carved pellets, which are separated by four small circular amber (some missing) insets, with a central square field for a (missing) decorative inset (perhaps by analogy consisting of gold foil and filigree). This terminal form (though not the decoration) is closely paralleled by half of a silver brooch in the 9th-century Croy hoard (National Museums Scotland x.FC 14) (which has integral chip-carved decoration in the centre, rather than a separate mount, and chip-carved interlace knots within the lobes rather than pellets). The Croy brooch is smaller and lacks decoration over the body of the hoop (restricted instead to the central cartouche). Other examples of brooches with the same basic terminal form (but again showing differences in the materials and styles of their elaboration) include: the Kilmainham, Co Dublin, brooch which has lobes separated by amber insets, but on which both hoop and terminals have gold filigree panels; the Rogart brooch, where the lobes contain separate three-dimensional birds-head insets; and brooches from amongst the St Ninian’s Isle hoard.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT/167/15), allocated to Fife Cultural Trust (St Andrews Museum)

Boarhills

Metal detector find

Martin Goldberg – National Museums Scotland

NO 57 13 A copper-alloy dress pin, with a kite-shaped or rhomboid head and a collar where the head meets the body. The upper length of the pin is ‘hipped’, commonly interpreted as a means of better gripping the weave. The majority of pins of this type are stray finds, and in Scotland and Ireland at least, evidence from excavation indicates such pins continued in use into the medieval period (S Campbell pers comm). Examples like this find (dimensions: approximate length 85mm; width across head 10mm) have become more commonly reported to the TTU and a review would be desirable to establish date and distribution.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 102/15), allocated to Fife Cultural Trust (St Andrews Museum)

Boarhills

Metal detector find

Alice Blackwell – National Museums Scotland

NO 56 13 An incomplete Insular penannular brooch made from a gilt silver-copper alloy was found during metal detecting in the vicinity of Boarhills. Both terminals and a portion of the hoop survive and are decorated with chip-carved interlace, small amber insets (some surviving in situ) and has missing decorative inserts on the lobed terminals. The edges of both pieces appear broken rather than cut/hacked. The form of the brooch has been associated with Pictish metalworking, and suggests a manufacture date during the 8th–9th centuries. The terminal consists of four lobes (one at the junction with hoop) filled with chip-carved pellets, which are separated by four small circular amber (some missing) insets, with a central square field for a (missing) decorative inset (perhaps by analogy consisting of gold foil and filigree). This terminal form (though not the decoration) is closely paralleled by half of a silver brooch in the 9th-century Croy hoard (National Museums Scotland x.FC 14) (which has integral chip-carved decoration in the centre, rather than a separate mount, and chip-carved interlace knots within the lobes rather than pellets). The Croy brooch is smaller and lacks decoration over the body of the hoop (restricted instead to the central cartouche). Other examples of brooches with the same basic terminal form (but again showing differences in the materials and styles of their elaboration) include: the Kilmainham, Co Dublin, brooch which has lobes separated by amber insets, but on which both hoop and terminals have gold filigree panels; the Rogart brooch, where the lobes contain separate three-dimensional birds-head insets; and brooches from amongst the St Ninian’s Isle hoard.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT/167/15), allocated to Fife Cultural Trust (St Andrews Museum)

Kincaple

Metal detector find

Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland

NO 46 17 A late-Roman copper-alloy crossbow brooch (L 40mm), missing its foot and pin, was found S of Kincaple during metal detecting. Such 4th-century weights are unusual finds beyond Roman sites, and it suggests there may have been trading contacts taking place in the vicinity.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 176/15), allocated to Fife Cultural Trust (St Andrews Museum)

The Boarhills lead weight (Drawn by Alan Braby)
brooches are extremely rare in Scotland. Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 13/16), allocated to Fife Cultural Trust (St Andrews Museum)

24A Murray Park, St Andrews
Evaluation
John Gooder – ACCESS Archaeological Condition Services
NO 50720 16980 An evaluation (a single hand dug trench) was undertaken, 23 June 2016, prior to the construction of a house extension. No structured archaeological features were revealed. However, in accord with findings from nearby archaeological interventions, it appears that the soil profile (c1.3m deep) has undergone significant modification over time with the addition of imported soils. The limited pottery recovered suggests a 13th-century onwards date for usage of the original medieval soil with an overlying soil representing perhaps a century or two later. It seems that this area was not intensively utilised in the medieval period, and was probably an area just outside the medieval burgh given over to cultivation. Finds consisted of 12 Scottish (east coast) white gritty ware sherds, including one rim sherd.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Mr and Mrs M Cordner

Pitmilly
Metal detector find
Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland

NO 57 14 A Romano-British enamelled headstud brooch fragment was found during metal detecting near Pitmilly. It is an unusual form with a double-headstud with enamelled circles in red and ?yellow (L 23mm). Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 175/15), allocated to Fife Cultural Trust

199 South Street, St Andrews
Watching brief
Paula Martin – Morvern Maritime Centre
NO 506 166 The site, for which planning permission has been granted for one house, consists of the rear (N) part of two rigs in the 16th-century western extension of South Street. Old maps show no evidence of buildings behind the street frontage, and observation during groundwork reinforced the idea that this land had always been pasture or more recently a market garden. There were very few finds, and no building remains, just fine dark soil over sand. This work was undertaken 22–26 September 2016.
Report: Fife Council

St Andrews Cathedral
Watching brief
David Murray – Kirkdale Archaeology
NO 5147 1665, NO 5152 1663 and NO 5145 1670 A watching brief was carried out, 26 September 2016, during the installation of three stone plinths to support new signage. All three trenches revealed similar sequences of a topsoil overlying a subsoil with mortar and stone inclusions. This lower deposit may represent the disturbed and redeposited soil of the cemetery. No bone was seen, and nothing of archaeological significance was recorded.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

St Andrews Cathedral
Watching brief
Stuart Mitchell – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NO 5148 1650 A series of test pits was excavated, 15–16 August 2016, within the grounds of St Leonards School, in advance of geotechnical site investigations. The work was undertaken under scheduled monument consent. The remains of two substantial sandstone walls were discovered in two separate pits, sealed by topsoil and made ground deposits. Deeply stratified buried soil deposits were noted across the site indicating high archaeological potential in the area.
Archive: NRHE and Fife SMR
Funder: Elliott and Company

Wemyss

East Wemyss
Metal detector find
Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland

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Archive: NRHE and Fife SMR
Funder: Elliott and Company

Wemyss

East Wemyss
Metal detector find
Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland
NT 33 96 An Iron Age strap mount was found during metal detecting SW of East Wemyss. Its design has two boss-and-teardrop shapes back to back, with remains of a strap fastening on the rear.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 168/15), allocated to Fife Cultural Trust (Kirkcaldy Museum and Art Gallery)

**FIFE/PERTH AND KINROSS**

**Saline/Fossoway**

**Barnhill and Cult Hill**

*Walkover and topographic survey*

Gemma Hudson and Graeme Cavers – AOC Archaeology Group

NT 01185 96065 (Barnhill) and NT 02487 96489 (Cult Hill)

A walkover survey of Barnhill and a topographic survey of Cult Hillfort were undertaken 20 February – 2 March 2015, for conservation management purposes. A total of 32 archaeological sites were recorded during the walkover, all of which related to post-medieval agricultural use of the area, with quarry pits and field boundary dykes being the predominant site type recorded.

The fort occupies the rocky knoll of Cult Hill, which is steep-sided on the E and N sides, with more gentle slopes on the W and S. The fort consists of a grassed-over rampart encircling the summit of the hill and encloses an area of 0.25ha. The topographic survey provided an enhanced record of the site.

*Archive: NRHE*

*Funder: Forestry Commission Scotland*

**GLASGOW**

**Glasgow**

**Broomhill House and Steading, Sighthill**

*Evaluation and excavation*

Kevin Paton and Lindsay Dunbar – AOC Archaeology Group

NS 59681 66446 An evaluation and excavation were undertaken, 29 June – 1 September 2016, as part of remediation work at Sighthill. The evaluation established that the foundations and some floor levels had survived the demolition of the buildings and the later landscaping of Sighthill Park.

The subsequent excavations revealed the full extent of the late 19th-century Broomhill Farm, which had been constructed on the foundations of the earlier 18th-century steading. Four phases of site use were seen and charted the development from a single longhouse and outbuilding in the 18th century to a large collection of barns, sheds and a possible stable in the late 19th century. The excavation also revealed the internal floor plan of a mansion house and established the scale of construction work, during which a large area of the slope was removed and used to level one side of the house. The construction method employed as well as the use of slate flagstones in the foundations and the presence of expensive tiles from Stoke-on-Trent are all indicators of the capital expended on the house and late 19th-century farm.

*Archive: NRHE (intended)*

*Funder: Glasgow City Council*

**Glasgow Meat Market, Duke Street**

*Watching brief*

Stephen Cox – Headland Archaeology Ltd

NS 60716 64975 A watching brief was undertaken, 23–24 June 2016, during site investigations at Glasgow Meat Market. A total of 13 trial pits were excavated across the site and sub-surface remains comprising *in situ* ceramic pipe drains, concrete floor surfaces and a concrete post base were revealed. These features were probably associated with the meat market.

*Archive: NRHE (intended)*

*Funder: Glasgow City Council*

**North Woodside Flint Mill, Glasgow**

*Standing building recording*

Elizabeth Bryson, J Scott Wood and Elaine Black – Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists (ACFA)

NS 57520 67330 A survey of the remains of the mill and lade was carried out on 7 November 2016. Scale drawings were produced and photographs taken of the kiln, mill, drying shed and gateway. A report on the mill included a brief history including details of conservation and consolidation work undertaken in the 1970s, and noted discrepancies in attributions of contemporary drawings as well as mapping.

*Archive: ACFA. Report: ACFA and NRHE*

*Funder: ACFA*

*Website: www.acfabaseline.info*

**Port Dundas Canal Basin, Forth and Clyde Canal**

*Watching brief*

Magnus Kirby – CFA Archaeology Ltd

NS 5946 6660 A watching brief was undertaken, January 2016, during site investigation works for a mixed use development at Port Dundas. The canal basin, which is a scheduled monument (6689), was backfilled by c1960, and dates to the second half of the 19th century. The site investigation established that:

The base of the cooling tower for the power station was made of 0.35m of reinforced concrete, overlying the existing canalside infrastructure, some of which appeared to survive below the tower base.

The possible second cooling tower shown on the land registry title deeds was not present.

The basin itself was backfilled with made ground.

The warf sides and probable remains of the coke kilns were preserved across most of their original footprint. They survived at a depth of c0.15–0.80m below the current ground surface.

*Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: NRHE and WoSAS*

*Funder: Waterman Structures Ltd (Waterman) on behalf of Farrans Construction*

**Govan**

**Beith Street, Partick**

*Watching brief and excavation*

Beth Spence – GUARD Archaeology Ltd

NS 5598 6634 A watching brief and excavation was undertaken, 9 November 2015 – 7 September 2016, during groundworks associated with the re-development of Castlebank Street and the installation of a major water drain. The work included monitoring of borehole drilling, and the removal of overburden from the full length of the working area for the drainage tract as well as the adjacent development and covered the area from the existing rivers edge to the boundary of Castlebank Street.

A number of archaeological features were uncovered including two substantial intersecting ditches, and several distinct phases of structural stonework, probably relating to the 17th-century Hutcheson’s tower house and the earlier 12th-century bishop’s residence. A large assemblage of
medieval and later ceramic was recovered, along with several metal objects, including a decorative pin and a copper alloy decorative boss. Most of the features were fully excavated while others not affected by the development were preserved in situ.

Following on from the main excavation another area towards the southern and western edge of the Kelvin River was investigated. Only 19th- to mid-20th-century structures survived in this area. It is likely that the levelling of the area along with the deep concrete foundations, the construction of the foundry and later the railway and the most recent concrete retaining wall, will have truncated any remains that may have survived prior to the 19th century.

Archae: National Museum of Scotland and NRHE
Funder: Miller Homes (Scotland) Ltd

Govan Graving Docks, 18 Clydebrae

Watching brief
Steven Black – Northlight Heritage
NS 56909 65463 A watching brief was undertaken, 8–10 June 2016, during ground investigation work at Govan Graving Docks. The work focused on the area around three former graving docks and their associated structures, all protected as a Category A listed building (LB33336). A series of 16 test pits was excavated and distinct structural features were noted in five of them. All of the features appeared to relate to the graving docks and took the form of various brick, sandstone and concrete walls and surfaces.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: New City Vision Ltd

New Kilpatrick

East Millichen Farm, Balmore Road

Watching brief
Iraia Arabaabola – GUARD Archaeology Ltd
NS 573 720 A watching brief was undertaken, 6 January 2016, during site investigation works at East Millichen Farm. The excavation of 10 trial pits, each measuring 1.7 x 0.6m, recorded no features or finds of archaeological significance.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Utilisa

Paisley

Crookston Road, Levendale

Excavation
Adam Slater and Frank Giecco – Wardell Armstrong Archaeology
NS 5156 6170 An excavation was carried out, 1–19 July 2013, in advance of a residential development on land off Crookston Road. This followed a geophysical survey and evaluation. The mechanical stripping of 6120m² focused on areas which the earlier evaluation trenches had identified as having positive results and on possible features represented on the early map sequence for the area.

The excavation identified a 19th-century farmstead/industrial complex and associated agricultural boundaries. Finds included medieval and post-medieval ceramics, building material (including pantiles), clay tobacco pipe, bottle glass, iron nails and some fragments of archaeometallurgical waste. The two environmental samples did not produce a particular informative suite of remains. The frequent seeds of sedges and a possible rush seed may suggest a generally damp environment, or perhaps turves being used to construct features around the site. A charred common heath grass seed might suggest some burning of turves or grass material. Modern intrusive material included seeds of medick and thistle.

Archae: National Museum of Scotland and NRHE
Funder: Miller Homes (Scotland) Ltd

HIGHLAND

Rhu Arisaig Peninsula

Walkover surveys
Jean and Ken Bowker – Rough Bounds Archaeology
A non-intrusive archaeological investigation of the Rhu Arisaig peninsula involving 32 separate walkover surveys was carried out between November 2012 and January 2016. The survey was instigated by Elizabeth and Allan MacDonald of Arisaig wanting to find out what evidence was extant on Rhu of people living and working there; historical information pointed to a population of 400 people before the early 19th century and it is now more or less deserted. Ken and Jean Bowker of Rough Bounds Archaeology were invited to join in on the walkover surveys which were carried out in the late autumn, winter and spring months to maximise the opportunity to record features normally obscured in the summer, in particular by bracken. The MacDonalds and Bowkers were often helped on the surveys by several local residents which meant that there was more chance of recording obscure and ephemeral features. Acknowledgement and gratitude for their input and help is due particularly to Alison Stewart, Judi Budge, Lilian MacDonald, Susan Carstairs, Claire Walters, and everyone else who from time to time was able to join in many hours of walking over rough, boggy and stony ground.
**Methodology** – The surveys generally involved five to six hours of slow painstaking walking stopping to record and photograph and if possible interpret any features found. Two hand held GPS modules were used along with a compass and a digital camera capable of linking the waypoints noted and the photographs taken. Hand written notes were made on the spot, recording all the waypoints and features with descriptions and measurements, and these were later transcribed onto computer, with way pointed maps created using the Quo mapping system. To help make the observations more accessible, an illustrated map to scale was also created using the information on the way-pointed map and the feature records.

**Desk top Research** – Desk top surveys and research were done to compare our finds with old maps and existing records.

**Geology** – The bedrock of the area is largely metamorphosed sandstones (psammites and pelites) with exposed intrusive bands of basalt. The sandstone breaks down to poor soils, basalt affords better soil. The basalt intrusions form long ridges averaging 70–100m running N/S with sheltered glens in between the ridges; these are now mainly bogy but better on the ground shows that these areas were once better drained. Sea level change over the millennia has left raised beaches between 10m to > 25m OD, leaving smoothed stones just under the surface adding to the problems of cultivation. Although the peninsula is low lying, rising only to 103m in the W, the bedrock is so near the surface and the weather so wet, that farming is difficult with the constant run off of nutrients, which have to be replaced every season.

**Maps** – The Roy Map of 1747 to 1752 shows at least six settlements and some areas of cultivation and woodland. It also shows the large cattle fank/orchard at Druim an Daraich with possibly Clanranald’s house behind. We can see Torbea (Tòrr a Bheithe), Ardgasairg (Àrdgaserie), Sand (Sandaig) and Don Cane (Dubb Chamos – Modern Rhu Farm), also buildings at Gaith Dail. The spellings are varying and are usually phonetic, as with most old maps right up to modern times. The positions of the settlements are remarkably accurate, while the delineation of arable ground is often quite inaccurate or does not equate with modern field observations. John Thomson’s Atlas of Scotland, 1832, is quite small-scale but indicates a scattering of buildings/settlements throughout the peninsula including Sandaig, Ardgassick (Àrdgaserie now confined to the area by Modern Millburn), Duchamus (Modern Rhu Farm), Dorandrishach (Doire na Drise), Guidail (Gaith Dail), Drumindarrack (Druim an Daraich), Torramore (Tòrr Mor Gaith Dail), and Torramore (Tòrr Mor) but not, interestingly, Tòrr a Bheithe, although buildings in the general area are noted. Thomson’s map shows eight named settlements. No arable land is shown.

The 1st Edition OS map of 1873 marks three roofed dwellings still occupied viz Rhu Farm, Porter’s Lodge and Millburn Cottage (the last two now being holiday lets). A fourth roofed building on the current Rhu Farm was then a barn and but is now a converted dwelling and another small roofed building marked just to the N of the fields at Rhu is now roofless. Nine roofed buildings are marked at Druim an Daraich but now only three exist as houses along with a boat house. Three roofed buildings marked near the road to the W of An Garbh Uillit are now roofless. By Millburn Cottage there were five roofed buildings (now ruins or disappeared) marked just to the N and ‘Kennel’ is noted by them. By 1873 Millburn was occupied by a gamekeeper, but now only one roofed barn exists by the cottage. The large fields at Rhu Farm and the large sheep fank to the N are marked but there is only a scattering of unroofed buildings in Tòrr a Bheithe and Sandaig and Baile Ur (this last just E of Millburn but un-named). It is likely that of the roofed buildings on the 1873 OS map only seven or eight were dwellings, the rest being byres or barns, illustrating a dramatic decline in population since Thomson’s map of 1832. The 2nd Edition OS map adds the 1885 pier at the road end.

**Land holding and population** – The peninsula was for some 500 years part of the land holding of the Clanranalds (a sept of the Lord of the Isles) until the sale of Rhu, along with much of the Clanranald lands, in 1827.

The steady decline of the population of Rhu, in common with many areas of the Highlands was already set in motion from the middle of the 18th century, caused in part by rents rising rapidly, indicating the huge social change since the 1745 rising. The rents for Dubh Chamus and Tòrr a Bheithe between 1748 and 1798 rose from around 223 merks (Scots merks 1 = 13s 4d) to 360 merks; a rise of over 61%; for Gaith Dail it was nearly 169% and for Sandaig the rise was even worse, an astonishing 332%.

These rises contrast with rents that had barely changed in the previous fifty years and had probably been stable for centuries. At the same time of rent increases there was a general increase of population in the Highlands which became unsustainable with the collapse of the kelp industry and then the failure of the potato crops. With the introduction of sheep, tenants came to be seen as liabilities rather than assets. In 1827 Ranald George, 20th Chief of Clanranald, sold Arisaig including Rhu, to his second wife Lady Ashburton for £48,950. She in turn bequeathed it to her nephew Lord Cranston in 1835. Cranston cleared much of the population from Rubha and by 1842 turned it into a sheep farm. He then sold the land to MacKay of Bighouse, Sutherland, who in turn sold it in 1848 to Francis Astely, a Lancashire industrialist. By 1853, Astely turned most of the peninsula into a deer forest, an area of over 3000 acres which was let out to rich patrons for sport. Rhu Farm and lands to the W of the peninsula were excluded from the deer forest by walls and fences. The selling off of the land in 1827, with the further exchange of ownership and land use, meant that in 25 years the final decline of the population was inevitable by 1853. ‘The replacement of the old indebted families by these new interests had a crucial effect on clearance and it now became possible to put into practice, on a much greater scale than ever before, the policy of compulsory emigration mooted in the 1820s and 1830s. These removals were linked to the provision of assisted passages across the Atlantic for those who lost their lands’. Not all those evicted immediately emigrated but were instead displaced to fend for themselves. Statistics gathered from the censuses of Rhu confirm the effect of ownership change. The 1841 census shows the population of Rhu as 134 people. By 1861 there were under 40 residents recorded in only seven households. The accuracy of the censuses in this remote area is not certain but is an indication of the continuing depopulation.

**Survey results** – A total of 172 sub-rectangular ruined structures were recorded, of which 106 had some walls, the rest either only footings or even just an impression on the ground. The features were of varying sizes, the larger averaging 10 x 4m, many 8 x 4m and smaller structures only 5 x 3m. 117 of the sub-rectangular structures were thought to be former dwellings, while the remaining 55 were probably byres or barns but their use over time cannot be certain.

33 further smaller structures were recorded, some sub-rectangular but most were circular, sub-circular or D shaped, only half of which had some walls. These were thought to be shielings or temporary shelters or stores; most were < 3m in diameter.
43 small circular features often only 1.5m or so in diameter were thought to be cleits for storage but may also have been robbed cairns. Another 35 small features, sub-rectangular or circular, were also initially thought to be storage but were probably used in connection with the kelp industry for stacking or burning.

133 cairns of all sizes were recorded, the majority thought to be for clearance for cultivation. However, 28 cairns might be prehistoric rather than clearance, but only excavation would help to confirm this theory. Just two cairns, one at Druim an Daraich and the other at Goath Dail have been positively identified as prehistoric. An incised stone, later confirmed as Neolithic, was found in the wall of a roofless ruin.

Field boundaries and dykes were noted and included on an illustrative map (in the full report) as are the 225 areas of cultivation, some of which merge with each other as at Claigean at c200m long. Others comprise small pockets of rigs of only 20 x 20m. Most of the rigs observed were probably feannagan, dug using a cas-dhireach or straight spade. As Piers Dixon points out these lazy beds or feannagan ‘Unlike plough-rig they are to be found on slopes too steep for a plough team to negotiate.’ Only the lower flatter areas of cultivation would have been created with a horse-drawn plough. There is also the consideration that some tenants cultivating the small isolated areas of rigs however level, would not have access or money for a horse and plough.

18 areas of peat diggings were recorded also of varying sizes from a few metres long to areas > 40 x 20m.

Only 10 piers, ports or slipways were noted but others were probably missed because of the state of the tide at the time of the survey.

The distribution of the features found confirmed that the Rhu peninsula was farmed comprehensively, every bit of land possible being used to the full over time, at least for peat digging or pasture, at best for cultivation. The survey confirmed an earlier report by Jonathan Wordsworth that certain settlements such as Tòrr a’ Bheithe and Doire na Drise were townships not shielings as described on the modern OS map or on the 1st Edition OS map of 1873. The survey also noted dozens of smaller and more ephemeral features not recorded on either the modern OS map or on the 1st Edition OS map of 1873. Although the surveys were carried out when the vegetation was at its lowest, and there over 700 waypoints recording significant features, it is certain that not everything worthy of note was spotted. An area of the peninsula between 2 – Sandaig and 32 – Towards Doire Fhada and especially N and W of 29 – Drium Ban were not surveyed. Deer fencing has led to considerable regeneration of scrub and birch and made it difficult to record features.

We are continuing to discover new features on the Rhu Peninsula each time we venture out—this report is not definitive but goes a long way to appreciating the complex use of the land over time. A full report of the 32 walkover surveys will be lodged with DES/NRHE and Highland HER

Alvie

Kincraig to Dalraddy (A9 Dualling Programme)
Watching brief
Lynn Fraser and Mary Peteranna – AOC Archaeology Group

The most significant area of interest was located on a slope overlooking the existing A9, to the NNE of Mid Delfour Farmstead. The remains of a wide ditch, two pits and evidence of in situ burning were recorded in the area, which had been truncated, probably during the previous road’s construction. A lengthy section of a curvilinear ditch survived. It comprised a V-shaped cut measuring 2m wide and up to 0.65m deep, which may have extended beyond the area excavated. No artefacts were recovered, and one of the nearby pits was interpreted as a possible hearth or fire-pit. The results of excavation and post-excavation analysis were not able to inform a conclusive interpretation of the form, function or period of the sites.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: CgMs Consulting Ltd

Meadowsdie Quarry, Kincraig
Watching brief and evaluation
Lynn Fraser – AOC Archaeology Group

NH 8543 0919 to NH 8160 0413 A watching brief was carried out, 18 August 2015 – 23 February 2016, during construction work associated with improvements to the A9 road. Several boundary dykes, clearance cairns and pits were recorded during the watching brief.

The most significant area of interest was located on a slope overlooking the existing A9, to the NNE of Mid Delfour Farmstead. The remains of a wide ditch, two pits and evidence of in situ burning were recorded in the area, which had been truncated, probably during the previous road’s construction. A lengthy section of a curvilinear ditch survived. It comprised a V-shaped cut measuring 2m wide and up to 0.65m deep, which may have extended beyond the area excavated. No artefacts were recovered, and one of the nearby pits was interpreted as a possible hearth or fire-pit. The results of excavation and post-excavation analysis were not able to inform a conclusive interpretation of the form, function or period of the sites.

Archives: NRHE (intended)
Funder: CgMs Consulting Ltd

90 A’ LORG AGUS A’ CLADHACH AN ALBAINN
considerable variance across the surface, but it comprised mostly sub-rounded cobbles measuring 0.05–0.10m long with some larger cobbles and small slabs measuring 0.10–0.20m long, all of which were set within a matrix of mid-yellow to pale brown sandy clay containing small, rounded gravel. Layering was evident with small cobbles and gravel overlying larger cobbles. A surviving section of a kerb, comprising larger, set stones, was noted along the S side of the road surface and an earlier soil horizon survived beneath it.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)
**Funder:** CgMs Consulting Ltd

The W-facing section through the road surface at Meadowside Quarry

### Ardnamurchan

#### Achateny – Fish trap
**Field visit**
Jonathan Haylett – Ardnamurchan Community Archaeology
NM 51480 70490 A field visit, 7–10 February 2015, recorded a line of rocks running down the beach from just below the high tide mark, and out to a skerry in such a way as to form a division between two shallow, sandy bays. This may be a possible fish trap or ‘yair’. The site is near the cleared clachan of Achateny.

**Archive:** ACA

**The possible illicit whisky still at Alt Rath a’ Bheulian**

### Ardnamurchan Lighthouse

**Field visit**
Jonathan Haylett – Ardnamurchan Community Archaeology
NM 42267 66351 A field visit, 4–9 December 2013, identified a shieling hut or similar dwelling in a shallow valley to the E of the coast at Port Min, SE of the Ardnamurchan Lighthouse. This may well be a shieling settlement. While one building is very evident, there may be others in the nearby area.

**Archive:** ACA

### Beinn na h-Urchrach – Illicit whisky still

**Field visit**
Jonathan Haylett – Ardnamurchan Community Archaeology
NM 52591 63349 A field visit, 10–25 July 2015, identified two structures in the glen of the Allt Ruadh Burn on the SW slopes of Beinn na h-Urchrach.

NM 52532 63389 A small shieling hut, 2.5m diameter, which may or may not be associated with the site below.

NM 52591 63349 A small stone-built structure is located in a hollow beside the Allt Ruadh, at the base of a waterfall, which might be a shelter. A low wall protects it from flooding on the upstream and stream sides. Its location and site below a fall, hidden in the glen, and with woodland nearby, suggest
it may be an illicit whisky still, with the square structure at one corner forming the hearth.

**Archive: ACA**

**Glac nam Muileach – Settlement**

**Field visit**

Jonathan Haylett – Ardnamurchan Community Archaeology

NM 42577 65289 A field visit, 18–19 June 2014, identified a rhombus-shaped area of land c100 x 100m which is walled on the uphill NE and SE sides and delineated by ditches on the marshy NW and SW side. Part of it may have been used as arable land, though there is no sign of rig and furrow, and the only evidence is that it is colonised by bracken. In the N corner are two areas of heather which are quite different to the surrounding flat, marshy land which is mainly grasses. There are at least three ‘roundish’ foundations buttled right up against the wall, at 2–3m across, looking to be similar to those found at other shieling sites, which suggest this might have been used as a shieling location. The marsh to the N shows drainage ditches, and an old fence with wooden stobs crosses the area. There is some local evidence that this area was worked in the 19th/20th centuries. The word Muileach means a man from Mull.

**Field visit**

Jonathan Haylett and Wendy MacFadyen – Ardnamurchan Community Archaeology

NM 46231 70381 A field visit, 24–27 May 2014, identified a stone circle, some parts of which show inner and outer larger stones, in a hollow in the hillside near the Glendrian Caves. The site is within 50m of a stony beach and large areas of rock pools. There is some sign that the land around it was worked—bracken grows in small patches. Fewer stones occur in two areas, in the NE and NW quadrants. These may indicate possible entrance(s). A number of stones occur in the centre of the circle, and may represent a possible hearth.

**Archive: ACA**

**Glendrian Caves – Stone circle**

**Field visit**

Jonathan Haylett and Wendy MacFadyen – Ardnamurchan Community Archaeology

NM 46231 70381 A field visit, 24–27 May 2014, identified a stone circle, some parts of which show inner and outer larger stones, in a hollow in the hillside near the Glendrian Caves. The site is within 50m of a stony beach and large areas of rock pools. There is some sign that the land around it was worked—bracken grows in small patches. Fewer stones occur in two areas, in the NE and NW quadrants. These may indicate possible entrance(s). A number of stones occur in the centre of the circle, and may represent a possible hearth.

**Archive: ACA**

**Gorteneorn, Ardnamurchan**

**Desk-based assessment and walkover survey**

Steven Birch, Cathy MacIver and Mary Peteranna – AOC Archaeology Group

NM 62662 69229 A desk-based assessment and two walkover surveys were carried out, 3 February – 26 October 2016, in advance of and during the use of forestry and coastal land as a film set at Gorteneorn. Previous evidence for Mesolithic and Bronze Age occupation had been recorded near the site, which was located in an area linked to possible Norse and medieval battle sites.

During the surveys, six areas containing archaeological material were recorded in the dune system at Cul na Croise, Drynan Bay, four of which were prehistoric in date. Several areas comprised blow-outs formed by WW2 training shell holes. Metal fragments from exploded ordnance were found scattered around the site. Within the areas, exposed spreads of quartz and flint working debitage were recorded on the surface.

In particular, at Site 5, a possible sequence of old ground surfaces was visible at various levels in the section, indicating several phases of occupation. Lower surfaces were putatively identified as earlier Mesolithic activity due to the presence of microliths. The concentration of quartz and flint debitage in this area indicated that lithic working took place in this immediate area.

Site 6 was another significant area where lithics material was exposed, within a large blow-out at a slightly higher level than Site 5. Predominantly quartz debitage and some flint tools were recovered as surface finds eroded from the dune system. A possible iron rivet or clenched-nail was also recovered from the erosion at Site 6.

The second survey identified further extensive flint and quartz working debitage and tools, and further recording has been proposed. Initial analysis of the flint and quartz assemblage from the first survey has indicated that the material mostly represents Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age occupation, with Mesolithic material also present. The disturbance of the survey area by WW2 activity has mixed material from a number of different periods.

**Archive: NRHE (intended)**

**Funder: Keo Films**

**Reidh-dhail**

**Field visit**

Jonathan Haylett – Ardnamurchan Community Archaeology

NM 44000 64300 (Canmore ID: 145196). A field visit was made to Reidh-dhail, 8–15 May 2015. The site lies at the top of an open, NNE/SSW tending glen which leads down to the sea about 1km away. A 250m long lozenge-shaped walled field, trending WNW/ESE, is divided about 2/3 along its length by a straight wall. Most of the buildings (2–7) are at the ESE end, some within the wall, but one building (1) to the W is outwith the field. There are further, less developed fields to the S and SE, and signs of peat workings to the S. While the name Reidh-dhail suggests a Norse origin for the settlement, the existing, ruinous buildings seem much more recent, some being similar to shieling huts. However, others are larger and of the same dimensions as other local clachan dwelling houses, so may represent older, more permanent dwellings, as does the existence of well-worked fields and peat cuttings. The area was used as a shieling by the crofting township of Ormsaigbeg, to the E of Reidh-dhail.

**Archive: ACA**

Two of the structures at Reidh-dhail

**Sruath Bhraghinn Altt, near Portuairk – Shieling hut**

**Field visit**

Jonathan Haylett, Dave Brown and Jim Caldwell – Ardnamurchan Community Archaeology

NM 44497 67842 A field visit, 4–5 January 2014, recorded a structure which lies beside the flood plain of the Sruath Bhraghinn Altt, on its NE side, where the base of a steep slope flattens out. The path from Portuairk to Achosnich School runs right through it. The longer axis runs at 40°, and the entrance is probably on the SE side. There are adjacent
remains which may be other huts. While its position looks unlikely for a shieling, the vegetation of the flood plain may have been very different when the land was regularly grazed.

**Archive:** ACA

**Arisaig and Moidart**

**Ardmolich Wood, Moidart**

**Walkover survey and evaluation**

*Cathy MacIver – AOC Archaeology Group*

NM 71024 71710 A walkover survey and excavation of a platform were carried out, 25–30 July 2016, within Ardmolich woodland. The work was carried out to better understand the archaeological sites in the area prior to felling and associated track construction.

The survey recorded 20 sites. These consisted primarily of sub-circular revetted platforms of varying size, composition and possible function, most of which had been recorded previously by Forestry Commission staff. Some of the sites comprised well-built stone revetted platforms, probably related to charcoal production and woodland management. Other sites with more circular, low banks were interpreted as possible hut circles. Banks, clearance cairns and cultivation terraces were also identified.

One of the sites recorded (Site 1) was investigated further through excavation. Its construction utilised a natural bedrock terrace, which was extended and built up with a rubble stone wall on the downslope side to form a sub-circular platform. A relatively thin layer of charcoal-rich material was spread across the platform surface representing one or more charcoal burning events. From the limited amount of material remaining, it appears to have been used over a short period of time or carefully cleaned off between uses. There was no sign of previous construction on the site or reuse of the structure.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Forestry Enterprise Scotland

**Assynt**

**Glencanisp, Assynt**

**Desk-based assessment and walkover survey**

*Gordon Sleight and Scottie Sutherland – Historic Assynt*

NC 125 215 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken, October 2015, ahead of a proposed woodland expansion scheme at the western end of Glencanisp. The survey added new detail to the records of several known sites within the proposed planting area including the realisation that an early to mid-19th-century shepherd’s house and outbuildings at Bad na h’Achlaise had been modified for use as a fank. A number of sites new to the archaeological record were also identified and recorded, and included a possible pre-clearance farmstead consisting of a house and three outbuildings. The probable house measured only 6.5 x 2.5m internally, markedly smaller than is usual in the area. A more typical longhouse 20 x 4m internally and a nearby outbuilding were identified at Bad na h’Achlaise. These appear to predate the previously mentioned 19th-century shepherd’s house nearby. Several enclosures were also identified as well as sections of the pre-clearance track between Dubh Chlais and Suileag and the site of a ford over the Abhainn Bad na h’Achlaise.

**Archive and report:** Highland HER

**Funder:** Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape Partnership

**Glenleraig and Cnoc an Each, Assynt**

**Excavations**

*Gordon Sleight – Historic Assynt*

As part of Historic Assynt’s 2011 Life and Death in Assynt’s Past Project led by AOC Archaeology, a stone walled longhouse (NC 1519 3151) in the large cleared settlement of Glenleraig was fully excavated. Two discoveries were particularly surprising:

- The central hearth had two stone-lined air vents, one running from beneath the hearth to one of the outer walls and the other leading from below the hearth to the byre.
- The pottery discovered close to the walls of the domestic area included several items of fine quality mid-18th-century Staffordshire creamware.

In order to establish whether these findings were unique to that one house or more representative of pre-clearance houses elsewhere in Assynt, Historic Assynt has subsequently undertaken three small-scale targeted excavations at other longhouses.

In 2013 a longhouse in the much smaller settlement of Cnoc an Each (NC 1082 2113) was selected, and small trenches targeted the hearth area and across the end wall of the domestic area. No clear evidence of air vents similar to those found at Glenleraig was discovered, but a hollow ran from below the hearth stones a short distance NE towards the stone walled byre end of the building and there were signs of similar but less distinct hollows to S and W. The trench across the end of the turf walled domestic area produced no finds at all.

In 2014 a house in a different part of the settlement (NC 1531 3120) was chosen and trenches targeted the same areas as at Cnoc an Each. The hearth trench revealed a short, 0.3m long, partially stone-lined channel leading under the hearth stones from the direction of the byre and a less distinct unlined hollow emerging from below the hearth directly opposite. The trench across the end wall of the domestic area produced a number of pottery and glass fragments and a copper button. The pottery proved to be both later (late 18th and early 19th century) and of poorer quality than that found in 2011. The number of volunteers at this excavation allowed us to simultaneously excavate in an irregular outshot. A few small fragments of pottery matching that found in the main house were found lying up against a series of stone alignments laid out on top of the floor of the outshot. At first these were thought to be drain covers, but there proved to be no channels beneath them and so they are more likely to be supports to lift timber or creel furnishings above the damp floor.

In 2015 a further Glenleraig longhouse was selected (NC 1523 3132). It proved to have been significantly modified
towards the end of its period of use. The byre and outshot had been abandoned and the domestic area served as a single room dwelling. The hearth area was not investigated, but a trench below the end wall had a series of stone footings for furniture and fittings similar to those discovered the previous year. The pottery and glass finds proved to be earlier and of better quality than those discovered in 2014 and very similar to those discovered in the initial 2011 excavations.

The overall findings suggest that hearths with some sort of air venting system may well have existed in the majority of Assynt longhouses of the period. That the house at Cnoc an Each had no pottery finds might indicate greater poverty than in Glenleraig or alternatively, greater care taken by the last residents to clear up broken pots, or a lack of interest in acquiring pottery. That the three randomly chosen Glenleraig longhouses all had pottery suggests that the majority of residents there may well have had pottery by the later years of the 18th century, and that more than one family had sufficient disposable income to acquire some of very fine quality.

Archives: Historic Assynt. Report: Highland HER

Ledmore, by Elphin

Survey
Stuart Farrell
NC 2490 1285 (centred on) A walkover survey was undertaken, in June 2016, in advance of proposed woodland planting E of Ledmore Junction. The work recorded two unrecorded features.
NC 24915 13276 Possible shieling
NC 24716 12687 Sheepfold (remains of)
Funder: McGlade Forestry Ltd
Report: NRHE

Auldearn

Inverness to Nairn (A96 Dualling Programme)
Metal detector survey
Rob Engl – AOC Archaeology Group
NH 90582 55682, NH 91147 55762 and NH 91127 56037 (centred on) A metal detector survey was carried out, 15 February – 3 March 2016, on three land parcels covering a total area of 74ha at the village of Auldearn, prior to the proposed dualling of the A96, including the Nairn bypass.

The survey was undertaken in order to assess the possible impact of the proposed works on the site of the Battle of Auldearn (1645). The work recovered 98 metal artefacts, including three impacted lead musket balls, lead scrap, a silver plated charm, copper buckles, buttons, a 19th-century Temperance Society badge, and 17th-century, Victorian and late Georgian coinage. A copper ratchet mechanism from a probable crossbow was also recovered. Numerous pieces of modern agricultural machinery and detritus were also detected and removed.

Archives: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Jacobs UK Ltd

Avich

Ormond Castle, Avich
Survey
Meryl Marshall – NOSAS
NH 69630 53580 (Canmore ID: 13572. SMR ID: MHG8226)
The North of Scotland Archaeological Society (NOSAS) and Avich Community Archaeology (ACA) group joined forces, 20–21 March 2016, to survey and photograph Ormond Castle. The local ACA folk made a good job of clearing the vegetation and on a calm but cold weekend 20 people from NOSAS and ACA gathered to carry out a measured survey. Nine plane table stations were needed to cover the site. Inevitably, the height variations meant that the PT positions were not quite correct in their relationship to each other, but this was overcome by making adjustments at the ‘drawing-up’ stage of the plan, using the processed aerial photographs taken from a quadcopter flyover on the second day. The flyover produced some impressive 3D images of the castle and its features which gave a greatly enhanced overall picture of the fortification.

Archives: NOSAS. Report: Highland HER, NOSAS, and local library
Website: NOSAS.co.uk

Boleskine and Abertarff

Cullochy Combing Weir, Caledonian Canal
Watching brief
Bruce Glendinning – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NH 33994 03832 Cullochy Weir, which forms part of the Caledonian Canal, was breached by unusually high water levels. The water surge washed away c10m of the weir, the
weir’s stone pitching protection facing the River Oich and 35m of northern embankment. As a result, Scottish Canals had to undertake emergency works to repair the weir. A watching brief was undertaken, 26–27 March 2015, during these works to record the surviving remains.

On arrival, emergency works had already commenced but it was clear that the entire NW side and NE end of the weir had been washed away. This had exposed a longitudinal and transverse section through the weir structure, the transverse section was only through the surviving SE half of the weir. The emergency works has also exposed a section through the canal bank at the SW end of the weir where the weir connected with the bank.

Where the weir connected with the canal bank the remains of mortared stone revetting walls were present. The canal bank was built from river derived pebbles/cobbles and gravel capped with a more soil rich deposit and turf.

The weir survived to a height of 1.6–1.7m. It was simply constructed: it had a concrete and irregular stone slab surface and the main body of the weir structure was made from river derived pebbles/cobbles and gravel like the canal bank. This appeared to have been built directly over the natural which was of similar material. A deposit of grey clay was identified in the centre of the weir structure. This was the full depth of the main body of the weir and may have been a clay core to prevent water penetrating through the weir structure itself. Where the actual weir structure had been completely removed wooden posts were identified at regular intervals along the SE side of the weir. These may have formed some sort of shuttering or shoring during the weir’s construction.

Archives: NRHE (intended). Report: Highland HER and NRHE

Funder: Scottish Canals

Boleskine and Abertarff/Duthil and Rothiemurchus/Laggan

Beauty to Denny Overhead Line
Survey, evaluation and excavation
Steven Black and Andrew Gallacher – Northlight Heritage

NN 46980 95885 to NH 37426 06199 A condition survey was undertaken on General Wade’s Military Road (scheduled monument numbers 6128, 6129, 6140, 6141, 6142 and 6143) as part of the overhead line development programme. The work was conducted variously between 24 May 2015 and 23 September 2016. Two surveys were undertaken prior to dismantling which, in addition to two earlier surveys, recorded the condition of all scheduled sections of the 18th-century military road from Melgarve in the E to a point 3.5km S of Fort Augustus in the west. The survey also took in an area to the E of Melgarve either side of the Allt Fieth a’ Mhoraire. A final survey covering all scheduled sections was undertaken after reinstatement had been undertaken. The current condition of the road was recorded along with points of specific cultural heritage interest. Sections of the monument which had the potential to suffer from future erosion or damage were also noted.

NH 90136 11859 to NH 90000 11435 A controlled topsoil strip and subsequent excavation was undertaken at Rothiemurchus, during the Ettridge to Boat of Garten rationalisation project. This involved the laying of underground electricity cables as part of the overhead line development programme. The work was undertaken, 15–30 September 2014, and focused on the area where the route of the cables ran close to a known palisaded enclosure (SM 9337). During the controlled topsoil strip a series of 53 features were uncovered including pits and possible postholes, which partly corresponded to the location of previously recorded unscheduled cropmarks located to the SW of the scheduled monument. Where preservation in situ was not possible the features were fully excavated and recorded. Although no artefacts were recovered, the excavated features have been provisionally interpreted as prehistoric.

Archives: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc and Scottish Southern Energy Ltd

Bracadale

Meadale, Isle of Skye
Desk-based assessment and walkover survey
Lynn Fraser – AOC Archaeology Group
NG 39758 35203 (centred on) A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were carried out, 15 March 2016, in advance of the construction of a small hydro-electric scheme at Meadale. The survey identified 17 previously unrecorded sites.

All the sites appear to relate to post-medieval settlement and agricultural practices, although it was not possible to ascribe a single period of use to all of them. The remains of settlement structures were in various states of degradation; these included houses and a kiln barn. Some structures had twinning pens inserted for reuse at a later date. Shielding sites were located at the higher, northern end of the pipeline route. There were several dykes associated with the settlement. Evidence for lazy bed cultivation was also present in the area.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Green Cat Renewables Ltd

Cawdor

Foxmoss
Field visit
Stuart Farrell

NH 84120 47084 Foxmoss is depicted on the 1st Edition OS map of Nairn (sheet VII.2) of 1871 as three roofed terraced buildings and two smaller buildings in front of these with an enclosed area to the rear of houses, possibly a garden, and named in the OS Name Book (1869) as ‘Applies to building of three tenements, one-storey high thatched and in fair condition. Property of the Earl of Cawdor’. The 2nd Edition OS map of Nairnshire of 1906 shows a single row of buildings with garden divided into two, only one building to front but a well is depicted. Only the well and a section of enclosing wall are shown on the OS map of 1961, and only the enclosing wall is shown on the OS map of 1978–79. Remains of the building are shown on current OS Map. Valuation Rolls...
indicate a single house was last occupied 1935–1940, with woods planted in the area in the 1950s. A site visit on 2 May 2016 identified the remains of three buildings, measuring c32m by 5m, though the E-most building has been damaged by the creation of a forestry track. The area has been planted with trees, but central gables remain standing to over 1.5m in height, and the enclosing wall, to the rear of the buildings, reaches 1m high topped with turf, but is very denuded in places.

**Newton of Cawdor**

_Evaluation_

_Lynne McKeeggie – Highland Archaeology Services_

NH 84971 50976 An evaluation was carried out, 9 May 2016, in advance of construction of a shed on land 170m N of Newton of Cawdor Farm. Ten trial trenches were opened covering 10.7% of the development area. Two shallow ditches containing earth and some stones were uncovered, which probably represent drainage ditches. The edge of a modern pit containing plastic and wire was also found. 

_Issue: HAS. Report: Highland HER_

_Funder: Mr H Robertson_

**Contin**

_Contin Bridge_

_Field visit_

_Meryl Marshall – NOSAS_

Several WW2 practice trenches, centred on NH 4505 5710, are located on both sides of the Black Water to the N of Contin Bridge. It is known that there was a military training camp for Polish soldiers at Coul House Hotel, Contin (Canmore ID: 319916). Two substantial earthworks are on the W bank of the river, 200m to the N of the Achilty Hotel, at the foot of a river terrace:

- Northmost trench centred on NH 4503 5684. A linear zig-zag trench 120m in length enclosed by a turf and stone bank 3–4m high and 4–7m thick at its base.
- Southmost trench centred on NH 4502 5680. An oval waterlogged trench c30 x 8m in size enclosed by a stone bank, 2–2.5m high, but open at its N end.
- Two narrower zig-zag trenches on the E bank of the river were noted in the past, but they are now covered in dense undergrowth and have not been visited recently.
- Northmost trench centred on NH 4495 5740 and c60m in length.
- Southmost trench centred on NH 4513 5702 and c30m in length.

_Corriemoillie Forest, Garve_

_Survey and excavation_

_Gary Savory – CFA Archaeology Ltd_

NH 342 674 A walkover survey and excavation were undertaken, July–November 2015, in advance of the construction of a wind farm. The survey identified no new archaeological sites. The hand excavation of a trench across the edges of the scheduled settlement area (SM 5498) and identify any features on the margins of the area.

_Highland HER and NRHE_

_Funder: EDF Energy Renewables_

_Creag Ghaineamhach/Dalbreac, Strathconon_

_Field visit_

_Meryl Marshall – NOSAS_

NH 3181 5382 (centred) The remains of a group of seven shieling huts are situated c2km SE of Dalbreac Lodge on the S side of a modern track at an altitude of 220m. The shielings appear as grassy mounds in what is otherwise poor, boggy ground. They are generally oval, between 7–9m x 4.5–8m in overall size and 0.5–0.6m high, although one is 1m high. Most have dished centres of up to 0.2m depth. To the N of the track there is a large area of grassy improved land which slopes evenly down to a small burn. The area was visited by members of NOSAS on 19 May 2016.

**Creich**

_Invershin Primary School_

_Survey_

_Anne Coombs_

A walkover survey was undertaken, 1 March 2016, to define the edges of the scheduled settlement area (SM 5498) and identify any features on the margins of the area.

_NH 58013 97690 Hut circle (Canmore: 12991. SMR: MHG32596) The hut circle is c9m across internally with walls c2m wide and c0.5m high. There is no visible entrance; however, the hut circle is covered with a thick layer of bracken which may mask the entrance. There are a number of deciduous trees growing in and around the structure._

_NH 57994 97365 A clearance cairn measuring c4m across and c0.5m high._

_NH 58438 97373 A cairn field consisting of three cairns, c5–6m across and c0.5m high, partially enclosed by a low (c0.25m high) intermittent stone wall._

_NH 58295 97482 A small sub-rectangular structure measuring c6m NE/SW by c3m externally. There is an associated enclosure wall._

_Issue: Inverness Archive Centre (intended). Report: Forestry Commission Scotland_

_Funder: Forestry Commission Scotland_

_Kyleoag/Spinningdale Burn_

_Survey_

_Meryl Marshall – NOSAS_

NH 66100 90800 (Canmore ID: 91386. SMR: MHG 19303) The site of a WW2 Canadian lumber camp/saw mill was surveyed on 25 February 2016 by members of NOSAS. This work forms part of a larger project aimed at producing measured surveys of several sites in the Highlands using plane tables.

_Issue: NOSAS. Report: Highland HER, NOSAS and local library_

_Website: NOSAS.co.uk_

_Linside_

_Survey_

_Anne Coombs_

A walkover survey was undertaken, 17 June 2015, in advance of clear felling of woodland. The survey identified two sites,
which were demarcated prior to the felling.

NH 53547 99492 Hut circle – The hut circle is c.8m across with large stones forming a circle. There are windblown trees across the E side and the circle abuts an old stone and turf dyke which follows the present tree line.

NH 53475 99500 Dyke – A substantial stone and turf dyke with an old trackway on the N side. It appears to extend from the new extraction track to the NE and follows the present tree line and may meet the new track at the NW end.

**Archive:** Inverness Archive Centre. **Report:** Forestry Commission Scotland

**Funder:** Forestry Commission Scotland

### Marish, Migdale

**Evaluation**

**Lynne McKeggie – Highland Archaeology Services**

NH 6225 9181 An evaluation was carried out, 16 September 2016, in the area forming the septic tank and soakaway for a house development near the W end of Loch Migdale. A total of 76.6m² was opened. One feature was identified and recorded: the foundations of a stone wall which appears to form part of an enclosure. This feature was also noted on the 1st Edition OS map, and so is likely to be at least 150 years old. The wall was of dry stone construction, c.0.7m wide and one course high (up to 0.4m). Many fragments of 19th- and 20th-century glazed pottery were recovered from across the site, and one copper alloy button.

**Archive:** HAS. **Report:** Highland HER

**Funder:** W and H Grant

**The wall foundations recorded at Marish**

### Cromarty

**Reeds Park, Cromarty**

**Excavation**

**Steven Birch and Mary Peteranna – Cromarty Medieval Burgh Community Archaeology Project**

NH 7941 6722 (centred on) The Cromarty Medieval Burgh Community Archaeology Project was developed after winter storms and high tides in December 2012 revealed extensive medieval and post-medieval archaeological deposits on the E side of the town. The erosion from the storms also revealed a stone wall, post and stakeholes and a possible boundary ditch.

Following successful excavations in 2013, 2014 and 2015 (DES 2013, 97–98; 2014, 101; 2015, 98–99), a final season of fieldwork was carried out, 11–26 June 2016. This included the continuation of excavations in the main trenches opened in 2014 and 2015.

As in previous years the excavations achieved some excellent results. In most areas of the site we managed to get down to the natural sand, enabling us to investigate the complex sequence/phases of structures, including the major burnt horizon identified running across the site in 2015. Intense areas of burning mirrored the locations of medieval wattle and daub structures, from which we identified and recovered carbonised structural timbers, including wattle and daub panel fragments, and iron fittings from the structures, including nails and door furniture. The burnt horizon probably dates to somewhere between the early and late 14th century, and samples from this horizon have been submitted for radiocarbon dating. In one area of the site associated with the burning we also recovered large amounts of burnt grain (barley, wheat, oats and rye), which may have comprised a grain store within one of the buildings. Burnt pottery sherd and other small finds were also recovered from this burnt horizon.

Evidence from the excavations has enabled us to identify a wide range of construction techniques for the various buildings on site. The earliest structures appear to have been manufactured from timber and turf, followed by wattle and daub panel construction (both of these phases used a combination of cruck-frame and upright timber post construction). After these phases came stone foundations with wattle and daub/clay-bonded superstructures (during the 14th century), with some of these buildings reaching two or three-stores in height. Finally, after the late 17th century, we see single storey buildings with clay-bonded stone walls. At various times, the roof structures comprised turf, thatch, pan tile and slate.

The excavations overall have provided a snapshot of the layout of the burgh in this part of the town, from the 13th to 19th centuries. Of particular interest is the manner in which building alignments have changed through time. The medieval buildings were initially built parallel to their road access, with stone and gravel-surfaced vennels running between them. New buildings were then turned through 90° with their gable-ends addressing the street frontage. The individual structures were set within burgage plots defined by boundary ditches, low boulder walls and fence lines, and were accessed from the road by stone-surfaced vennels which ran up the E side of the buildings to the doorways. Within the late 17th to early 18th centuries, the buildings returned to their original alignments, parallel to the road. It is possible that these major shifts in the arrangement of the buildings between the 15th and 16th centuries relate to severe erosion of the adjacent coastline and loss of land, resulting in the re-alignment of the burgh to the E of the old High Street. However, it is most likely that the final changes seen in the 17th/18th centuries relates to radical changes in property boundaries and land holdings which came about due to the Royal Burgh losing its status during the middle of the 17th century. Whatever the case may be, we have a wealth of data to review regarding building alignments and property boundaries, which should allow us to reconstruct in some detail the overall layout of the town in this area.

A wide range of small finds was recovered during the
2016 excavations, including stone, lead and ceramic spindle whorls, coarse stone tools including a large number of stone discs of unknown function, coins, iron nails and fittings, a bronze strap-end, and a large assemblage of medieval ceramics. The assemblage is dominated by what appears to be a locally produced redware industry, which includes jugs and a few cooking pots.

This season also produced 13 sherds of east coast white gritty ware, a small number of sherds of this diagnostic material when compared to assemblages of ceramics from other E coast burghs. Imported wares identified from this season’s assemblage are represented by Yorkshire types, both white and red glazed ware (37 sherds), Low Countries grey wares (2 sherds) and a number of sherds from an unidentified provenance.

From an industrial and economic aspect, the excavations recovered evidence for small-scale metalworking/smiting, weaving, and, of course, fishing. Midden deposits associated with the earlier phases of activity at the site include butchered domestic animal bone including cattle, sheep, goat, pig, horse and cat, along with some wild species including hare, rabbit, seal, red and roe deer, and a small cetacean. A significant number of fish bones were also recovered, primarily representing marine species. In particular, the medieval fish assemblage is dominated by cod, while pollock, whiting and herring gain more prominence during the later medieval and post-medieval periods. Large shellfish middens were also sampled across the site relating to different phases of activity. The analysis of this material is currently taking place, but while smaller-scale oyster shell middens most likely relate to human consumption, the larger deposits comprising mussel, cockle, limpet and periwinkle, most likely relate to bait for fishing.

In the earliest phases of settlement we uncovered two stone-lined pits, built into the sand. These may have been used for underground storage, similar to a souterrain. However, one of the most spectacular discoveries this year was a medieval well. When we first identified the outline of this structure we thought we had found another grain-drying kiln - the clay bonding covering the top course of stones displaying a roughly figure of eight outline. It took three-days to remove an homogeneous fill of brown soil containing some shell fragments and only one sherd of medieval pot, and some stone towards the base, to finally reveal a wonderful structure around 3m deep. The stonework of the well chamber comprised the finest quality structural evidence from the whole site, while a well constructed flight of sturdy steps led down to the ‘cistern’. No exact parallels for this structure have yet been identified within the archaeological literature, with most wells having vertical walls, but the structure has a number of parallels in the Iron Age. In the base of the well, the sticky sediments produced little in the way of small finds. However, at some stage in its use, a small and complete/articulated pony had been deposited in the base of the structure. Whether this represents deliberate poisoning of the well, or the final closure of the structure, is as yet unclear.

The well was an exciting find to make in the last week of the excavations, but also of great interest are the reuse and deposition of querns and millstones at the site – over 40 querns and quern fragments have now been recovered. Some of the querns have been used as hearths in buildings – in one medieval building we uncovered two querns and a larger millstone representing different phases of use of the building; all in slightly different locations in the structure. However, the most unique discovery was a stack of three upper rotary-type quern stones/small millstones used as hearths (overlapping in their location in a medieval building), with slab-type hearths located below and above – a total of five hearths representing different phases of occupation and use within the building. Other
querns have been used as post-pads, within paved areas such as vennels, and within the walls of medieval buildings – in fragments, but also as complete querns. The use of quern stones at the site warrants further study: were the querns convenient raw materials to be reused in structures; or does their presence hold a more symbolic meaning, a factor that is now being increasingly recognised in prehistoric contexts?

Further post excavation analysis will be undertaken to assess the results from the four seasons of fieldwork, while research into primary documentary sources will continue. In particular, we hope to answer research questions relating to the earliest foundations of the Royal Burgh and the evidence for the wide-scale burning event identified across the site during the 14th century.

Website: www.medievalcromarty.org
Funder: National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund, Highland Council, Cromarty Trust, Hunter Archaeological and Historical Trust and ArtFund through the Headley Trust

Croy and Dalcross

Treetops Riding Centre, Culloden
Survey
Lynn Fraser – AOC Archaeology Group
NH 74478 45796 A metal detector and walkover survey were undertaken on 31 August 2016 in advance of the construction of chalets. Detecting conditions were difficult due to the area consisting mainly of mature pine trees with an understory of long grass and rushes. An array of modern detritus was located, plus a .303 shell cartridge and belt clasp, both of 20th-century date. The survey recorded a ditch, which had a small section of stone-facing visible in one area. It is understood that the ditch was constructed in c2004 to ease drainage problems.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Inverness Paving Ltd

Daviot and Dunlichity

Mains of Gask
Watching brief
Lynne McKeggie – Highland Archaeology Services
NH 68014 36218 A watching brief was carried out, 26 January 2016, during topsoil stripping associated with the construction of a new house. The work, undertaken by Pete Higgins of Archaeology North Ltd on behalf of Highland Archaeology Services, recorded ten features.

Most of the features recorded are interpreted as postholes, with varying degrees of survival of post settings. Features 11 and 18 had traces of *in situ* burning, possibly from destruction of the posts. Both 11 and 22 had small extensions or bulges on one side, which may have been burrows partly filled with the fill of the feature but are more likely to be the remains of leverage holes from erecting/removing posts. Features 5 and 24 had fills containing redeposited burnt material, which is unusual but not unknown for the fills of postholes whose posts have been removed. Feature 20 also contained burnt material, in this case probably burnt *in situ*, but its differing morphology and the characteristics of its fill suggest this may have been a small pit. Feature 13 appears to be filled with a redeposited burnt deposit, possibly from a hearth, and to have had a small fire on the slab. It is interpreted as a small pit, but the slab could have functioned as a base for either a fire or a post, or both at different times. No obvious alignments of similar features were apparent. The features have not been dated.

Archive: HAS. Report: Highland HER
Funder: S Maclellan

Dornoch

The Meadows, Dornoch
Excavation and watching brief
Cathy Maclver and Mary Peteranna – AOC Archaeology Group
NH 79756 89522 An excavation and subsequent watching brief were carried out, 13 October – 3 November 2016, ahead of construction of new student accommodation at the former abattoir site at The Meadows. Prior to the excavation, an evaluation undertaken by Highland Archaeology Services had located archaeological features in one of five trial trenches.

Fourteen features were excavated, the majority of which consisted of pits and linear features of unknown function. Modern disturbance was present across the site as a result of the clearance of previous buildings on the site and this had resulted in damage to *in situ* archaeological contexts.

The most extensive archaeological feature was a shell midden composed of a spread of material that varied in depth and which extended to c8m long and 2m wide. The main midden deposit was composed primarily of cockle shells with some mussel, clam and other bivalve shells. Fragments of animal bone were also present towards the...
base of the midden. Layering suggested that multiple depositional events formed the midden. Several pits were sealed below the midden layer. Fragments of possible metal-working residues were present in several contexts.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** O’Brien Construction

### Duirinish

**Husabost, Isle of Skye**

*Desk-based assessment, watching brief and survey*

**Sam Williamson – West Coast Archaeological Services**

NG 2032 49988 A programme of archaeological work was carried out, 4–5 April 2016, in advance of the construction of a new house on land SE of 1 Husabost, Totaig. A watching brief over two large areas covering the house footprint and a new access road recovered a sherd of crude pottery and a fragment of chert. A walkover survey of the area surrounding the development area identified nine sites, including dwellings, a wall, enclosures and a known souterrain.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Funder:** Mr and Mrs Bennett

**View across an enclosure at Husabost**

### Dunnet

**Lochend Wind Farm, Caithness**

*Watching brief*

**Rachel McMullan – CFA Archaeology Ltd**

ND 2790 6881 A watching brief carried out, May 2016, during ground-breaking work for the most northerly crane pad of a wind farm to the E of Loch Heilen identified no finds or features of archaeological significance.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Funder:** Wind Harvest Ltd

### Duthil And Rothiemurchus

**Milton Mill, Aviemore**

*Standing building recording*

**David Murray – Kirkdale Archaeology**

NH 8939 1374 A standing building survey was carried out, 14–16 September 2016, of Milton Mill to provide a baseline record of the building. The interior of the mill structure is filled with rubble from fallen walls. The S and E wall lines are almost totally obscured with tumbled rubble. While the existing layout of the ruined mill indicates that it had two rooms at ground level, it appears that the southern room is an addition. The W wall of the S room abuts the cross-wall that divides the two rooms. This indicates that the cross wall was once the exterior southern wall of a smaller structure formed by the current northern room. No obvious window or door apertures are visible in the fabric of the walls. However, there is an enigmatic vertical face through the N wall that may be the remnant W margin of an aperture to accommodate a drive shaft from the water wheel.

No obvious trace of mill machinery was observed, except for one small metal fixture on the interior face of the W wall at the N end of the main building. A large piece of wooden structure survives inside the northern end of the main building. It is possible that this structure, which is rotten and in poor condition, is no longer *in situ* and may represent fallen roof timbers or internal supports for the roof or machinery. Traces of the lades shown on the 1st Edition OS map can be roughly located on the ground.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Milton Burn Developments

### Edderton/Tain

**Morangie Forest**

*Field visit*

**Anne Coombs**

A number of sites were visited and assessed, 20–24 July 2015, in advance of clear felling of woodland and demarcated with tape to prevent damage.

- NH 74204 83228 **Morangie Forest** – Cairn (Canmore: 14734, SMR: MHG8656) The cairn is c13m in diameter and stands immediately to the N of a forestry track and to the E of an older track. Trees have been planted c25m to the N of the cairn and the cairn is presently covered with vegetation.

- NH 73539 83358 **Red Burn Cottage** – Long cairn, 880m SE of SM 2763 (Canmore: 14733, SMR: MHG8657) The long cairn is c60m WNW/ESE and c14m wide at the E end narrowing to c10m at the W end. The cairn has been disturbed in the past and has several hollows along its length. There is a lot of visible stone. Some small trees are becoming established in the area of the cairn which at the time of the visit was in a cleared area within the plantation immediately to the N of the forestry track.

- NH 73214 83368 **Morangie Forest** – A substantial boundary dyke runs N/S and forms part of the ride between the E and W parts of the forestry plantation. It predates the plantation and appears on the 1st Edition OS map. It is up to 1.5m high and c2m wide. It is tumbled in places but remains as a very visible part of the landscape.

- NH 73139 83366 **Morangie Forest** – A farmstead lies in an open area of grass within a conifer plantation; it consists of two buildings. A long building c16m N/S by c5m externally with walls c1m wide and up to c1.5m high; the highest sections are the gable walls, there appears to be an internal division but the doorway is not visible. At the N end of the building is another smaller building c8m E/W by c3m; this building is set into the ground at a lower level than the larger building. There may be an earlier wall extending E from the N end of the larger building, it may be part of an earlier building or an enclosure wall. The settlement is recorded on the 1st Edition OS map of 1842–83 with a small building lying at the NE end of the larger building. The settlement is recorded as roofed buildings up to the OS 1937–61 map.

- NH 73161 83298 **Morangie Forest** – A turf and stone dyke, c0.5m high and c0.75m wide, lies E/W from a larger N/S dyke and has a ditch on the S side which was dry on the day of the visit. The dyke is visible and lined with deciduous trees with an open grassy area to the S and a conifer plantation to the N.

- NH 73020 83303 **Morangie Forest** – A farmstead lies in an open unplanted area of grass within the plantation. Access is from the ride at NH 73014 83377. It consists of two buildings; a long building c16m N/S by c4.5m externally with walls c1m wide and up to c0.75m high. There is a low wall extending out to the E which is shown as a rooted outshot on the 1st Edition OS
has been built into the cairn stone. This building appears on 22m in diameter. It of Redburn Cottage (SM 2395, Canmore: 14745, SMR: MHG8647). The cairn is circular and c22m in diameter. It is c4m high with c50% visible stone. The lower edge of the cairn is covered with grass and there are several bushes on the cairn. There are several hollows on the cairn with some exposed upstanding stones which may represent the chamber. On the NE edge of the cairn a small building c3m2 has been built into the cairn stone. This building appears on the 1st Edition 1843–1882 map up to and including the OS map 1888–1913.

NH 72899 83621 Morangie Forest – A farmstead consisting of two buildings located in an open-area of grass informally planted with deciduous trees. The long building is c30m NNE/SSW by c5m externally with walls c1m wide and up to c1.5m high, with two internal divisions and is upstanding in places by the gable. This building may have an outshot on the N side c6m N/S or a small separate building abutting the building to the S. To the NW an unroofed structure appears to on the 1st Edition Survey map of 1842–83 and may be a small enclosure, it is c12m NW/SE by c6m. This structure was not visible on this visit but the lowest levels may still survive below the long grass. The farmstead is recorded as one or two roofed buildings from the time of the 1st Edition Survey up to and including the OS 1937–61 maps.

NH 72960 83632 Morangie Forest – A low c0.5m high turf bank runs N/S for c100m on the present W edge of a forestry plantation.

NH 72860 83385 Morangie Forest – A wide dyke, which appears to run E/W from the Red Burn chambered cairn, may be an extensive clearance cairn made up from the 2–3 buildings recorded as roofed buildings from the time of the 1st Edition Survey up to and including the OS 1937–61 maps. Verbal evidence from a previous owner suggests that during WW2 the area to the N was cleared to provide agricultural land for food production. Immediately to the S of the dyke there is an old trackway which joined settlements on the W side of the Red Burn with settlements on the E side. The dyke feature is substantial and in an area of clear ground. At the E end of the dyke there are the remains of a dyke also recorded on the maps; it runs E/W parallel to the old track/present ride and the S edge of the plantation. At NH 72910 83380 the W corner of the plantation, the dyke runs N into the trees. These walls form an enclosure recorded on the 1st Edition Survey and through to the OS 6" map of 1888–1913. There is another dyke at NH 72909 83370 on the S side of the old track, this is also within the forestry plantation. This dyke is not recorded on the 1st Edition map but is on the later OS 6" map of 1888–1913.

NH 72865 83568 Morangie Forest – Farmstead (Canmore: 103994, SMR: MHG20806). In an area of planted deciduous trees and grass a building is shown on the 1st Edition 1843–1882 map and the OS 6" map of 1888–1913. It appears as two roofed buildings, one small building to the W of a partially roofed long house on the E side. The site is now a substantial scatter of large stones and lies to the N of a well also recorded on the maps. The well lies at NH 72854 83556 with a small burn flowing N from the well. The well is partially lined with stones with a collapsed wood and wire fence around it. The site may have been recorded on Canmore as noted below but the NGR is not the same. At NH 72852 83564 there are the remains of a turf dyke.

NH 73478 83566 Morangie Forest – A substantial turf and stone dyke that runs E/W off the E side of the main N/S boundary dyke. It is heather and tree covered in an area of mixed woodland. It is possible there are the remains of a ditch on the S side of the dyke.

NH 73340 83574 Morangie Forest – A small stone structure abutting a dyke running E/W. The building is made up of two low walls extending c4m N of the E/W dyke but does not appear to have a fourth wall. It is covered with vegetation and not very visible. It is recorded as an unroofed building from the time of the 1st Edition OS map.

NH 73357 83578 Morangie Forest – Farmstead (Canmore: 103982, SMR: MHG20850). The farmstead consists of a long building. It is c12m N/S by c4.5m wide with walls c1m wide and c0.6m high. It is covered with vegetation and some small deciduous trees. It is recorded as an unroofed building from the time of the 1st Edition OS map.

NH 73513 83749 Morangie Forest – Farmstead (Canmore: 104055, SMR: MHG20868). A building lies within the conifer plantation. It is c12m SE/NW by c5m with walls c1m wide and up to c0.75m high. The walls are covered with low vegetation and there are natural levels close to the wall. The entrance is not obvious and there do not appear to be internal divisions. The site is recorded as an unroofed structure with a partial enclosure which appears to be open on the N side on the 1st Edition Survey. The enclosure appears to cross the possibly later E/W dyke and is visible within the plantation to the S. It has been recorded on Canmore but the grid reference is different.

NH 71681 82721 Morangie Forest – Farmstead (Canmore: 104067, SMR: MHG:20880). The farmstead is c16m E/W by c5m externally with walls c1m wide and up to c0.5m high. The farmstead has a partial enclosure around it, the best preserved section lies to the S of the building and runs E/W extending from NH 71665 82706 to NH 71663 82702 where it turns N. The site lies in open heather and grass covered ground with scattered conifer trees across the area. The site was recorded as an unroofed building on the 1st Edition OS map.

NH 71904 80202 Morangie Forest – Farmstead (Canmore: 104058, SMR: MHG20857). The NW building of this complex of four buildings recorded on the 1st Edition OS map survives as a wall face c1m high revetted into the slope to the NW, there are visible remains of the S wall or gable. The small building is c3m2 and lies to the SE of the first building. It is clearly a building but the walls are very tumbled. The other two buildings recorded on the 1st Edition OS map as one roofed and one unroofed, were not found but may well survive under a dense cover of bracken. The area lies within an area of old trees and to the SW on open ground there are the remains of peat banks.

NH 71661 80510 Carn a’ Chait Cairn (SM 4727, Canmore: 14747, SMR: MHG8645). The cairn is a stony mound c16m in diameter and c1.5m high. Roughly in the centre of the mound is a later marker stone with the letters ‘C’ on the W face and ‘T’ on the E face indicating a boundary line. The lower c0.5m of the stone is covered with heather and vegetation and there is bracken heather and grass around the cairn. The scheduled area has been defined by a circle of high tree stumps. Beyond the scheduled area there are conifer trees to the NE, in all other directions there is open ground with new tree growth. There are a number of c1–2m trees growing in the scheduled area.

Archive: Highland HER (intended)
Report: Forestry Commission Scotland and Highland HER (intended)
Farr

Rosal Forest
Survey
Stuart Farrell

NC 691 395 (centred on) A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken, 29 August – 8 September 2016, over two areas in Rosal Forest prior to woodland restocking. The work revealed the previously unrecorded site of an enclosure at NC 69540 40067. Recording was also undertaken of existing sites (NMRS NC63NE 6, 15, 40, 42–44).

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Tillhill Forestry

Fodderty

Limpley Stoke, Lochussie
Evaluation
Lynne McKeggie – Highland Archaeology Services

NH 4961 5701 A trial trenching evaluation was carried out, 7 August 2016, on land 200m N of Limpley Stoke, in advance of construction of a house. The area in which the house is to be sited and a working area around it was stripped, but no archaeological features were identified. A burnt mound is located within 30m of the site, and this was recorded, but it is not threatened by the development.

Archive: HAS. Report: Highland HER
Funder: Mr J Sinclair

Gairloch

Gleann na Muice, Kinlochewe
Desk-based assessment and walkover survey
Mary Peteranna and Sam Williamson – AOC Archaeology Group

NH 07573 65202 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken, 12 February 2016, in advance of construction of a small hydro-electric scheme located in the Gleann na Muice at the Heights of Kinlochewe. Twenty-one archaeological sites were recorded, comprising several stone structures, with some sections of wall visible within mostly rubble stone mounds. Most of the sites were interpreted as late medieval or post-medieval occupation of the area.

The majority of the sites consisted of clearance cairns and field boundaries situated on the slopes of the burn. One of the cairn sites (Site 10) comprised a small and well-built structure, its appearance suggesting to the surveyors that it covered an internal setting. Three possible stone structures were also recorded, with some sections of wall visible within mostly rubble stone mounds.

The majority of the Leckie Township site was recorded, with the exception of the E end, which ran beyond the pipeline route. Two of the sites formed the remains of two substantial buildings: one well preserved roofed house (Site 16) and a ruinous house (Site 17a) surviving mostly to roof height. A number of associated small structures and walls were located on the sloping ground to the S of the houses.

Two cairn sites, Site 9b and Site 16, were evaluated prior to their removal by the development. Site 9b was a bracken- and moss-covered cairn of medium-large stones measuring 4.5m NNE/SSW by 2.2m and standing to a maximum of 0.75m tall. It was well-constructed and situated on a S-facing slope and banked against the hillslope with slope-wash sediment covering part of the W side. Stone had spread out on the SE side, giving the appearance of a circular mound with a diameter of 4.5m. No archaeological material was recovered and the work confirmed that the site represented field clearance.

Site 10 was a cairn of a different type to the clearance cairns found in the vicinity. It was small and well-built, measuring 2.2m by 1.2m overall. It appeared to have been carefully and deliberately built of small to large stones and boulders. On its SW side, a small 0.7m high upright slab had

Gleann na Muice – Looking NW over Site 9, a rectangular structure with rounded corners and a possible entrance

The stone-built structures consisted mainly of the low remains of small buildings, interpreted as shielings. Two shieling sites at the N end of the route contained later reuse for stock management, with twinning/lambing pens built into the corners. At the S end of the route, a possible kiln structure (previously recorded) with a well preserved flue was located to the S of a small watercourse that may have once formed a hand-dug lade. Mitigation measures were able to ensure that none of the sites would be impacted by development.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Glen Hydro Development Ltd

Loch Thurnaig Roundhouse
Excavation
Daniel Rhodes – The National Trust for Scotland

NG 8709 8336 As part of the National Trust for Scotland’s Thistle Camp volunteer programme an excavation was undertaken, 23–30 April 2016, at the site of a previously identified roundhouse and burnt mound. The project was in partnership with Edinburgh University Archaeology Department and the results of the burnt mound excavation will form part of a larger PhD study. The excavation of the roundhouse exposed a well constructed stone-built structure with a number of phases and repair.

Archive: The National Trust for Scotland
Funder: The National Trust for Scotland

Srath Chrombuill
Desk-based assessment, walkover survey and evaluation
Mary Peteranna and Lindsey Stirling – AOC Archaeology Group

NH 0844 6434 – NH 0982 6440 A desk-based assessment, walkover survey and subsequent excavation were carried out, 6 January – 24 February 2016, in advance of the construction of a hydro-electric scheme along the Abhainn Srath Chrombuill. Twenty-three archaeological sites were recorded along the pipeline route, on the N and S sides of the Abhainn Srath Chrombuill. The sites related to the post-medieval occupation of the area and the nearby Leckie Township.

The majority of the sites consisted of clearance cairns and field boundaries situated on the slopes of the N side of the burn. One of the cairn sites (Site 10) comprised a small and well-built structure, its appearance suggesting to the surveyors that it covered an internal setting. Three possible stone structures were also recorded, with some sections of wall visible within mostly rubble stone mounds.

The majority of the Leckie Township site was recorded, with the exception of the E end, which ran beyond the pipeline route. Two of the sites formed the remains of two substantial buildings: one well preserved roofed house (Site 16) and a ruinous house (Site 17a) surviving mostly to roof height. A number of associated small structures and walls were located on the sloping ground to the S of the houses.

Two cairn sites, Site 9b and Site 16, were evaluated prior to their removal by the development. Site 9b was a bracken- and moss-covered cairn of medium-large stones measuring 4.5m NNE/SSW by 2.2m and standing to a maximum of 0.75m tall. It was well-constructed and situated on a S-facing slope and banked against the hillslope with slope-wash sediment covering part of the W side. Stone had spread out on the SE side, giving the appearance of a circular mound with a diameter of 4.5m. No archaeological material was recovered and the work confirmed that the site represented field clearance.

Site 10 was a cairn of a different type to the clearance cairns found in the vicinity. It was small and well-built, measuring 2.2m by 1.2m overall. It appeared to have been carefully and deliberately built of small to large stones and boulders. On its SW side, a small 0.7m high upright slab had
been erected 1m from the cairn, possibly as a marker stone. Excavation revealed that the structure comprised single-coursed stonework of horizontally and vertically set boulders and large stones enclosing a rectangular chamber measuring 0.75m long N/S by 0.5m wide and 0.5–0.6m deep below the loose upper stones. The base of the chamber contained a dense, wet, light-mid brown peaty soil containing a packed layer of bracken roots, which made excavation challenging. The remains of a small goat or sheep were found over and within this layer. No further archaeological layers or artefacts were identified. The site was interpreted as having been built as a burial for the animal.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Glen Hydro Development Ltd

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**Glenelg**

**Kilchoan and Whitegate, Knoydart**

*Desk-based assessment and walkover survey*

*Steven Birch and Mary Peteranna – West Coast Archaeological Services*

NM 78700 99125 and NM 77691 99878 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were carried out, 5 May 2016, in advance of two small woodland planting schemes near Inverie on the central S coast of the Knoydart Peninsula. The desk-based assessment revealed no sites but six new sites were recorded during the walkover survey. In the Kilchoan survey area there were the remains of two stone-built footings for a bridge across the Allt Dubh stream, a turf and stone shieling and a small area of rig and furrow cultivation. In the Whitegate survey area three turf/stone boundary dykes were recorded, which predate an abandoned reservoir in the area.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Funder:** Knoydart Forest Trust

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**Halkirk/Watten/Wick**

**Caithness – Moray – Shetland Link**

*Watching brief and evaluation*

*Ewan MacNeilage – CFA Archaeology Ltd*

ND 325 536 – ND 157 568 A watching brief was carried out, April–July 2015, during ground-breaking work associated with the construction of access roads and associated drainage ditches. No archaeologically significant deposits or remains were discovered during this phase of work.

Three evaluation trenches were excavated across known archaeological sites consisting of upstanding alignments of stones, which revealed evidence of dry stone walls, probably representing a buried and defunct network of field boundaries, now visible only as occasional stones poking up

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*NTS volunteers excavating the roundhouse on the banks of Loch Thurnaig (see page 102)*

*Excavation of the animal burial cairn (Site 10) in progress, Srath Chrombuill (see page 102)*
through the turf.

Inverness and Bona

Bogbain West, Milton of Leys

Evaluation

Stephen Cox – Headland Archaeology Ltd

NH 69891 41693 An evaluation was carried out, 12–26 July 2016, in advance of a proposed residential development. The trial trenching recorded evidence of possible prehistoric activity in four trenches, and a possible field system of unknown date.

Canal Park and Ness-side – Inverness West Link Road

Watching brief and excavation

Mary Peteranna – AOC Archaeology Group

NH 6557 4360 to NH 6499 4227 A watching brief and excavation were carried out, May – September 2016, during construction of a road. The monitoring took place during groundwork at Ness-side, located on the SE side of the River Ness between Ness-side Farm and Holm Mills, and in Canal Park, an area of recreational ground between the Caledonian Canal and the River Ness.

Over 100 features of interest were excavated, comprising mostly the remains of truncated pits found in clusters with no formal arrangement. Many pits contained coarse stone tools, struck flint flakes, flint tools and fragments of prehistoric ceramic vessels. Burnt grain and hazelnut shell was also present in many of the features. Bowl-shaped pits containing significant fire-cracked stone and carbonised material were a frequent occurrence and were interpreted as fire-pits or hearths. In one pit, a saddle quern had been placed upturned in the base with three stone tools overlying it. The remains of a ring ditch adjacent to a circular pit alignment were interpreted as two roundhouses.

Midmills College, Crown Circus

Standing building recording

Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group

NH 67114 45254 A historic building survey was carried out, 10–13 October 2016, of the Midmills College campus at Crown Circus, prior to the part demolition and renovation of the site. The Inverness Royal Academy was constructed in 1895 on the site of a former country house called Crown House, which was established in extensive grounds in the later 18th century. A janitor’s cottage was also built a few years later to the N of the building in 1899. The academy building was added to in 1913 with the addition of two more blocks abutting its NE side. The layout remained little changed until the 1950s and 1960s when another large extension was added to the NE of the main block (c1968) and another detached block to the N of this (c1960s). Four detached temporary huts were also constructed to the NE of the site, providing additional classroom space.

Ness-side – Inverness West Link Road

Evaluation

Mary Peteranna, Lindsey Stirling and Sam Williamson – AOC Archaeology Group

NH 6522 4308 to NH 6499 4227 An evaluation was carried out in three phases between 5 October 2015 – 9 February 2016, in advance of construction of a new link road at Ness-side, Inverness. The fieldwork recorded 13 archaeological features. A survey of two mill lades was also conducted.

In the southernmost part of the development area in the fields next to Ness-side Farm were two archaeological features consisting of the bases of a possible wall and a stone-filled pit. The function of these features was unclear, but the similarity in condition suggested that they may be related. Plough marks were also noted and some small sherds of 18th- or 19th-century pottery were recovered from the topsoil.

In the area just S of Holm Mills, four pits were recorded, one of which contained a flint perform for a leaf shaped
arrowhead (Neolithic) and a cobbled tool, indicating a prehistoric date for the features. Trenching also revealed that the area running alongside the top of the mill lade had been built up with redeposited subsoil that had increased the height of the landward side of the lade.

The central area of the route at Ness-side revealed several areas of archaeological interest. Seven sub-circular pits and one L-shaped pit were recorded. One of the pits contained a worked flint flake while another pit contained the basal remains of a sheep burial.

The Holm Mill lade runs along the S bank of the River Ness to the site of the former woollen mill at Holm. It consists of N and S banks separated by 4.5m and a lade 2m deep. The lower, inner face of the banks had been stone-lined, although much of the stonework had been washed out by erosion. The S bank had been built up on the landward side 3.5–4m higher extending 5–6m from the inner face of the lade.

The Bught Mill lade runs along the N side of the River Ness. It originally ran to the grain mill at Bught but now terminates at the Ness Islands beyond Whin Park. It measured 5–6m wide with a straight sided cut 1.5m deep. There was no evidence of surviving stonework and the banks had been built up several metres high on both sides.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Capita

Flint perform of a leaf-shaped arrowhead, Ness-side

**Raigmore Ring Cairn**

**Excavation**

*Cara Jones – Archaeology Scotland*

NH 68780 45080 (Canmore ID: 13414, SMR ID: 24979) The Raigmore Ring Cairn is a partially reconstructed prehistoric monument that was excavated in the early 1970s and moved to its present location, within Ashton Road Park, ahead of its destruction by the expansion of the A9 trunk road. The monument was the focus of a desk-based research project by a local adult learners group. Through their research, the group identified contemporary photographs from the time of the site’s reconstruction, which indicated internal structural features used and reconstructed from the original monument. These features included a timber post-built structure, a cairn platform, pits and a cist. The features were, over time, covered by vegetation or were removed and are no longer visible. The main aims and objectives of the project were to ascertain the level of survival of the internal features and assess the condition of the upstanding remains. In turn it was the aim of the project to transform the monument from an un-utilised feature within a public park to an educational resource to be used by local schools and appreciated by the whole community. Five trenches were excavated within the interior of the monument, 1–5 May 2013, in order to investigate the presence and condition any archaeological remains. Features identified during the excavation included: a number of concrete foundations used to support wooden posts, which were in the approximate location of those found in the original monument; fragments of the relocated original cairn material; and, the concrete foundations and the stones of the reconstructed cist.

**Archive and report:** HES (intended)

**Funder:** HLF and HES

Slackbuie, Inverness

**Evaluation**

*Alison Cameron and Stuart Farrell – Cameron Archaeology*

NH 6701 4203 A 7% evaluation was carried out, 2–8 March 2016, by Stuart Farrell in advance of a residential and restaurant development. A number of potential archaeological features were identified and a watching brief will be carried out during the soil strip.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Funder:** Kirkwood Homes

Torvean Golf Course, Inverness

**Evaluation**

*Mary Peteranna and Lindsey Stirling – AOC Archaeology Group*

NH 64380 43609 A trial trenching evaluation was carried out, 22 February – 15 March 2016, at the greenfield site of a proposed new golf course and adjacent house site at Torvean. Evaluation trenches were excavated in areas where groundworks could impact upon buried deposits. Sixty significant archaeological features were recorded across the area.

The majority of the features comprised truncated pits interpreted as probable prehistoric features. Three trenches in the southern part of the site revealed distinct clusters of
pits. Although shapes and sizes varied, a number of the pits comprised bowl-shaped cuts containing fire-cracked stone with charcoal-rich fills, suggesting that they were fire-pits or hearths. Other pits appeared to be postholes, indicating the presence of structural remains on the site. Further pit features comprised shallow, elongated pits interpreted as possible storage sites and keyhole-shaped pits interpreted as possible small kilns. Several of the features contained degraded sherds of prehistoric pottery.

A number of ditches were also recorded. The remains of a well built slab-lined ditch with a cobbled floor were interpreted as a probable house or byre drain, although there were no other structural remains found. Another stone-filled slot within lower-lying ground may have been a post-medieval field drain, while definite, later field drains were also found in the vicinity. The remnants of two further ditches were found in areas close to the location of a possible burial cairn identified during a survey in 2013.

An extensive spread of fire-cracked stone and blackened soil was located in a trench on the NW side of the site. The section revealed that the spread of material was substantially deep with possible structural stonework within it. It was loosely interpreted as a burnt mound.

Excavation was recommended in ten areas around the location of the sites recorded during the evaluation.

**Navidale**

**Dun Deardail, Glen Nevis**

*Excavation*

*Jamie Humble – AOC Archaeology Group*

NN 127 701 (NN17SW 6) An excavation of four trenches was carried out, 15–26 August 2016, by the Nevis Landscape Partnership with AOC Archaeology Group at the vitrified hillfort of Dun Deardail. Trench one was located in the upper ‘citadel’ area of the fort and was a continuation of last year’s trench. The previous year’s excavations exposed a stone-built hearth. Underlying this hearth and the collapse and slumping of the rampart material was a second hearth consisting of flat slabs and orthostats. The earlier hearth was associated with occupation deposits and structural elements suggesting that a building existed in the upper terrace of the hillfort possibly tied in to the inner face of the ramparts. The earlier hearth and occupation deposits sat on a destruction layer that is interpreted as resulting from the vitrification event, showing that the hillfort was reoccupied following its destruction and vitrification. Trench three was also located within the hillfort interior on a terrace suggested as an occupation platform. This trench exposed structural remains comprising pits, postholes, a hearth and an area of paving demonstrating the existence of a building on the occupation platform. This structure was built on collapsed and levelled rampart material, removal of which exposed more paving, postholes and occupation deposits. Trench six investigated the possible entrance into the hillfort at its SW and the construction of the rampart. Removal of collapsed rampart material exposed the poorly preserved inner face of the rampart, including a burnt transverse timber. However, no evidence for an entrance was revealed.

**Kilmallie**

*Water-filled pit recorded at Navidale*

**Excavation**

*Jamie Humble – AOC Archaeology Group*

NN 127 701 (NN17SW 6) An excavation of four trenches was carried out, 15–26 August 2016, by the Nevis Landscape Partnership with AOC Archaeology Group at the vitrified hillfort of Dun Deardail. Trench one was located in the upper ‘citadel’ area of the fort and was a continuation of last year’s trench. The previous year’s excavations exposed a stone-built hearth. Underlying this hearth and the collapse and slumping of the rampart material was a second hearth consisting of flat slabs and orthostats. The earlier hearth was associated with occupation deposits and structural elements suggesting that a building existed in the upper terrace of the hillfort possibly tied in to the inner face of the ramparts. The earlier hearth and occupation deposits sat on a destruction layer that is interpreted as resulting from the vitrification event, showing that the hillfort was reoccupied following its destruction and vitrification. Trench three was also located within the hillfort interior on a terrace suggested as an occupation platform. This trench exposed structural remains comprising pits, postholes, a hearth and an area of paving demonstrating the existence of a building on the occupation platform. This structure was built on collapsed and levelled rampart material, removal of which exposed more paving, postholes and occupation deposits. Trench six investigated the possible entrance into the hillfort at its SW and the construction of the rampart. Removal of collapsed rampart material exposed the poorly preserved inner face of the rampart, including a burnt transverse timber. However, no evidence for an entrance was revealed.

**Funder:** Green Cat Renewables

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)
Kilmonivaig

Allt an t-Sidhein, near Laggan, Lochaber

Desk-based assessment and walkover survey

Lindsey Stirling – AOC Archaeology Group

NN 29840 96356 (centred on) A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were carried out, 1 November 2016, in advance of the construction of a small hydro-electric scheme at Allt an t-Sidhein. The survey identified no archaeological sites, although the location of a recent large quarry was recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended)

Funder: MNV Consulting

Kilmorack

Aigas Community Forest

Walkover survey

Roland Spencer-Jones and Anne Coombs – NOSAS

NH 45667 42182 Aigas Community Forest is a 280ha forest purchased by the local community from the Forestry Commission in April 2015. As part of the purchase, the Forest Trust was required to provide an archaeological survey, and commissioned NOSAS to undertake this work. The survey was undertaken over eight days during the winter of 2015/6. The field surveyors were a mixture of local members of the Forest Trust, and NOSAS volunteers. Together they contributed 77 person-days of walking. The surveyors identified a number of previously unrecorded features, many of which related to the use of the forest as a sporting estate in the late 19th century. These new finds included a farmhouse and enclosures, another unidentifiable building, a network of Victorian paths, five bridges, a lade and sluice, three watertanks, a network of 19th-century iron fences and gates, and several earthen forest banks. There were also a variety of other more recent or ephemeral features. Many of the paths and fences could be related to those seen on the 1st and 2nd Edition OS maps. The project lead, Roland Spencer-Jones, has produced a report which can be downloaded from the address shown below. In addition to reporting on the survey this report also brings together a variety of related historical and photographic material relevant to Aigas House, and the newer Aigas Forest.

Report: Highland HER and NRHE

Funder: NOSAS

Website: https://1drv.ms/b/s!AlERSv9Po8QVlyO7d9sOCJMMFRj
The excavated shieling hut was built around 15m from the river on a slight slope. It consisted of classic double-skinned dry stone walls with rounded corners and a clear inner and outer facing visible in many parts. The building was 6m long from external to external face and 3.8m wide. The E corner was the best preserved, surviving up to around 0.6m above original ground level.

The building was sitting in peat, slightly impressed into the surface. A gap of c50mm between the inner side of the N wall and the edge of its impression suggests that it has slipped down the slope from its original location. This movement appeared to have totally destroyed the NW corner, which only survived as tumble. A gap in the wall close to the NE corner appears to be the entrance. This gap was crossed by a narrow slot with two wooden stakes thrust into it and an empty stakehole for a third. This slot and post are interpreted as the remains of a board set into the ground to prevent livestock pushing under a door or gate. A small basic hearth was uncovered to the W of the entrance, but the single shallow deposit of burned material suggests that it was little used. Six artefacts were recovered including wood chips and stakes, an iron object resembling a hand-held bill-hook, and an iron pot leg.

**Archive:** HAS. **Report:** Highland HER
**Funder:** Green Highland Renewables Ltd

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**Comar Wood**

**Walkover survey**

**Lynne McKeeggie – Highland Archaeology Services**

NH 31912 30060 – NH 32986 31555 A walkover survey was carried out, 30–31 May 2016, ahead of upgrades to an electric cable overhead line just outside Cannich. The survey noted one structure with an enclosure at NH 31917 30054, as well as a possible shieling at NH 31997 30197, a trackway NH 32634 30807 – NH 32901 31100, and the Clan Chisholm Society Memorial stone at NH 33001 31566.

**Archive:** HAS. **Report:** Highland HER
**Funder:** Scottish and Southern Energy Ltd

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**Gleann Goibhre**

**Survey and recording**

**Meryl Marshall and Anne Coombes – NOSAS**

NH 40250 48000 A survey of a shieling site in Upper Gleann Goibhre was carried out by members of NOSAS in July 2016; a partial survey had been done in 2002 but the site does not appear on the record and the aim this time was to update the original survey. The remains of 18 shielings, numbered 1 to 18, had been identified on the first visit with an additional 16 shielings/structures and a possible enclosing bank, numbered 19 to 35, on the second visit in July 2016. The site lies on a N-facing grassy terrace at an altitude of 300m and comprises the remains of 34 structures and a possible enclosing bank. Most of the structures are huts or bothies but a few may be stores, enclosures or pens. A pipeline, with parallel track, traverses the S part of the site and its construction may have destroyed other features. To the N extensive areas of relatively fertile ground are seen below and beside the Allt Goibhre, they contrast vividly with the landscape which is otherwise brown and heatherly.

The remains indicate three types of shieling hut, possibly from three different periods:

1. Several grassy oval mounds up to 0.5m in height and measuring 5–8m x 4–7m (notably structures 10, 11, 28, 29, 31, 32, also 16, 20 and 24) on the flat grassy terrain.
2. Several platforms edged with large stones enclosing an internal area of generally 4 x 2–3m (2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 19 and 34) also usually on the flat grassy terrain.
3. Structures with more rectangular form and stone construction are generally on the sloping less fertile ground. They vary in size considerably but the majority have an internal area of c4 x 2.5m (1, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 and 26).

This shieling site is at the northern edge of the parish of Kilmorack, and may be associated with the township of Urchany which lies over the hill, 5km to the SE. An old track links the two; it is marked on the 1st Edition OS map of c1872 and on an early map of 1797. Interestingly, a burn immediately to the W of the site is marked as Allt an Ruigh Gruamaich (Burn of the Gloomy Shieling) on the 1st Edition OS map. At a meeting of the Presbytery of Dingwall held at Kilmorack: “there was much discussion of the popise disdaunters of the Parish of Kilmoracke” and it was noted that in the summer of 1673 “they were dwelling at their shielings” (Urchany and Farley 1700–1998, Kilmorack Heritage Trust, 1998).

**Archive:** NOSAS. **Report:** Highland HER, NOSAS and local library
**Website:** NOSAS.co.uk

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**Glen Affric, Fasnakyle**

**Walkover survey**

**Lynne McKeeggie – Highland Archaeology Services**

NH 31912 30060 – NH 32986 31555 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken, 10–11 October 2016, prior to the replacement of a section of electric overhead cable line along the River Affric near Cannich. Ten features were noted during the survey, although five of these were related to the insertion and management of poles (being short sections of track or level pads). There were also a hydro outlet, a ruined cottage and some clearance cairns. The most interesting find, and apparently a new discovery, was a possible illicit whisky still. This consisted of the footings of a dry stone structure, 5 x 3m, oriented E/W and surviving up to 2–3 courses (0.7m) in the SE corner. Very tumbled in the SW corner and possibly open or washed away by the river at W end. The structure

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**Allt Garbh, Glen Affric**

**Watching brief and excavation**

**Lynne McKeeggie – Highland Archaeology Services**

NH 1796 2221 As part of the mitigation for the construction of a small hydro-electric scheme along Allt Garbh, an excavation was undertaken, 18–25 July 2016, to characterise and record a small structure at the intake end. A watching brief was also conducted on topsoil stripping of the laydown area at the turbine house end during May 2016, which yielded no results.
is on level ground between two water courses with the larger, Allt Coire Beithe, on the W and a small stream on the east. Although this is only 75m from the road, it is hidden by a bluff.

Archive: HAS. Report: Highland HER
Funder: CKD Galbraith

Mullardoch, Glen Cannich
Walkover survey
Lynne McKeggie – Highland Archaeology Services
NH 2191 3155 – NH 2515 3265 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken, 26 April 2016, prior to the replacement of a section of electric overhead cable. Six archaeological features were noted, including the remains of dry stone walls, a concrete trough, a sheep handling area (present on modern mapping) and clearance cairns. It was concluded that the area around Laitrie forms part of an earlier settlement or township.

Archive: HAS. Report: Highland HER
Funder: CKD Galbraith

The Shieling Project
Walkover survey and evaluation
Cathy MacIver and Sam Williamson – AOC Archaeology Group
NH 3725 3827 (centred on) A walkover survey and evaluation were carried out, 23 March – 1 April 2016, of the shieling settlement at Allt Moraig in March and April 2016. The shieling site is located to the NW side of the Allt Moraig Burn. During the survey a total of 27 sites were recorded, primarily consisting of sub-rectangular/sub-oval turf and stone-built shieling structures partially enclosed by remnants of a stone-built boundary wall. Platforms and pits were also recorded on the site.

The Shieling Project – A general shot of the site showing the exposed SE corner of Structure B

Two of the sites were selected to undergo evaluation. Site B was selected due to the substantial remains of the building evident below the turf. Site O appeared to sit on a small tell, indicating possible multiple occupation phases, and was selected to determine if this was indeed the case.

From the two structures excavated, it was clear that natural terraces were utilised with minimal or no landscaping taking place. It is not clear whether the areas were deturfed prior to construction or if turf was brought in to preserve the good grazing on the site. No evidence of roofing fabric was noticeable in the collapsed structural material – good pieces of material could have been removed or rotted away. Floors within the structures consisted of hard packed dirt surfaces with some fragmentary areas of laid flat stones creating a rough paving or flat surface. Walls had been primarily constructed from turf with flat stones used at the base of the gable end wall in Structure B and some larger boulders incorporated into the wall in Structure O. Some of the corners in Structure B had been revetted or incorporated with small-medium angular stones creating stone-edged faces.

The exact thickness of the walls and the size and individual positioning of turves was hard to determine, due to the condition of turf structures as they collapse and turves compress, collapse and spread. The walls were at least 0.5–0.75m thick at the base, which would have been necessary to build a wall c0.75–1.0m high and to keep it stable. Turves are likely to have been of different sizes with some sections utilising ‘through’ turves spanning the width of the wall to add stability.

Structure B was one of the few shielings thought during the survey to have contained an internal partition wall. It would likely have delineated spaces rather than fully separating the structure into two cells. It may have marked a sleeping area and opposing activity area nearer the entrance. The location of the entrance in Structure B was represented only by an exterior paved area on the E side of the structure. The presence of the base of a pot dated provisionally to the mid-1700s on the floor surface underneath the wall collapse could place the use of this shieling in the mid-1700s.

Structure O was investigated primarily due to its contrasting more rounded shape and its location on a small mound. Structure O was similar in many ways to Structure B – a primarily turf built wall with some larger stones and a hard packed dirt floor. However, it was placed on a much larger depth of material above the natural subsoil. It is therefore feasible that O was a later structure built on earlier features which had been abandoned and eroded, creating the mound upon which O was situated. Without more extensive excavation of the rest of this structure this will remain unconfirmed but is a strong working theory and demonstrates the differing phases of use at this site.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: The Shieling Project
Kiltarlity and Convinth

Blairmore Wood
Survey
Stuart Farrell
NH 5161 3501 (centred on) A desk-based assessment and walkover survey was undertaken, 27 October 2016, in advance of woodland felling at Blairmore Wood. The farmsteads of Easter Cudrish (NH53SW 23) and Wester Cudrish (NH53SW 24) were visited as part of the survey.

Report: NRHE (intended)
Funder: European Forest Resources (Scotland) LP

Erchless
Survey
Stuart Farrell
NH 4103 4333 A walkover survey was undertaken in August 2016 in advance of proposed woodland planting. Five shielings and a cairn were noted at a site noted under the MOLRS Project (NH44SW 16).

NH 40423 44247 – Shieling
NH 40414 44258 – Shieling with enclosure on N side
NH 4036 4498 – Shieling
NH 40378 44326 – Cairn
NH 40378 44433 – Shieling
NH 40455 44284 – Shieling

Archive and report: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Treeline Forestry Ltd

Kiltearn

Foulis
Metal detector find
Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland
NH 59 64 A badly-damaged Romano-British brooch of Polden Hill type (L: 43.5mm) was found near Foulis, close to a known Iron Age site.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 49/16), allocated to Dingwall Museum

Kincardine

Corriemulzie, Oykel Bridge
Survey
Stuart Farrell
NH 321 944 (centred on) A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken, 2 April 2016, of three areas in advance of woodland planting on a c102ha area at Strath Mulzie. The following previously unrecorded sites were noted.

NH 32552 94952 – Building
NH 32546 94958 – Building
NH 32588 94924 – Building
NH 32438 94787 – Structure
NH 32372 94749 – Enclosure
NH 32243 94714 – Building
NH 32230 94732 – Building
NH 32526 94791 – Sheepfold

The following unrecorded sites are in the vicinity:
NH 34252 97405 – Building – Duag Bridge
NH 34189 97173 – Enclosure – Duag Bridge
NH 34023 95528 – Farmstead – Upper Letters
NH 33757 95811 – Sheepfold – Upper Letters

Funder: McGlade Forestry Ltd

Lemlair House
Watching brief
Lindsey Stirling – AOC Archaeology Group
NH 57664 62198 A watching brief was carried out, 14–17 November 2016, during work associated with the construction of a garage. An area of c15 x 15m was stripped of topsoil, and a stone-built revetment wall removed, which was to be later reinstated. A number of features were recorded, including the revetment wall, the remains of a possible cobbled brick path and a rubble drain. The area has also been disturbed more recently by a modern electric cable trench. All the features were thought to relate to garden landscaping at Lemlair House. Photographs were also taken of a cup- and ring-marked stone in the grounds of Lemlair House.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Reynolds Architecture
Knockbain

Arrie Cottage, North Kessock
Evaluation and watching brief
Lyne McKeggie – Highland Archaeology Services
NH 6797 5133 A programme of archaeological work was undertaken 2014–2016 during work associated with the construction of a new house. A desk-based assessment and walkover survey identified various prehistoric features in the area, including a probable burial cairn in the immediate vicinity of the development and scheduled hut circles and enclosures further afield. The cairn was fenced off in order to protect it from the build.

A trial trenching evaluation was undertaken by Pete Higgins of Archaeology North on behalf of HAS in December 2014. Just over 10% of the area was excavated in the test pitting sample. Two land drains and eight postholes were recorded within 45m of the cairn.

A watching brief was then recommended, and this took place over the winter of 2015–2016. All ground-breaking works were monitored with the exception of a borrow pit excavated before the watching brief commenced. Nineteen features were identified and recorded. A cluster of pits and postholes was located in the part of the development nearest to the cairn, and from this area came the only find from the site – a saddle quern. Despite the cluster of postholes there was no cohesive pattern or impression of structures. This may be due to the truncation and removal of features from centuries of ploughing at the site. Due to the location of these features near to the cairn, the presence of the saddle quern and the dearth of other finds, it was concluded that this represented prehistoric activity at the site, although the nature of this could not be characterised.

A field drain and modern pipeline were also identified, as well as a scatter of shallow features and stone-throws which may attest further to the intense agricultural activity at the site over the years.

Archive: HAS. Report: Highland HER
Funder: Mr G Stewart

Lairg

Dalchork
Survey
Anne Coombs
A walkover survey was undertaken, 18 June 2015, to identify and demarcate archaeological sites in advance of the clear felling of a conifer plantation. The work identified the following sites:

NC 54298 18860 An indistinct hut circle, c8m in diameter is set into the W-facing slope. There is no obvious entrance and walls are c0.25m high with very little visible stone.
NC 54153 18772 An indistinct hut circle, c8m in diameter is set into the W-facing slope. There is no obvious entrance and the walls are c0.25m high with very little visible stone.
NC 54299 18836 An indistinct hut circle, c8m in diameter is set into the W-facing slope. There is no obvious entrance and the walls are c0.25m high with very little visible stone.
NC 54346 18825 A clearance cairn measuring c5m across and c0.50m high, it is grass covered.

Archive: Inverness Archive Centre (intended). Report: Forestry Commission Scotland
Funder: Forestry Commission Scotland

Ferrycroft
Survey
Anne Coombs
A walkover survey was undertaken, 17 June 2015, to identify and demarcate archaeological sites in advance of the clear felling of a conifer plantation. The work identified the following sites:

NC 57514 06785 A stone dyke crosses E/W across the peninsula below the dam across Loch Shin. The majority of the dyke is tumbled, but in places it survives up to 1.5m high and is generally c2–3m wide. The dyke is shown on the 1st Edition OS map.
NC 57214 06755 At the W end of the dyke just to the W of the track there is a building which may be the old sheepfold described on the 1st Edition OS map. The building is c11.5m E/W by 4m externally with walls c1m wide and up to c1m high. There is an opening at the E end and possibly a similar opening at the W end but this is masked by tumble. There is a small tree growing in the building otherwise it is in a reasonably stable condition.

Archive: Inverness Archive Centre (intended). Report: Forestry Commission Scotland
Funder: Forestry Commission Scotland

Raemore Wood
Survey
Anne Coombs
A walkover survey was undertaken, 18 August 2015, to identify and demarcate archaeological sites in advance of the replanting of trees. The work identified the following sites:

NC 54810 04655 A possible hut circle, c6m across with walls c3m wide and up to c1m high. There is a SE entrance. This feature may be a hut circle but, given the other features in this area, it may be a large hollowed out clearance cairn. There is visible stone within the possible walls but no clear wall faces.
NC 54764 04691 A clearance cairn, c8m in diameter and c1m high.
NC 54710 04690 A clearance cairn, c8m in diameter and c1m high.
NC 54673 04695 A clearance cairn, c7m in diameter and c1m high, with a deep hollow in the centre.
NC 54781 04619 A clearance cairn, c8m in diameter and c1m high, with a deep hollow in the centre.
NC 54884 04587 A stone and turf dyke, which appears to be part of a sub-rectangular enclosure. The dyke does not appear on any maps so it may have gone out of use by the time of the 1st Edition OS map.
NC 54831 04436 A clearance cairn, c8m in diameter and c1m high, with a shallow hollow in the top.
NC 54914 04378 A bloomery mound, which is only visible as a dense scatter of iron slag, c15m in diameter, lying on top of the planting mounds.
NC 54894 04442 A hut circle, c8m in diameter internally, with walls c2m wide and c0.75m high. The entrance was not clear but may lie in the SE arc. There is visible stone around the walls.
NC 55027 04486 A hut circle, c10m in diameter internally, with walls c1.5m wide and c0.5m high. There is a lot of visible stone in the walls and the entrance appears to be SE-facing. Another hut circle lies immediately to the SE of this one giving the appearance of a double hut circle, but there does seem to be a gap of c4–5m between the walls.
NC 55020 04495 A hut circle, c10m in diameter internally, with walls c1.5m wide and c0.5m high. There is a lot of visible stone in the walls and the entrance appears to be SE-facing.
NC 55024 04472 A line of intermittent stones form a short dyke on the break of slope below two hut circles, which suggests it may date from the same period as the hut circles.

Archive: Inverness Archive Centre (intended). Report: Forestry Commission Scotland
Funder: Forestry Commission Scotland
Latheron

Achow, Lybster

Evaluation

Sam Williamson – AOC Archaeology Group

ND 2305 3610 A trial trenching evaluation was undertaken, 13 June 2016, in advance of the construction of a new house and associated infrastructure. Six trenches covering c158m² were excavated. The evaluation recorded a mostly shallow topsoil layer, although it extended up to 0.5m deep in the lower parts of the site, which came onto a mixed sandy clay subsoil and soft sandstone/mudstone bedrock. No archaeological features were identified apart from faint plough marks in four of the trenches.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Gavin MacKay

Dunbeath Broch

Survey

Graeme Cavers and Gemma Hudson – AOC Archaeology Group

ND 15536 30447 A structural survey was carried out, 2–3 May 2016, of Dunbeath Broch. The broch was originally discovered and excavated in the 19th century, and was repaired and consolidated in 1990. In the decades since that work was carried out, several areas of the monument have become unstable and are in need of intervention. The structural reassessment identified areas of particular archaeological significance and those areas in need of further stabilisation works. A 3D laser scan survey was carried out to provide a baseline record of the monument, and a series of recommendations were made regarding the ongoing monitoring, management and promotion of the broch as one of Caithness’ key heritage assets.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Dunbeath Community Council and Historic Environment Scotland

Lochbroom

Culnacraig and Achduart, Coigach

Desk-based assessment and walkover survey

Gordon Sleight, Scottie Sutherland and Dave McBain – Historic Assynt

NC 065 037 and NC 051 036 In November 2015 a desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken ahead of a woodland expansion scheme. A small rectangular structure at Achduart, some enigmatic, poorly preserved possible features at Coulnacraig and several stretches of previously unrecorded dry stone dyke at each site were the only archaeological features identified. All of them appear to be the result of crofting activity over the last two hundred years. Just outside the proposed planting area at Culnacraig was a mound on a river terrace. Probably a recent accumulation of organic material it was nevertheless recorded because its size, shape and setting could indicate a Neolithic or Bronze Age cairn.

Archive and report: Highland HER
Funder: Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape Partnership

Loth

Glen Loth

Watching brief

Thomas Bradley-Lovekin – AOC Archaeology Group

NC 9440 1035 to NC 9379 1271 A watching brief was undertaken, 5 May – 3 September 2016, during the construction of a hydro-electric scheme on the Kintradwell Estate, near Brora. Groundwork was carried out on four areas during the watching brief. One of the areas had been developed for a new access track prior to notification of the archaeologist. This area had been outwith the area surveyed in 2014 and resulted in the truncation of several elements of upstanding archaeological sites. A survey was conducted to ascertain the location of any surviving sites. Ten new sites, including three possible structures and boundary dykes, were identified, but not fully surveyed. The watching brief also identified two further upstanding sites, a boulder dyke and a clearance cairn. Whilst the majority of the remains are probably of medieval or later date, the possibility that they relate to earlier prehistoric settlement patterns cannot be discounted.

A group of pits was identified during the watching brief at the S end of the glen on the edge of a steep terrace next to a ruined kiln-barn above the Loth Burn near Lothbeg. They survived as steep, flat-based cuts through the natural subsoil. Ranging in length from 1.0–1.6m and 0.1–0.5m in depth, there was no evidence that they survived above the subsoil although may have been truncated. The pits contained single gravelly soil fills, with occasional small charcoal fragments and large stones noted in two of them. There was no form noted in the arrangement of the features, although they were certainly grouped together and of similar construction. They have been loosely interpreted as storage pits of unknown date.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Kintradwell Estate

Nairn

Nairn Police Station, King Street, Nairn

Field visit

Stuart Farrell

View of Nairn Old Police Station facing E
NH 88290 56557 The former Nairn Police Station, built 1868, which was latterly used as council offices, currently lies empty. The building had accommodation above and stables and cells to the rear. It has been empty for a number of years and its future is uncertain.

### Olrig

**Sibmister Farm, Murkle**

**Evaluation**

*Lyne McKeggie – Highland Archaeology Services*

ND 16533 66052 An evaluation was carried out, 26 September 2016, in advance of construction of a house on land 155m SW of Sibmister Farm. A single, rather shallow and amorphous feature with poorly defined edges was found in the southern part of the site. Two slots were excavated across it. Its fill was very similar to the topsoil, although perhaps with fewer stones. Groove-decorated pottery and a large fragment of iron-working slag (possibly a hearth base or bloom) were recovered from slot A. This feature appears to be a natural hollow. As the hollow was filled with topsoil, it is likely that the pottery and slag have been moved from their original site of deposition by plough action; no trace of negative man-made features was found, and given the intensity of cultivation it is likely that most if not all have been destroyed.

*Archive: HAS. Report: Highland HER*

*Funder: Mr K Sutherland*

### Petty

**Castle Stuart Golf Course/Castle Stuart**

**Geophysical survey**

*Oliver O’Grady – OJT Heritage and Atlas Geophysical Ltd*

NH 73745 49090 (NH74NW 26, NH74NW 147, NH74NW 48, NH74NW 142) A magnetometer survey was undertaken, September – December 2015, over 80.3ha of farmland near Castle Stuart in advance of a proposed golf course development. The survey utilised a vehicle-towed MAGNETO MX V3 Sensys large area survey system that incorporated 16 fluxgate gradiometers separated at intervals of 0.24m on a 3.85m wide trailer. Several prehistoric enclosures and settlement remains were mapped. These included new discoveries and sites previously known from aerial reconnaissance. An extensive possible prehistoric field system was discovered near Castle Stuart Golf Links.

*Archive: Highland Council and NRHE (intended)*

*Funder: Castle Stuart Golf Course*

### Inverness

**Metal detector find**

*Alice Blackwell – National Museums Scotland*

NH 75 49 An early 6th-century Anglo-Saxon Style I-decorated cruciform harness mount was found during metal detecting near Inverness. This is the second Style I cruciform bridle fitting recognised from Scotland, and it replaces a similar find from near Forfar (Angus) as the northernmost find spot of Style I in the UK.

### Morayston

**Metal detector find**

*Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland*

NH 75 48 A fragmentary Iron Age copper-alloy button and loop fastener (L:47.5mm) of Wild class VI b, with a plain rectangular head and an elongated triangular loop, was found during metal detecting near Morayston. Later prehistoric settlements known in the vicinity are the likely use-context.

*Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 210/15), allocated to Inverness Museum and Art Gallery*

*Button and loop fastener, Morayston (Drawn by Alan Braby)*

### Old library site, Ardersier

**Evaluation and photographic survey**

*Sam Williamson – AOC Archaeology Group*

NH 7812 5521 (centred on) An evaluation and photographic survey were undertaken, 23 March 2016, in advance of the construction of two new houses on the site of the old library. The evaluation recorded a patchy sand spread, a concrete runner and a brick alignment. The fragmentary and loose remains of a possible brick and stone setting were also recorded and scattered 19th/20th-century ceramic sherds were recovered from the topsoil. The evidence indicated that the post-medieval structures on the site had been mostly robbed away prior to the evaluation.

The photographic survey provided a detailed record of a ruinous stone structure to the SE side of the development site and a boundary wall enclosing the development area. The rectangular stone building measured 14.1m by 6.1m externally, with walls 0.45m wide and standing 1.6 to 1.9m high. There were two entrances situated at the E and W end; the E entrance was 2.5m wide; the W entrance was 1.2m wide. No lintels survived but there was a blocked window space in the S wall interior and below it a small circular opening, possibly a drain, comprising redbrick construction indicating a later addition. The building material consisted of largely undressed rubble, ranging from small cobbles to large.

*A MAGNETO MX V3 Sensys large area survey system during deployment near Castle Stuart*
boulders, bound by mortar with no coherent coursing and some small flat stones used to stop the gaps between larger stones. Horizontal quoining was visible on the building corners and at the entrances. Large amounts of vegetation and debris hindered recording of the site.

The boundary wall was built of stone with some brick on the N wall. Multiple phases of alterations to the structure were evident, with different wall construction sections and blocked up windows and entrances noted on all walls. Current access to the interior was through a door in the E wall or a break in the S wall.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Moray Estates Development Company Ltd

Old library site – View NE over the site, with the ruinous building to right and boundary wall to left (see page 113)

Tornagrain, Inverness
Desk-based assessment and walkover survey
Steven Birch and Lynn Fraser – West Coast Archaeological Services

NH 7750 5200 (centred on) A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were carried out, 7 March 2016, in advance of the construction of a new water main and associated works area for the planned town of Tornagrain. The pipeline route runs from Tornagrain on the A96 just S of Inverness Airport to the Waste Water Treatment Plant NW of Ardersier. A total of six archaeological sites were recorded. These consisted of a well-preserved boundary dyke, a clearance cairn, a concrete pad, Easter Kerrowgair Farmstead and the Fort George to Inverness military road.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Scottish Water

Portree

Acairseid Mhor, Isle of Rona
Survey
Libby King – Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists

Foundations of a house above Acairseid Mhor on the Island of Rona

Hillshaded view of Raasay House cross-slab lit from top left

NG 60891 56890 to NG 62287 56678 A field survey was undertaken in April 2014 of the area surrounding Rona Lodge, Acairseid Mhor. From fieldwalking the area 76 features were indentified, photographed and recorded by taped offset at a scale of 1:100. The findings were published in an ACFA Occasional Paper No. 132. The features included rock shelters, a boat noost, slipways, platforms, enclosures, longhouses, stores, a spring chamber, a large cairn and several small clearance cairns. A quern store was also found.

Archive: University of Glasgow Library and British Library

Raasay House Pictish Cross Slab
Laser scan survey
Jamie Humble – AOC Archaeology Group

NG 546 367 (NG53NW 3) A laser scan survey of the Pictish cross-slab at Raasay House, was undertaken, 11 July 2016, for conservation management purposes. The slab is a rectangle of granite. At the top of one face of the rectangular granite slab there is an incised cross-of-arcs with a scroll attached to the right side of the top arm to represent the rho of a Chi-rho symbol. Below the cross-of-arcs there is a ‘tuning fork’ and a crescent-and-V-rod symbol.

The laser scanning and photogrammetry produced datasets which were processed into high-resolution geometric meshes for visualisation under simulated raking light conditions, as well as being prepared for processing in GIS software. From the point cloud data a terrain model of the carved surfaces of both the cross-marked slab and the cross-marked rock was produced. This terrain model was then used to produce hill-shaded and local relief models to highlight the carved decoration.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Forestry Commision Scotland
A window on the hidden Bronze Age landscape of Caithness
Survey and excavation
Graeme Cavers, Jamie Humble and Gemma Hudson – AOC Archaeology Group

ND 017 661 A programme of archaeological surveys and trial excavations were undertaken, 22 June – 3 October 2015, by the Castletown Heritage Society with local volunteers and AOC Archaeology Group on the Bronze Age Landscape of Caithness. The project ran as a series of four week-long field schools training volunteers in techniques of field survey, systematic soil sampling and targeted excavation. The project made use of an existing LiDAR data set centred on Baillie Hill to the SE of Dounreay. Over 50 newly identified sites, mainly hut circles, burnt mounds and cairn fields were recorded through topographic survey. Excavations and a systematic soil survey were carried out at Skaill, NE of Baillie Hill, and demonstrated occupation and agricultural activity in both the earlier and middle Bronze Age.

The excavations at Skaill, although limited in extent, provided valuable insights into the character of typical Bronze Age settlements in Caithness. The earliest activity detectable was the evidence for tillage of the soil beneath the buildings, represented by plough scores in the subsoil. The earliest dated elements of the excavations were the remains of a burnt mound that was later modified to form the central hut circle on which the excavations were centred. Two radiocarbon dates were obtained from the burnt mound material that gave the broadly consistent date range of 2341–2138 cal BC and 2455–2146 cal BC.

One of the most intriguing aspects of the excavated hut circle is the reuse of the burnt mound to form the outer bank of the structure. The radiocarbon date range of 1727–1528 cal BC for the hut circle demonstrate that there was a considerable time difference, of c400–900 years, between the use of the burnt mound and the hut circle. Architecturally the hut circle at Skaill showed many of the typical features of roundhouses of the 1st and 2nd millennium BC, such as a penannular ring bank forming the outer wall of the structure, a post ring and a SE-facing entrance. Other structural elements of the hut circle were slab paving around the outer edge of the interior space and flat slabs laid around the exterior of the ring bank. A possible hearth setting may have been formed by perpendicular linear slots.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: The National Lottery, Caithness and North Sutherland Fund, and Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Resolis

Kinbeachie
Watching brief
Stuart Farrell

NH 63280 62310 (centred on) A watching brief was undertaken, 30 April 2016, during work for a new house and associated services at a site to the NNW of the site of Kinbeachie Castle (NH69SW 5). No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: Highland HER and NRHE
Funder: Mr M MacLennan

Kinbeachie Burn
Field visit
Stuart Farrell

The following sites were noted whilst on a site visit:
NH 63826 62424 – Building
NH 64067 62506 – Building, named as Bardaluich on 1st Edition OS map of 1880. Both buildings marked as unroofed on current OS map.

**Rosskeen**

**Dalmore, Alness**

Watching brief

Stuart Farrell and Pete Higgins

NH 66235 69185 (centred on) A watching brief was undertaken, February – May 2015, during work for new housing and associated services at a site which had seen an evaluation conducted in late 2005 (NH66NE 139 – DES 2006, 101). The work recorded a number of archaeological features; including the remnants of a field system, fence-lines, pits (one of which produced a C14 date of 200–132BC) and a hut circle which had seen two phases of occupation in the Bronze Age and in the Iron Age.

Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: Highland HER and NRHE

Funder: Albyn Housing Association

**Strath**

Strath Glebe Cottage, Swordale, Isle of Skye

Desk-based assessment and watching brief

Steven Birch and Sam Williamson – West Coast Archaeological Services

NG 6155 2045 A desk-based assessment and watching brief were carried out, 4 July 2016, in advance of the proposed construction of a new house at Strath Glebe Cottage. Limestone outcrops very close to the surface at this location and one possible linear feature were recorded, but the latter was later identified as a volcanic dyke.

Archive: NRHE

Funder: Mr K Smith

**Small Isles**

Canna House, Canna

Standing building recording

Diana Sproat and Gemma Hudson – AOC Archaeology Group

Canna House was originally constructed by David MacNeill Jnr in c1865. He subsequently sold the island to ship builder Robert Thom, who lived in and extended the house (and also built the nearby Tighard House) in the early 20th century. The house and island were then purchased from the grandsons of Robert Thom by John Lorne Campbell, who moved there with his wife in the late 1930s. The Campbells renovated some of the interior furnishings, updated the gas lighting and then subsequently installed electricity to the house.

John Lorne Campbell left the island to the National Trust for Scotland in the 1980s and, in the early 1990s, extensive renovations were carried out, including the reroofing of the main house and the replacement of nearly all the windows. Today, many of the original late 19th-century and early/mid-20th-century fixtures and fittings of the house still survive, including the fireplaces, original servants’ bell-pull system and the gas light fittings.

Archive: NRHE (intended)

Funder: The National Trust for Scotland

**Strat**

Strath Glebe Cottage, Swordale, Isle of Skye

Desk-based assessment and watching brief

Steven Birch and Sam Williamson – West Coast Archaeological Services

NG 6155 2045 A desk-based assessment and watching brief were carried out, 4 July 2016, in advance of the proposed construction of a new house at Strath Glebe Cottage. Limestone outcrops very close to the surface at this location and one possible linear feature were recorded, but the latter was later identified as a volcanic dyke.

Archive: NRHE

Funder: Mr K Smith

**Tain**

Lamington Forest

Survey

Anne Coombs

A walkover survey was undertaken, 15 July 2015, to identify and demarcate archaeological sites in advance of the clear felling of a conifer plantation. The work identified the following sites:

NH 75589 79107 Farmstead – The first building is c16m NNE/SSW by c5m externally with walls c1m wide and up to c0.75m high set into the slope on the W side and grass covered to a great extent, with a little visible stone. There are three trees on the building. The second building is c8m E/W by c5m externally with walls c1m wide and up to c1m high. The building is grass covered with two trees at the W end and some fallen branches on the building. This building extends into the clear space below the power line route. There is an associated field dyke which extends through the conifer plantation.

NH 75585 79542 A lade is extensive and clearly visible running roughly parallel to the Aldie Burn. It is generally c6m wide and in places there are sections of stone-lined sides. The W end of the lade joins the burn. The E end was not found but it appears to continue through the trees. In places the lade is completely clear of trees but for long stretches there are trees on the bank. The lade is clearly marked on the 1st and 2nd Edition OS maps.


Funder: Forestry Commission Scotland

NG 27466 05512 A historic building survey was carried out, 5–9 October 2015, of Canna House in advance of planned conservation work on the house and its archives.

Main (S) elevation of Canna House, from the SW
Tarbat

Castle View, Portmahomack
Evaluation
Lyne McKeeggie – Highland Archaeology Services
NH 91668 83632 An evaluation was carried out, 8 June 2016, in advance of the construction of three houses. A total of five trenches were excavated, covering just over 6% of the development area. The topsoil was consistently 0.6m deep with plough scoring noted in the subsoil. Drainage channels were uncovered, mostly with ceramic tile piping, but also one stone-filled.
Archive: HAS. Report: Highland HER
Funder: Mr J Munro

Urray

Brahan Castle
Survey
Meryl Marshall – NOSAS
NH 52383 54412 (centred on) A project to produce a measured survey of the circular earthwork (HER ID: MHG 55081) in managed woodland associated with Brahan Castle (Canmore ID: 105407), was carried out by members of NOSAS on 16 April 2016.

The site is shown on a plan of ‘Proposed layout of gardens’ of c1770 and annotated ‘Fine little Eminence called Beech Mount’ and on a plan of ‘Survey of Brahan Policies, 1787’ by David Aitken as a wooded circular feature.

The primary aim was to survey the circular earth bank with its beech trees and internal features using five linked plane table positions. Recent clearance of rhododendrons has revealed more of the structure and its relationship with the burial enclosure (HER: MHG 55127), its angel statue (HER: MHG 44438, Canmore ID 105393) and the dog cemetery (HER: MHG 21481) situated within the internal area.

This work forms part of a larger project aimed at producing measured surveys of several sites in the Highlands using plane tables.
Archive: NOSAS. Report: Highland HER, NOSAS and local library
Website: NOSAS.co.uk

Muir of Ord
Metal detector find
Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland

NH 51 50 An Iron Age massive-style finger ring was found during metal detecting W of Muir of Ord. It is very worn, and the bezel is plain with faint trumpet mouldings at the junction with the hoop.
Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 14/16), allocated to Dingwall Museum

Orrin Falls
Survey and recording
Meryl Marshall – NOSAS
NH 46870 51680 A survey of the hydro-electric scheme at Orrin Falls was carried out on 19 Apr 2015. The site is on the S bank of the river and utilises the waterfall within the gorge; which has a total height drop of c15m. The first record of a hydro-electric scheme at this location is in 1898 when ‘John Stirling used estate workmen to build a turbine house at the Orrin Falls…and electric light was installed (in Fairburn House) in 1898’ (http://www.fairburn-estate.co.uk/history.html).

The scheme seems to have gone through several phases before being abandoned in c1961, probably following the building of the Orrin Dam, as part of the Conon Valley hydro-electric scheme, in the higher reaches of the glen. However, the scheme has been recently revived and now provides electricity for the estate.

The scheme consists of a concrete dam, 3–3.5m in height and c50m in length, with a fish ladder at its N end, the remains of an earlier dam of similar construction but only 1m in height, a lade or concrete box channel c50m in length and c2m deep and 1.5m in width with three wooden sluices, two metal grids for catching floating debris (one controlled by an overhead hoist) and two overspills.

An underground generator house is probably a recent structure on the site of an original one. It is constructed of dressed stone and c11 x 5m x 12m high.

A rock-cut channel on the N bank - probably a salmon ladder, and the abutments of a footbridge - probably ornamental and possibly pre-dating the hydro-scheme are situated in the middle part of the gorge above a waterfall. Evidence of three abutments (A, B and C) indicated that it was in two sections at a slight angle to one another. Abutment A is 3 x 1.5m x 1m in height and constructed of two large boulders with infill of concrete and small boulders. Abutment B, on top of a rocky knoll on the N side of the gorge, is a small concrete and stone structure with evidence of old cables and pieces of the wooden deck. The N abutment C is a small platform, measuring 2m², with stone-faced sides built into the N bank of the river.

Archive: NOSAS. Report: Highland HER, NOSAS and local library
Website: NOSAS.co.uk

Tarradale
Fieldwalking, analysis and geophysical survey
Eric Grant – NOSAS
NH 53 48, NH 53 49, NH 54 48, NH 54 49, NH 55 48, NH 55 49 The Tarradale Archaeological Project has been investigating the rich multi-period landscape around Tarradale since 2011. Much of the work to date has been intensive fieldwalking, producing a wide range of lithic, ceramic, and metal finds ranging in date from Mesolithic to post-medieval. Nearly all fieldwalking finds are geo-referenced, and when mapped, broad patterns of past occupation and activity are apparent, as well as concentrations of finds indicating sites which are now ploughed out. However, selective test pitting, as well as geophysical survey, indicate remains surviving below the ploughsoil.

Post excavation analysis of the 2015 shell midden
excavation site (DES 2015, 118–119) reports on an excavation in October 2015 conducted on the site of the medieval castle of Tarradale, which unexpectedly revealed a shell midden and stone structures at 9m OD. Post excavation analysis continued in the current year and radiometric dating of charcoal and antler from the shell midden provided the following dates:

Betula sp charcoal 5333 +/- 27 BP (4256 to 4051 cal BC at 95.4% probability, SUERC-66328).

Antler fragment 5580 +/- 31 BP (4461 to 4351 cal BC at 95.4% probability, SUERC-66329).

These dates are 2000 years later than the dates (6600–6000 cal BC) obtained from a shell midden test pitted in 2011, suggesting a long period of Mesolithic occupation and exploitation in the area. Post excavation analysis of other finds from the October 2015 shell midden excavation was mainly concerned with animal, bird and fish bones, and carbonised plant remains.

The surviving animal bones, almost certainly food waste, indicate exploitation of cattle, red deer, pig, horse, seal and sheep (or goat or roe deer). The bird bones included guillemot/razorbill and gannet. These are rocky coast birds, the nearest rocky coast being to the N of the Black Isle.

A wide range of mollusc shells was identified, all likely sourced from the Beauty Firth or nearby, and very similar to the range of mollusc shells identified in the shell midden test pitted in 2011, and which was dated to 6600–6000 cal BC. Five taxa of bony fish were identified to species level in the current shell midden, representing saithe (Pollachius virens), cod (Gadus morhua), herring (Clupea harengus), plaice (Pleuronectes platessa) and goby (Pomatoschistus microps). It is considered that the fish remains are evidence of anthropogenic activity, ie fishing from inshore shallow waters, or by boats very close to inshore. Pre-Iron Age evidence of exploitation of herring is unusual in Scotland.

The carbonised plant remain assemblages represented a range of trees, with alder, birch, hazel, oak, ash, Scots pine type, elm and willow all present. There were also some fragments of carbonised hazel nutshell. The charcoal recovered from this site is consistent with the types of trees that would have been available in the local woodlands throughout much of the Holocene period. However, the wide range of tree types that have been used as domestic fuel (particularly oak and elm) is considered more indicative of an earlier prehistoric date, as the local woodlands would still be relatively undisturbed.

Fieldwalking continued January – March 2016 when the fields were ploughed, including some fields near Gilchrist Church that have not been previously walked. Much the same range of lithic and ceramic finds was made as in previous years, including tanged and barbed projectile points and fragment of a stone axe, probably from the Craig na Caillich source near Killin.

A geophysical investigation was carried out on two sites. AOC Archaeology undertook a gradiometer survey of a large area identified on aerial photographs as having a number of cropmarks within an enclosing ditch. The gradiometer survey successfully identified some of these potential archaeological features, but also indicated that many were truncated by agricultural activity and erosion. The Department of Archaeology, University of Aberdeen, undertook a magnetometer survey of the supposed site of the medieval Tarradale Castle of which nothing upstanding survives. There were indications of ditch-like features suggesting the outline of a levelled motte or ring work, as well as some indication of an enclosing ditch on the site of the supposed castle bailey.

Tikvah, Beauly
Evaluation
Sam Williamson – AOC Archaeology Group
NH 53306 48378 A trial trenching evaluation was carried out, 23 June 2016, in advance of the construction of a new house and associated infrastructure on land W of Tikvah. The 400m² footing for the access road and house were stripped in their entirety. Four features of archaeological interest were recorded; three shallow pits and a linear feature, which contained substantial chunks of charcoal, all of which were of unknown use but possible related to in situ vegetation burning. The only finds were two sherds of 19th/20th-century white ware pottery recovered from the topsoil.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Gordon and Julie Moran

Urquhart and Logie Wester
Conon Bridge
Metal detector find
Trevor Cowie – National Museums Scotland
NH 52 53 A Late Bronze Age socketed axehead of bronze was found in 2015 during metal detecting. It has a sub-oval socket and body section and plain mouth. Below the rim the sides draw in slightly, before widening again below the loop to meet the tips of the moderately expanded cutting edge; green-brown; worn surfaces but in generally very good,
sound condition. L:69mm; W (cutting edge) 35.5mm; socket 29.4 x 25.7mm externally.

Wholly plain socketed axeheads are surprisingly rare in Scotland and the closest parallels for this example instead appear to lie among a range of axeheads with similarly plain rims, rather cylindrical bodies and expanded cutting edges known from Ireland (Eogan 2000, Class 10A axes). Given the Easter Ross provenance, and the evidence for Irish–Scottish connections with the Moray Firth region throughout the Bronze Age, it is possible that this is an import from Ireland, or a local product based on a type at home in Ireland. Date range c1000–800 BC.

Neighbouring fields have revealed a number of cropmarks (including a likely henge monument), indicative of an area of potentially high archaeological significance.

**Claimed as Treasure Trove (C.O.TT. 146/15), allocated to Inverness Museum and Art Gallery**

**Culbokie Centre**

**Evaluation**

_Lynne McKeeggie – Highland Archaeology Services_

NH 60235 59076 An 8% trial trenching evaluation was undertaken, 13 April 2016, prior to construction of new community facilities in the centre of the village of Culbokie. The area was considered of interest as it lies within 500m of Culbokie Dun. A total of six trenches were opened and two relatively shallow stone and earth filled drains were identified. These attest to the sites use as low intensity agricultural land given over to grazing in modern times.

_Archive: HAS. Report: Highland HER_

_Funder: Culbokie Community Trust_

**Watten**

**Halsary Wind Farm**

**Survey**

_Peta Glew – Northlight Heritage_

ND 18064 49600 A walkover survey was carried out, 28–29 September 2016, in advance of woodland felling on the potential site of the Halsary Wind Farm, Myster. The survey aimed to identify a scheduled standing stone and a possible shieling hut, which had not been located during an environmental impact assessment. The two standing stones which form the scheduled monument (SAM5301) were located and accurate co-ordinates taken. The possible shieling hut identified on the 1st Edition OS map surveyed in 1871 (published in 1877), was not located and it is likely no surface traces of this feature now survive.

_Archive: NRHE (intended)_

_Funder: Scottish Power Renewables_

**INVERCLYDE**

**Greenock**

**If Streets Could Speak**

_Desk-based assessment, survey and standing building recording_

_Fiona Watson – Archaeology Scotland_

NS 27390 76330 ‘If Streets Could Speak’ was a collaborative community engagement project developed by Archaeology Scotland’s Adopt-a-Monument scheme. The project aimed to support participants as they investigated streets of their choosing in the towns of Greenock and Port Glasgow. The project worked with Inverclyde Council Libraries Museums and Archives, The Dutch Gable House (run by the Inverclyde Development Trust) and Greenock’s I Youth Zone, 1 July – 31 August 2015, to support participants as they researched their local heritage by providing training in desk-based and archival research. Participants at the I Youth Zone produced a photographic record of a previously unrecorded Victorian brick building, once part of the old post office. Photographs were also taken of the original post office features within the I Youth Zone.

_Archive and report: NRHE (intended)_

_Funder: HLF and HES_

**MIDLOTHIAN**

**Dalkeith**

**Glencairn, 13 Waverley Road, Dalkeith**

**Standing building recording**

_Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group_

NT 32916 66752 A standing building survey was undertaken, 4 May 2016, of a small outbuilding to the rear of Glencairn in advance of its renovation. This small interesting building appears to be contemporary with the house, and its appearance on the 1893 OS map, the first map to show the house, places its construction at 1852–1893. The building’s original purpose was unclear, but it may perhaps have been a mews building. The smoothness and good condition of the brickwork indicates that elements of it may have been subsequently rebuilt, possibly to allow it to be converted into a dwelling. It was later converted for use as a vehicle store, with the insertion of a wide double door on the E elevation.

_Archive: NRHE (intended)_

_Funder: Douglas Strachan (Architect)_

**Fala and Soutra**

**Soutra**

**Metal detector find**

_Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland_

NT 45 59 A 2nd-century Roman pelta-shaped scabbard chape found during metal detecting near Soutra is likely to be a casual loss from troops using nearby Dere Street.

_Archive: NRHE (intended)_

**Lasswade**

**Mavisbank**

**Geophysical survey**

_Susan Ovenden – Rose Geophysical Consultants_

NT 28807 65146 The parkland around Mavisbank House is suffering from severe drainage problems, and a programme of geophysical survey was undertaken, 8–17 March 2016, with the aim of identifying buried services and drains potential activity associated with mining and possible earlier farmsteads. Two areas, the upper and lower terraces of the parkland, were investigated with gradiometry and resistance survey covering a total area of 5.4ha. An additional small survey over a postulated fort to the rear of the house was also carried out.

The survey identified numerous ferrous pipes, terracotta drains and possible stone culverts. While several of these correspond with known drainage features and services, others are thought to have been unknown. The resistance survey also detected anomalies consistent with robber trenches thought to be associated with a former farmstead on the upper terrace.
A small area of GPR survey was undertaken over a cluster of anomalies thought to possibly be a structure or ground disturbance associated with a chamber situated centrally within the lower terrace. The GPR survey suggests that most of the anomalies are simply due to natural gravel deposits. However, one coherent anomaly has been detected which may be of interest, although it is not clear if it may be associated with mining.

The area available for survey over the postulated fort was limited by very steep slopes, dense vegetation and fallen trees. However, strong anomalies suggestive of revetments have been detected and broadly coincide with the existing earthworks. The data also suggest a clear potential entrance. In addition, anomalies indicative of possible structural remains have been noted although their origin is unclear.

**Archive:** Rose Geophysical Consultants  
**Funder:** Historic Environment Scotland

### The Roslin Institute, Roslin

**Excavation**

*Alan Hunter Blair – GUARD Archaeology Ltd*

NT 27290 63712 (NT26SE 1) An evaluation, metal detector survey and small excavation were undertaken, 24–27 November 2015, on the site of the former Roslin Institute in advance of redevelopment of the site for housing. The evaluation covered 5% of the 2.5ha site and 23 trenches were excavated within the accessible area. A total of 27 sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from a small feature in Trench 9 which was then extended. The subsequent excavation uncovered an extensive linear feature which split to form two termini at the northern extent along with three small pits and modern field drains. The linear feature may represent the truncated base of a ditch.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)  
**Funder:** Ironside Farrar

### Newton

**Shawfair, Danderhall**

**Evaluation**

*Rob Engl – AOC Archaeology Group*

NT 31664 69312 A 5% trial trenching evaluation was undertaken, 11 October 2016, of a proposed development area. The 1.27ha site consists of open agricultural land and lies immediately SE of Newton Church.

Trenching revealed drift geology consisting predominantly of glacial clays with occasional areas of sands and gravels. These deposits were cut by occasional rubble drains set E/W. The natural was overlain by a dark brown, improved ploughsoil. Evidence of mining activity was revealed with exposed coal seams and re-deposited fire clay. Occasional white and patterned 19th-century ceramics were observed in the ploughsoil.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)  
**Funder:** Colliers International

### Penicuik

**The Railway Tavern, 12 High Street, Penicuik**

**Watching brief and standing building recording**

*Alan Hunter Blair – GUARD Archaeology Ltd*

NT 2352 5991 A programme of standing building recording and a watching brief were undertaken on 30 August 2016. The building is probably one of the oldest buildings in Penicuik and has undergone various phases of development and refurbishment over the last 200 years. For structural reasons the internal modifications and renovation work was much more extensive than initially planned. Many of the original internal walls had been removed or partly removed during earlier renovations and were now supported with steel beams and columns. The front wall, which was bulging outwards, had to be completely dismantled and rebuilt. Despite the various extensions and modifications, it was possible to reveal traces of the earlier buildings and to determine the building sequence. The most surprising discovery was the fact that the W gable wall had been completely rebuilt in brick following a fire next door. Similarly, the remains of the original rear wall of building survived on the upper floor supported on steel beams with the original windows openings now blocked up. In addition, the stone perimeter wall to the courtyard to the rear of the building has various blocked openings including windows, which would suggest that this had once been a house and corresponds to a building shown on the 2nd Edition OS map of Penicuik (1894). Due to the high level of rebuilding undertaken for structural reasons the building has been de-listed.

**Archive:** University of Aberdeen  
**Funder:** University of Aberdeen

**Cullen**

**Seafield Hotel, Cullen**

**Standing building recording**

*Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd*

NT 51289 67092 A standing building survey was undertaken,
7 April 2016, on a wing of the 19th-century Seafield Hotel prior to its demolition. The wing had been largely rebuilt in 1972 and little of the original fabric remained.

**Drainie**

**Kinneddar**

**Geophysical survey**

_Gordon Noble and Oskar Sveinbjarnarson – University of Aberdeen_

NJ 22340 69600 As part of the Northern Picts project surveys and excavations have been undertaken in an area stretching from Aberdeenshire to Shetland targeting sites that can help contextualize the character of society in the early medieval period in northern Pictland.

Kinneddar has one of the richest collections of Pictish and early Christian sculpture in northern Pictland, but only limited research has been conducted here. Kinneddar was one of the residences of the Bishops’ of Moray from the 11th century onwards and, at its height of importance, the bishop’s residence was a castle located to the N of the modern cemetery. A geophysical survey conducted 9–13 November 2015, covered a large area of the Glebe to the W of the modern cemetery and areas to the S and N. Magnetometry was used and the survey identified traces of a monastic vallum on the S and W sides. An elaborate series of ditches are evident on the W with one or two curving ditches extending to the S. The ditches enclose an area at least 180m E/W and probably more than 250m N/S but the boundary on the N side is obscured by the modern ground. Anomalies representing rig and furrow were evident outside the vallum curving ditches extending to the S. The ditches enclose an area at least 180m E/W and probably more than 250m N/S but the boundary on the N side is obscured by the modern town of Lossiemouth and the Bishop’s Palace. On the E the ditches extend into areas that were not surveyed. Anomalies representing rig and furrow were evident outside the vallum and additional ditches or field boundary enclosures were identified both in the interior and exterior areas. The modern cemetery lies at the heart of this complex. Remains of the Bishop’s Palace were also identified on the N side of the cemetery and include multiple wall lines and extensively disturbed ground indicating a large complex of buildings and demolition layers.

**Archive:** University of Aberdeen

**Funder:** University of Aberdeen

**5 Town Hall Lane, Lossiemouth**

**Survey and watching brief**

_Stuart Farrell_

NJ 23798 70848 A photographic and measured building survey were undertaken of 5 Town Hall Lane in February 2016 prior to its demolition. The building was possibly built in the 1860s and added to in 1900, but few features of interest survived. A watching brief during demolition works revealed a few building details. A watching brief undertaken during groundwork for a replacement house recorded no finds or features of archaeological significance.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** LDN Architects

**Duffus**

**Burghhead Fort**

**Watching brief**

_Stuart Farrell_

NJ 10875 69137 (NJ16NW 88) A watching brief was undertaken, 30 August 2016, during work associated with the creation of three additional car parking spaces close to the visitor centre as part of scheduled monument consent at Burghhead Fort. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded in the excavated area.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Burghhead Headland Trust

**Burghead Fort**

**Excavation**

_Gordon Noble and Oskar Sveinbjarnarson – University of Aberdeen_

NJ 1090 6914 (NJ16NW 1) As part of the Northern Picts project surveys and excavations have been undertaken in an area stretching from Aberdeenshire to Shetland targeting sites that can help contextualize the character of society in the early medieval period in northern Pictland.

During a two-week season at Burghhead, 22 June – 7 July 2016, a 10 x10m trench was opened over an area which had revealed floor deposits and a large animal bone midden in 2015. The trenches aimed to further evaluate the survival of intact deposits within the upper citadel of the fort, which was seriously compromised by the construction of the 19th-century town of Burghhead. The trench revealed a large extent of a highly fragmented floor surface of a rectangular building c4m wide. The full length of the building was not identified as it went into the baulk on the NW side of the trench, but it extended for at least 4m NW/SE. Radiocarbon dating suggests the floor layer is 9th/10th century AD in date and the large animal bone midden found in 2015 appears to be contemporary. The animal bone midden was found on the N side of the building represented by the fragmentary floor layer.

The 9th/10th-century floor layer is underlain and adjacent to a series of postholes. One posthole underlying the floor layer in 2015 was dated to the 6th century AD. A whole series of additional postholes appears to relate to multiple phases – some appear to be associated with the floor layer while others appear to form part of a ring ditch roundhouse structure. Only radiocarbon dating and post-excavation analysis will help tease out the patterns and plans of these postholes. Part of a post-medieval structure was also found in the SE corner of the trench.

**Archive:** University of Aberdeen

**Funder:** University of Aberdeen

**Edinkillie**

**Doune of Relugas**

**Excavation**

_Gordon Noble and Oskar Sveinbjarnarson – University of Aberdeen_

NJ 0039 4955 (NJ04NW 5) As part of the Northern Picts project surveys and excavations have been undertaken in an area stretching from Aberdeenshire to Shetland targeting sites that can help contextualize the character of society in the early medieval period in northern Pictland.

During a two-week season at Doune of Relugas, 7 April 2016, on a wing of the 19th-century Seafield Hotel prior to its demolition. The wing had been largely rebuilt in 1972 and little of the original fabric remained.

Doune of Relugas fort lies in a bend of the River Divie near its confluence with the River Findhorn. The fort encloses an area c48m NW/SE by c27m NE/SW, surrounded by a heavily denuded rampart that shows traces of vitrification. There is a further rampart with an inner ditch to the N and W focused on the easier approaches to the summit. Fragments of Roman pottery are said to have been found at the site in the past, and two ring-headed pins of late first millennium AD type are held within Marischal Museum, University of Aberdeen.
In the 2016 field season, 29 February - 4 March 2016, seven trenches were opened in the interior of the upper fort and two outside to the SE. The trenches in the interior identified extensive landscaping of the site with up to 1m of topsoil over in situ archaeological deposits. The most informative trench was Trench 1 placed against the interior face of the N side of the upper enclosure rampart. The trench was 4 x 1m extending into the interior. Around 0.5m of garden soil from later landscaping was identified in this trench, overlying deposits of rubble and probable occupation layers. Two occupation layers were identified - the upper (context 106) was a compact dark sandy silt, separated from a lower occupation layer (108) by a deposit of fine sand. Parts of the rampart including vitrified stonework was found in the N part of the trench. Deposits of turf and a narrow ditch or palisade slot was found to cut through the interior occupation and rubble layers.

Radiocarbon dating has shown that the lower occupation layer dates to the 4th/3rd century cal BC and the upper the 7th/8th century cal AD. Material from the rampart returned a date from the late 9th or 10th century AD and the ditch or slot a 11th/12th century AD date. Trenches outside the main fort contained only natural or evidence of landscaping.

**Archive:** University of Aberdeen  
**Funder:** University of Aberdeen

**Forres**

**Mossetburn Overbridge, Invererne Road, Forres**  
*Standing building recording*

**Donald Wilson – Headland Archaeology Ltd**  
NJ 0339 5922 A historic building survey was undertaken, 24 August 2016, of a WW2 Type 22 pillbox at Mossetburn. A written and photographic record of the building was produced prior to its demolition. The structure was a typical Type 22 pillbox of hexagonal plan with rifle loopholes in five of the walls and an entrance and small opening on the remaining wall. The walls of the pillbox were constructed of large stone blocks covered with a thick concrete roof topped with turf. The internal area was divided into two areas separated by a concrete dividing wall that incorporated a Y-shaped blast wall at the entrance. Limited internal fixtures and fittings were recorded.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)  
**Funder:** Bamm Nuttall on behalf of Network Rail

**Waterford Road, Forres**  
*Watching brief*

**Josh Gaunt – Headland Archaeology Ltd**  
NJ 02841 59186 A watching brief was undertaken, 6–17 June 2016, during construction of a new road link between the A96 and Waterford Road. Several postholes and pits were uncovered and excavated, including a series of pits relating to the on site smelting and smithing of iron ore, and the disposal of waste materials, both agricultural and industrial. These appeared to be Iron Age in date, indicating the possibility of Iron Age settlement in the vicinity.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)  
**Funder:** Network Rail

**Keith**

**Blackhillock, Keith**  
*Evaluation*

**Anthony Taylor – Headland Archaeology Ltd**  
NJ 4298 4864 An evaluation was undertaken, 5 May 2016, on the site of the onshore substation at Blackhillock, which is linked to the Beatrice offshore wind farm. Two trial trenches were excavated across the development area and identified the poorly preserved remains of rig and furrow cultivation.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)  
**Funder:** The Environmental Partnership Ltd

**Mortlach**

**Mortlach**  
*Geophysical survey*

**Gordon Noble and Oskar Sveinbjarnarson – University of Aberdeen**  
NJ 324 392 As part of the Northern Picts project surveys and excavations have been undertaken in an area stretching from Aberdeenshire to Shetland targeting sites that can help contextualize the character of society in the early medieval period in northern Pictland.

A visit to Mortlach in the 11th century, before being transferred to Aberdeen. Mortlach has a dedication to Moluag, an early Irish saint, and there are both Class I and II Pictish monuments at Mortlach which could suggest an earlier origin for the church. In June 2016 a magnetometry survey was conducted in the Glebe Field W of the Mortlach Church and in fields to the E and N. The survey in the fields to the W and N failed to identify any anthropogenic features. In a small area just E of the burial ground a possible structure was located, but no traces of an enclosure were identified.

**Archive:** University of Aberdeen  
**Funder:** University of Aberdeen

**Rafford**

**Blair’s Home Farm**  
*Watching brief*

**Stuart Farrell**  
NJ 02811 55174 (NJ05NW 284) A watching brief was carried out, 20 July 2015 – 23 January 2016, at Blair’s Home Farm during its conversion to offices and accommodation. Only a few features of interest were noted.

**Archive:** NRHE. Report and photographs: NRHE (intended)  
**Funder:** Altyre Estate

**Rathven**

**Enzie Free Church**  
*Desk-based assessment and field visit*

**Stuart Farrell**  
NJ 39447 62472 Enzie Free Church was formed from the Disruption of 1843, with part of the congregation joining the Free Church. The congregation first met for worship in a shed on a farm until the church was built in 1844. The church was enlarged later and was renovated in 1886. In 1848 membership was at 190 but by 1900 it was 240. In 1900 the minister and the congregation joined the United Free Church, and rejoined the Church of Scotland in 1929 as Enzie North. In 1930 they joined with the congregation of Enzie South and the former Free Church was closed in 1946. The building is marked as unroofed on the current OS map. A site visit, 12 May 2016, found the building being reused as a barn, with a door on the N side. It is in a poor state of repair, though traces of stained glass windows were evident.

**Howcore**  
*Field visit*

**Stuart Farrell**  
NJ 39052 62114 The visit established the presence of two
roofed buildings forming a L-shape. These are shown on the 1st and 2nd Edition OS maps, but not on the OS map of 1969.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Portgordon Maltings, Portgordon, Buckie**

**Evaluation**

*Rob Engl – AOC Archaeology Group*

NJ 38930 63324 A 7% trial trenching evaluation was carried out, 2–3 June 2016, in advance of construction work. A total of 700 linear metres of trenches were excavated across the 1.0ha site, which is on a S-facing slope of agricultural land.

The trenches recorded a heavily bioturbated drift geology of yellow to orange sands. Numerous plough scars and shallow tree throws were identified. A deposit of red/brown colluvial silt occurred across the site. This ranged from 0.1–0.3m in depth. The area was overlain by an improved ploughsoil of organic sandy clay loam.

Two shallow linear ditches were recorded in several trenches. These were aligned SW/NE across the area. These are probably the truncated remains of boundary ditches of possible prehistoric date.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Grissan Portside Ltd

**Easter Calcots**

**Excavation**

*Gordon Noble and Oskar Sveinbjarnarson – University of Aberdeen*

NJ 25I 636 (NJ26SE 32) As part of the Northern Picts project surveys and excavations have been undertaken in an area stretching from Aberdeenshire to Shetland targeting sites that can help contextualize the character of society in the early medieval period in northern Pictland. In Moray we have been evaluating a series of forts in the wider environs of Burghead to attempt to construct a regional chronological framework for the development of fortified enclosures in Moray.

Easter Calcots represents an unusual enclosure located adjacent to the River Lossie. The enclosure is c150m in diameter and enclosed by at least one ditch. Two trenches were opened, 24–26 October 2016, using a mechanical digger, in order to ascertain the nature of the enclosure and acquire dating evidence. Both trenches contained the remains of a relatively shallow ditch c3m wide at the widest. The ditch had a single, largely sterile fill. The ditch cut through very complex floodplain deposits, and no evidence for the function or date of the enclosure was obtained. Some well-fired pottery sherds or probably post-medieval date was found in disturbed contexts. Samples were retrieved for dating the ditch fill.

**Archive:** University of Aberdeen

**Funder:** University of Aberdeen

**Linkwood Steading**

**Standing building recording**

*Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group*

NJ 23281 61559 A historic building survey was carried out, 1 July 2016, prior to the partial demolition of Linkwood Steading and the construction of new houses.

A settlement has existed at this location since at least the 17th century, although the present farm buildings date from the late 18th to the early 19th century. The main steading range to the NW of the site, which includes a cart shed attached to the main SW frontage, was built in 1879, and there is a date stone beneath the tower to the centre of the cart shed. The rear (NE) side of the range had been partially demolished to make way for a large modern steel tractor shed. Many of the earlier farm buildings to the SE of this range have also been modernised, with only a few stone rubble-built walls retained, and the modern barns built around them.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Springfield Properties PLC

**Urquhart**

**Innes Links WW2 Defences**

**Survey**

*Gemma Hudson and Jamie Humble – AOC Archaeology Group*

NJ 28057 67970 (rectangular pillbox and anti-tank blocks), NJ 26697 68409 (hexagonal pillbox), NJ 25586 68174 (road block) A survey was undertaken, 27–28 June 2016, of selected elements of the WW2 defences at Lossie Forest. The recorded elements consisted of a rectangular pillbox and associated anti-tank blocks on the shore in front of the coastal battery, a hexagonal pillbox and associated anti-tank blocks, and a road block by the Innes Canal. The three sites were surveyed using laser scanning and photogrammetry to create site plans and 3D visualisations,
including videos and flatpack nets to recreate the sites as paper models.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Forestry Commission Scotland

**Wester Clockeasy, Urquhart**

Survey and watching brief

Hilary and Charlie Murray – Murray Archaeological Services Ltd

NJ 29580 62586 A supervised metal detector survey and a watching brief of a soil strip were undertaken, 7–18 January 2016, on the site of a new pot ale storage lagoon. A 17th-century coin and two 19th-century coins were recovered.

Archive: NRHE and SAFAP. Report: Aberdeenshire SMR and NRHE
Funder: McPherson Ltd, Aberlour

**NORTH AYRSHIRE**

**Ardrossan**

**Sharphill, Saltcoats**

Survey

Kevin Paton – AOC Archaeology Group

NS 2502 43435 An 8% trial trenching evaluation was undertaken, 25–29 January 2016, in advance of a residential development W of Sharphill Industrial Estate. The trenches located no finds or features of archaeological significance.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Land Partners (Scotland) Ltd

**Dalry**

Munnoch Farm, Dalry

Survey

Stuart Farrell

NS 250 492 (centred on) A desk-based assessment and walkover survey, 14 March 2016, at Munnoch Farm (NS24NE 36) in advance of woodland planting identified the following previously unrecorded archaeological features:

- NS 25045 49066 – Building and sheep-dip
- NS 25232 49821 – Structure
- NS 25095 49848 – Long-house

Field walls and rig and furrow were also recorded across the survey area.

The following features fell outside of the proposed planting area:

- NS 24475 48991 – Little Gill – Farmstead
- NS 25076 48423 – Munnoch Farm – Farm cottages
- NS 25753 49970 – Birkhead – Farm

Archive: NRHE. Report: NRHE (intended)
Funder: SAC Consulting

**Ryefield, Dalry**

Desk-based assessment and excavation

Diane Brown and Ralph Shuttleworth – Kilwinning Heritage

NS 28770 50513 A desk-based assessment and excavation were carried out in two phases, 10 April – 18 July 2015 and 12 March – 10 September 2016, which aimed to gain an understanding of the industrial heritage of the area and expand the existing record.

The desk-based assessment established that a 19th-century print works, a mill lade and rifle range, existed along the S bank of Rye Water, Drakemyre. Further investigation revealed early 19th-century site plans showed the area being used as a bleachfield. An initial topographic survey recorded visible features relating to the print works and a small structure to its N.

An excavation revealed three unrelated structural features. The mill, lade and associated buildings (c1750–1819), the print works (c1840) and the small building to the N of the
print works, which was identified as the magazine (c1870). This was the most significant site (see accompanying image) and its construction, which included a bitumen floor, was consistent with a gunpowder magazine. This assessment was supported by contemporary documentary evidence. The pottery finds ranged from early to mid-19th century in date.

A further excavation of trial trenches revealed only demolition material from the buildings shown on the early 19th-century plans. Drains of probable industrial nature were uncovered and these may relate to the bleaching process.

The lade is shown on the early 19th-century plans as open and was then covered sometime before the OS map 1856. Excavations along the culvert revealed different methods of enclosure. The first 30m was covered by a brick arch and the remainder by sandstone slabs. These do not look coincidental and could indicate careful design. Possibly the aim was to trap air in the arch, when the lade was in full flow, which would have had the effect of evening out fluctuations by compressing air trapped in the upper part of the arch and so speeding up the outflow. The pottery finds ranged from mid-18th to mid-19th century in date. Report: http://kilwinningheritage.org/downloads/

**Kilbride**

**South Kiscadale, Whiting Bay**
Watching brief
Peta Glew – Northlight Heritage
NS 04170 25510 A watching brief was carried out, 2 June 2016, during topsoil stripping associated with the construction of three houses. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded in the c1386m² area.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Mr N Marriot

**Kilwinning**

**Nethermains**
Desk-based assessment and survey
Andrew Morrison – Addyman Archaeology
NS 30838 41461 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were carried out, 5 October – 3 November 2015, of a former landfill site. The survey identified five sites relating to the site’s post-medieval/industrial heritage and included the remains of a boat house, infrastructure associated with mineral extraction, and the former LMSR rail line from Irvine to Kilwinning.

A total of eight test pits were also excavated. Test pit 3 confirmed the presence of probable late 19th- or early 20th-century industrial deposits, possibly associated with the Mineral Railway and Barney Pit. The landfill was found to extend further W and S than was expected, though archaeological deposits have been shown to survive along the edges of the southern half of the site and are likely to remain in situ beyond the limits of the landfill.

Test pits 1 and 8 confirmed the area in the NW corner of the site was free of landfill activity, and probably represent an area of relatively unmodified farmland. Fluvial sands and river gravels were noted at a relatively shallow depth below topsoil, 0.2–0.5m. The sands and river gravels of the former course of the River Garnock have been the location of numerous prehistoric finds dating as far back as 11800 years ago. Sand and river gravel deposits are likely in the NW and NE corners of the development area and it is possible that these may contain prehistoric finds.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: North Ayrshire Council

**Dundonald**

**Drybridge**
Metal detector find
Alison Sheridan – National Museums Scotland
NS 35 36 A badly corroded flat axehead of copper or copper alloy, of Chalcolithic or Early Bronze Age date, was found during metal detecting in 2015. Virtually all the original surface has been lost. Length 100.5mm; width 36mm.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (T.T.44/16), allocated to National Museums Scotland

**Shewalton**
Desk-based assessment and survey
Andrew Morrison – Addyman Archaeology
NS 33390 36595 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were carried out, 5 October 2015, of a former landfill site. The assessment identified two possible archaeological sites; however, these were not located during the survey. The modern landfill site extends to the boundaries of the proposed construction area and the site of the lime kiln was inaccessible behind a locked gate.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: North Ayrshire Council

**Largs**

A78, Main Street, Largs
Watching brief
Suzanne McGalliard – Headland Archaeology Ltd
NS 20506 59204 – NS 20211 59399 A watching brief was carried out, 7–8 October 2016, during major resurfacing works of the A78. Five archaeological features were identified and recorded: a cobbled surface; a possible base of a market cross; a previous kerb or gutter; a flat stone surface possibly from an old pedestrian walkway; and a patch of lime. The majority of the features were identified in or close to the centre of the development, where the modern roundabout links Main Street with Aitken Street and Frazer Street. This was the main area where the sub-surface had been reached and removed in places to reveal underlying features. A large proportion of the development area was not excavated to a deep enough level to breach the sub-surface or binder course, therefore, archaeology below these deposits was not identified or impacted by the work.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Scotland Transerv

**NORTH AYRSHIRE**
Halkshill and Blair Park
Desk-based assessment and walkover survey
Ross Cameron – Addyman Archaeology
NS 23617 59410 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken, 30 September – 9 October 2013, in advance of proposed woodland planting. The survey recorded 50 sites, of which 28 were previously unknown. The majority of the sites were indicative of a pastoral farming landscape and consisted of sheepfolds or animal enclosures, and shielings or shepherd’s shelters.

Archive and report: NRHE and WoSAS (intended)
Funder: UPM Tilhill Ltd

Halkshill Hydro Scheme, Largs
Evaluation and watching brief
Gary Savory – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NS 23451 59633 (centred on) A watching brief was undertaken, November 2015 – February 2016, during groundwork associated with construction work. A number of sites were demarcated by the contractor prior to the commencement of work and subsequently checked by an archaeologist. A photographic survey of the existing Greeto Bridge was conducted prior to the start of work in the vicinity of the bridge. An evaluation was carried out at Site 30, a dry stone stock enclosure, probably a sheepfold, in advance of its removal.

Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: NRHE and WoSAS
Funder: MNV Consulting Ltd

Haylie Chambered Cairn, Largs
Survey and vegetation clearance
Fiona Watson – Archaeology Scotland
NS 20945 58592 (Canmore ID: 41155, SMR ID: 5730) Haylie Chambered Cairn is a scheduled monument dating to 3630–3350 BC. It sits at the S end of Largs and is in close proximity to Haylie House Care Home. The Adopt-a-Monument Scheme worked with local volunteers, the Largs and District Museum and Historical Society and the North Ayrshire District Ranger Service, 4–5 July 2015. The work aimed to raise awareness of the existence of the cairn, undertook sensitive vegetation clearance and provided training in photogrammetry with the aim of building capacity in the area for future heritage volunteer projects and longer term understanding and management of the site.

Archive and report: NRHE (intended)
Funder: HLF and HES

National Sports Centre, Largs
Evaluation
Kevin Paton – AOC Archaeology Group
NS 21343 60166 An 8% evaluation was undertaken, 8–9 June 2016, of the 1.8ha site prior to the re-landscaping of a driving range and golf course. A total of 19 evaluation trenches were excavated, covering 720 linear metres. Only one archaeological feature, which related to a post-medieval field system, was recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Sportscotland

NORTH LANARKSHIRE

Cadder
Glenboig Link Road, Glenboig
Evaluation
Phil Richardson and Susan Buckham – Archaeology Scotland

Rob Engl and Alex Wood – AOC Archaeology Group
NS 7116 6849 (centred on) An evaluation was undertaken, 8–9 August 2016, in advance of the construction of a new link road. The work consisted of the machine trenching of 600m², 5% of the available 1.45ha development area, which is located in an area of sloping, improved pasture. The area has been extensively drained with modern ceramic pipes placed at 3.0m intervals across the site. The drains all appeared to run downslope towards the E.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: North Lanarkshire Council

Spoutscross Farm
Standing building recording
Michael Cresse – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NS 88659 55444 A standing building survey was undertaken in November 2015. The farm cottage originally comprised a simple two-roomed plan with a central box staircase. The cottage and the stone-built byre were once connected. Lately, the cottage has been modernised throughout with the addition of modern wall claddings, PVC windows, a bathroom, and an entrance porch on its S side. The interior of the byre had also been altered with the installation of cattle stalls sometime in the 20th century. The rest of the agricultural buildings probably date to no earlier than the 1940s or 1950s and are of no architectural interest.

Spoutscross Farm is very typical of the North Lanarkshire vernacular architecture dating from the early 19th century.

Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: North Lanarkshire Council and NRHE
Funder: Scottish Power Renewables

Cumbernauld
Carrickstone, Cumbernauld
Evaluation
Irinia Arabaolaaza – GUARD Archaeology
NS 75340 76444 An evaluation was carried out, 11–22 January 2016, in advance of a proposed residential development. The trial trench evaluation covered 8% of the 13ha area. Four archaeological features were recorded during the evaluation: a possible furrow; two pits and a posthole. None contained any datable finds.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Bellway Homes Ltd

Dalziel
St Patrick’s Church, Dalziel
Survey and vegetation clearance

Phil Richardson and Susan Buckham – Archaeology Scotland

126 A’ LORG AGUS A’ CLADHACH AN ALBAINN
North Lanarkshire

NS 75489 54858 (Canmore ID: 45718) Archaeology Scotland conducted a series of vegetation clearance workshops, 18–26 August 2016, with the Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership (CAVLP) at St Patrick’s Church and burial ground. The vegetation workshops were carried out with volunteers from CAVLP, North Lanarkshire Council Rangers, Phoenix Futures and Clydesdale Community Initiative. The burial ground was heavily overgrown with weeds and ivy, which were removed by hand, or cut to ground level. All cut vegetation was removed from the site. Ivy that was growing on gravestones and markers was cut at its base to kill the plants. No vegetation was pulled from the grave stones, in order to preserve their integrity. Interpretation and conservation workshops at the burial ground are planned for 2017.

*Archive and report: NRHE (intended)
Funder: HLF, HES, North Lanarkshire Council and CAVLP*

### Kilshyth

#### Craigmarloch Stable Blocks

**Survey and vegetation clearance**

Caro Jones and Alan Forester – Archaeology Scotland

NS 73706 77528 (Canmore ID: 45913) Archaeology Scotland conducted a programme of archaeology work, 3 November 2014 – 24 March 2015, at Craigmarloch Stables in partnership with Scottish Canals and the Scottish Waterways Trust as part of their Canal College Project.

The stable block once served as a home for the stable master and his family, and would house up to eight horses at a time, responsible for towing canal boats along the Forth and Clyde Canal. The stable block was one of several stable blocks, constructed in the 1820–30s, to coincide with the introduction of fast passenger boats (swifts), for which they provided fresh horses at regular intervals of c6.5–7.5km. There is a series of ruinous buildings to the E of the stable block that would have originally been a series of single storey cottages, which are reported to have been demolished in the 1960s following the closure of the canal. The project represents one part of a wider program of works as part of the Canal College Project to provide skills training to participants. A programme of vegetation clearance was carried out at the stable block, along with a conservation workshop in lime mortaring and a basic survey for the series of buildings present.

*Archive and report: NRHE (intended)
Funder: HLF, HES and Scottish Waterways Trust*

### Shotts

**Whitley BD381**

**Excavation**

Alan Leishman, Mark Evans, Alan Clark and Mark Shelden – Dumfries Aviation Museum

NS 85904 64160 The principal objective of the project undertaken in July 2016 was to recover, by excavation, parts of the aircraft from the crash site and display them in the Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum. It was hoped that one engine was still buried on site. It was not the aim of the project to carry out any crash investigation, firstly because this was carried out at the time of the crash and secondly there is unlikely to be sufficient evidence remaining at the crash site after 70 years. It should still be possible to determine the angle of impact and whether the engine was running at the time of impact. All work was carried out, primarily, by members of the Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum on a voluntary basis, within the conditions of the licence granted by the Ministry of Defence and the guidelines of the British Aviation Archaeological Council and any other guidance received.

*Archive: Dumfries Aviation Museum. Report: British Aviation Archaeological Council and North Lanarkshire Council
Website: http://www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk/recoveries*

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**Kilsyth Hills**

**Survey**

Dugald MacInnes – Association of Certificated Archaeologists (ACFA)

NS 7055 8045 to NS 7130 8060 The survey, undertaken March–June 2016, focused on naturally formed shelves at an elevation of c350m OD on the steep south-facing slopes of the Kilsyth Hills.

To date, the footings of eight huts and two enclosures have been recorded. The footings comprise circular and sub-rectangular stoney remains measuring no more than 3.5m in diameter or 4.5m in length.

Two huts are situated within enclosures and it is suggested that at least one of the huts may be a hut circle.

Two discrete enclosures, oval-shaped in plan, have also been recorded, one of which measures 9.0m by 7.0m and comprises a perimeter formed from boulders.

The results of this work will be published in a future ACFA occasional paper.

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**One of two hut footings set within an enclosure in the Kilsyth Hills**

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**The camera controller, Whitley BD381**
ORKNEY

Birsay and Harray

Aurora Caravan Park, Newark Farm, Sanday
Watching brief
Sam Williamson – AOC Archaeology Group
HY 27509 28080 A watching brief was carried out, 16 November 2016, during the excavation of a 10 x 10m foundation footprint for a telecommunications mast. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: WHP Wilkinson Helsby

Dale
Field visit
Christopher Gee
HY 33178 15519 A low rounded mound measuring c25m in diameter on top of a natural rise in a cultivated field was visited on 12 March 2016. The mound is covered with brownish red midden rich soil. Upcast from three rabbit burrows on the mound all produced flints and probable Neolithic/Bronze Age pottery. The site is c45m to the NNE of a souterrain (HY31NW 16). A Late Neolithic polished stone mace fragment found by the farmer at Dale many decades ago also hints at the presence of a Neolithic settlement somewhere on this small farm.
Archive: NRHE (intended)

Harray Manse
Survey
Christopher Gee
HY 32259 17658 A magnetometer survey was undertaken, 16–17 July 2016, in the small field that contains a probable souterrain. The souterrain was rediscovered earlier in the year by the landowner. It was found to be full of late 19th-century domestic ‘rubbish’ presumably having been discovered then and filled in without record. A steep flight of steps leads into the chamber which still contains ‘rubbish’. It is built of flagstone and partly corbelled. The local topography indicates that the souterrain was probably constructed in the bank of an old watercourse. The similarity in construction and form to several Orcadian broch wells has been noted. Its full depth remains unknown. The magnetometer survey revealed that the souterrain had been positioned directly into an igneous dyke. The magnetic halo of the igneous dyke obscures anything archaeological that might have been seen in its immediate vicinity. However, 18m to the S of the souterrain there is a slight rise and area of dry grass measuring c17m in diameter (centred on HY 32277 17639). It shows up on the magnetometer plot as a possible prehistoric house.
Archive: Orkney SMR and NRHE (intended)

Mithisth, North Bigging
Watching brief
Rick Barton – Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology
HY 30817 20045 A watching brief was undertaken, 29 August 2016, during the excavation of a service trench. The work was considered sensitive due to its proximity to a broch (HY32SW 17). Local anecdotal and map evidence indicated that there was also the site of a horse mill in the NW corner of the field and a pond in the development area between the broch and the road. The deposits recorded mainly represented mixed redeposited material, probably associated with the infilling of the post-medieval pond.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Scottish and Southern Electricity Ltd

Eday

Crook Farm
Fieldwalking
Mick Miles – BEVARS
HY 5664 3188 Volunteers from BEVARS carried out an intensive fieldwalking project on a single field at Crook Farm, 6–17 March 2016, in response to a report of possible prehistoric activity. The field was traversed by a team of four in 10m wide lanes, with all finds being located within a 10m square grid. Despite challenging underfoot conditions the entire c3ha field was investigated. Plans to walk the neighbouring field (centred on HY 5679 3189) were abandoned due to the waterlogged condition of the ground.

There were 81 finds in total, 72 of which consisted of chipped stone. These were either flint or chert together with 2 pieces of worked quartzite. There were 23 split pebbles, 11 flakes, 7 scrapers, 4 cores, 1 notched tool and the remainderdebitage. Six of these were also burnt.

There were nine coarse stone finds, two faceted pecked sandstone cobbles, one faceted sandstone cobble, one faceted and facetted quartzite cobble, one faceted split quartzite cobble, one faceted pecked quartzite pebble, one split quartzite pebble, one granite cobble with possible use-wear and one unidentified stone flake with possible use-wear.

A small number of unworked flint and quartzite pebbles, pyrite fragments, and small amounts of burnt material were also noted but not retained. All of the finds are likely to be prehistoric and later periods do not appear to be represented to any significant degree.

The distribution of finds across the field suggests that there are several spots with traces of possible prehistoric activity including one larger area, cHY 5659 3182, which yielded over half the finds. There was no evidence of any structures or other non-agricultural use of the field from any later period.

Archive: BEVARS (currently)
Funder: BEVARS, Jim and Margaret Bremner

Firth

Cursiter Quarry
Desk-based assessment and walkover survey
Rick Barton – Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology
HY 37430 12360 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were carried out, 17 February 2017, prior to a proposed quarry extension. The work identified a number of sites.
1) The sandstone quarry of Cursiter (HY31SE 81) shown on the 1st Edition OS map of 1882. All traces of the earlier post-medieval quarrying have been removed by modern extraction.
2) A souterrain (HY31SE 9) consisting of a built chamber extended on either side of an opening. The Orkney SMR stated that this feature was most likely on the N side of the old Finstown Road, adjacent to the current quarry site boundary. This was not identified in the walkover survey.
3) The destroyed remains of a field boundary identified during the walkover survey and aligned N/S along the E edge of the development area. An exposed section of this also shows a culvert for a drain. This is shown on the 1st Edition OS Map of 1882.

Another field boundary (site 04) noted during the walkover survey was that of an upright dyke in the traditional
Caithness flagstone style. This boundary was also noted at the time of the 1st Edition OS map of 1882. Field dykes, like those recorded, where they survive in Orkney often represent boundaries around and within estate landscapes or large farms that have clearly been planned on grid patterns.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)  
**Funder:** Orkney Island Council

### Harray/Sandwick/Steness

**Orkney World Heritage Site Fieldwalking Project**  
**Fieldwalking**  
Daniel Lee and Christopher Gee – Archaeology Institute, UHI

HY 32017 12953 (100 – Tormiston); HY 31440 12805 (101 – Over Bigging); HY 31545 12905 (102 – Over Bigging); HY 31810 13140 (103 – Over Bigging); HY 31505 12635 (104 – Tormiston); HY 32755 11990 (105 – Upper Twatt); HY 32965 11820 (106 – Upper Twatt); HY 30553 15890 (107 – Maesquoy); HY 30350 15675 (108 – Maesquoy HY31NW 15); HY 30990 16400 (109 – Maesquoy); HY 31105 16270 (110 – Maesquoy); HY 30750 14920 (111 – Ness Farm); HY 30630 15245 (112 – Ness Farm); HY 30460 14720 (113 – Ness Farm HY31SW 113); HY 32225 14145 (114 – Near Hindertoon); HY 32430 14160 (115 – Near Hindertoon); HY 30825 11645 (116 – Tormiston HY31SW 119); HY 28695 11565 (117 – Nether Onston); HY 30455 16180 (118 – Ballarar); HY 31704 12490 (119 – Tormison); HY 31605 12565 (120 – Tormiston); HY 32085 12540 (121 – Tormiston); HY 32300 11825 (122 – Tormiston); HY 32240 11895 (123 – Tormiston); HY 26665 12105 (124 – Deepdale HY21SE 109); HY 26355 12135 (125 – Deepdale); HY 26035 12790 (126 – Quhostle HY21SE 57).

The University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology Institute has been commissioned by Orkney Archaeology Society to undertake a fieldwalking project within the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site Buffer Zone (HONO WHS), West Mainland, including fieldwork, volunteer training workshops and post-excavation. A practical day-long workshop was carried out at Stenness Community School for all P4–7 pupils.

Twenty-six fields were walked, 7 March – 20 April 2016, including six fields that were walked in the spring of 2015 in the same area and are included in this report for completeness. The study area consists of the HONO WHS Brodgar/Maeshowe buffer zone (46km²), much of which is occupied by Stenness and Harray Lochs. Fieldwork was undertaken by a professional team from the Archaeology Institute and a group of volunteers who received training at each stage. Fields were walking in 10m transects with finds surveyed with a Lecia GNSS or handheld GPS (data corrected). Field numbers started at 100 to avoid confusion with previous fieldwalking in the area.

Highlights from the results include the recovery of a polished stone axe (Field 106), discrete lithic scatters at Deepdale (eg Field 124: HY21SE 109), consistent recovery of flint across much of the study area (1–5+ per field), discrete scatters of cramp at Ness Farm (Fields 111 and 113), highly varied concentrations of post-medieval and modern pottery, significant modern assemblage from a WW2 camp adjacent to Maes Howe (Field 100). Prehistoric pottery was a notable absence from the assemblage.

A series of post-excavation workshops have been completed including lithics analysis of the assemblage (with University of York), finds processing and cataloguing, GIS and reporting, which will culminate in a small museum exhibition (Orkney Museum).

**Archive:** Archaeology Institute UHI (currently)  
**Funder:** Heritage Lottery Fund

### Kirkwall and St Ola

**Discovering Hidden Kirkwall**  
**Survey, evaluation and community outreach**  
Sean Bell, Amanda Brend, Daniel Lee, Ingrid Mainland and James Moore – Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology (ORCA) and Archaeology Institute, UHI

HY 44801 10885, HY 44799 10836, HY 44916 11078, HY 44879 10954, HY 44887 10819, HY 44801 10817, HY 44853 10597

Discovering Hidden Kirkwall consisted of a programme of archaeological activities in the Kirkwall conservation area, January – December 2016, funded as part of the Kirkwall Town Heritage Initiative.

The initial phase consisted of the geophysical survey of two sites; the garden to the rear of the museum at Tankerness House (HY 44801 10885), and the garden to the rear of the RBS Branch, Victoria Street (HY 44799 10836). Both sites were located in the area formally occupied by the waterfront on the western edge of pre-modern Kirkwall and associated with the Peedie Sea. This area has been gradually reclaimed since the 17th century.

The survey identified a number of possible archaeological features at both locations. Those within the Tankerness House garden could be correlated with known structures and boundaries shown on the historic OS maps, though the possibility remains that these followed the lines of earlier features. A linear anomaly in the RBS Branch garden was subsequently investigated by a single evaluation trench, oriented N/S, measuring 9.0m by 1.5m. This exposed the remains of a substantial stone-built structure running across the full width of the trench. The structure was 0.62m wide, was exposed to a height of 0.78m, and was interpreted as the remains of a quay or jetty forming part of the original waterfront. A hand auger was used to examine the deeper, unexcavated deposits to the N and S of the structure. These indicated the presence of former littoral sands at a depth of c.75m BGL.

A second phase of intrusive investigations consisted of ‘The Kirkwall Garden Dig’, a test pitting programme that worked with residents of five properties along Albert Street, Broad Street and Victoria Street, along the line of the former shore and waterfront. The test pits excavated at 41 Albert Street (HY 44916 11078), 1 Palace Gardens (HY 44887 10819), 7 Victoria Street (HY 44801 10817) and 80 Victoria Street (HY 44853 10597) measured 1 x 1m. A fairly simple series of deposits were seen in each of these, and no further structures were exposed.

A larger test pit, 2 x 2m, was excavated to the rear of BBC Radio Orkney, Castle Street. This is a modern thoroughfare and marks the site of a castle built in the 14th century by Henry Sinclair, Earl of Orkney, demolished in 1614, with the final remnants being cleared in the 19th century. No structures or deposits which could be attributed to the castle or its occupation were exposed. A large amount of animal bone was recovered from deposits between 0.77 and 1.0m BGL. The material showed a high incidence of cut and chopping marks. This was interpreted as butchery waste and was probably associated with the commercial properties, including a butcher’s premises, which fronted on to Broad Street during the early post-medieval period, and former flesh market.

The project included onsite training and workshops for local residents, and local primary and secondary schools.

**Archive:** NRHE  
**Funder:** Heritage Lottery Fund (Kirkwall Town Heritage Initiative, Orkney Islands Council)
Earl’s Palace, Kirkwall

Watching brief
Andrew Hollinrake – Kirkdale Archaeology
HY 4495 1079 A watching brief was carried out, 5 May 2016, during the excavation of a small trench for the installation of a new interpretation panel. The trench was just W of the N/S running tarmac path through the gently sloping ground to the W of the Earl’s Palace. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance seen in this shallow excavation.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

Saverock

Fieldwalking
Christopher Gee
HY 43193 11896 A broad low rounded mound, c60m diameter and 0.5m high, is located in a cultivated field. The surface of the mound after cultivation is scattered with building stones and reddish ashy midden rich soil. Systematic fieldwalking over the mound, 16–17 April 2016, produced Skaill knives, worked haematite, large notched stones, flint debitage and scrapers, a stone bead, hammer stones, probable Early Neolithic pottery and an Early Neolithic leaf arrowhead. The mound probably contains the remains of one or two early Neolithic houses with surrounding midden deposits.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

Smerquoy

Excavation
Christopher Gee, Vicki Cummings, Colin Richards and Jane Downes
HY 40371 11420 The excavation undertaken 30 July – 27 August 2016 continued and concluded the work undertaken on the site over a four year period. The remains of four Early Neolithic houses were excavated. Two of the houses were terraced into the clay till of the hillside. They and the previously excavated Smerquoy Hoose are similar in plan to the houses at Knap of Howar in Papa Westray. They each contained a scoop hearth, cuts and packing for large divisional orthostats, water management channels and the remains of some of the internal stone wall face. One house (Ali’s Hoose) had the remains of a porch built against its side wall.

A third and later Early Neolithic stone house (Billy’s Hoose) partly overlay Ali’s Hoose. It contained smaller divisional orthostats, scoop hearth and orthostat slots for internal furniture.

Finds from the excavation include Skaill knives, hammer stones, saddle quern rubber, rubbed haematite, flints, arrowheads, polished axe and mace fragments, and Early Neolithic pottery including fluted.

The magnetometer survey of the area revealed a substantial settlement spread around the lower slopes and natural level at the foot of Wideford Hill.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Orkney Islands Council

Lady

Cata Sands

Excavation and survey
Colin Richards, Vicki Cummings, Jane Downes and Christopher Gee
HY 70440 39666 Excavations were undertaken, 28 February – 6 March 2016, at Cata Sands and mainly consisted of cleaning the windblown sand from a c5 x 8m area where
remains of stone walling, orthostats and midden material had previously been observed on the foreshore at low water in December 2015. These features were exposed on the S side of a dune tuft known as Grithies Dune. It has reduced considerably in size within living memory and it is likely the archaeological remains have recently been exposed. The remains of a hearth, two possible postholes, walling and orthostats were revealed as a result of the cleaning along with a midden containing shell and bone. The cleaning also produced 41 artefacts including flint debitage, Skail knives, coarse stone tools and pottery of a probable Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. It was not possible to say from the basic cleaning whether the remains represent one or more structures.

A magnetometer survey of the foreshore around Grithies Dune showed that the occupation deposits covered a substantial area c18m in diameter. This may be suggestive of a settlement comprising several houses. Spreads of stone tools had also previously been observed on the gravel ridges along the shore to the N of the Grithies Dune area. A total of 39 stone tools were recorded in a sample area of the foreshore and showed two discrete clusters. The magnetometer survey extended for 500m N of the Grithies Dune along the foreshore which covered the gravel ridges and stone tool clusters. However, it did not reveal any other areas of surviving occupation deposits.

Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: Orkney SMR and NRHE
Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

**Orphir**

**Orphir**

**Chance find**

**Martin Goldberg – National Museums Scotland**

HY 34 09 Rune stone with inscribed characters similar to Maeshowe runes, date bracket 12th/15th century AD, but probably 12th century in keeping with the rest of Orkney rune corpus. Inscription reads ..."who art in heaven, hallowed"... in medieval Latin (translated by runologist Tjere Spurtland).

**Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT/73/16), allocated to Orkney Museum**

**Rousay and Egilsay**

**Landscapes of Change, Archaeologies of the Rousay Clearances – Skail**

**Excavation**

**Daniel Lee, Jane Downes, Ingrid Mainland and Jen Harland – Archaeology Institute, UHI**

HY 37384 30093 (HY33SE 161) Investigation continued, 4–8 July 2016, around the Viking/Norse/post-medieval farmstead at Skail. Four test pits were excavated targeting structural remains, earthworks and geophysical anomalies identified last season. To the W of the farm building range, Test Pit 1 was extended (2.8 x 1.5m), having first been excavated last season in 2015 revealing walling. The walling was further exposed this season and four structural phases were identified: 1) double faced stone wall (c0.9m wide, E/W, at a depth of 0.85m below current ground level) of likely Norse date; 2) stone wall (E/W), replacement for Phase 1; 3) Stone wall, cuts Phase 2 (N/S); 4) Present farmhouse (18th century). This complex sequence of walling attests to numerous phases of farm buildings at the site within a low farm mound.

Test Pit 2 (1.9 x 1.4m) revealed the remains of a farm building to the N of the main range at the site. The base of an outer stone wall, internal paved floor and orthostatic division were found, suggesting the building had been deliberately dismantled.

Test Pit 3 (2.9 x 0.93m) exposed the top of a linear feature identified during the geophysical survey. It consisted of a stony bank that appears to have formed part of an enclosure to the S of, and perhaps contemporary with, the Norse farmstead.

Test Pit 4 (1 x 1m) investigated the area immediately to the W of Test Pit 1, and revealed possible structural stone and vitrified fuel ash.

Excavations at Skail were carried out in conjunction with the excavations at nearby Knowe of Swandro (HY32NE 19) in collaboration with the University of Bradford. The project included community training, open days, workshops and placements. This forms part of the Rousay Landscapes of Change and NABO projects, which are researching long term environmental and societal change along the W side of Rousay.

Archive: Archaeology Institute, UHI (currently)
Funder: Orkney Islands Council, Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust and Archaeology Institute, UHI

**The Knowe of Swandro**

**Excavation**

**JM Bond, SJ Dockrell and J Downes – University of Bradford and Archaeology Institute, UHI**

HY 3753 2966 (HY32NE 19) Evaluative excavation continued upon the eroding beach at Swandro for a four week season in July 2016. The archaeology is suffering from erosion from the sea which has cut into a settlement mound (Iron Age to Norse) developed upon the eastern flank of a Neolithic chambered cairn. Previous seasons have established the presence of a sequence of structures which has been exposed by the sea cutting into the archaeology forming a series of terraces. The erosion has provided an opportunity to examine and sample this archaeological sequence. Unfortunately, the deposits surviving at the lowest terrace have suffered from extensive erosion, with much of the midden material having been washed away and the larger structural stones having been smoothed by the movement of water and beach material.

**The chambered cairn** – The outer casement wall of the Neolithic chambered cairn is butted by a single-faced alignment of stones, suggestive of a retaining wall. This was first observed in the 2012 season and again in 2015, when a much greater degree of erosion was noted. In 2016 this feature was investigated further in order to determine whether an old ground surface or underlying archaeology had survived the effects of the erosion by the sea. A number of large water worn boulders were found to be redeposited, implying the movement of large ‘storm thrown’ rocks. These sealed a dark yellow sand and a black compacted sand containing decayed seaweed with no surviving evidence of any anthropogenic deposits or an in situ old ground surface. Despite this sequence of redeposited material in the scoured area seawards of the cairn wall, the remains of a reddish ashy midden deposit was found to be sealed by the secondary retaining wall.

The entrance passage leading into the chambered cairn was also defined in 2015, upon the uppermost (landward) erosion terrace. The passage walls are single faced and the upper infill formed by a layer of small angular stone (shillet) containing copper alloy fragments, large fish and mammal bones appeared to reflect late activity. This was confirmed by the finding in post-excavation of a coin of EANRED, King of Northumbria AD810–840, together with the near complete skeleton of a cat. This disturbance and infilling might represent Viking period activity. Work in 2016 continued to define the top of the passage and to assess the nature of this
later activity. The further excavation of the passage revealed more faunal remains including of several sheep displaying metal butchery marks. This deposit sealed large angular rubble which appears to be the infill of the passage.

Structure 1: A truncated Mid Iron Age roundhouse – This roundhouse is represented by just one segment of its circumferential cells, the interior and southern portion having been lost to the sea. The circumference of the building is formed by orthostats; the floor of the northern radial cell was formed by a single flag, which had been made to fit the cell. Several notches had been cut into the flag, which appear to be post settings. It seems likely that this would have supported a mezzanine level around the circumference of the structure. The presence of such mezzanine structures is paralleled by Middle Iron Age remains at Old Scatness, Shetland.

Structure 2: A Late Iron Age roundhouse – Definition of the upper eroded terrace of the beach identified the remains of what appeared to be half of a cell-like circular structure. In 2016, investigation indicated that an orthostatic divide with flagging either side which had been identified in 2015, were found to be clearly later elements forming a modification to the building. These were removed to reveal the original form of the building, the curved line of orthostats together with a door sill (threshold stone) indicating a western entrance. The seaward section demonstrated a greater degree of erosion and did not survive. A floor level was formed by large flags with evidence of orthostatic radial divisions. Entering this structure via the threshold stone, one of these radial orthostats blocks any turn to the left (north/landward side), confining movement to the centre or to the right. This phenomenon of barring entry to the left has also been observed within other Iron Age roundhouse structures in the Northern Isles at Old Scatness (Shetland). The flag floor and the hearth are clearly part of a sequence of floors representing several modifications to the building as the remains of part of a rectangular stone tank could be clearly identified under the flags.

Structure 3 – A cellular structure with features suggesting a Pictish date, mostly still sealed by the northern landward section. The southern wall was identified and excavated first, and revealed evidence of an intramural cupboard, adjacent to a complete in situ cupboard. The contexts in the lower sequence under the rubble infill were found to contain some evidence of metal working with finds of slag, small crucibles and mould fragments together with evidence of fragments of copper alloy. A series of steps was found to lead from the N (landward) section into the building, in a curved passageway whose stones demonstrated wear consistent with rubbing caused by the passage of the past occupants. The presence of a threshold stone in the narrow passage, together with a bolt hole clearly indicates that there would have been a physical door dividing the passage and the central area of the structure.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Orkney Islands Council, University of Bradford, and Rousay Development Trust

Sandwick

Bockan Burnt Mound
Casual observation
Christopher Gee
HY 29181 13988 A turf covered amorphous mound, 14 x 8 x 0.7m high, sits on the edge of the Harray Loch, in the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage area in marshy ground. Cattle scraping on the SW side of the mound has exposed burnt reddened stone fragments and black soil. A finely pecked and used stone ard was recovered from the disturbed ground surface on the N edge of the mound on 17 January.
2016. At a distance of 20m to the S of the mound a low turf covered earthwork, 0.50m high x 2m wide, runs from the lochside inland for c100m.

Archive: NRHE (intended)

South Ronaldsay

Banks
Geophysical survey
Susan Ovenden – Rose Geophysical Consultants
ND 4580 8339 In 2010 a rock cut Neolithic tomb, now known as the ‘Tomb of the Otters’, was discovered at Banks Farm. In an adjacent field, recent work revealed possible stone structures thought to potentially indicate a house, possibly Bronze Age in date. The aim of the geophysical survey on 22 March 2016 was to map the extent of any possible buried structures.

Gradiometry and resistance survey were undertaken over an area of c40 x 60m. The survey appears to have detected prehistoric field boundaries and natural variations within the subsoil and possible modern ground disturbance. There is no evidence in the resistance data for buried structural remains other than the early field boundaries. In addition, the extremely quiet magnetic response across the site suggests the lack of any significant ‘domestic’ occupation of the area.

Archive: Rose Geophysical Consultants
Funder: Hamish Mowatt

St Margaret’s Hope
Watching brief
Sean Bell – Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology (ORCA)
ND 44539 93612 – ND 44568 93492 – ND 44804 93556 – ND 44854 93552 (ND49SW 9, ND49SW 22, ND49SW 23, ND49SW 24, ND49SW 35, ND49SW 36, ND49SW 50, ND49SW 51, ND49SW 52, ND49SW 54, ND49SW 55, ND49SW 56, ND49SW 77) A watching brief was undertaken, 19 March 2015 – 16 February 2016, on a water pipe replacement and improvement scheme. The monitored works were undertaken along Front Road, Back Road, Pier Road and Cromarty Square.

The watching brief provided a body of evidence which effectively established that much of the earlier development...
of the town took place on the lower ground close to the shoreline. The deposits exposed also showed that Front Road was built upon an area of reclaimed land, formed by dumped material, which extended the shoreline towards deeper water. These works were undertaken prior to the late 19th century.

A number of culverts were exposed which related to the discharging of surface and domestic water into the sea. A large canalised watercourse running along the length of Cromarty Square was clearly shown on historic maps, though no evidence for this structure was identified. The works did identify two potential structures underlying Front Road which may relate to the town’s original seafront, prior to the dumping of material as part of the land reclamtion scheme.

**Archive:** HES  
**Funder:** Scottish Water

### The Cairns, Windwick Bay Excavation

**Martin Carruthers – Archaeology Institute, Orkney College, UHI**  
**ND 4542 8688 (ND48NE 14) Excavation work continued, 13 June – 8 July 2016, at The Cairns (known by HES as ‘The Cairns of the Bu’), as part of on-going research on the Orcadian Iron Age. The work focused on the main area trench, c25 x 25m (Trench M), and a 10 x 10m area in the northern extension immediately to the NE of the main trench. In 2016 a new zone of excavation was opened up between the existing trenches to create one extensive open-area. The new area was termed Trench Q and details of findings are given below.

Work continued on the inside of the broch (Structure A), and mainly concentrated on the SE quadrant largely within a well-defined area of the broch marked out by groups of orthostats that form partitions in the use of space. The removal of rubble on the N and W of the quadrant prior to accessing occupation deposits revealed a finely built internal passageway, itself running off the main broch entrance. One side of this passage was constructed from large orthostatic panels while the other was a finely built coursed wall. This passageway had accessed two rooms set against the SE of the broch interior wall-face, and gaps in the orthostats defined entrances into these spaces. The passage serves to further enhance the understanding of movement within the broch interior. The passageway and the rooms themselves formed the basis for the majority of the excavation work inside the broch this year. Within the passageway, occupation/floor deposits were present across the surface and, in common with all sediments from inside the broch, these were excavated on a sample grid. Pottery and a fine copper alloy pin were among the small finds recovered.

In the SE zone of the broch interior a significant succession of deposits was observed ranging from dark organic carbon rich greasy layers to clean pale yellow clay. Significantly, the same detailed and quite clear stratification was present as had previously been witnessed in the floor/occupation deposits in the NE quadrant of the broch in 2015. It appears that similar, very good, preservation of floors is present across the whole of the E half of the broch thus far sampled.

Beyond the E zone of the broch, work continued in the western zone of the interior, and the last portion of rubble infill that had been deposited at the abandonment of the broch was finally excavated, revealing the full internal wall circumference of the broch upper levels. In the process, a doorway in the circuit leading into a very finely built, still fully roofed, extant intramural chamber, was discovered set in the western wall of the broch. Its entrance was similarly intact. This brings the total of substantial intramural features in the broch wall to five. No excavation was undertaken within this chamber this season, but it has clearly been undisturbed since it was partly backfilled and sealed with rubble, sometime between the later 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

Work also took place on the outside of the broch, immediately against its outer wall and just to the N of the main broch entrance. Here, an area of rubble backfilled against the broch wall was sectioned to try to provide information with which to compare the dates of the backfilling episode of the broch interior with that of the outside. Upon excavating the lower elements of this rubble, a remarkable deposit was encountered. A large, bucket-sized whalebone vessel carved from an entire vertebral bone had been deposited apparently immediately prior to the introduction of the rubble above. Propped against the side of this vessel were two upright red deer antlers. The upper fill of the vessel contained a human mandible, and several loosely articulated animal bones (neonatal sheep). Finds of disarticulated or fragmentary human remains are a relatively common occurrence on large Atlantic Iron Age sites and the concentration around the entrance area seems to have been a favoured zone for deposition of this kind of material, whether as foundation or decommissioning deposits. This particular, unusually complex, mixed deposit of artefacts and animal, and human remains, appears to represent something of an act of closure, marking the end of the broch. Immediately before it was shrouded in rubble externally. The human jaw, and a sample animal bone were radio carbon dated and indicate that the person died around the same time that the deposition was made, sometime in the late 1st or 2nd century AD, very much in keeping with other C14 dates obtained for the end of the broch as an upstanding building. The dates also tend to support the idea that the broch was infilled internally and externally in the same single episode of wholesale decommissioning.

Immediately below the whalebone vessel deposit, a black, organic-rich deposit was encountered. This deposit was thick with limpet and winkle shells and replete with animal bone. This midden appears to emanate from the broch itself and the radiocarbon dates obtained from the deposits that sealed it suggest this is indeed material dating to immediately before the broch was abandoned, and possibly earlier. It therefore appears that this midden will substantially assist the successful realisation of one of the key aims of the excavation of the broch: the detailed examination of a suite, or cycle, of production, processing, consumption and deposition, articulated across the broch interior, its floors, and its midden waste.

Additional work on the outside of the entrance area of the broch, also focused on the souterrain (Structure F), which post-dates the broch and which reused the broch entrance passage as the souterrain chamber. The fuller extent of the unroofed portion of the souterrain passage was tracked S, and found to form a c15m long structure. Meanwhile, work on the still-roofed portion, uncovered the entire run of surviving roof slabs and these were progressively recorded and lifted off. Three layers of major roof slabs were found to have been used to very soundly cap the souterrain passage. The removal of these allowed a small amount of excavation inside the souterrain and on its deposits. The floors appeared to be simple and thin. A tiny amber bead fragment was recovered from one floor deposit during flotation of environmental samples. The floor/occupation deposits will be fully excavated next season. It was noted that, both the construction of the souterrain and the deposition of the whalebone vessel and human jaw appear to date from the same moment: immediately around the end of the broch, and may even have a shared significance in marking this seminal event.
event. An antiquarian excavation (1901) in the entrance to the broch (later the souterrain chamber) found, amongst other things, two fragments of human bone.

In Trench M, the general aim was to gain more insight into the substantial metalworking that has previously been evidenced in this NE zone of the site. The remains of a clay furnace were fully excavated and found to be most likely involved in iron smelting. Slag and other residues indicated that there was heavy processing of iron ores under way. A second furnace was also identified and awaits full excavation.

As work progressed to reach earlier levels in Trench M, significant amounts of iron slag, bog ore, and so-called furnace bottoms, were encountered indicating that metalworking had been a hallmark of the N part of the site for a longer duration than the episode represented by deposits that have previously yielded considerable evidence of copper alloy working including a spread of around 60 casting moulds that have been recovered in previous seasons.

Trench Q is the newly opened excavation area this year (c10 x 10m), positioned between the main broch trench and Trench M, and connecting both. Fairly substantial well-built wall-lines were identified in the western zone of this trench in particular. These were of double-faced character and in one case were surmounted by a smashed pottery vessel of a typical Middle Iron Age style. It seems likely that these walls represent elements of an extramural complex, or village, contemporary with the occupation of the broch.

Excavation work also continued on the so-called ‘Structure B area’, a complex of later Iron Age settlement post-dating the broch, and lying to the W of the broch, partly overlying the reduced broch wall-head, and formerly spilling over the infilled remains of the broch interior. The work identified a substantial entrance passageway leading into one of the B buildings, which had partly reused remnants of broch masonry to form on one sidewalk of the passage. The base of the passageway constituted a set of shallow slab steps ascending in a southerly direction to give access to Structure B1. The lowest base of the passage floor included four broken fragments of rotary quern which were found to refit together after they were recovered.

Archive: Orkney SMR and Orkney Museums Service (intended)  
Funder: Orkney Islands Council and Archaeology Institute, University of the Highlands and Islands

St Andrews and Deerness

Newark Bay  
Excavation  
Dave Reay – ORCA, Archaeology Institute UHI  
HY 57466 04135 (HY50SE 3) A carved stone was identified in January 2016 in the eroding coastal section at Newark Bay, at the site of a known medieval chapel and cemetery, by
archaeologist Dr Hugo Anderson-Whymark. Further initial investigations revealed the carved stone to be a Pictish cross slab (Class II symbol stone). Work to recover the slab and record its depositional context with regard to the surrounding deposits and structural remains in the area was undertaken 13–14 October 2016. The slab was found to be within the backfill of earlier 20th-century excavations, but it is highly probable that it originated from the immediate vicinity of the known medieval chapel. The Newark Pictish cross slab is only the second ‘reasonably intact’ example discovered in Orkney to date, and has carvings on both sides of the stone. The discovery of this artefact finds parallels with the Pictish cross slab found in 2011 from Appiehouse in Sanday.

The carved surfaces of the cross have suffered damage in antiquity, and full description of the carving awaits the conservation of this artefact, but initial observations are as follows: the carvings on the front face of the stone comprise a cross carved in relief, outlined by moulding and infilled with interlace. The cross has fairly wide arms, with small, rounded armpits between them, a central roundel appears present, though damaged. The cross is set on a narrower shaft, but the lower portion of the cross has been truncated. Where present, the outer edge of the stone is surrounded by a moulding, and in the lower left portion of the stone a zoomorphic creature is present, which is probably an ‘S beast’. The carvings on the opposing face are incised, and the clearest is the head of a beast or serpent grasping a shaft possibly a tail in its open mouth. An incised moulding follows: the carvings on the front face of the stone comprise a cross carved in relief, outlined by moulding and infilled with interlace.

Stenness
Ness of Brodgar
Excavation
Nick Card – ORCA and Archaeology Institute, UHI
HY 303 129 (HY31SW 20 and 112) Further investigation of the Neolithic complex on the Ness of Brodgar was undertaken, 4 July - 26 August 2016. The main structures were further investigated to clarify their relationships and the individual biographies of each building. Micromorphic sampling of both floors and middens again complemented other sampling strategies including archaeomagnetic and onsite XRF analysis.

In Trench T near the southern tip of the Ness of Brodgar Peninsular more of the late pits cut into the lower slopes of the midden mound were excavated and the underlying middens removed to reveal more of the robbed out remains of Structure 27.

Initially Structure 27’s form appeared to resemble the Bookan-style of tomb; however, in 2016 its construction was shown to be unique. Although the outer wall faces are constructed of fine, large masonry, the inner wall faces are much rougher, but would have been hidden behind upright orthostats ‘cladding’ the internal wall faces. Large prone orthostats up to 4m in length set on edge helped to support the orthostat lining. Side recesses were created along the side walls by orthostats perpendicular to the internal walls. The lack of apparent domestic features (including the absence of the use of midden in the wall cores) may suggest a funerary function. The symmetry, scale (internally c7.5m wide), and unique construction methods is presently without parallel. Although not clearly defined in the earth resistance surveys, a slight sub-oval anomaly c20m SW/NE by 15m, could be the outline of this building. This may be set within a larger, sub-circular enclosure, c50m diameter again revealed by resistance.

Further excavation was also undertaken in the sondage through the midden mound, which is formed of numerous individual midden heaps. This confirmed the spatial patterning revealed in 2015.

In the main Trench P, excavations continued on the final Phase 2 occupation-derived deposits inside Structure 1. Further thin ashy layers and floor patches were excavated around the hearth to expose the rammed yellow clay floor which was removed to expose the Phase 1 floor deposits and also orthostats associated with the original southern hearth in the building. This was set more symmetrically within the building than the later phase hearth that overlay it.

In the northern part of the original Structure 1, beyond the substantial Phase 2 wall, the excavations continued to expose the upper-most occupation-derived layers of Phase 1. With the full extent of Structure 8 being revealed in 2015 and the last remnants of collapse and later ephemeral use removed, the investigation of the floor deposits across the whole building commenced. As with Structures 12 and 14 narrow sondages along the length and across its width were opened. This revealed as suspected a sequence of relatively shallow (and short-lived?) activity.

Work within Structure 10 again concentrated on the internal floor deposits relating to its secondary major phase. The lower courses and rough core of the secondary internal SW corner buttress were removed to reveal its foundation deposits. These included several articulated large cattle leg bones, a large notched slab (similar to the one discovered in 2003), more sherds of a distinctive skeuomorph pot, and a single human humerus close to where a large intricately carved stone block was found in 2013.
The remaining occupation-derived deposits in Structure 11 were removed and this late small structure was dismantled. A large percentage of the stones used in its construction were decorated on their horizontal surfaces which would have been hidden as construction proceeded. The positioning of these designs would suggest that they were decorated *in situ* as the structure was built.

Excavation in the interior of Structure 12 continued with the removal of more secondary occupation layers and the last remnants of collapse. Narrow sondages were opened across the building and these revealed a less complex and shorter history for Structure 12 than first thought. It now appears that, rather than being dismantled and rebuilt, Structure 12 may be a reincarnation of Structure 28 which underlies the S end of Structure 12. Substantial fine walling associated with Structure 28 was revealed in several of the sondages.

Within Structure 14, the main focus of this season was the removal of the remaining sample and section baulks across the floors. These baulks comprised one E/W baulk aligned on the long axis of the building, and two N/S baulks centred on the structure’s two hearths. Outside of the baulks, remaining primary floor deposits and features were excavated including a number of small pits, postholes, very small stakeholes around the eastern hearth, and cuts for orthostatic divisions and furniture (removed during a later remodelling).

A sondage under the robbed out northern wall of Structure 14, which had produced Early Neolithic round based ceramics in 2014, was expanded to allow recovery of material for dating. Suitable samples were obtained that produced a date of c3450 cal BC.

An arc of walling, previously uncovered in a sondage which explored the S wall and outer paving of Structure 10, was further revealed in a small trench extension in order to establish its relationship with Structure 12. This building, Structure 26, was filled with rubble and its form and details have yet to be clearly defined.

Trench X was an extension to the main Trench P leading out downslope from the SW corner of Structure 12, towards the Loch of Stenness. The aim of this trench was to investigate the presence of the enclosing perimeter wall along the SW side of the Ness and also the density of contemporary buildings and activity associated with those in the main trench. Although no trace of the enclosure wall was found, deposits at the loch end of the trench did dramatically drop away which may indicate the presence of a boundary at a lower level. Across the rest of the trench midden deposits, elements of several later ephemeral structures, paving and features were revealed including two lines of small stone-lined postholes. Near the NE end of the trench a stone working area was revealed complete with an anvil, hammerstones and stone flakes.

Numerous other examples of Neolithic art were also discovered including a line of cup marks from Structure 12 and a ‘rosette’ of cup marks enclosed by a double curving band from the external wall of Structure 8.

**Report:** NRHE and Orkney SMR  
**Funder:** Orkney Islands Council, Ness of Brodgar Trust, American Friends of the Ness of Brodgar, Foundation for World Health, Orkney College UHI, and Orkney Archaeology Society  
**Ring of Brodgar**

**Watching brief**  
**Paul Fox, Andrew Hollinrake and David Murray – Kirkdale Archaeology**  
HY 2938 1358 and HY 2950 1338 A watching brief was undertaken, 30 March – 3 June 2016, during remedial work to improve drainage. The initial work at eHY 2938 1358 took
place between the gate at the N end of the path along the road and the lower end of the path up to the monument. The removal of matting and its reinstatement, following the laying of gravel from a c10m long by 2.0m wide and c250mm deep area, recorded no finds or features of archaeological significance. Later work at CHY 2950 1338 consisted of the removal of turf surrounding the path which runs around the inside of the stones and the circle, and the installation of drainage pipes. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

Stones of Stenness
Watching brief
Andrew Hollinson – Kirkdale Archaeology

HY 3066 1244 and HY 3067 1256 A watching brief was maintained, 24 February 2016, during the excavation of two small trenches to allow the installation of two new access gates.

One trench was located towards the southern corner of the field, just NW of the livestock gate where the extant visitor access ‘kissing gate’ and nearby strainer post were to be removed (HY 3066 1244). All the material removed was either part of the concrete foundation of the existing strainer post and gate, or material previously disturbed and redeposited. The second trench was located at the far northern corner of the field, where a stile over the fence giving access to the path to Barnhouse Village was to be replaced with a gate (HY 3067 1256). A surface of compact, grey-brown clay with abundant large, angular stone fragments was encountered at a maximum depth of 0.45m. It was left unexcavated, and probably represents either entirely natural deposits or remnants of a post-medieval stone dyke.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

Stromness

Mousland Landscape Survey

Survey
Daniel Lee, James Moore and Martin Carruthers – Archaeology Institute, UHI

HY 23342 12272 (centred on) with specific sites located at: HY 23244 12487 (S39 – trackway); HY 23439 12162 (S40 – settlement); HY 23431 12243 (S41 – stone); HY 23412 12247 (S42 – structure); HY 23239 12088 (S43 – mounds); HY 23333 12016 (S44 – bank); HY 23431 12500 (S45 – trackway); HY 23426 12461 (S46 – dyke); HY 23482 12302 (S47 – rig and furrow); HY 23631 12128 (S48 – structure); HY 23702 12436 (S49 – earthwork); HY 23156 12381 (S50 – stone); HY 23074 12434 (S51 – quarry); HY 23285 12198 (S52 – enclosure); HY 23304 12016 (S53 – trackway)

A third season of walkover survey and geophysical survey was undertaken, 21–24 March 2016, and 2–6 May 2016, in the Mousland area by students from the Archaeology Institute. Previous phases of work in 2014 and 2015 investigated the area around Nether Mousland (HY21SW 16) and Mousland Farm (HY21SW 20) revealing a rich multi-period landscape. Additional survey was undertaken during 2016 in the area to the SE of Mousland Farm on Eskishold and in Helliaclov Valley.

The walkover survey recorded 15 previously unrecorded sites (No 39–53). These consisted of trackways, enclosures, mounds and quarries. A possible cist (Site 42) was found eroding from a steep south-facing slope in Helliaclov. Two upright stones set at right angles were visible. The most significant site (No 40) consisted of a complex of substantial earthworks (c24m by 44m) containing a possible house platform (13m by 4.5m, E/W), mounds and other features surrounded by an earthen enclosure. A burn runs along the S side and a small field system is evident to the east. No structural stone was evident. This site has been interpreted as a possible medieval settlement.

The geophysical survey focused upon the settlement area (Site 40), with c0.7ha of gradiometer survey being undertaken in very rough terrain. Whilst no coherent building plan was identifiable the magnetic anomalies were clearly indicative of settlement activity. The data also suggests that a small field system extends to the E beyond the earthworks recorded during the walkover survey. A small area of resistance survey was undertaken over the site of the possible cist (Site 42) but unfortunately the data was not able to add to the characterisation of the site.

Archive: UHI Archaeology Institute (currently)
Funder: University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology Institute

Walls and Flotta

Hackness Battery and Martello Tower
Watching brief
Andrew Hollinson – Kirkdale Archaeology
ND 3385 9128 A watching brief was undertaken, 23 June 2016, during the excavation of a small trench to allow the re-positioning of an existing sign near the approach road to Hackness Battery. The shallow excavation was carried out just N of the road, to the E of the Martello Tower. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted and bedrock was encountered at a depth of 170mm.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

PERTH AND KINROSS

Abernethy

Jamesfield Farm, Newburgh
Evaluation
Rob Engl – AOC Archaeology Group
NO 20050 17956 An evaluation was undertaken, 3–7 October 2016, in advance of the proposed construction of a solar farm on open farmland at Jamesfield Farm. A total 2125 linear metres of trenches were excavated, covering 5% of the 8.5ha area. The trenches recorded drift geology of raised marine and estuarine clays, sands and gravels. The natural was overlain by a compact, 0.2–0.4m deep, improved ploughsoil. Numerous rubble and tile drains were observed running downslope N to S. These drains were set at 5m intervals. The ephemeral traces of 18th/19th-century broad rig and furrow agriculture ran across the site on a NE to SW alignment. Occasional sherds of 19th-century ceramics were observed in the ploughsoil.

A previous walkover of the site had produced a small assemblage of possible Roman imbrex terracotta roof tile. A few small pieces of this material including a pan tile were recovered from the ploughsoil during the evaluation.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: AAH Planning Consultants

The Wee Big Dig, Abernethy
Excavation
Sophie Nicol and Katie Roper – Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust,
**Tay Landscape Partnership and AOC Archaeology**

NO 190 164 The Wee Big Dig weekend comprised the excavation of a 3 x 3m trench, and test pits beside the Williamson Hall and in volunteers’ gardens scattered across Abernethy Village on 3–5 June 2016. All excavation was supervised by AOC’s experienced field archaeologists and Tay Landscape Partnership’s (TayLP) Sophie Nicol. The test pits aimed to be 1 x 1m in size and were excavated to a depth of up to 1m.

The Wee Big Dig was a huge success, providing new information for the occupation and development of Abernethy Village. The larger trench opened to the E of Abernethy’s Round Tower uncovered a corner of a rectangular stone-built feature with associated post-medieval and modern finds. Test pits were excavated in both the front and back of the proposed burbage plots, the original medieval or post-medieval land division of the town. The test pits confirmed human activity in the village from at least the 12th century, in the form of residual shards of Scottish east coast white gritty ware ceramics. Some of these were recovered in deeper soils, with no modern finds associated. The majority of artefacts recovered represent relatively modern finds such as Victorian ceramic, demonstrating the presence of ‘night soil’, in which recovered represent relatively modern finds such as Victorian ceramics. Some of these were recovered in deeper soils, the form of residual shards of Scottish east coast white gritty ware ceramics. Some of these were recovered in deeper soils, with no modern finds associated. However, a sherd of post-medieval redware pot thought to be 16th-century in date was also recovered.

Many of the test pits had no parent features associated with the artefacts found; however, this season saw a reinvestigation of an area proposed to be in the old monastic complex. This test pit revealed a handful of features, including a linear cut and concentration of irregularly sized angular cobbles and pebbles. The test pits continued to support evidence from the 2015 Wee Big Dig (DES 16, 136–7) that the village had been subject to much landscaping, due to the varying depths of soil deposits encountered.

As importantly, the public participation in the project was an enormous success and the large numbers of local volunteers showed that there is considerable public interest in Abernethy’s history. The TayLP would like to thank everyone who took part and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

*Archive:* NRHE (intended)

*Funder:* Tay Landscape Partnership

**Ardoch/Dull/Fowlis Wester/Little Dunkeld/Logiealmond**

**Beauty to Denny 400kV Overhead Line**

**Evaluation and watching brief**

*Steven Black, Peta Glew and Andrew Gallacher – Northlight Heritage*

A programme of archaeological work was undertaken at various times, 8 April 2015 – 14 April 2016, at a range of locations during work associated with the construction of an overhead powerline.

NN 9169 2877 (Code: 17) NN92NW 3 An evaluation and watching brief were undertaken, 8 April – 9 July 2015, in Glen Almond, near Crieff, in advance of the construction of scaffolding for a safety net road crossing. The evaluation concentrated on a previously recorded earthwork enclosure just to the N of the B8063 and a hillslope to the S of the same road. A total of seven trenches were excavated covering 160.8m². The bank and ditch forming the enclosure were found to be more ephemeral than originally thought while no archaeology was uncovered in the internal area. The date and function of the enclosure was not determined.

NN 83936 11103 and NN 83664 10616 (Code: 4000161)

**NN80NW 10 A watching brief was undertaken, 12 March – 12 May 2016, within the scheduled monument of Ardoch, Roman Military Complex 900m NNE of Ardoch Bridge (SM1601) as part of work to remove existing overhead line towers and wooden poles. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.**

**Funder:** Scottish and Southern Energy Ltd/Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

**Auchterarder**

**Loanhead**

*Metal detector finds*

*Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland*

**Romano-British trumpet brooch from Loanhead (CNT 11/16)**

*(Drawn by Alan Braby)*

NN 97 16 Two Romano-British brooches were found during metal detecting at Loanhead, near Aberuthven and claimed as Treasure Trove (TT11/16, 32/16). The first (allocated to Perth Museum) is a trumpet brooch with half-acanthus moulding (L: 50.5mm). The second, the foot of an enamelled headstud brooch (L: 40mm), was allocated to National Museums Scotland (X.FT 164). The fragments were some 200m apart.
and 150–200m from an earlier stone circle, suggesting the latter was a focus for later activity.

Auchtergaven

**Bankfoot**

*Metal detector find*

**Alison Sheridan – National Museums Scotland**

NO 05 34 A small and badly-corroded flat axehead was found during metal detecting in 2015. The original surface has almost completely corroded away, leaving a pitted sub-surface. The butt is gently rounded and the sides are fairly straight, expanding gently to a shallow rounded blade. The loss of the surface makes it hard to determine whether the axehead had been in an ‘as-cast’, unfinished state. Length 60mm; width 25mm. Since the object has not been analysed, it is impossible to tell whether it is of copper (and thus more likely to be of Chalcolithic date) or of copper alloy (and thus of Early Bronze Age date).

**Claimed as Treasure Trove (CO.TT.48/16), allocated to Perth Museum and Art Gallery**

**Bendochy**

**Knowehead House, Bendochy**

*Evaluation*

**John Gooder – ACCESS Archaeological Condition Services**

NO 21650 41560 An evaluation was undertaken, 4 March 2016, in advance of a small residential development on land 80m SE of Knowehead House. The excavation of seven machine dug trenches covering 6% (290m²) of the area found no finds or features of archaeological significance.

**Archive: NRHE (intended)**

**Funder: Mr and Mrs W Lawson**

Blair Atholl

**A9 Dualling Programme**

*Geophysical survey*

**Kimberley Teale and James Lawton – AOC Archaeology Group**

NN 89629 64150 As part of the A9 dualling programme, a magnetometry survey of seven areas covering a total of c10ha was carried out, 14–17 November 2016, between the Pass of Birnam and Glen Garry. The results produced evidence for settlement in the northern sections of the survey area (close to Aldclune), as well as a series of pit-like anomalies close to the site of the Battle of Killiecrankie. Several other isolated linear and pit-like features were identified across the survey area, tentatively identified as archaeological in origin.

**Archive: NRHE**

**Funder: Jacobs UK**

Jacobites, Clearance and Scots

*Desk-based assessment and walkover survey*

**Ian Hill and Michelle Gamble – Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice Ltd (HARP)**

NN 78474 67281 – Clunes – Post-medieval settlement (Canmore ID: 25148/SMR: MPK608)

NN 78297 67976 – Tomnasallan – Post-medieval township (Canmore ID: 25145/SMR: MPK605)

NN 77643 68328 – Craig – Post-medieval township (Canmore ID: 25145/SMR: MPK605)

NN 7775 6762 – Bruochriach – Post-medieval township (Canmore ID: 25144/SMR MPK604)

A walkover survey and desk-based assessment is being carried out along the route of the military road network in Highland Perthshire. The project aims to identify and record all sites and features associated with the road network, and its nearby/associated settlements, with a particular focus on the 18th century. Two seasons of study have so far been
completed, 8 June 2015 – 17 June 2016. Four settlements have been identified on the N and S sides of General Wade’s Military Road between Calvine and Dalnamein.

The settlement of Clunes contains a series of enclosures and 11 buildings, occupied into the mid-19th century. The military road initially ran through the middle of the settlement, before being diverted S of the settlement sometime in the mid- to late 18th century. A large enclosure now blocks the route of the original military road.

A head dyke runs NW from Clunes to the township of Tomnasallan, which consists of 14 pre-improvement and improvement period buildings, including a courtyard farmstead. To the W of the Alt nan Cuineag Burn, the head dyke continues W from Tomnasallan to the township of Craig, which consists of 18 pre-improvement period buildings, including a kiln barn, and enclosures. Some of the enclosures surround significant geological outcrops. There are also the remains of two possible hut circles within the vicinity of the settlement, and two very large enclosed mounds.

The head dyke runs SE from Craig to a further township, Bruochriach, which consists of four pre-improvement period buildings. The southern part of the original settlement may have been destroyed by the construction of the A9. The head dyke then continues E until it meets the Alt nan Cuineag Burn. Work will continue in the area in 2017.

Archive and report: HES (intended)
Funder: Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice Ltd
Website: www.harparchaeology.co.uk

Na Clachan Aoraidh
Excavation
Clare Ellis – Argyll Archaeology

NN 83861 62018 (NN86SW 3) The site is referred to as Na Carraigea Edintian or Na Clachan Aoraidh ‘the stones of worship’ (Burl 1988, 187). The standing stones comprise four boulders of quartziferous schist forming a quadrilateral c.3.2 x 3.6m; the stones are graded with the tallest occurring in the SW corner and these are set on the circumference of a circle which is c.4.3m in diameter, although all but one of the stones are now leaning. The stones are set on a low mound or platform formed from cairn material and which is c.16.5 x 8.85m in diameter. The platform appears to be kerbed by smaller stones. There is a slight hollow in the centre of the mound, thought to be the result of undocumented activities of earlier antiquarians. In recent years a bonfire within the hollow may have caused further damage to the monument.

The site was subject to topographical and a geophysical survey, including magnetometry and resistivity (Archaeological Services Durham University) and laser scanning (AOC Archaeology), the results of which were used to produce a 3D visualization of all elements of the site. A stone kerb or revetment was detected encircling the standing stones and outside of which was an arc of low resistance which contains burnt bone mixed with ash and redeposited soil. The monument appears to have been centred on a hollow which was created by a collapsed or dead tree. The site was backfilled and a layer of gravel placed upon terram but under the turf in the centre of the monument to protect the underlying deposits from damage in the event of further illegal bonfires.

Archive: HES and NRHE (intended)
Funder: Forestry Commission Scotland

Na Clachan Aoraidh – The four poster stone circle under excavation

In conclusion, the four poster stone circle is a simply constructed monument comprising an oval stone platform cairn and four stone orthostats arranged around a central pit which contains burnt bone mixed with ash and redeposited soil. The monument appears to have been centred on a hollow which was created by a collapsed or dead tree. The site was backfilled and a layer of gravel placed upon terram but under the turf in the centre of the monument to protect the underlying deposits from damage in the event of further illegal bonfires.
Cargill

Guildtown

Casual find

Trevor Cowie – National Museums Scotland

NO 124 334 A damaged Neolithic leaf-shaped flint arrowhead was found by chance in 2015. It is bifacially retouched, broken across the base and missing its tip. It is of translucent light brown flint, L: 24mm; W:(max) 18mm; Th: 1.5mm. No other lithic finds appear to have been recorded from the immediate vicinity.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (CO.TT.148/15), allocated to Perth and Kinross Council Museums and Galleries

Funder: Perth and Kinross Council Museums and Galleries

Cleish

Blair Adam House South Range

Standing building recording

Kenneth Macfadyen – Addyman Archaeology

NT 12929 95700 A standing building survey was undertaken, May – September 2015, of the derelict and part demolished south range of Blair Adam House. A watching brief was also undertaken during the demolition of the unstable 19th-century range.

The stripping and demolition of the range allowed the creation of a more refined set of phase plans and elevations, broadly confirming the earlier phasing of the structure, which was based on historical documents and analysis of the building in the 1990s.

The structure was originally constructed at the beginning of the 19th century and has seen an extensive series of modifications to the physical structure and use of its interior space. The last major phase was in the early 20th century, with dilapidation and collapse of the structure in the later 20th century. The range is to be rebuilt to securely store the archive of original Adam family documents held on site.

Archive: NRHE

Funder: K and E Adam

Cleish

Broich Road, Crieff

Standing building recording

Graeme Ives and Jack Haw – Turley Heritage

NN 8596 2114 A building and photographic survey were undertaken, 9–26 May 2016, in advance of the demolition of houses and offices on land adjacent to Broich Road, Crieff. In the early 19th century the site and surrounding area largely consisted of open agricultural land. By the mid-19th century a gas works (Crieff Gas and Light Company) had been constructed. In the late 20th century the gas works closed and the majority of the industrial buildings and structures were demolished. The remaining structures consist of a fragmentary wall, a former retort house and two buildings.

Ellard House consists of the former retort house for the gas works and dates to the mid-19th century. The building is roughly rectangular in plan and is constructed from rubble stone which has been rendered. The principal entrance includes a large elliptical arched headed opening with flanking square windows. Above is a blank elevation which rises to a steeply pitched gable with stone coping. The side (NW) elevation includes a series of round-headed openings to the upper floor. The remaining elevations have since been partially removed/collapsed.

Dunvegan House dates from the mid- to late 19th century and appears to have been constructed as either a residential dwelling or office associated with the gas works. The building is more embellished in its design and materials than its neighbour, Granville Cottage. It consists of a roughly symmetrical design with a central doorway. It is constructed from rubble stone with ashlarsandstone lintels and quoining.

Granville Cottage appears to date from the mid-19th century and originally consisted of two residential dwellings. They are simple in their design and construction, each originally consisting of a doorway and a flanking window to the principal elevation along Broich Road. The building is constructed from rubble sandstone with some quoining and lintel detailing.

Archive: NRHE and Perth and Kinross HER (intended)

Funder: Ramheath Properties Ltd

Dull

Allt Tarruinchon

Desk-based assessment and walkover survey

Mary Peteranna – AOC Archaeology Group

NN 78978 57811 to NN 79120 57294 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were carried out, 12 May 2016, in advance of the construction of a small hydro-electric scheme along the Allt Tarruinchon, on the S side of Loch Tummel, near Foss. Fourteen sites were identified, all of which were previously unrecorded.

Ten sites appeared to correlate with post-medieval settlement patterns. Five of these formed the remnants of field boundaries. A well preserved sheep fank consists of four internal enclosures and a linear run along its southern half. To its S was a small, square stone-built structure containing a large iron cauldron. A U-shaped turf and stone structure may have been used for stock management, whilst a stone-filled hollow to the E of the fank may have been used for sheep dipping or milking.

Other sites recorded were two water tanks, a disused sluice from a Victorian hydro scheme, a modern burial and a possible stone cellular structure.

Archive: NRHE (intended)

Funder: Manitoba Energy

Site 7, a ruinous sheep fank, Allt Tarruinchon

Black Burn 35–36

Field visit

George Currie

NN 82712 45543 A boulder measuring 1.0 x 0.5 x 0.2m, located 425m W of the Urlar Burn and 260m E of a dyke running N/S, bears seven cup marks.

NN 82657 45921 A stretch of bedrock, 390m N of the other site, bears five cup marks.

Craig Hill 41

Field visit

George Currie

NN 82177 45460 A prominent boulder measuring 1.9 x 1.8 x 0.4m, located 150m E of a pylon access track and 280m W
of a dyke running N/S, bears eight small cup marks at the N edge and one central cup mark.

**Tullichuill**

**Field visit**

**George Currie**

NN 80747 46563 At the southern edge of a plantation 750m S of Tullichuill an outcrop 1.2m high bears at least 21 cup marks; 2m to the N are a further 11 cup marks.

**Dunbarney**

**Bridge of Earn**

**Metal detector find**

**Stuart Campbell and Fraser Hunter – Treasure Trove Unit and National Museums Scotland**

NO 11 19 Metal detecting W of Bridge of Earn recovered the bezel of a medieval gold finger ring of 13th–14th-century date set with a reused Roman gemstone showing a dramatist holding a theatrical mask and shepherd’s crook. 

**Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 7/16), allocated to Perth Museum and Art Gallery**

**Moncreiffe Hillfort**

**Excavation**

**Martin Cook – AOC Archaeology Group**

NO 1313 1988 An excavation was undertaken, 21 April – 2 May 2015, at Moncreiffe Hillfort by the Tay Landscape Partnership, with local volunteers, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and AOC Archaeology Group. The 2015 work followed on from a topographic survey and the excavation of three trenches in 2014 (DES 16, 140).

The excavation consisted of four trenches located over the potential ramparts and within the interior of the hillfort. A series of three earthen ramparts was identified in a 2 x 12m trench excavated over the western circuit of the hillfort enclosure, taken with previous years’ excavations there would appear to be at least four concentric ramparts at parts of the hillfort, although it is not clear whether these are contemporary or reflect multiple phases of construction.

A 2 x 10.5m trench excavated over the eastern circuit of the hillfort enclosure revealed a stone-faced rampart, along with a series of cut bedrock terraces. A 7 x 6m trench excavated over the entrance in the W of the hillfort revealed the entrance, which was defined by a cut bedrock terrace to the interior of the hillfort and a stone bank forming the outer edge of the entrance. A fourth trench excavated over a scoop, putatively identified as a house platform within the interior of the hillfort, revealed this feature to be of natural origin.

An artefact assemblage relating to the use of the hillfort was recovered including a significant ceramic assemblage, an unusual heavy-duty stone maul, and a stone (possibly jet) bead. Struck stone artefacts, predating the construction of the hillfort, were also recovered, notably a leaf shaped arrowhead of Neolithic date.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Tay Landscape Partnership

**Dunning**

**Cranberry: SERF**

**Excavation and geophysical survey**

**Dene Wright – University of Glasgow**

Evidence of the structure and use of the hillfort was recorded in three trenches. In the upper area of the hillfort two curvilinear structures were identified, along with rubble and collapse material. A potential rampart with two defined courses was also exposed, via excavation of a sondage, which may have formed a boundary to the upper area. The relationship between these two features is still poorly understood. Associated artefacts recovered consisted of shale bracelet fragments and rough-outs, prehistoric pottery and coarse-stone tools.

The smaller circular feature consisted of an alignment of rough stone rubble and collapse material with associated prehistoric pottery and slag material within the stone.

A pond feature was also investigated. Little artefactual or structural evidence was discovered to help understand the construction or chronology of this feature; however, a palisade slot was discovered running through the trench.

The artefact assemblage of coarse-stone tools, pottery and metal objects, matched with the nature of the features investigated and suggests activity spanning from the Iron Age to the early historic period.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Funder:** Tay Landscape Partnership

**Moreden Hillfort, Moncreiffe Hill**

**Excavation**

**David Strachan, Martin Cook, Sophie Nicol and Katie Roper – Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, Tay Landscape Partnership and AOC Archaeology**

NO 1362 1999 Phase 2 of a programme of archaeological work was undertaken, 6 September – 1 October 2016, at the hillfort of Moreden Top by Tay Landscape Partnership, led by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and delivered by AOC Archaeology Group and local volunteers.

Four trenches were excavated, located over potential features within the hillfort which were identified via topographic survey of the hillfort. Areas for investigation were selected based on previous work. Two adjacent circular features in the upper citadel area and one smaller slightly outwith this area were target for investigation, as well as a larger circular stone feature uncovered during test pitting in 2015 and a pond area to determine the nature and construction of the pond feature.

Evidence of the structure and use of the hillfort was recorded in three trenches. In the upper area of the hillfort two curvilinear structures were identified, along with rubble and collapse material. A potential rampart with two defined courses was also exposed, via excavation of a sondage, which may have formed a boundary to the upper area. The relationship between these two features is still poorly understood. Associated artefacts recovered consisted of shale bracelet fragments and rough-outs, prehistoric pottery and coarse-stone tools.

The smaller circular feature consisted of an alignment of rough stone rubble and collapse material with associated prehistoric pottery and slag material within the stone.

A small area of wall with two defined courses was uncovered in a sondage across the N edge of the trench.

Within the largest trench was a monumental circular stone feature built into the bedrock lying within a larger lower enclosure. A defined 2.5m wide entranceway was revealed with large amounts of burnt material enclosed within. The artefact assemblage associated with this feature consisted of a stone lamp, lintel stone with possible pivot hole, cup-marked stones, shale bracelet fragments and prehistoric pottery.

A pond feature was also investigated. Little artefactual or structural evidence was discovered to help understand the construction or chronology of this feature; however, a palisade slot was discovered running through the trench.

The artefact assemblage of coarse-stone tools, pottery and metal objects, matched with the nature of the features investigated and suggests activity spanning from the Iron Age to the early historic period.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Funder:** Tay Landscape Partnership

**Excavation and survey in progress at Cranberry**
NO 01128 14149 (Canmore ID: 26699) The excavations at Cranberry (CB16), Millhaugh, undertaken 18 June – 10 November 2016, revealed evidence for settlement from the Early Neolithic, Late Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The recognised prehistoric structures, and features include putative Late Neolithic and Iron Age dwellings, sub-circular palisade enclosures, post alignment, post-defined palisades, slot-defined palisades, fire pits, midden pits and numerous other postholes and pits. The preliminary phasing of the site has been based on the typology of material culture recovered. The prehistoric pottery assemblage amounts to more than 650 sherds from across those archaeological periods, although the majority are Early Neolithic. A double cist indicates Bronze Age funerary practice at the site. There was also a pit cut through the internal paving of the Iron Age roundhouse into which was deposited cremated bones. This may mark the dwelling being taken out of use. A gradiometry survey was also carried out just to the north of the excavation area, revealing several possible archaeological features.

Archaeology: HES (intended). Report: HES and SERF website
Funder: HES
Website: www.glasgow.ac.uk/serf

Leadkettty: SERF
Excavation
Kenny Brophy – University of Glasgow

Excavation in progress at Leadkettty

The excavations at Millhaugh (CB16), Millhaugh, undertaken 18 June – 10 November 2016, revealed evidence for settlement from the Early Neolithic, Late Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The recognised prehistoric structures, and features include putative Late Neolithic and Iron Age dwellings, sub-circular palisade enclosures, post alignment, post-defined palisades, slot-defined palisades, fire pits, midden pits and numerous other postholes and pits. The preliminary phasing of the site has been based on the typology of material culture recovered. The prehistoric pottery assemblage amounts to more than 650 sherds from across those archaeological periods, although the majority are Early Neolithic. A double cist indicates Bronze Age funerary practice at the site. There was also a pit cut through the internal paving of the Iron Age roundhouse into which was deposited cremated bones. This may mark the dwelling being taken out of use. A gradiometry survey was also carried out just to the north of the excavation area, revealing several possible archaeological features.

Archaeology: HES (intended). Report: HES and SERF website
Funder: HES
Website: www.glasgow.ac.uk/serf

Millhaugh: SERF
Fieldwalking
Dene Wright – University of Glasgow
NO 00950 13980 Fieldwalking was undertaken during 2016 in the field where the Millhaugh cairn is located. SERF excavations directed by Kenny Brophy in 2014 revealed that it is a kerbed cairn and likely to date to the Bronze Age. The majority of the 39 lithics were recovered from the NE corner of the field in the vicinity of the Millhaugh cairn. None of the artefacts are diagnostic to a particular archaeological period. However, four flakes of grey-green indurated volcanic tuff were collected, one primary and three tertiary. The primary flake suggests that it was struck from a cobble. Further work needs to be done in establishing the source of this raw material.

Archaeology: HES (intended). Report: HES and SERF website
Funder: HES
Website: www.glasgow.ac.uk/serf

Forthevit
Kildinny
Metal detector find
Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland
NO 06 17 Metal detecting S of Kildinny recovered an Iron Age massive-style finger ring, its enamelled bezel with a yellow concave-sided diamond flanked by alternating red and yellow ovals.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 18/16), allocated to Perth Museum and Art Gallery

The Kildinny finger ring. Drawn by Marion O’Neil

Fortingall
Coire Thaochaidh
Field visit
George Currie
NN 64561 45354 On the western bank of the Allt Coire Thaochaidh at 660m OD a prominent rock bears five shallow cups, one with a ring, at its higher western end. Lower down to the E is a single cup and ring and under turf, there is certainly post-medieval field boundaries. This eclectic series of features has yet to produce radiocarbon dates, although the pit cluster may relate to the Iron Age activity already uncovered in the same vicinity rather than the Neolithic enclosure within which it is located.

Archaeology: HES (intended). Report: HES and SERF website
Funder: HES
Website: www.glasgow.ac.uk/serf
a group of five better preserved cup marks, three of which have prominent rings, the remaining two cups having less obvious rings.

Cup marks, one with a ring at Coire Thaochaidh

Drumcharry
Field visit
George Currie
NN 76130 48253 At the northern edge of a deciduous wood 250m NE of Drumcharry, a rock measuring 2.8 x 1.9 x 0.6m bears a dumb–bell motif; 1.1m to the W on the same rock are a group of small cup marks, one of which has a possible ring.

Glen Lyon Cottage, Invervar
Watching brief
John Lewis – Scotia Archaeology
NN 66491 48345 to NN 66473 48248 A watching brief was undertaken on 6 June 2016 during trenching for a new domestic water supply to Glen Lyon Cottage. The 110m long trench, which ran along the W edge of the 18th/19th-century industrial village of Invervar (SAM3388) recorded no finds or features of archaeological significance.
Archive and report: NRHE
Funder: Mr Philip Talbot

Lairig Breisleich
Field survey
Dugald MacInnes – Association of Certificated Archaeologists (ACFA)
NN 5680 4350 and NN 5600 4150 Survey work undertaken March – November 2016 identified two small groups of shieling huts in Lairig Breisleich, on the pass between Glen Lochay and Glen Lyon.
At an elevation of 550m OD and in an area of peat bog, a group of seven shieling huts were found and recorded. To the N and on the W side of Allt Breisleich, centred on NN 5640 4240, another group was found and most of the features recorded.
The results of the work will be published in a future ACFA occasional paper.
Archive: NRHE and Perth and Kinross Council

Fossoyway

Fossoyway Hill
Field visit
Stuart Farrell
NO 00880 02670 (centred on) A field system of turf dykes and a possible rectangular building, probably a farmstead, are visible on modern aerial photos. The building is aligned N/S, and the field system shows irregular shaped fields, likely to be of a pre-improvement date. The features are not shown on the 1st Edition OS 6" map of 1866.
Fowlis Wester

**Corrymuckloch 21**  
**Field visit**  
**George Currie**

NN 89427 35335 A rock, measuring 1.4 x 0.6 x 0.2m, located 800m N of Corrymuckloch Farmhouse and adjacent to the remains of a track to a nearby pylon, bears 26 cup marks, (at least 10 of which have single rings), and one roughly ovate marking, also with a surrounding groove. Despite signs of differential weathering, the preservation and depth of the markings is un-equalled among the other 20 marked rocks in the area, including those under turf. This is consistent with the rock having been well covered prior to having been moved. Images of the area and personal recollection confirm that the rock is not in situ, and has been moved to its present position sometime after the track to the pylon was removed, ie post Spring 2014.

**Kettins**

**Harris, Campmuir**  
**Watching brief**  
**Derek Hall**

NO 2188 3774 (NO23NW 5) A series of watching briefs was undertaken, 7 December 2015 – 5 March 2016, during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new house, garage and a septic tank on land 50m N of Harris, within the Roman Temporary Camp of Lintrose. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

**Archive:** NRHE  
**Funder:** Mr A Burrows and Ms L Harris

**Kinnoull**

**Deuchny Wood**  
**Survey**  
**Jamie Humble and Graeme Cavers – AOC Archaeology Group**

NO 15266 23679 (NO12SE 3) A topographic survey of the hillfort in Deuchny Wood was undertaken, 5–6 February 2016, as part of the Tay Landscape Partnership. The fort occupies the summit of a long low rise which is steep sided to the N and S with more gentle slopes to the E and W. Two lower terraces lie to the W on the same ridge as the fort. The fort now lies in a clearing, but has been previously forested, and the felling and removal of timber have severely affected the earthworks. The fort itself comprises a grassed over rampart that can be traced around the eastern end of the summit and encloses an area of 0.14ha. The rampart is preserved only in the E where it runs along the crest of the knoll and is up to 7m thick and 0.4m high.

An entrance lies in the E, indicated by a gap 2.4m wide, in the surviving stretch of rampart. On either side of the entrance passage are a number of large stones that may be in situ facing stones of the rampart. An area of protruding bedrock on the outer edge of the northern rampart terminal appears to have been quarried and terraced. A number of large stones lie on the continuation of the line of the entrance; however, they do not form a coherent structure and may be tumble from the rampart. At the bottom of the slope below the entrance there is a short stretch of ditch measuring 7m in width and 0.5m in depth. Lying outside of this ditch is a counterscarp bank up to 4m wide and 0.3m high.

The interior of the fort is rocky and uneven with bedrock protruding through the surface at a number of points. No evidence for internal structures is present, although these may be masked by the general uneven ground surface.

On the upper of the western terraces there is a double line of stones, which may be the remnants of a second western entrance. Boog-Watson (1923) reports two lines of stones curving across this middle terrace, which may have been further ramparts at the W of the hillfort. The whole hillfort appears to have been in a better state of preservation at the time of Boog-Watson’s survey with the rampart forming an almost continuous line around along the edge of the plateau.

**Archive:** NRHE  
**Funder:** Tay Landscape Partnership

**Kirkmichael**

**Lair:** Glenshee Archaeology Project  
**Survey and excavation**  
**David Strachan and David Sneddon – Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and Northlight Heritage**

NO 1387 6376 A fifth season of fieldwork, 2–21 June 2016, saw excavation of a single large trench over one of a complex of three adjacent longhouses that had previously been evaluated in 2015. The building exhibited many of the characteristics of the classic ‘Pitcarmick type’ with rounded ends, an external oval enclosure attached to one external wall and signs of a sunken internal area. The trench was opened over the western internal area of the westernmost longhouse and the internal area of the oval enclosure attached to its SW side. In addition to the large central pit uncovered in 2015, a further three large pits and one smaller pit were uncovered within this enclosure. Finds from here included a small broken whetstone and a large fragment of a circular grinding/sharpening stone. Excavation of the internal area of the adjacent longhouse revealed a central stone-built hearth which was situated on a sloping floor with the highest point at the SW end of the longhouse. Stone had been used to infill a sunken area at the lower NE end of the trench (roughly corresponding to the middle of the longhouse) resulting in a raised stone floor. A series of stakeholes were located beneath the edges of the raised stone floor. Significant finds included a large iron hook from next to the hearth and an iron spike from within the hearth. A series of samples have been recovered for radiocarbon dating, which will improve our understanding of early medieval turf longhouses in the area.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)  
**Funder:** Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, The Gannochy Trust, Historic Environment Scotland

**Logiealmond**

**Braco**  
**Field visit**  
**George Currie**

Cup marks on a rock at Braco
Logierait

Cloichfoldich, Strathtay

Evaluation
David Bowler – Alder Archaeology Ltd

NN 89478 53129 An evaluation was undertaken, 8 August 2016, in advance of a proposed housing development at Cloichfoldich, near the SM of Ballinduin Cairn and a cup-marked stone (SM4318). The machine excavation of four trenches recorded no finds or features of archaeological significance.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Mr and Mrs M Jennison

Longforgan

South Villa, Carmichael Farm, Longforgan

Watching brief
Derek Hall

NO 3052 3112 (NO33SW 50; NO33SW 39) Watching briefs were carried out, 8 March 2016, during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new house extension. A single undated cut feature was recorded.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Mr R and Mrs L Laing

Monzievaired and Strowan

Fordie Hydro

Watching brief
John Lewis – Scotia Archaeology

NN 79510 24573 to NN 79398 24628 A watching brief was undertaken on 15 July 2016 during topsoil stripping for the construction of a 140m long temporary access road to a dam on the Balmenoch Burn. The road crosses a barrow cemetery identified during an earlier walkover survey (DES 16, 148). Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered in the trench.

Archive and report: NRHE and PKHT
Funder: Dickins Hydro Resource Ltd

Perth

Canal Street

Evaluation
Stuart Wilson – AOC Archaeology Group

NO 11860 23349 An evaluation was carried out in July 2016 on an area of land at 40–48 Canal Street prior to development. Three trenches were machine excavated to investigate the possible presence of features beneath the foundations of a previous structure. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Robertson Partnership Homes

Mill Street, Perth

Standing building recording
David Bowler – Alder Archaeology

NO 1180 2370 A historic building survey was carried out, 12 July – 24 November 2016, in advance of the demolition of two adjacent red-brick industrial buildings at 19 Mill Street, and a single-storey building in the rear of 165 High Street. All three buildings stood near each other in the backlands on the N side of the High Street, and were accessed from Mill Street, historically serving as a back lane on the N side of High Street.

The two buildings at 19 Mill Street were of three-stories, and showed a long history of additions and alterations. The westernmost of the pair (Banks) incorporated fragments of earlier sandstone rubble structures at its SW corner, and had undergone a surprisingly ambitious alteration in steel and cast iron in the early- to mid-20th century. Both may also have been raised by one-storey.

The building at 165 High Street (Watsons) was a long, single-storey structure, originally a row of stables or garages, converted to storage late in the 20th century. A fragment of an earlier sandstone rubble building survived in its N gable-end wall. On the E side of the buildings there was an early sandstone rubble boundary wall, structurally separate from the building.

The three buildings show the density and complexity of small-scale industrial and commercial activity which once took place on the High Street backlands in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and the tendency to incorporate fragments of earlier structures.

The boundary wall E ofWatsons shows the tendency for the rigs of medieval urban burghs to take on a life of their own, independent of the buildings which stand on them, and for party and boundary walls to become ‘detached’ legally and physically, from the buildings on either side.

A watching brief on removal of foundations and floor slabs recorded garden soil under the floor of Banks, including reworked medieval deposits, and a similar soil underWatsons, but no significant archaeological remains near enough to the surface to be at risk from the present car park development.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Perth and Kinross Council

Riggs Road/Whitefriar Street, Perth

Excavation
Derek Hall

Plank lid of large wood-lined grave looking W

NO 1082 2380 (NO12SW 57) Excavations restarted on site in April 2016 following close down in December 2015 (DES 16, 149) due to inclement weather conditions. By November 2016 the burial count from the two phases of the church had risen to 206. A large wood-lined grave c2.5m² was located in the NW end of the extended church. On excavation this was found to contain three human burials, one of these had an iron bracelet on its left wrist and another had a wooden staff. Work outside the NE of the west range located a complex series of light industrial ovens and an associated charcoal
spread, which are thought to relate to on site welfare facilities for the builders of the church. Evidence for a water supply being fed to the site from Wellshill to the NW was located running under the floor of the extended church and through the former W end of the earlier church. Work continues at the time of writing.

Archives: NRHE
Funder: Manorgate Ltd

Redgorton

Luncarty

Evaluation

Stephen Cox – Headland Archaeology Ltd
NO 09460 29200 A trial trenching evaluation was carried out, 12–15 September 2016, on land S of Luncarty in advance of development. The trenches revealed ditches filled with cobbles, which were interpreted as evidence for attempts to improve the land in the post-medieval period.

Archives: NRHE
Funder: A and J Stephen Ltd

Pitcairngreen

Metal detector find

Alison Sheridan – National Museums Scotland
NO 06 27 A fragment from the blade end of a Late Bronze Age socketed axehead was found during metal detecting in 2015. The blade is shallow and the cross-section through the shaft is rectangular. There is a dent on one side, and minor chipping to the blade, with what looks to be some possible active corrosion at the blade. L: 27mm; W: 28.2mm.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (CO.TT.47/16), allocated to Perth Museum and Art Gallery
Funder: Perth Museum and Art Gallery

Redgorton

Metal detector find

Alice Blackwell – National Museums Scotland
NO 08 28 A disc-headed, copper-alloy pin was found during metal detecting in the vicinity of Redgorton. The pin has faint traces of decoration on the head and a collar between head and shaft, but the surface is badly corroded. On one side of the pin-head are the remains of a lozenge shape, and on the other a feature in the centre that may be the remains of a circular field. The circular-sectioned shaft tapers slightly (there is no hipping or decoration), is bent and the tip is missing. This pin is probably early medieval in date; examples are known in copper-alloy and bone from a range of Late Iron Age sites in Scotland and from Anglo-Saxon contexts.

Kilbarchan

Merchiston House, Brookfield

Evaluation

Kevin Paton – AOC Archaeology Group
NS 42075 64320 An evaluation was undertaken, 18–22 January 2016, in advance of a residential development on the grounds of the former Merchiston House. The work consisted of the excavation of trenches covering 8% of the previously undeveloped ground to the S and W of the former Merchiston Hospital buildings and associated infrastructure. The trenches demonstrated that the majority of the site had been disturbed by the previous hospital construction, with up to 2m of made ground overlying the underlying clays in some areas. In the SW corner of the site there were signs of undisturbed former soil horizons, but no archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.

Archives: NRHE (intended)
Funder: CGMS Consulting Ltd

Lochwinnoch

Semple Trail Heritage Project

Watching brief and standing building recording

Maureen C Kilpatrick – GUARD Archaeology Ltd
NS 37526 60141 A watching brief and Level 2 building survey were undertaken, 27 April 2015 – 25 March 2016, during the restoration and consolidation of the built remains that form part of the designed landscape of the Castle Semple Estate, Lochwinnoch.

The remains include an ice house, cave and three water cascade features located along the Blackditch Burn within Courtshaw Wood and are designated as Category B monuments of regional significance (NS36SE 9.10, NS36SE 9.11, NS36SE 9.12, NS36SE 9.13). The work revealed the method used to construct the structures, including evidence of decorative wrought iron work on the coping stones of the middle cascade, a possible decorative fountain within the upper cascade fish pond, and a stone-lined culvert leading from the cave into the burn.

Archives: NRHE and WoSAS
Funder: Renfrewshire Council, Historic Environment Scotland and Heritage Lottery Fund

Paisley

Blackhall Mill, Paisley

Standing building recording

Ariane Buschmann and Richard Newman – Wardell Armstrong Archaeology
NS 48842 63457 A Level 2 building survey was undertaken, 15–25 August 2016, of the Category C listed Blackhall Mill. Paisley was one of the largest centres of textile manufacture in Scotland during the 18th and 19th centuries, and focused on the production of cotton and silk. The greater part of this built historic heritage disappeared in the course of modernisation and urban extension in the 20th and 21st century.

The industrial mill buildings date from the mid-19th century, although several later alterations and extensions were made to the buildings. Blackhall Mill is a rare example of a purpose built silk throwing mill. Several phases of construction could be seen within the fabric. The site was extensively altered in the 20th century to accommodate modern fittings, which possibly caused a significant loss of its interior historic fabric. Following years of neglect, the buildings are in a mediocre to poor state, and some areas of structural instability are evident.

Archives: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Southwark Investments

RENFREWSHIRE

Erskine

Knockmountain, Kilmacolm

Walkover survey

Gemma Hudson and Graeme Cavers – AOC Archaeology Group
NS 3675 7145 A walkover survey was undertaken, 12–17 February 2015, of Knockmountain, in the Kilpatrick Hills. A total of 44 archaeological sites were recorded. They mainly related to the post-medieval agricultural use of the area with clearance cairns being the predominant site type recorded. A single possible hut circle was also recorded, suggesting the use of the area in the prehistoric period.

Archives: NRHE
Funder: Forestry Commission Scotland

PERTH AND KINROSS/RENFREWSHIRE

148 A’ LORG AGUS A’ CLADHACH AN ALBAINN
SCOTTISH BORDERS

Abbey St Bathans

Quixwood Moor Wind Farm, Grantshouse

Watching brief
Bob Will – GUARD Archaeology

NT 77806 64174 A watching brief was undertaken, 15 March – 8 April 2016, during the construction of a wind farm. A number of possible features were found across the site, including one containing sherds of prehistoric pottery.

Post-excavation analysis on the small pit containing the pottery produced a radiocarbon date of 2466–2286 BC, and research on the pottery sherds confirmed that they were from an All-Over Corded Beaker. The radiocarbon date places the pot in the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age transition or Copper Age, and compares well with similar vessels from across Scotland and the N of England. The botanical remains recovered consisted of charcoal from a variety of trees (birch, oak, hazel and willow), as well as cereal grains of barley, and hazel nutshell. The mixed nature of the charcoal material has been described as hearth waste, which is indicative of settlement and early farming in the area.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Quixwood Moor Ltd

Ayton

Metal detector finds
Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland

Iron Age fastener and bridle bit fragment from Ayton
(Drawn by Alan Braby)

NT 92 61 Two pieces of Iron Age harness gear found during metal detecting N of Ayton were claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 169/15) and allocated to National Museums Scotland. One (X.FA 139) is a button-and-loop fastener of Wild class III. The other is a very worn cheekpiece from a derivative three-link bit (X.FA 140). The finds may come from a dispersed hoard.

Ayton

Metal detector find
Alice Blackwell – National Museums Scotland

NT 92 61 Two facetted copper-alloy pin heads were found during metal detecting in the vicinity of Ayton. One has the wasted remains of a shank surviving and an undecorated, facetted head, while the other is decorated with circular depressions (but not ring-and-dot motifs). They are probably incomplete examples of an 8th/9th-century Anglo-Saxon pin type.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT/171/15), allocated to National Museums Scotland

Broughton, Glenholm and Kilbucho

Broughtonknowe

Standing building recording
Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group

NT 09470 39324 (Barn A, Bothy) and NT 09492 39346 (Barn B, Steading) A historic building survey was carried out, 29 July 2016, of two former barns in advance of conversion work. Both barns (a bothy and a steading range) form part of a wider farm complex which also includes another steading range to the W and a farmhouse to the N.

A settlement has existed at Broughtonknowe since at least the mid-18th century, although the first depiction of the site in its present layout is on the 1st Edition OS map of 1856. The steading ranges and farmhouse look to be contemporary, although the steading may have had a later stone partition built to separate a larger open L-shaped range. An open barn to the SW end may also be a later addition. The bothy to the S of the site is on a different alignment with different dressed stonework to the rest of the farm buildings, so may well be an earlier building, possibly re-using stonework from the nearby Langlawhill House, which was demolished c1810.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Mr and Mrs Muir

Castleton

Hermitage Castle and Chapel

Inventory of carved stone
Mary Márkus – Archetype

NY 49675 96047 (NY49NE 5) An inventory of this collection of 48 pieces was undertaken, July – September 2015. The castle collection includes a number of stones that probably came from the chapel, and further chapel stones have been set up beside the chapel itself, a short walk from the castle.
Stones that relate to castle doorways are represented in the collection, including a jamb and a voussoir, and stones of a similar type can still be seen in courtyard doorways.

Chapel stones include a cross-slab, and a significant group of window arches, jamb and sills, many of which have been rebuilt in a group of three pointed-arch windows adjacent to the remains of the chapel. Two pieces of window tracery also remain in the collection, each of which comes from the junction of a window arch with an angled bar of tracery. Glazing checks are cut in the reveals, and they are linked by virtue of the moulding profiles to other window stones on display.

This and other inventories of carved stones from Historic Environment Scotland's properties in care are held by the Collections Unit. For further information please contact collections@hes.scot

Long Knowe Cairn
Laser scan survey
Gemma Hudson and Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group
NY 52714 86218 A laser scan survey of Long Knowe Cairn (alternative name: Langknowe) was undertaken, 14 April 2016, for conservation management purposes. The cairn survives as an uneven, elongated pile of rubble, aligned N/S, measuring 52.6 x 13.5m at its widest points.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Forestry Commission Scotland

Cockburnspath
Glenfin Quarry Extension, Cockburnspath
Evaluation and geophysical survey
Samantha Hickman and Ian Suddaby – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NT 7770 6883 and NT 7829 6863 A 10% trial trenching evaluation (8322m²) of the Phase 1 evaluation area was carried out prior to a quarry extension. In addition, a further 4003m² was stripped as an open-area. A shallow ditch feature was identified in Trenches 5 and 7 which probably survived, preserving around half of a waisted enamelled plate structure to convert it into domestic accommodation. This reordering was characterised by the reuse of architectural features and fittings from multiple other buildings.

The Phase 2 works consisted of a geophysical survey and 5% evaluation adjacent to the SM of Ewieside Hillfort and a 10% evaluation of the remainder of the extension area. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded. This work was undertaken February – March 2016.
Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: NRHE and SMR
Funder: AMS Associates Ltd on behalf of Vinegar Quarries Ltd

Coldingham
Brookfield, The Bow, Coldingham
Watching brief
Ian Suddaby – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NT 904 659 A watching brief was carried out in April 2016 in advance of development. The area was considered of interest as is between Coldingham Priory and St Andrews Burn, which may have been canalised in the past. The work established that deep deposits of undated made ground were present. Very little natural subsoil was exposed. The findings suggest that the area had been terraced, probably during the construction of the current house.
Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: NRHE and SMR
Funder: A Walker per Mr and Mrs J Coulson

Cranshaws
The Stables, Cranshaws Farm
Standing building recording
Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 68232 61827 A standing building survey was undertaken, 21 October 2016, of the former stable block in advance of its renovation. Cranshaws Farm Steading was constructed between 1826 and 1862 to the NE of the ruins of Cranshaws Castle, which dates from the 14th/16th centuries. It was built as a self-contained courtyard steading accompanied by a large farmhouse to the SW, and consists of four distinct blocks, including at least two stable blocks and other barns. Later conversions to cow byres also took place within the stable buildings, but the original ventilation windows to the westernmost block still survive intact.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: BH Sporting Ltd

Earlston
Cowdenknowes
Metal detector find
Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland
NT 58 37 An unusual enamelled Roman brooch fragment was found near Cowdenknowes. Only the central portion survives, preserving around half of a waisted enamelled plate with a rectangular bar at its base. L: 26.5mm; W: 21.5mm; H: 7mm.
Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 16/16), allocated to National Museums Scotland (X.FT 163)

Earlston
Metal detector find
Alison Sheridan – National Museums Scotland
NT 58 38 A fragment (blade end) of a heavily-corroded Early Bronze Age flat axehead, probably of copper alloy, was found in 2016 during metal detecting. Most of the surface is missing.
Claimed as Treasure Trove (CO.TT.21/16), allocated to National Museums Scotland
Funder: National Museums Scotland

Fluthers Cottage, South Croft, Earlston
Standing building recording and evaluation
Kenneth Macfadyen – Addyman Archaeology
NT 57632 38489 (Canmore ID: 230801) A programme of archaeological work was carried out, 29 April 2014 – 22 September 2015, at Fluthers Cottage prior to its renovation and extension. The building had a rare surviving thatched and, as such, was Category B listed.

The building was surveyed both internally and externally in plan and elevation. The structure showed two major building phases. The first phase consisted of a plain ‘barn,’ possibly of 18th- to early 19th- century construction, and the second phase (mid- to late-19th century) a reordering of the structure to convert it into domestic accommodation. This reordering was characterised by the reuse of architectural features and fittings from multiple other buildings.

A section was excavated through the existing thatch showing the thatch to be relatively modern (19th century?) and of a single phase with a large secondary patch on the N pitch.

Further works involved the monitoring of foundation trenching for an extension. This exposed the early ground sloping down to the S, as well as historic and modern levelling of the site. No artefacts earlier than the 19th century were found.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Mr J Halliday
Ednam

Easter Hendersyde Gate Lodge, near Kelso
Standing building recording
Mike Cressey – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NT 75189 36354 An enhanced standing building survey was carried out, February 2016, on a former gate lodge belonging to the Hendersyde Park Estate. When built in c1840 the lodge occupied an L-shaped footprint; it was altered about 1898. By 1921 it been altered again with a square footprint. The subsequent construction of a toilet, kitchen and bedroom extension produced a near square footprint. A porch was probably added in the 1960s. In the 1980s a timber-framed first floor was added. The building was totally modernised and refurbished after this date with new PVC windows added recently (c2012).

Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: NRHE and SMR
Funder: Mr E Beck

Edrom

Blackadder West Farm, Duns
Evaluation
Jenni Morrison – Addyman Archaeology
NT 84400 52358 An evaluation was carried out, 2 June 2015, in advance of the construction of a new house (Plot 6). Three trenches were excavated and two contained only modern deposits. An area of large stone rubble was recorded at the SE end of Trench 3; however, there were no associated finds and it was not possible to determine its function.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: C and K Sinclair

Tofthill, Allanton, Duns
Evaluation and standing building survey
Ewan MacNeillage and Michael Cressey – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NT 858 544 A programme of archaeological work was carried out, October 2015, on land E of Tofthill in advance of the construction of a new house on land E of Tofthill. The house was constructed on the site of Allanbank House, which was designed by David Bryce in the mid-19th century and demolished in 1968. Historical records indicate that the 19th-century house replaced an earlier 17th/18th-century house and that prior to this it had been the location of East Nisbet Castle. The excavation of five trial trenches identified the remains of Allanbank House but nothing of the earlier structures.

As part of the redevelopment of the site a small remaining part of Allanbank House had to be demolished. A basic survey of the remains established that these elements were situated in what would have been the corner of the Moffat coach road. Presently, the cairn lies in commercial forestry which had begun to encroach on the monument. Adopt-a-Monument worked with the Peeblesshire Archaeological Society, 23 February 2014 – 15 September 2016, to clear the monument remains for walkers and visitors using the old coach road. The heather and the self-seeded saplings within the area of the cairn were removed so that the features were easily visible again, but grass and moss was left in place so that the site would still appear as a field monument.

Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: NRHE and SMR
Funder: C and I Crosby

Eyemouth

Hallydown
Metal detector find
Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland
NT 93 64 Metal detecting near Hallydown recovered the lower part of an enamelled Romano-British fantail brooch,
decorated with a reserved pelta design with two lozenges on the bow and traces of 3rd enamel (L: 20.5mm).

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 170/15), allocated to National Museums Scotland (X.FT 158)

An enamelled Romano-British fantail brooch (Drawn by Alan Braby)

Fala and Soutra

Soutra

Stray find

Trevor Cowie – National Museums Scotland

NT 4530 5800 Cup-and-ring-marked stone, comprising an irregular fragment of weathered rock with most of the relatively flat upper surface occupied by a well preserved series of five concentric penannular rings, interrupted by a radial groove and surrounding a central cup; all the work has been done by pecking. The outermost ring is interrupted where it meets the edges of the stone suggesting that the fragment has been detached (in the past) from a larger boulder or outcrop. Overall dimensions of stone: 350 x 300mm; Th: 250mm; overall diameter of motif c200mm.

Originally found in 2005, the discovery of the fragment had previously been notified by Walter Elliot (NT45NE 53) but it was not at that time reported as Treasure Trove. Given the vulnerability of portable carved stones remaining in private hands to loss or damage, the decision of the finder to report this important piece of rock art from the region is very much to be welcomed.

This is not the first fragment of prehistoric rock art to have been found in the immediate locality: two slabs found at nearby Soutra Aisle appear to have been used as building stones in the medieval hospital (NT45NE 20). Taken together, these various finds suggest that one or more local outcrops bearing significant panels of prehistoric rock art may have been destroyed without record in the course of later stone quarrying, possibly as early as the medieval period. They also hold out the possibility of further discoveries in among field stones or in local dykes.

Further evidence for prehistoric activity in the immediate locality has also been revealed by recent excavations by GUARD Archaeology on the summit of Soutra Hill, including an Early Bronze Age cairn and a timber circle (NT45NE 9).

Claimed as Treasure Trove (CO.TT.157/15), allocated to National Museums Scotland

Funder: National Museums Scotland

Galashiels

Manse Street, Galashiels

Evaluation

Magnus Kirby – CFA Archaeology Ltd

NT 4838 3643 A trial trenching evaluation was carried out, July 2016, in advance of the construction of a new house. Cartographic evidence suggested that the area was agricultural land prior to it becoming part of a manse garden when the surrounding area was developed during the second half of the 19th century. On site there was evidence that the garden had been landscaped, with much of it consisting of a rectangular levelled area. A number of rubble field drains were uncovered, but no features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.

Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: SMR

Funder: Mr G Brown

Hawick

Braxholme

Metal detector find

Martin Goldberg – National Museums Scotland

NT 46 12 A cut fragment of silver ingot (dimensions: 16 x 11 x 9mm, weight: 9.5g). The shape indicates it has been cast in an open mould, and it has the standard attributes of an early medieval type. At present state of knowledge these can only be given a relatively broad date range across this period.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 220/15), allocated to National Museums Scotland

Clarilaw Hill

Metal detector find

Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland

NT 52 17 An enamelled Romano-British headstud brooch was found during metal detecting on Clarilaw Hill. It has a hinged pin and integrally case headstud with a reserved dot surrounded by red enamel, and stepped arms. The bow was enamelled with a strip of central lozenges flanked by triangles, but the enamel is lost or obscured. Unusually, the catchplate has been repaired, with two rivets retaining a sheet. The brooch has been bent through 90°, probably deliberately; it may have been sacrificed. L: 33mm (originally c45mm), W: 16.5mm, H: 25mm. Its proximity to Iron Age sites suggests it came into local hands.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 141/15), allocated to National Museums Scotland (X.FT 159)

Wilton Mills, Commercial Road, Hawick

Survey and watching brief

Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group

NT 50298 15131 A historic building survey and structural watching brief were undertaken, 18–26 May 2016, on the remains of the wheel pit and mill lades associated with the former Wilton Mills, in advance of the development of a supermarket and car park. Wilton Mills was demolished in 2011, and the site has since lain empty.

After demolition, the only remains were the mill lade system and a few upstanding building foundations to the W of the site. The markings left on the walls of the main wheel pit identified at least three phases of waterwheels at Wilton dating to the 19th century, including an undershot wheel, a breast shot wheel and a poncelet wheel. The three mill lades that were identified consisted of the main E/W lade running the whole length of the site (and beyond), and two smaller mill lades to the S as overflow lades. These were
bricked up in the later 20th century. A 3D laser scan survey was undertaken of the remains, together with a written and photographic survey. An element of archive research was also undertaken on the site to identify the general history and development of the site, which further added to previous interpretations of the site and its mill lade system by GUARD in 2000.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)
**Funder:** Wilton Mills Ltd

**Heriot**

**Gala View Bungalow, Falahill Farm**

**Watching brief**

*Jenni Morrison – Addyman Archaeology*

NT 39176 56081 A watching brief was carried out, 22 August 2016, during machine stripping of the area to the W of Gala View Bungalow in advance of construction of a house. A number of modern machine excavated pits containing animal remains were uncovered. A rubble-filled field drain was recorded running diagonally across the SE corner of the trench. A small quantity of modern pottery sherds was observed within the topsoil.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)
**Funder:** Mark Kibble

**Hownam**

**Beirhope Farm Hownam**

**Desk-based assessment and survey**

*Jenni Morrison and Tom Addyman – Addyman Archaeology*

NT 7576 1899 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were carried out, 31 August – 1 September 2015, in advance of proposed woodland planting around Beirhope Farm. The DBA identified 27 possible sites and 21 were identified during the walkover survey, with an additional four further sites recorded. It is recommended that all sites identified on the ground are avoided during the planting process, with the limits of the sites physically marked out. Two pre-improvement farmsteads were located and identified as of moderate significance. Mitigation measures will be required to ensure these remain unaffected by the development.

**Archive:** NRHE
**Funder:** UPM Tillhill

**Churchfield House and Cottage**

**Evaluation**

*Anthony Taylor – Headland Archaeology Ltd*

NT 7781 1934 An evaluation was undertaken on 27th July 2016 on the site of a proposed development for two houses in Hownam. Two 25m long trenches were excavated across the area but no finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)
**Funder:** Mr M Gamble and Ms S Rigg

**Hownam Mains, Kelso**

**Standing building survey**

*Kenneth Macfadyen – Addyman Archaeology*

NT 7812 2027 (NT72SE 50.1) A programme of historical research and building recording was undertaken, 4–5 May 2015, on the c19th-century quadrangular farm steading of Hownam Mains, in advance of its conversion into four houses.

Historical research identified an estate plan of 1826 showing the plan and elevations of the steading. It is assumed that the buildings were constructed shortly thereafter. By the time of the 2nd Edition OS survey of 1896 a mill, with associated lade and dam, had been constructed in the NE corner of the complex. The buildings as they stand today show minor alterations in the form of blocked openings and alterations to internal subdivisions. Evidence of the mill workings is no longer visible. It is possible that remains of the workings survive at basement and sub-basement levels which have now been infilled.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)
**Funder:** Roxburghe Estate

**Woden Law**

**Metal detector find**

*Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland*

NT 77 12 An enamelled Romano-British headstud brooch was found near the hillfort of Woden Law during metal detecting. It has a sprung pin, integrally-cast headstud and enamelled design of red and blue squares.

**Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 218/15), allocated to National Museums Scotland (X.FT 157)**

**Innerleithen**

**Horsburgh Ford Cottages**

**Evaluation**

*Gary Savory – CFA Archaeology Ltd*

NT 29673 39259 (centred on) An evaluation undertaken, April 2016, in advance of a proposed development on land W of the cottages identified a number of archaeological features. Three large pits were recorded; they were roughly on an E/W alignment and roughly parallel to the A72. From their location it would seem to plausible to suggest that they might have been quarry pits for the purported Roman road that follows the line of the A72 at this point. However, they were all quite shallow and would not have yielded large quantities of construction materials.

The majority of the other features identified were small sub-circular pit-like features. These were present in most trenches but formed no discernible pattern. One of the pits contained Early Neolithic pottery.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended), Report: NRHE and SMR
**Funder:** Justin Lamb Associates

**Jedburgh**

**Bonjedward**

**Geophysical survey**

*Susan Ovenden – Rose Geophysical Consultants*

NT 6565 2368 A gradiometer survey was carried out, 29 November 2016, over the location of a suspected Roman camp/fort. The location of the postulated fort was based on topographic, aerial and other survey data. The site is on the outskirts of the medieval village, now within pasture fields. The survey covered an area of 1.4ha.

There was a very high level of magnetic response across the survey area. This is thought to be due to modern fired and ferrous material within the topsoil. No anomalies clearly consistent with a Roman fort were identified in the data. Although some trends were noted, which coincide with the position of the postulated fort, these are thought to be due to former field boundaries and topographic changes. However, some anomalies consistent with possible ditch-like features were noted, which may be archaeologically significant.

**Archive:** Rose Geophysical Consultants
**Funder:** Walter Elliot
Jedburgh Flood Prevention Scheme
Watching brief
Claire Shaw – GUARD Archaeology Ltd
NT 64887 20546 A watching brief was undertaken, 14 September – 11 November 2015, during ground-breaking work associated with the construction of a flood prevention scheme at Skiprunning Burn, Burn Wynd, Jedburgh. Four areas were monitored but no archaeological deposits were noted.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Scottish Borders Council

Larkhall Steading
Standing building recording
Jenni Morrison – Addyman Archaeology
NT 63697 20002 A programme of archaeological work was undertaken, 4–10 October 2016, in advance of possible refurbishment/conversion work to create four houses. A watching brief around the steading, in front of the farmhouse and along the access track to the S found no features or artefacts predating the steading and farmhouse. An area of disturbed cobbles uncovered between the farmhouse and the W range of buildings indicated the steading had previously had a cobbled yard. A concrete base with the remains of a timber post set in it was also found in this area, reflecting an earlier layout of the steading buildings.

The building survey of the steading established how the buildings were adapted and altered over time to suit the requirements of the farm during a period of rapid change in farming practices. The most interesting aspect of the survey was in relation to the farmhouse, though at this stage it is not possible to draw any definite conclusions about the phasing. There was evidence within the building to suggest that the addition on the NE side actually predated the main farmhouse.
Archive: NRHE
Funder: Lothian Estates

Kelso
River Tweed, Kelso

Watching brief
Steven Watt – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 723 339 A watching brief was undertaken, 9 June 2016, during work in advance of construction of a fishing hut. The excavation of a new cattle grid, 12.0 x 9.0m, with small drain and soak-away, revealed a shallow sandy topsoil over a mid orange-brown silty sand. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Seed and Co

Roxburgh Street, Kelso

Evaluation
Kevin Paton – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 72645 34110 An evaluation was undertaken, 29 September 2015, in advance of a proposed residential development at three co-joining plots of land at Roxburgh Street and Union Street. The presence of services and other access issues led to the planned 10% trial trenching evaluation of the 1800m² area to be reduced to seven trenches, of varying lengths and covering a total of 81m². All of the areas contained gravel overlying made ground which lay directly over the natural subsoil. A basement area and a large pit were found within the Roxburgh Street car park. The pit may relate to earlier medieval activity on the site, but the full extents could not be excavated due to its size and depth.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Eildon Housing

Langton
West Gavinton, Duns
Evaluation
Damion Churchill and Frank Giecco – Wardell Armstrong Archaeology
NT 76675 52015 A evaluation was undertaken, 8–12 February 2016, on land at West Gavinton in advance of proposed development. The area was considered sensitive as it lies close to a scheduled monument and cropmarks of potential archaeological significance. The evaluation involved the excavation of 14 50m long by 2.1m wide evaluation trenches, totalling 1519m² of excavation across the proposed development area. The work recorded probable post-medieval tile-pipe and cobble infilled land drains, and modern services were located in Trenches 9, 10 and 14.
Archive: NRHE
Funder: D Seed

Legerwood
Legerwood Steading, Earlson
Desk-based assessment, building recording and watching brief
Jenni Morrison – Addyman Archaeology
NT 58635 43309 A programme of archaeological work was undertaken, 24 February – 2 September 2016, at Legerwood Steading in advance of its partial redevelopment into a house. The steading dates to either the late 18th or more probably the early 19th century. It was largely constructed and conceived as a single phase, though later minor alterations were carried out as changes in agricultural practices required. The extensions and more major alterations involved extending upwards, with the construction of additional storeys. The overall layout of the steading has changed remarkably little from what we see on the 1st Edition OS survey of 1857. The steading is very typical of the large well-built steadings that are common across the lowlands of Scotland in the late 18th and early 19th centuries at the peak of the agricultural improvements.

The watching brief carried out in the field to the S of the steading during excavations for services recorded no finds or features of archaeological significance.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Mr P Scott Aiton

Maxton
Littledean Tower
Metal detector find
Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland
NT 63 31 Metal detecting near Littledean Tower, close to an Iron Age fort, uncovered an Iron Age copper alloy dumb-bell fastener (L: 16mm; D: 8.5mm).
Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 217/15), allocated to National Museums Scotland (X.FA 141)

Maxton
Metal detector find
Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland
NT 61 30 Two Romano-British brooch fragments were found in a field near Maxton. They were claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 215/15) and allocated to National Museums Scotland. One (X.FT 156) is a tapering T-shaped brooch with hinged pin; the other (X.FT 155) is the head of a trumpet brooch with integrally-cast Celtic-style decoration.
**Maxton**

*Trevor Cowie – National Museums Scotland*

NT 61 30 A fragment (blade end) of an Early Bronze Age developed flat axehead was found during metal detecting in 2014. The edges are hammered up and there are traces of extremely worn punched ornament surviving on the faces of the blade. The object is worn and corroded; L: 45mm.

During the later part of the Early Bronze Age, some bronze axeheads were singled out for special treatment by being embellished with ornamentation in various ways in order to create objects that must have enjoyed a status well beyond that of everyday tool. Owing to the loss of the butt portion, the axehead cannot be classified in detail, but it clearly belongs to a series of axehead types (Aylesford/Glenalla/Falkland) current during the period from c1900–1700BC, amongst which decoration is common. Although extremely heavily worn, the faces of this axehead have been ornamented with a punched zig-zag design so its present incomplete and corroded condition belies the fact that this would originally have been a significant prestige item. The total inventory of decorated Early Bronze Age axeheads from SE Scotland is limited; moreover, as older finds often lack good provenances, this new discovery has the distinct merit of having a well-recorded location.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (CO.TT.216/15), allocated to National Museums Scotland

Funder: Bill Burns

**Melrose**

*Darnick*

*Metal detector survey*

*Steven Watt – AOC Archaeology Group*

NT 531 342 A metal detector survey was undertaken, 1 June 2016, on land N of Lye Road, Darnick, in advance of development work. The work recovered no finds and this may be due in part to extensive landscaping undertaken in the creation of the cottages and gardens along the Lye Road.

Archive: NRHE (intended)

Funder: Mr P Burns

*Hareset, near Melrose*

*Watching brief*

*Lindsay Dunbar – AOC Archaeology Group*

NT 52380 33426 A watching brief was undertaken, 6 April 2016, during the creation of a forestry access track. The work was considered of interest as it is close to the site of Huntlyburn House (NT53SW 10), an earthwork fort in the general area. The identification of the drain means that there is the possibility in future of fully tracing its line (perhaps remotely) and thus establishing its relationship to other features within the abbey precinct. It was also noted that, despite the potential for collapse, the drain has been taking the weight of the vehicular traffic on the access road to the yard. It also appeared to be unaffected by the insertion of the previous gate post.

Archive: NRHE (intended)

Funder: Historic Environment Scotland

**Netherdale – Galashiels Overhead Line**

*Watching brief*

*Magnar Dalland – Headland Archaeology Ltd*

NT 5398 3446 – NT 5727 3566 A watching brief was carried out, 22 August – 6 October 2016, within archaeologically sensitive areas during the replacement of electrical wooden poles as part of the project to rebuild an overhead power line. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended)

Funder: SPIE Distribution and Transmission

**Newstead Melrose**

*Watching brief*

*Stuart Wilson – AOC Archaeology Group*

NT 55520 34508 A watching brief was undertaken, 15 June 2016, during ground-breaking work associated with the installation of a pipeline for a waste water treatment works. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended)

Funder: Scottish Water Specialist Delivery Service

**Old Melrose House**

*Watching brief*

*Alan Hunter Blair – GUARD Archaeology Ltd*

NT 58809 33967 (NT53SE 23) A watching brief was carried out, 8 August 2016, during topsoil stripping for a new car park and access road around the E edge of a former gardener’s cottage and immediately S of the walled garden at Old Melrose House. Garden features, a truncated gravel surface, and a fragmentary human skull, were recorded along with 13 fragments of bone some of which may be human. Spreads of demolition debris, possibly landscaping deposits, were found along the access road to the car park aligned E/W to the E of Old Melrose House. The work was undertaken in accordance with the conditions of scheduled monument consent and the police were informed of the discovery of the skull. The decision was made to protect the remains and to leave them in situ under a protective layer of geotextile and sand.

Archive: NRHE (intended)

Funder: William Younger
Ravenswood House, Melrose

Watching brief

Kevin Paton – AOC Archaeology Group

NT 57876 34160 A watching brief was undertaken, 11 May – 15 June 2016, during excavations relating to the construction of a service track leading to a biomass boiler. The only features recorded were modern land drains, water pipes and electrical cables.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Mr and Mrs D Sawrij

St Dunstan’s House, Melrose

Watching brief

Kevin Paton – AOC Archaeology Group

NT 54548 34112 (NT53SW 180) A watching brief was carried out, 6 April – 23 May 2016, in advance of development of land at St Dunstan’s House. The work uncovered made ground and concrete slab features. The first concrete slab overlay a rounded cobbled stone layer which in overlay a further tarmac/concrete layer and Type 1 stone.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Martin Associates

Waverley Gardens, Darnick

Evaluation and metal detector survey

Steven Watt – AOC Archaeology Group

NT 532 342 A programme of archaeological work was undertaken, 15 July 2016, in advance of development work on land at Waverley Gardens. A metal detector survey and the excavation of three evaluation trenches, covering 55 linear metres, found no finds or features of archaeological significance.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: A and J Prentice

Mertoun

Dryburgh Mains, Dryburgh

Watching brief

Stuart Mitchell – CFA Archaeology Ltd

NT 58437 32300 (centred on) A watching brief was undertaken, March – July 2016, during the construction of a fishing hut and access track. The site is on the N bank of the River Tweed in an area known for lithic finds. The formation level of the access track did not reach natural subsoil. The fishing hut area was heavily bioturbated by tree roots. No archaeological deposits or features were identified and no lithics were found.

Archive: NRHE (intended), Report: NRHE and SMR
Funder: Savills per Upper Dryburgh Fishing Partnership

Minto

Hassendean Bank

Metal detector find

Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland

NT 55 19 A very worn and distorted small enamelled trumpet brooch was found during metal detecting near Hassendean Bank. It has traces of enamel in La Tène style curvilinear decoration (comma scroll and two triangles). L: 24mm (originally c35mm).

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 15/16), allocated to National Museums Scotland (X.FT 162)

Knowetownhead Steading

Standing building recording and watching brief

Diana Sproat – AOC Archaeology Group

NT 54428 18474 A historic building survey and watching brief were undertaken, 18 June 2015, in advance of the renovation of the steading. The original steading was constructed in the late 18th century, although it has undergone many changes since that time.

At the time of survey it consisted of three barns, including an L-shaped threshing barn, a large covered cow byre and a modernised tractor shed with a raised concrete floor. Two carved pieces of stonework are embedded high up in the exterior wall of the cow byre, one an Agnus Dei and one with a date stone of 1628. They could possibly come from the nearby Hassendean Church, which was demolished in the 1690s, although the 1628 date stone is at odds with this theory as the church would have been ruined by this time. Hence this stone may have come from a nearby dwelling which was demolished in advance of the farm’s construction and the rubble reclaimed.

The structural watching brief consisted of an inspection of the previously rendered walls after removal of the render, the demolition of a gable wall in one of the earlier barns, and the partial removal of the SW wall of the larger barn to the NE of the site. No new carved stones were discovered.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Mr W Harris

Newlands

Kelly Heads, Halmyre, West Linton

Evaluation

Kevin Mooney – GUARD Archaeology Ltd

NT 1887 4909 An evaluation was carried out, 14 January – 4 February 2016, in advance of proposed woodland planting at Kelly Heads. The evaluation investigated two cropmarks identified from aerial photographs. No archaeological features or remains were uncovered, and the cropmarks may relate to recent agricultural activities.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Lennox Consultants

Peebles

Rosetta Holiday Park, Rosetta Road

Geophysical survey and evaluation

Magnus Kirby – CFA Archaeology Ltd

NT 2410 4151 A geophysical survey and trial trenching evaluation were carried out, November 2015, on land SE and W of the Rosetta Holiday Park in advance of its relocation. A number of the trenches were located to target anomalies identified during the earlier geophysical survey. The anomalies that were tested appeared to be due to variations in the sub-surface geology. No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified.

Archive: NRHE (intended), Report: NRHE and SMR
Funder: Aberdeen Asset Management

Selkirk

Selkirk Flood Prevention Scheme

Watching brief and metal detector survey

Alan Hunter Blair – GUARD Archaeology Ltd

NT 45973 28439 (centred on) A watching brief and survey were carried out, 23 February – 24 September 2015, on designated areas of ground at Riverside, Philiphaugh, Long Philip Burn and Bannerfield, areas forming parts of the Selkirk Flood Prevention Scheme (FPS), regarded as potentially archaeologically sensitive.

Foundations of a 20th-century demolished building and the
remnants of a mill lade along with extensive areas of made ground, containing numerous 19th and 20th-century bottles and ceramics, associated with the development of 19th-century mills and a railway station were recorded at Riverside.

A millennium time capsule containing newspapers, cards and other items celebrating the 20th century and buried in 1999 was found at the NE end of the Riverside section of work.

A relict mill lade and a cairn-like structure were recorded at Philiphaugh, a small pit and an animal (pig) burial were recorded at Long Philip Burn, along with minor elements of the demolished Philiphaugh Farm. Twelve traction engine wheels were recovered from the Ettrick Water during dredging operations forming part of the flood prevention work at Bannerfield.

A metal detector survey along the route recovered a musket ball, possible pistol shot, copper alloy buttons and coins dating from the 17th century along with numerous undiagnostic items; some of the items may derive from the Battle of Philiphaugh (1645).

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** RJ McLeod

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**SHETLAND ISLANDS**

**Dunrossness**

**Jarlshof**

**Geophysical survey**

Susan Ovenden – Rose Geophysical Consultants

HU 39819 09551 A programme of geophysical survey was undertaken, 20–29 April 2016, over the western half of the site of Jarlshof. The work forms part of wider investigation of the site which aims to answer research questions and inform work to improve rabbit fencing and assess damage. A combination of gradiometer, resistance and ground penetrating radar (GPR) surveys was undertaken over c0.5ha. To aid interpretation of the data, and to topographically correct the GPR data, a limited topographic survey was also undertaken.

The gradiometer survey results revealed a much quieter level of response than one might expect at such a site, but some anomalies consistent with possible midden deposits have been noted. Although the resistance survey has identified numerous anomalies consistent with possible structural remains, interpretation is cautious. It is not clear if the anomalies detected indicate buried in situ remains or are simply due to past excavations, site consolidation and landscaping. The GPR survey has broadly mirrored the results of the resistance survey. However, much additional information has been provided. In particular, a series of curving linear anomalies has been detected which are thought to represent a network of possible former paths.

All the data sets suggest that the site does not extend any great distance beyond the currently exposed archaeology. However, well defined anomalies have been detected in the NW of the survey area, but it is not clear if these are archaeological in origin, due to rabbit activity, past excavation and landscaping, or a combination of all of these factors.

**Archive:** Rose Geophysical Consultants

**Funder:** Historic Environment Scotland

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**Lerwick**

**North Stane Hill**

**Survey and excavation**

Rick Barton – Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology

HU 46450 41938 (centred on) A programme of excavation, plus earthwork and photographic surveys of sites of archaeological
and cultural heritage interest was undertaken, 9–27 May 2016, in advance of a proposed housing development. Previous work had identified 40 sites of archaeological interest, of which 16 were identified for evaluation by excavation. Six of these were shown were shown to be natural.

Site 11 – Earthwork/dyke (prehistoric) Consisted of a linear arrangement of boulders across the hillside for over 150m. The feature represents the remains of a dyke or boundary of probable prehistoric date. Excavation identified upright tabular sandstone boulders set directly onto bedrock, or lying flat within the peat representing toppled uprights and packing stones.

Site 16 – Earthwork (date uncertain) Consisted of a spread of loose angular rubble measuring c2m in diameter. It is possible that this material has accumulated within a natural fissure forming between outcrops of bedrock.

Site 21 – Structure (post-medieval) Consisted of a sub-rectangular building, 5 x 4m, constructed against a large outcropping of bedrock with a roughly coursed dry stone wall to the S and stone revetted earthworks forming the S and N sides. The interior of the structure was filled with rubble partially covered by peaty turf. This was probably a temporary shelter relating to late 18th or early 19th century. Finds of corrugated iron sheeting indicate that it was later reused as a defensive position in WW2.

Site 22 – Earthwork (modern) Consists of a WW1 slit trench measuring 7m long by 1m wide and 0.45m deep.

Site 24 – Earthwork (modern) A sub-circular cut measuring 5m in diameter by 1.2m deep with a 2.4m long by 0.6m high reinforced concrete loop-holed wall across the side of the feature and a 13m long drain running downslope. Archival evidence suggests that this was dug in WW1 and was then reused and enhanced during WW2 to form a machine gun position.

Site 25 – Earthwork (modern) A sub-circular WW2 machine gun position measuring 6m in diameter and 1.2m deep with an 11m long drain running downslope.

Site 26 – Earthwork (modern) A zig-zag slit trench dating to the WW1, measuring 1m deep and dug into an earthwork measuring 1m high above ground level and measuring 20m long.

Site 27 – Earthwork (post-medieval) A small sub-rectangular enclosure, 8 x 6.5m, probably dating to the 18th century and later reused in WW1 and WW2.

Site 28 – Structure (modern)

Site 29 and 30 – Structure (modern) Site 29 is a WW2 observation post (Canmore ID: 115440), consisting of a concrete bunker and subterranean accommodation/air raid shelter. The bunker measured 3 x 1.5m with an entrance aperture on the S elevation and viewing ports on the S, E and N elevations. There was a communicating passage between the bunker and the lower subterranean structure (Site 30). The subterranean structure, 9.2 x 3m, was built from ribbed ironwork supports and concrete blocks. This building was divided into three compartments with a vertical access hatch at the N end and an entrance in the S elevation.

Sites, 29 and 30 are partially buried within made ground and exposed rubble formed during the construction of the observation post by cutting directly into the hillside. The exposed boulders are likely to have been arranged in order to aid concealment from the air.

Site 31 – Structure/earthworks (prehistoric/uncertain) Consists of a spread of earthfast stone and earthworks located at the summit of the hill, representing multiple structural features with cellular and linear elements. Three trenches revealed a roughly circular cairn structure with a possible chamber in its centre. The interior of the chamber
was filled with rubble overlain by a concrete survey marker relating to the nearby WW2 features. Numerous finds of quartz pebbles were concentrated in a single location and are likely to have been deliberately deposited. A flake of possible struck quartz was also recovered from this feature. To the N of the cairn, another trench targeted a curvilinear feature and identified structural elements and associated deposits. A topographic survey indicated that there may be a complex of cellular features in this area. These features are likely to have been frequently disturbed due to their exposure within the landscape and proximity to the WW2 observation post.

Site 32 – Structure (post-medieval/modern) A rectangular dry stone structure, 7.5 x 4.0m. The structural components consisted of well-coursed sandstone revetments against earthworks with a dividing double faced wall keyed into the main N/S wall, forming two equally sized rooms. A trench spanning the two rooms was excavated. The full depth of the structure was not investigated. The evaluation exposed 8–9 courses of stonework at a depth of 0.9m. A sondage through the earthworks around the outside of the structure established that it had been formed on top of a turf layer overlying naturally forming peat deposits at a similar level to the present land surface. It is likely that this building was a temporary shelter, dating to the later 18th or early 19th century.

Site 33 – Mound (date uncertain) Consisted of a well-defined mound measuring 8m in diameter and 1.5m high with several earthfast stones protruding from the topsoil. Two trenches were excavated over the feature – Trench 1, 4.9 x 1.5m, over the SW quadrant, and Trench 2, 3.0 x 1.5m, over the NW quadrant.

The feature mainly consisted of extensively disturbed peaty deposits overlain by a curvilinear kerb around the SE side of the mound. It probably relates to post-medieval and crofting period peat stripping.

Site 34 – Earthwork (modern) A regular sub-rectangular depression, 4m by 1.5m deep. Excavation showed that it consisted of a hollow cut into the slope of the hillside, revetted by loose rubble, associated with the WW2 defensive infrastructure.

Site 37 – Structure (medieval/post-medieval) A D-shaped enclosure measuring c10m in diameter located against an extant boundary dyke. This structure is on the 1855–1882 1st Edition OS map as a sheepfold. Traces of a possible continuation of this on the N side of the boundary wall were investigated and showed traces of coursed stonework passing underneath the foundation of the extant dyke. This stonework was on the same alignment as the sheepfold and confirms the presence of a structural feature which predates the boundary dyke and may be Late Norse/late medieval in date.

Site 38 – Earthwork (modern) A spread of loose rubble protruding from the turf. Excavation showed that it was loosely deposited and there was no associated structure. It is likely to represent spoil from the excavation of a nearby WW2 dugout.

Site 39 – Earthwork (date uncertain) A linear embankment up to 1m in height by 50m N/S. Excavation encountered heather-clad peaty topsoil overlaying outcropping bedrock. A row of loosely packed tabular sandstone boulders within the peat deposits appear to have been intended to enhance the natural feature to form a barrier or steeper embankment. There is limited evidence available to date this feature, and there is no corresponding land division on the 1st or 2nd Edition OS maps. It is possible that the feature either does not represent a formal land division, or fell into degradation prior to the drawing of the 1881 OS map.

Funder: Hjaltland Housing

Nesting

Gletness

Stray find

Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland

HU 4698 5124 A fragment of a decorated disc quern was recovered from an area of coastal erosion. It has a horizontal slot for a handle, while four concentric circles decorate the inner two-thirds of its surface.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 74/16), allocated to Shetland Museum

Northmavine

North Roe Felsite Project

Survey and excavation

Gabriel Cooney and Joanne Gaffrey – UCD School of Archaeology, University College Dublin

HU 327 848 (Grun Wells) and HU 326 902 (Beorgs of Uyea)

The North Roe Felsite Project (NRFP) is a partnership involving University College Dublin, Shetland Museum and Archives, National Museums of Scotland, Queen’s University Belfast and the Implement Petrology Group. Building on the reconnaissance survey undertaken by Ballin, the project is addressing a central research issue for the Neolithic in Shetland (and Scotland), ie the role of a visually distinctive stone (reibeckite) felsite (Group XXII in the scheme of British stone implement petrology groups) which, during the Neolithic period, people transformed into polished axes and knives. The source is at North Roe, mainland Shetland where there is a well-preserved major quarry complex. Here, blue to grey felsite dykes stand out against red granite bedrock. The NRFP is using archaeological and geochemical/petrological survey, a detailed GPS survey and targeted excavation, to try to identify the scale, character and date of the extraction processes. A project GIS integrates data from the quarry with analysis and mapping of felsite artefacts from across the Shetland archipelago held in museum and private collections, facilitating an integrated insight into the life path and role of these objects in Neolithic Shetland.

To date there have been three field seasons at North Roe, 2013, 2014 and 2016, collecting data at a range of scales at the quarry and beyond. In 2013 and 2014 portable x-ray fluorescence (PXRF) survey was carried out across the quarry complex, and on the collections of felsite objects in the Shetland Museum and National Museums Scotland which were also recorded in detail. This report focuses on the results of the 2014 and 2016 field seasons.

Survey in the 2016 season, 6–24 June, concentrated in two areas of the North Roe quarry complex. Within the scheduled monument (SM 890) at the Beorgs of Uyea detailed survey continued, building on initial survey in 2014. This baseline survey is important in providing a detailed record of the surface deposits and evidence for quarrying at this key location. It is also documenting a range of features which appear to be associated with the quarrying activity, notably a series of over 60 standing stones to the SE of the zone of quarrying and a major concentration of felsite blocks further to the E, at a distance of over 300m for the exploited felsite dykes.

The second area where detailed survey in 2016 was conducted was Grut Wells East. This is an area to the E of
Grut Wells in the southern part of the complex where there is an important concentration of evidence for felsite working areas and related activity. Here, three felsite workshops were identified including knapping areas with debitage, artefact deposition and the placement of felsite under propped granite boulders. This was first noted during the petrological/geological survey of the complex.

**Grut Wells** Two trenches were opened at Grut Wells (Trench 1 and Trench 2). These were positioned across quarry pits (Pits 7 and 8) identified as running along the line of a probable quarried felsite dyke during survey in 2013. This survey also made it clear that the dyke was composed of fine-grained felsite with dispersed pink feldspar phenocrysts. Trench 1 measured 3.5m long E/W and 1m wide N/S and was positioned across the middle part of the quarry Pit 8. Trench 2 measured 9 x 1m across quarry Pit 7 from E/W. Here the ground surface sloped steeply to the E on the western side of the trench but was more gently dished towards the middle and E. Trench 2 was extended to 1.5m in width at the eastern end. Both trenches were mostly covered in peat with granite and felsite also present on the surface. The excavation of Trench 1 was completed in 2014. While excavation of Trench 2 commenced in 2014 it was largely excavated in 2016.

**Trench 1** The peat over here was very wet and claggy with deposits of felsite debitage inwashed from the current surface. The peat was at its deepest at the centre of the trench where it was 0.5m in depth from the ground surface, here there was no felsite. Below the peat there was a series of deposits related to quarrying activity. All contained felsite debitage of varying size concentrations and characteristics. One distinct deposit was a series of large, angular, granite boulders running NNW/SSE across the centre of Trench 1. These large boulders are presumed to be the result of removal of granite outcrop close to the felsite dyke. The weight of these boulders meant that they sank into the deposits below, creating a diffuse boundary between the fills in the central area of the trench. Iron pan deposits formed across the surface of some fills. Two cuts/recuts were recognised in the trench. The granite boulders mentioned above formed part of the fill of the later of the two cuts. This later cut was made into granitic sand with significant quantities of felsite. At the eastern end of Trench 1 this sand was initially thought to represent the top of the subsoil. But in the light of the excavation results from Trench 2 (see below) is now interpreted as probable upcast/fill on to the western side of the dyke, covering the quarried dyke surface, which was not exposed during the excavation of Trench 1. Current interpretation is that the western side of the dyke lies just E of the eastern end of the trench. It also appears that the initial quarry pit/extraction area extended further W than the western edge of the trench, implying that it was over 3.5m in width.

**Trench 2** The initial trench measured 9 x 1m and was set out across Pit 7 from E/W. This was extended by 0.5m on the eastern side so that the trench was 1.5m in width N/S from the felsite outcrop in the centre to the eastern end of the trench. Like Trench 1, the surface of Trench 2 was largely covered with peat, which was waterlogged in places. The depth of the peat varied considerably across the trench, and it contained a small quantity of inwashed lithics. Quarry rubble with felsite and granite had built up on the near vertical slope on the western side of the trench. There were a series of contexts relating to the quarrying of the felsite dyke, which was revealed by excavation at the centre of the trench. The dyke was 4.4m in width (and extended beyond the eastern edge of the trench) and from the top of the dyke as exposed in the centre of the trench it was 1.8m in depth. It was composed of a series of felsite blocks, separated by fault lines in the felsite, which predominantly ran along an axis 40° NW/SE of the main alignment of the dyke. Quarrying was focused on extracting blocks from the dyke. Evidence of this was demonstrated in the scarring and nibbling of the surface of the dyke. Distinct quarrying activity could be recognised on either side of the dyke. A definite quarry pit excavated into granitic sand and granite outcrop along the western margin of the felsite dyke was recognised. This was 1.4m in width at what is the definite rock surface, 0.6m in width at the base. It was dug to a depth of 1.0m into solid granite. As excavated the overall dimensions of the cut, including the extraction of felsite is 3.6m in width with a depth of 1.72m. On the eastern side extraction appears to have extended from the surviving highest point of the dyke to beyond the eastern edge of the trench. The deposits within Trench 2 represented backfilling episodes of the extraction areas. They varied from loose, unconsolidated masses of felsite flakes to compact sandy clays containing worked granite and felsite, relating to the various phases of the quarrying process. There was a notable density of finds in Trench 2 with a total of 65 finds being recorded, all relating to the working of the felsites, including axe/adze roughouts, hammerstones, wedges and cores.

**Beorges Of Uyea** Targeted excavation was carried out at the Beorges of Uyea (SM 890) under the terms of the scheduled monument consent at the western end of the zone of exploitation. The focus here was an excavation trench, Trench 1 (5.3 x 2m) across a quarry pit, with felsite outcrop visible in the centre. This dyke is composed of spherulitic felsite with banding evident at the margins of the dyke. The work aimed to understand the primary stages of quarrying, to place this in the context of the detailed survey being undertaken at the Beorges of Uyea, and to compare and contrast this with
the evidence from Grut Wells. Trench 2, a second small excavation area (2 x 2m), focused on what appears to be a fallen felsite standing stone in an area where there is a concentration of large felsite blocks E of the major zone of quarrying and dyke exploitation. This was discovered during initial survey in 2014. The relationship of these standing stones and blocks with the Neolithic quarry activity is an important issue in terms of understanding the significance of the landscape.

**Trench 1** The position of Trench 1 was chosen to provide a cross-section of a clearly defined quarry pit, with a block of the quarried dyke in the centre of the trench. Surface material, in the form of granite and felsite blocks and debitage, was scattered predominantly in the E, W and N of the trench with the dyke exposure in the centre-south. There was peat and vegetation cover over much of the trench, extending out from the central dyke material. While definite quarry pits could be recognised to the E/N and to the W of the dyke, the excavated deposits in Trench 1 were very shallow compared to Grut Wells and comprised mainly unconsolidated quarried felsite blocks and debitage (all of it spherulitic and banded), with some granite. Despite the granite/felsite margin being diffuse the edges of the quarry pits could be recognised. In both cases they appeared to continue to the N. The eastern trench was 1.6m in width and 0.5m in depth. The western trench is better defined and was also 1.6m in width and 0.5m in depth. Where peat accumulated around loose stone it provided a matrix for some deposits. One context towards the bottom of the pit on the western side of the dyke contained finer felsite flakes and may represent a later stage in the working of the felsite for the production of roughouts. It is clear from the excavation that there were a number of phases of quarrying represented. Quarrying appears to have begun on the W side. With the tilting of the dyke block after it was undercut there was further quarrying on the E and northern side. The last phase of quarrying was of the current W face of the dyke. The base of the quarry pits was uneven quarried felsite with sand deposits indicating that the pits may have been left open after initial quarrying.

Trench 2 was a 2 x 2m area around a suspected fallen felsite standing stone, located 290m E of the eastern-most dyke in the zone of exploitation. It was located in an area of deposition of felsite blocks and occasional definite felsite standing stones (further W there is a major concentration of granite standing stones). Trench 2 was deturfed and the felsite block was found to be sitting within what may be a deliberate setting composed of granite boulders, although the terrain here under the peat cover is a granite boulder field making definition of features quite difficult. The felsite block did appear to have been placed as a standing stone. It appears that it fell to the N, as indicated by damage on the NE side of the block and the presence of impact shatter flakes on the granite in this area. The stone was not lifted and the area was recovered.

Ballin, TB and Davis, V 2012: Shetland: North Roe (Northmaven parish); survey and evaluation. DES 13 (2012), 167


**Walls and Sandness**

**Ardpoint (sandstone) quarry in West Mainland Survey**

Torben Bjarke Ballin and DL Mahler – Lithic Research/University of Bradford (TBB) and The National Museum of Denmark (DLM)

In connection with the project Northern Worlds, which focused on the introduction of agriculture in Shetland and parts of Scandinavia, a number of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age settlement, burial and ritual sites were visited across Shetland. The work commenced in May 2013 and is ongoing. One of the sites inspected is Brunt Hill (or Brunthill) in West Mainland (Walls peninsula), which is situated S of the Walls village at the northern end of the promontory of Whites Ness (HU 252 479). This site is a small early prehistoric quarry complex exploiting an outcrop of the local Old Red sandstone of the Walls Formation; it is characterized by a number of pits. The deeper pits towards the W may be recent, and probably delivered sandstone for plantcrucks, pens, dykes and houses, whereas the more shallow ones along the field’s northern perimeter appear to be prehistoric quarry pits, which provided raw material for the production of ard points (prehistoric ploughshares), but apparently not other types of artefacts. The accompanying image shows the quarry complex from the E, with the prehistoric pits marked by flags.

It is the authors’ intention to carry out further inspections at the site, and to characterise the quarry complex in greater detail. Investigation of this prehistoric site and its artefacts would provide information relevant to several questions, such as: 1) is the site as specialized as it appears, that is, focusing entirely on the production of ard point roughouts, or were other tool forms also manufactured at Brunthill; 2) what is the likely date of this site; 3) is it possible to define production waste diagnostic of ard point manufacture; 4) is it possible to define the operational schema responsible for the production of the ard point rough-outs; 5) how does this quarry complex compare with the well-known felsite quarry complexes in North Roe?; and 6) how might the Brunthill quarry complex fit into a general Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Shetland exchange network, for example disseminating felsite knife and axehead rough-outs from workshops in North Roe, sandstone ardpoints from workshops in West Mainland, and steatite from workshops in different parts of the island group (Catpund in the S, as well as North Roe, Unst and Fetlar)?
It seems that the distribution of prehistoric quarry complexes throughout Shetland is very much a function of the geology of the island group, with sandstone being sedimentary rock, felsite is igneous rock, and steatite is metamorphic rock. The regional geology may have determined the form of exchange network characterising early prehistoric Shetland, as a settlement would only have been able to procure the axeheads, knives, ardpoints, and steatite vessels necessary for daily life, if it was ‘hooked up’ to a fairly broad-spectrumed and sophisticated exchange network.

The project was carried out by the Danish National Museum, and three proceedings from the project’s workshops have been made freely available on the Internet, partly on the website of the National Museum (Mahler): http://nordliggerdener.natmus.dk/en/research-initiatives/descriptions-of-the-projects/shetland-the-border-of-farming-4000-3000-boe/#c35612, and also on Ballin’s Academia page: https://independent.academia.edu/TorbenBjarkeBallin

Yell

Garth Wind Farm, North Yell
Evaluation
Magnar Dalland and Edward Bailey – Headland Archaeology Ltd
HU 54000 99800 A peat probing and auger survey was undertaken, 4–11 April 2016, within the development area for a wind farm. The survey was carried out to assess the potential for survival of below ground archaeological deposits and structures. The peat probing method was chosen as it was not possible to undertake geophysical survey or trial trenching due to unsuitable ground conditions. No archaeological features were recorded during the survey.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Garth Wind Ltd

SOUTH AYRSHIRE

Ayr

Auchincruive
Evaluation
Kevin Paton – AOC Archaeology Group
NS 38090 23349 An 8% trial trenching evaluation was carried out, 3–11 May 2016, in advance of development work. A total of 46 trenches of varying lengths and alignments was excavated across the site, encountering post-medieval and modern field drains, some rig and furrow, and two narrow stone culverts probably dating to the post-medieval period.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Taylor Wimpey West Scotland Ltd

Ayr Academy
Watching brief
Kevin Mooney – GUARD Archaeology Ltd
NS 3509 2156 (centred on) A watching brief was undertaken, 22–25 February 2015, during the construction of all weather pitches and sports facilities for the new Ayr Academy. No archaeological features or deposits were noted.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Kier Construction

Yell

Ardpoint – Brunt Hill seen from the E. One of the more obvious prehistoric quarry pits with its ring of upcast. Photo courtesy of D Mahler, the Danish National Museum (see page 161)
Ayr Cemetery
Evaluation and excavation
Kevin Paton and Martin Cook – AOC Archaeology Group
NS 35275 21025 An evaluation and excavation were undertaken, 3–4 and 30 November 2016, in advance of an extension to Ayr Cemetery.

The evaluation revealed several small pits and large ditches in the SE corner of the development area, which probably relate to prehistoric settlement activity. All of the pit features contained abundant charcoal inclusions and a single worked flint flake was also found. No formal structures were revealed in the trenches but the large ditches may indicate at least one enclosure containing the features.

The c3600m² excavation area was positioned around the features found during the evaluation. The excavation revealed four small rounded pits, two linear pits and two larger linear ditches that may date to the prehistoric period. The rounded pits contained worked flint and some burnt bone. The two larger ditch features were connected, with small amounts of charcoal and some possible worked shale and quartz fragments coming from one of them. It is likely that these ditches and other features relate to early agricultural use, with the ditches being possible prehistoric field boundaries.

Other features on site relate to post-medieval agricultural use, with one E/W ditch representing a field boundary with ceramic tile drains and furrows on either side. Some modern activity was also noted in a site investigation pit and several clay filled pits that contained modern material. These related to the dumping of excess soil from cemetery excavations into machine cut pits that were extracting sandier soils for backfilling the graves.

Archive: Historic Environment Scotland
Funder: South Ayrshire Council

Crofthead Holiday Park, Ayr
Evaluation
Maureen C Kilpatrick – GUARD Archaeology Ltd
NS 36567 19649 An evaluation was carried out, 6–13 October 2016, in advance of a proposed extension to the caravan site at Crofthead Holiday Park. The evaluation was due to sample 8% of the c13ha site; however, disturbance to the N and W areas of the site and a large soil bund in the SE corner reduced the evaluation area from 10,530m² to 4300m². A total of 86 trenches were excavated but field drains and modern plough marks were the only features recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Crofthead Holiday Park

Girvan
Invergaven School, Girvan
Evaluation
Kevin Paton – AOC Archaeology Group
NX 19115 97449 An evaluation was undertaken on 26 May 2016 in advance of the proposed development of a new primary school in the grounds of Girvan Academy. A total of six trenches of varying lengths and alignments, plus test pits, were excavated, covering a 5–10% sample of the development area. The trenches recorded 0.7m to >2.5m of landscaped made ground overlying a pale brown and grey clay subsoil. The majority of the area appears to have been previously stripped with gravel deposits dumped onto the subsoil and then overlain by soils moved during the construction of Girvan Academy. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Faithful and Gould

Straiton
Glenauchie, Straiton
Desk-based assessment and walkover survey
Rebecca Shaw – Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services
NS 4147 0191 (centred on) A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken in June 2016 in advance of proposed woodland planting. The work identified the remains of 15 sites of possible archaeological interest, including: sheepfolds; a chambered cairn; a longhouse; an area of quarrying; areas of rig and furrow; a number of turf (and turf and stone) field banks and enclosures of varying sizes as well as linear features consisting of fairly large stones.

It was recommended that direct impact on all field banks and linear features be avoided (with 5m being left clear either side of visible features). It was further recommended that all other features be left unplanted and that 5m should also be left clear of field banks that surround enclosures and non-intensive cultivation and planting should be undertaken in these areas.

Archive: NRHE
Funder: Mark Hamilton Landscape Services

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

Avondale
Bankend Quarry
Watching brief
Iraia Arabaolaza – GUARD Archaeology Ltd
NS 64464 38575 A watching brief was undertaken, 25–28 January 2016, during topsoil stripping of a 120 x 60m area associated with an extension to the quarry. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Lafarge Tarmac

Dungavel Wind Farm
Survey and evaluation
Mike Cressey – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NS 680 364 A programme of work was undertaken, May – July 2014, in advance of construction of a wind farm. Surveys were carried out in advance of and following woodland felling. A shepherds’ cairn was also evaluated. The deconstruction of the 1m high by 2.5m wide cairn found it to be a random collection of stone, resting on topsoil, with bedrock beneath.

Archive: NRHE (intended).
Report: NRHE and WoSAS
Funder: Natural Power Consultants Ltd

Lethame Road, Strathaven
Evaluation
Steven Black – Northlight Heritage
NS 6906 4454 An 8% evaluation was undertaken, 1–4 February 2016, in advance of a residential development. A total of 34 trenches covering 2720m² were excavated and recorded a series of modern field drains.

Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: CALA Homes (West) Ltd

Biggar
Biggar Museum, 156 High Street
Watching brief
Ross Cameron and Andrew Morrison – Addyman Archaeology
NT 04384 37870 A watching brief was undertaken, 9 January – 13 May 2014, during ground-breaking work associated with
the construction of a new building. The present buildings are within an historic burgage plot, probably dating to the medieval period. Cartographic records show the development of the site as it changed from a blacksmiths in the mid-19th century, to a garage and then a petrol station. Undisturbed bedrock was recorded across virtually the whole area and it seems that the development of the garage removed any trace of earlier human activity. No finds predating the late 19th century were recovered.

Archives: NRHE and WoSAS (intended)
Funder: The Biggar Museum Trust

Broughton Road, Biggar
Evaluation
John Gooder – ACCESS Archaeological Condition Services
NT 04810 37770 An 8% evaluation was carried out, 7–8 June 2016, in advance of the infilling of a small quarry and construction of a care home. A total of nine trenches, covering 360m² recorded no finds or features of archaeological significance.

Archives: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Cantarn Properties Overseas Ltd

Carwood Farm
Fieldwalking
Brenda Drehorn, Bill Glass, Jim Ness and Margaret Brown – Biggar Archaeology Group
NT 02902 40224 Further to a significant find in this field in recent years, it is kept under a watching brief. The field had been ploughed and on 3 March 2015 four members of the group walked the field. There were no finds.

Archives and report: Biggar and Upper Clydesdale Museum
Website: www.biggararchaeologygroup.co.uk

Davaar, 75 High Street, Biggar
Watching brief
Rebecca Shaw – Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services
NT 04083 37820 A watching brief was undertaken, 20–22 January 2016, during ground reduction and the excavation of three foundation trenches associated with development work. The excavations mostly recorded a disturbed topsoil containing remnants of a previously cobbled or slabbred surface. A capped well, probably Victorian in date, was uncovered in the easternmost foundation trench (B), which led to the trench being moved 1.5m to the E. The well was subsequently filled with stone and buried.

Archives: NRHE. Report: WoSAS
Funder: Mrs E Cooper

Hillend Farm
Fieldwalking
David Drury, Bill Glass and Jim Ness – Biggar Archaeology Group
NT 04223 38844 (Hillend Farm), NT 03984 38368 (Glebe Field), NT 03781 39275 (Upper Well Field) and NT 04008 39219 (Biggarshields Junction: Cairn) The area around Hillend Farm is kept under a watching brief as part of the Upper Clydesdale Fieldwalking Project. Previous finds have included blue and brown chert flakes and cores, showing evidence of lithic working. The ploughed fields were walked, 15 March – 22 March 2015, but no finds were recovered.

Archives and report: Biggar and Upper Clydesdale Museum

Melbourne Cursus
Evaluation
Jamie Humble and Graeme Cavers – AOC Archaeology Group
NT 08580 43009 A geophysical survey and evaluation excavation were carried out, 9–10 March 2015, to assess archaeological potential relating to Melbourne Cursus, W of Melbourne Crossroads.

Two areas were targeted with geophysical survey, the first to the N of the A721 and the second to the S of the A702. A single trench was also excavated over the bank and ditch on the ENE side of the cursus, close to the southern terminal. The results from the c5ha gradiometer survey were inconclusive, and it can be suggested that the instruments were affected by magnetic noise caused by the local geology and subsequently were unable to clearly identify potential archaeological remains.

In the excavation trench, evidence of the structure of the monument was revealed. The structural remains comprised a low broad bank with a turf core. A ditch extended along the exterior of the cursus bank. A shallow pit lay outside of the ditch. No artefacts were retrieved during the excavations, but soil samples that may produce datable organics and samples for soil micromorphological analysis were collected.

Archives: NRHE
Funder: RCAHMS

St Mary’s Hall, Biggar
Watching brief
Beth Spence – GUARD Archaeology Ltd
NT 0406 3785 A watching brief was carried out, 4–5 February 2016, during groundwork for drainage and a retaining wall foundation associated with the renovation and construction of a ramp at St Mary’s Hall. The work established that the area had been heavily disturbed, probably during the construction of the hall, and there were no finds or features of archaeological significance.

Archives: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Biggar Kirk

Blantyre

David Livingstone Centre, Blantyre
Watching brief
Kevin Paton and Martin Cook – AOC Archaeology Group
NS 69411 58497 A watching brief was undertaken, 26 October 2015 – 12 January 2016, on site investigation works associated with the construction of an extension and general landscaping surrounding the David Livingstone Centre. The machine excavated pits, located in the landscaped grounds to the W of the main centre suggested that the area had been previously stripped, with topsoil overlying made ground. The hand excavated pits next to the centre foundations only exposed the foundations sitting within shallow cuts in the natural gravel.

Archives: NRHE
Funder: David Livingstone Trust
Shott Farm, High Blantyre
Evaluation and standing building recording
Maureen C Kilpatrick and Christine Rennie – GUARD Archaeology Ltd
NS 67561 56566 An evaluation and Level 1 building survey were carried out, 24 March – 12 April 2016, at Shott Farm. The assessment of 8% of the 6.5ha area identified evidence of rig and furrow cultivation and field drainage relating to agricultural improvements. The survey established that most of the buildings were of modern date, with only two outbuildings of possible earlier construction.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Avant Homes

Camusnethan/Lanark/Lesmahagow
Black Law Wind Farm
Desk-based assessment, survey and watching brief
Steven Black – Northlight Heritage
NS 91241 56776 to NS 88032 46702 (overhead cable) and NS 88032 46702 to NS 85207 43524 (underground cable) A desk-based assessment, walkover survey and series of watching briefs were carried out, 27 July – 6 October 2015. The work related to a new underground cable and overhead powerline, associated with a grid connection between the wind farm extension and a substation at Linmill. The only features discovered were a series of furrows on the cable route.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Create Consulting Engineers Ltd

St Luke’s Bell Tower, Carluke
Excavation
Iraia Arabaolaza – GUARD Archaeology Ltd
NS 84832 50483 (NS85SW 5.1) A small excavation, consisting of two trenches at either side of the bell tower was undertaken 7–9 December 2015. The excavation revealed a possible foundation stone from the dismantled 17th-century church; disarticulated human bone and possible coffin furniture associated with the graveyard was also identified, and these finds have been provisionally dated to the post-medieval period.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: South Lanarkshire Council

Carnwath
Somerville Drive, Carnwath
Evaluation
Rebecca Shaw – Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services
NS 98023 46123 An evaluation was undertaken, 9–10 October 2016, in advance of proposed development work at Somerville Drive. The 12 trenches excavated recorded a mid-brown fairly deep silt above a sandy or gravelly silted subsoil of varying colours. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance.
Archive: NRHE. Report: WoSAS
Funder: BHC Ltd

Walk Mill Forestry
Fieldwalking
Brenda Dreghorn, David Drury and Jim Ness – Biggar Archaeology Group
NT 01260 48990 (Canmore ID: 48879) An area of moorland, which had been ploughed in advance of forestry planting, was walked on 8 May 2016 as part of the Prehistory N of Biggar Project. The work aimed to identify new sites near to existing recorded cairns and to determine the existence of prehistoric settlement in Moorland Field.
Previously unrecorded cairn sites adjacent to those recorded by the RCAHMS in 1970s were found. Six prominent cairns were located by GPS amongst several others in the same vicinity. Several lithic pieces, including two pitchstone flakes, were also found providing further evidence of human activity. As both pitchstone and cairns were found activity may span both the Neolithic and Bronze Age. A possible chert arrowhead plus three chert flakes were recorded at NT 0103 4886, and the two pitchstones at NT 0132 49129.
Archive and report: Biggar and Upper Clydesdale Museum
Website: www.biggarmuseumtrust.co.uk

Carstairs
Ayr Road (A70), Ravenstruther
Watching brief
Rebecca Shaw – Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services
NS 9225 4453 (NS94SW 7.04) A watching brief was undertaken, 1–5 August 2016, during development work on land at Ayr Road. Topsoil stripping prior to the construction of an agricultural shed, access track and hard standing, revealed a fairly clean fine silty topsoil containing occasional post-medieval or early modern sherds of roof tiles or field drains.
Archive: NRHE. Report: NRHE and WoSAS
Funder: Mr J Stewart

Carstairs Mains
Metal detector find
Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland
NS 93 45 A small circular enamelled stud was found during metal detecting near Carstairs Mains. It is decorated with a six-petal blue flower with central yellow dot; enamel in the outer field is lost. Diameter 26mm, with single attachment lug on the rear. It is likely to be Roman.
Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 223/15), allocated to Biggar Museum
Covington and Thankerton

St John’s Kirk Farm, Symington
Watching brief and evaluation
Rebecca Shaw – Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services
NS 98342 35962 A watching brief was planned in advance of development work on land at St John’s Kirk Farm, an area which cartographic evidence suggests has been open farmland since at least the mid-18th century. Ground reduction and stone formation work had taken place before the arrival of an archaeologist. However, WoSAS required the stone to be removed in two locations and the excavation of two evaluation trenches on 6 October 2016. All the steel column pits were also examined and percentage of them recorded. Both the trenches and pits revealed sands and gravels. A significant amount of rock had to be pecked away at the northern end of the site. In general, the groundworks had reduced the ground to a clean natural.
Archive: NRHE. Report: WoSAS
Funder: Mr T Fox

Crawford

Crookburn (Daer)
Fieldwalking and excavation
Brenda Dreghorn, Bill Glass, David Drury, Helen McCall and Jim Ness – Biggar Archaeology Group
NS 96738 06120 In the summer of 2014 water levels in Daer Reservoir had fallen sufficiently to allow a follow-up to the 2004 excavation of Crookburn at the head of the reservoir. Crookburn is the remains of an 18th/19th-century settlement, previously unrecorded, consisting of a cobbled area with the remains of wall foundation features. In July 2014 further glass, metal and pottery were recovered during fieldwalking and excavation of a previously undiscovered drain. Erosion of the site, as a consequence of the rising and falling water levels in the reservoir, had exposed further finds.

The fieldwalking was undertaken when the reservoir water levels receded. The site of the 2004 excavation was expanded on the eastern side of the building. Test pitting was undertaken to reveal the stone drain. An additional series of test pits was dug to discover direction and length of the drain. The drain was aligned SE to NW, and 20m from the edge of a burn. Artefacts were found at three sites.

The great majority of the finds at the three sites consisted of sherds of red and white earthenware. The former are commonly at least partly covered with black or brown glaze especially on the interior of the vessel and are from storage jars and large basins. The sherds of white earthenware, commonly called industrial or commercial slipware, are mostly from tableware – probably small bowls. Their rims are almost always decorated – commonly with rouletted bands. Such wares were produced by the Verreville Pottery in Glasgow. There were 44 sherds (2 from drain), 9 pieces of wine bottle and window glass (2 from drain), and two iron fragments (one nail) heavily rusted.

Archive and report: Biggar and Upper Clydesdale Museum
Website: www.biggarmuseumtrust.co.uk

Culter

Cornhill
Fieldwalking
Brenda Dreghorn, David Drury, Denise Dudds, Bill Glass, Jim Ness and Tam Ward – Biggar Archaeology Group
NT 02667 34944 (Gateside fields S of road near Cornhill Farm), NT 02565 35331 (Gateside fields N of road near Cornhill Farm) and NT 02231 35719 (Cornhill Farm field) The area around Cornhill is kept under a watching brief as part of the Upper Clydesdale Fieldwalking Project. Previous finds have included blue and brown chert flakes and cores, showing evidence of lithic working. The ploughed fields were walked, 23 April 2014 – 19 April 2015, but no finds were recovered.

Archive and report: Biggar and Upper Clydesdale Museum
Website: www.biggarmuseumtrust.co.uk

Dalsert

Duke Street, Larkhall (Phase 1)
Evaluation
Rob Engl – AOC Archaeology Group
NS 7646 5238 An evaluation was undertaken, 23–25 March 2016, as part of a phased programme of work in advance of a proposed residential development on pasture at Duke Street. The planned 8% evaluation was reduced from 5840m² to 3940m² due to the presence of woodland and live services.

Significant industrial activity had occurred within the area during the latter part of the 19th century. Within the Phase 1 area this was illustrated by the presence of a large, shallow rubbish dump containing ceramic material, glass, brick and cinder. The dump appeared to infill a cut depression possibly associated with 19th-century industrial activity.
Archive: NRHE
Funder: Persimmon Homes

Douglas/Lesmahagow

Middle Muir to Coalburn Substation
Desk-based assessment and survey
Alastair Becket – Northlight Heritage
NS 8615 2661 – NS 8253 3722 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey was undertaken, 10–25 May 2016, in relation to proposed underground cabling works between Middle Muir Wind Farm and Coalburn Substation. Two possible roadways, both shown on Roy’s Military Survey, may survive close to Middle Muir Wind Farm, although they were not followed the Roman Road to Little Clyde and found the outline of a building not shown on a map. As part of a watching brief we observed the foundations of a possible new building, and plan to survey in the near future. This work was carried out on 27 September 2015.

Archive and report: Biggar and Upper Clydesdale Museum

Upper Howcleuch
Fieldwalking
Brenda Dreghorn, David Drury, Jim Ness and David Paterson – Biggar Archaeology Group
NT 00152 14903 A 20th-century kettle boiler was discovered adjacent to a sheep fank and dipper during fieldwalking across rough pasture and forestry clearance on 27 September 2015. The cast iron boiler was c1m in diameter, 1m deep and encased in brick. It is assumed that it would have been used for dissolving sheep dip compound up to the mid-20th century. The back plate is embossed “No. 1674”.

Archive and report: Biggar and Upper Clydesdale Museum
Website: www.biggarmuseumtrust.co.uk

Little Clyde
Watching brief
Brenda Dreghorn, David Drury, David Paterson and Jim Ness – Biggar Archaeology Group
NS 99532 15747 As part of a programme of fieldwalking this area is kept under a watching brief and, following the harvesting of nearby forestry, we revisited the area and
**East Kilbride**

**Crosshouse Farm**

**Evaluation**

*Nicholas Johnstone – AOC Archaeology Group*

NS 60862 51504 An 8% evaluation of a 4260m² development area was carried out, 8 August 2016, in advance of a residential development. The evaluation consisted of 180 linear meters of trenching. In the SE corner of the site trenching revealed the standing remains of a demolished farmhouse. Further components of the farmhouse were recorded underlying a thin deposit of demolition material. The evaluation also revealed a natural subsoil of thick boulder clay underlying deposits of topsoil, colluvium, and made ground. The site was particularly disturbed in areas close to the recently demolished farmhouse. No features or finds of archaeological significance were discovered.

*Archive: NRHE (intended)*

*Funder: Dickie and Moore Ltd*

**Philipshill Road, East Kilbride**

**Watching brief**

*Dave McNicol – GUARD Archaeology Ltd*

NS 60351 55502 A watching brief was carried out, 22–30 June 2016, during the upgrade of an existing Transmission Regulator Station (TRS) and associated pipeline route. The groundwork consisted of the removal of material across a 5000m² area down to the natural geology or the depth required for construction. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

*Archive: NRHE (intended)*

*Funder: Advance Group UK Ltd*

**Hamilton (using cross as anchor point)**

**M8/M73/M74 Motorway Improvements**

**Watching brief, evaluation and excavation**

*Warren Bailie and Kevin Mooney – GUARD Archaeology Ltd*

NS 72341 55555 (Netherton Cross – removed from NS 7271 5674 in 1926) A series of evaluations were carried out, 15 July 2014 – 16 October 2015, across the M8/M73/M74 Motorway Improvements Project. The trial trench evaluation consisted of 220 trenches equivalent to 5% of the area. In areas of higher archaeological potential, such as E of Bankhead Farm and Netherton, a full watching brief was undertaken. Areas of archaeology were uncovered and subsequently investigated at Bargeddie (postholes, pits), Shawhead West (pit) and Netherton (medieval building remains).

On the Netherton site the remains of late medieval buildings were uncovered in proximity to the known location of a 10th/11th-century cross stone (Canmore ID: 45656). The Netherton Cross now stands in front of Hamilton Parish Church, having been placed there some time after 1926 when the land on the Hamilton Estate, where it stood for 8–9 centuries, was sold for coal mining in the early 1900s. The medieval remains included foundation walls, fine metallic surfaces, paved surfaces and other ancillary structural remains. Finds recovered included a large quantity of medieval ceramic, gaming pieces/tokens, hammered coins, animal bone, clay pipe fragments and a lead pistol shot, possibly associated with the nearby inventory battlefield site of Bothwell Bridge to the north.

*Archive: NRHE*

*Funder: Amey and Ferrovial Lagan JV for Scottish Roads*

**Lesmahagow**

**Kype Muir to Coalburn**

**Desk-based assessment and survey**

*Alastair Becket – Northlight Heritage*

NS 7246 3950 – NS 8250 3723 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken, 10–25 May 2016, in the immediate vicinity of Bothwell Bridge to the north. A series of evaluations were carried out, 10–25 May 2016, in advance of a residential development. The evaluation consisted of 180 linear meters of trenching. In the SE corner of the site trenching revealed the standing remains of a demolished farmhouse. Further components of the farmhouse were recorded underlying a thin deposit of demolition material. The evaluation also revealed a natural subsoil of thick boulder clay underlying deposits of topsoil, colluvium, and made ground. The site was particularly disturbed in areas close to the recently demolished farmhouse. No features or finds of archaeological significance were discovered.

*Archive: NRHE (intended)*

*Funder: Iberdrola Engineering and Construction*

**Kippen**

**Funder: Advance Group UK Ltd**

**Lesmahagow**

**Kype Muir to Coalburn**

**Desk-based assessment and survey**

*Alastair Becket – Northlight Heritage*

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*Archive: NRHE (intended)*

*Funder: Dickie and Moore Ltd*

**Philpshill Road, East Kilbride**

**Watching brief**

*Dave McNicol – GUARD Archaeology Ltd*

NS 60351 55502 A watching brief was carried out, 22–30 June 2016, during the upgrade of an existing Transmission Regulator Station (TRS) and associated pipeline route. The groundwork consisted of the removal of material across a 5000m² area down to the natural geology or the depth required for construction. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

*Archive: NRHE (intended)*

*Funder: Advance Group UK Ltd*

**Hamilton (using cross as anchor point)**

**M8/M73/M74 Motorway Improvements**

**Watching brief, evaluation and excavation**

*Warren Bailie and Kevin Mooney – GUARD Archaeology Ltd*

NS 72341 55555 (Netherton Cross – removed from NS 7271 5674 in 1926) A series of evaluations were carried out, 15 July 2014 – 16 October 2015, across the M8/M73/M74 Motorway Improvements Project. The trial trench evaluation consisted of 220 trenches equivalent to 5% of the area. In areas of higher archaeological potential, such as E of Bankhead Farm and Netherton, a full watching brief was undertaken. Areas of archaeology were uncovered and subsequently investigated at Bargeddie (postholes, pits), Shawhead West (pit) and Netherton (medieval building remains).

On the Netherton site the remains of late medieval buildings were uncovered in proximity to the known location of a 10th/11th-century cross stone (Canmore ID: 45656). The Netherton Cross now stands in front of Hamilton Parish Church, having been placed there some time after 1926 when the land on the Hamilton Estate, where it stood for 8–9 centuries, was sold for coal mining in the early 1900s. The medieval remains included foundation walls, fine metallic surfaces, paved surfaces and other ancillary structural remains. Finds recovered included a large quantity of medieval ceramic, gaming pieces/tokens, hammered coins, animal bone, clay pipe fragments and a lead pistol shot, possibly associated with the nearby inventory battlefield site of Bothwell Bridge to the north.

*Archive: NRHE*

*Funder: Amey and Ferrovial Lagan JV for Scottish Roads*

**Lesmahagow**

**Kype Muir to Coalburn**

**Desk-based assessment and survey**

*Alastair Becket – Northlight Heritage*

NS 7246 3950 – NS 8250 3723 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken, 10–25 May 2016, in the immediate vicinity of Bothwell Bridge to the north. A series of evaluations were carried out, 10–25 May 2016, in advance of a residential development. The evaluation consisted of 180 linear meters of trenching. In the SE corner of the site trenching revealed the standing remains of a demolished farmhouse. Further components of the farmhouse were recorded underlying a thin deposit of demolition material. The evaluation also revealed a natural subsoil of thick boulder clay underlying deposits of topsoil, colluvium, and made ground. The site was particularly disturbed in areas close to the recently demolished farmhouse. No features or finds of archaeological significance were discovered.

*Archive: NRHE (intended)*

*Funder: Iberdrola Engineering and Construction***
advance of the placement of underground cables between Kype Muir Wind Farm and Coalburn Substation. A number of archaeological sites were identified in the area around the route, but none will be affected by the proposed work.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Iberdrola Engineering and Construction

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**Woodyett Farm**

**Watching brief**

**Nicola Reid – Northlight Heritage**

NS 84440 43350 A watching brief was undertaken, 4 February – 11 August 2016, during topsoil stripping in advance of the construction of a house, stables and horse riding area. The ephemeral remains of demolished 19th- and 20th-century stone and brick buildings were located on the site of a former 19th-century smithy. The remains of a roughly constructed track of probable post-medieval date were recorded running along the NE boundary of the development area.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Mr and Mrs McDonald

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**Symington**

**Westside Farm, Symington**

**Watching brief**

**Rebecca Shaw – Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services**

NS 98643 34430 A watching brief was carried out, 29 September – 5 October 2016, during ground reduction and the excavation of foundation trenches in advance of development work on a plot at Westside Farm. The ground appears to have been subject to very little previous disturbance, with topsoil of variable depth (80mm in NW and 700mm in SW) recorded.

**Archive:** NRHE. Report: WoSAS

**Funder:** Mr and Mrs Carswell

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**Walston**

**Rose Mount, Elsrickle**

**Watching brief**

**Rebecca Shaw – Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services**

NT 06308 43613 A watching brief was carried out, 10 March 2016, during topsoil stripping associated with the construction of a house and detached garage on land E of Rose Mount. The work recorded a relatively clean topsoil containing only relatively modern finds.

**Archive:** NRHE. Report: WoSAS

**Funder:** Mr and Mrs McKechnie

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**STIRLING**

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**Aberfoyle**

**Loch Chon**

**Walkover survey**

**Lyne McKeaggio – Highland Archaeology Services**

NN 42812 04655 A walkover survey was carried out, 30 June 2016, in advance of a change in land use and creation of a campsite. Only three features were identified.

- Feature 1 was a dry stone wall running eENE/WSW, very tumbled in the W but standing 0.7m high in the E, no capstones present and only one stone wide.
- Feature 2 is an iron mile post which had been repainted, one of many in the local area.
- Feature 3 was a curvilinear dry stone wall surviving up to 0.8m high in places, and of similar construction to Feature 1. To the E of the wall a flat linear depression 0.5m wide could represent an associated track. Both walls were marked on the 1861–3 OS map and may be related although no relationship survives.

**Archive:** HAS. Report: Stirling Council Archaeology Service

**Funder:** Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority

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**Buchanan**

**Bruch Caorainn Hydro Power Scheme**

**Survey and watching brief**

**Alan Hunter Blair – GUARD Archaeology Ltd**

NN 41849 00774 (NN40SW 7) A walkover survey was carried out in advance of the construction of a pipeline, associated with a hydro-electric scheme, across the edge of a post-medieval settlement. A subsequent programme of topsoil stripping, for a pipeline trench from the dam on the Bruch Caorainn Burn towards the powerhouse building, was then monitored. The course of the trench was diverted S from its original planned route and away from Big Bruach Caoruinn, a pre-clearance homestead, to avoid unnecessary disturbance to sub-surface features associated with the settlement. A track was uncovered circumventing the N and E sides of the homestead before turning to the SE towards and terminating at a corn drying kiln to the S of the homestead. An adjacent site named Cuir Muilinn lay to the SW of the monitoring area. In this location three possible clearance cairns and a track were found. The track was aligned from the SW beyond Cuir Muilinn to the NE leading to Big Bruach Caoruinn. The track and cairns were mapped and photographically recorded. The work was undertaken 1 December 2015 – 15 June 2016.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** TLS Hydro

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**Callander**

**Balvalachlan Cemetery, Callander**

**Evaluation**

**Kevin Paton and Martin Cook – AOC Archaeology Group**

NN 63509 05532 A programme of archaeological work
was undertaken, 7–17 November 2016, in advance of the creation of a new cemetery. The evaluation over the way leave around a proposed pipe leading from the cemetery to the river revealed no significant archaeology. Two trenches were located at the top of the slope through the location of a former unroofed building. An area of stones that may have constituted hard standing or a rough floor surface was revealed but no walls or any other structural elements were recorded.

The monitored topsoil strip over the location of a previously evaluated area revealed one large post-medieval pit near the eastern edge, and several rubble and ceramic tile drains along the western edge.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Stirling Council

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**Braes of Greenock, Balvachachian**

*Desk-based assessment and evaluation*

**Ian Hill – Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice Ltd**

NN 63640 05510 A desk-based assessment and evaluation were carried out, 3–7 October 2011, in advance of the creation of cemetery on land E of Braes of Greenock. An 8% trial trenching evaluation was undertaken of the western half (5.5ha) of the area. A total of 46 (50 x 2m) trenches, covering 4413m² were excavated. These recorded a 19th-century or earlier field bank, two possible pits and a possible ditch of unknown date. All of the features were probably isolated or of lesser significance. The remaining portions of the evaluated area were of poor condition, with poor drainage and waterlogged conditions. The only features in these areas were a series of field drains, of both rubble and clay pipe varieties, and a field bank, of probable 19th-century date, which was fully recorded.

**Archive and report:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Stirling Council

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**Gleann Casaig**

*Watching brief and evaluation*

**Rob Engl – AOC Archaeology Group**

NN 53045 09274 A watching brief and trial trenching evaluation were undertaken, 17 March – 23 April 2016, during ground-breaking work associated with the construction of a hydro-electric scheme, including a new pipeline route, at Gleann Casaig. The work undertaken during the watching brief revealed 1–2m deep peat deposits, whilst topsoil stripping associated with the excavation of a borrow pit revealed truncated remains of rig and furrow agriculture likely to be post-medieval in date.

An existing trackway was utilised for the borrow pit. This track had previously crossed the line of a stone dyke of post-medieval date. A section of the dyke was recorded. The evaluation on the northern run of the pipeline recorded no finds or features of archaeological significance.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** CgMs

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**Drymen**

*Survey and evaluation*

**Alex Wood – AOC Archaeology Group**

NS 5555 9288 A programme of archaeological work was carried out, 6 July 2016, in advance of the construction of a house and garage on land E of Keir. A metal detector survey located no finds. A total of 75m of trial trenches recorded natural topsoil and one green glaze body sherd of pottery in Trench 2. A total of five, 1 x 1m, test pits was excavated but there were no finds or features of archaeological significance.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Ristol Ltd

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**Old Keir, Bridge of Allan**

*Evaluation*

**Kevin Paton – AOC Archaeology Group**

NS 7635 9787 An evaluation was undertaken, 16 June 2016, prior to the construction of a house, garage and driveway. The excavation of three trenches, covering 43m, recorded an archaeologically sterile clay loan topsoil overlying clay.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Mr and Mrs Cockburn
A series of brick-filled field drains, oriented N/S across the designated battlefield area, encountered discrete archaeological features at tower compound TD181B, just NW of the A9, which consisted of four pits grouped into two pairs. Their significance in isolation is low and their function remains unknown. Seven dry stone walls were also recorded.

**Archives:** NRHE (intended)

**Funders:** Scottish and Southern Energy Ltd

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### Dunblane and Lecropt/Dunipace/Logie/St Ninians

**Beauty to Denny Overhead Line**

**Watching brief, evaluation, excavation and survey**

**Alastair Becket – Northlight Heritage**

A programme of archaeological work was undertaken, December 2012 – May 2015, at a range of locations during the construction of an overhead power line.

NS 8195 0105 – NS 8258 8460 (4316161) A series of watching briefs were carried out, December 2012 – May 2015, on a number of access tracks, tower compounds and ancillary works. Two archaeological sites were identified near Plean, and these have been reported separately.

NS 8448 8644 – Carbrook Mains (4316161) The remains of two overlapping circular structures, each consisting of an outer ditch and an inner ring of postholes, along with a later curvilinear ditch and numerous other features were identified during a watching brief supervising topsoil stripping at Carbrook Mains. Finds of prehistoric and medieval/post-medieval pottery and bulk environmental samples were recovered from the site. A programme of post-excavation work will be undertaken.

NS 8418 8695 – Cushenquater (4355161) During a watching brief on topsoil stripping at the location of a new electricity tower (AB23a), near Plean, an archaeological site was identified. The site was subsequently excavated and was found to be of probable medieval or post-medieval date, and consisted of a series of inter-cutting ditches, pits and the possible remnants of stone walls. The site was heavily plough truncated. Finds of medieval/post-medieval pottery and bulk environmental samples were recovered from the site. A programme of post-excavation work will be undertaken.

NS 8340 8710 – Plean Tower (4376161) An evaluation was undertaken, 9–11 December 2013, in advance of the construction of tower compounds (TD237B, TD239A, TD240A and ZC(S)55A). A total of 25 trenches, covering 684m², were excavated but no finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

NS 8120 9808 – Tower Compound TD199 (4377161) An evaluation was undertaken, 12–13 December 2013, in the area of a potential cropmark site (Black Hill: NS89NW 67). A total of 12 trenches, covering 352m², was excavated but no features of archaeological significance were recorded and the cropmarks appear to be natural in origin.

NS 8292 9305 – Tower Compound TD214 (4378161) An evaluation was carried out, 3–4 June 2014, near the site of a ruined farmstead known as Johnstone. A total of 12 trenches, covering 368m², was excavated across the development area. A series of brick-filled field drains, oriented N/S across the site, were recorded.

**Archives:** NRHE (intended)

**Funders:** Iberdola Engineering and Construction Ltd

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### Stirling

**Keir Hill of Gargunnock**

**Evaluation**

**Murray Cook, Therese McCormick and Ross Greenshields – Stirling Council**

NS 70615 94270 As part of a programme of survey and excavation of the later prehistoric sites of the Forth Valley, a small-scale evaluation of the hillfort was undertaken, 10–13 June 2016. The work aimed to confirm the presence of defenses, recover charcoal for radiocarbon dating and to review the previously recovered objects. A variety of worked stone objects were recorded.

**Archives:** NRHE (intended)

**Funders:** Historic Environment Scotland

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### Killearn

**Killearn**

**Metal detector find**

**Trevor Cowie – National Museums Scotland**

NS 50 85 A Middle Bronze Age cast flanged axehead of short-flanged form, copper alloy, was found in 2015 during metal detecting. The extensive loss of surface detail through corrosion makes precise classification uncertain, but it is probably of Kirtomy type, as defined by Schmidt and Burgess. Datable to c1500–1300 BC.

**Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT.19/16), allocated to National Museums Scotland**

**Funders:** National Museums Scotland

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### Chaorach, Killin

**Watching brief**

**Kevin Mooney – GUARD Archaeology Ltd**

NN 56027 29558 – NN 45292 27403 (NN42NE 5) A watching brief was carried out, 30 November 2015 – 29 April 2016, during upgrading work associated with an overhead powerline W of Killin. The work included an investigation of the remains of a stone-built structure in the grounds of the Suie Hotel, which was noted and recorded but not excavated. Structures at this location are recorded on the 1st Edition OS map and could relate to agricultural improvements.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funders:** WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff

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### Derrydaroch, Crianlarich

**Watching brief and walkover survey**

**Ian Suddaby – CFA Archaeology Ltd**

NN 3507 2197 A programme of archaeological work was carried out, October 2014 – September 2015, during work...
associated with the construction of a hydro-electric scheme.

**Glen Lochay**

*Survey*

_Dugald MacInnes – Association of Certificated Archaeologists (ACFA)_

NN 5550 4040 (centred on) A survey was carried out, March – November 2016, at an elevation of 540–620m OD and on both sides of Allt Dhiùn Croisg. On a pass between Glen Lochay and Glen Lyon there are four groups of shieling huts. Interspersed within one shieling group on the E bank of the burn there are several hut circles. To date, about half of the features have been recorded, and the results of this work will be published in a future ACFA occasional paper.

**Upper Falloch, Crianlarich**

*Watching brief and walkover survey*

_Ian Suddaby – CFA Archaeology Ltd*_

NN 3697 2396 to NN 3840 2179 A programme of archaeological work was carried out, October 2014 – September 2015, prior to and during the construction of a hydro-electric scheme. A watching brief was carried out in two potentially archaeologically sensitive areas and a walkover survey recorded one new site, a sheepfold.

**Kilmadock**

*Standing building recording*

_Paul Fox – Kirkdale Archaeology*_

NN 7285 0107 A standing building survey was carried out, 28 March 2016, in the central ground floor cellar of the hall range, ahead of its conversion into a shop. The disposition of the cellar and its features indicated distinct phasing. The N wall appears to have been extant, probably part of a curtain wall, prior to the layout of the hall range when the imposition of the three cellars left a risband joint between them and the earlier wall. The E and W cellar walls with their recesses, the doorway, lobby and window bay in the S wall and the vault appear to be of a common building phase.

**Kincardine**

*Norrieston Church*

*Watching brief*

_Stuart Wilson – AOC Archaeology Group*_

NN 66998 00008 A watching brief was undertaken, 10–11 May 2016, during the excavation of a utility trench through an area between the cemetery and main church building, an area considered to be on the boundary of the land on which the previous church stood. The only finds were a small number of modern white ceramic pottery sherds and a single fragment of disarticulated human bone.

**Logie**

*Sheriffmuir Road, Bridge of Allan*

*Survey, evaluation and excavation*

_Steven Black – Northlight Heritage*_

NS 8048 9695 A programme of archaeological work was carried out, 25 July – 19 August 2016, in advance of a residential development. The work focused on a field in front of the category B Blawlowan House, which had the potential to hold remains of the former village of Pathfoot. The evaluation and excavation recorded a possible stone-lined tanning pit, a cobbled surface, a series of N/S running linear stone boundaries and a N/S running dry stone wall. Initial interpretation suggests these are all of late or post-medieval date.

**The Arns, Bridge of Allan**

*Evaluation*

_Kevin Paton – AOC Archaeology Group*
were recorded on the 1st floor walls, some of whom also worked on the spiral stair. Another different group of 25 masons' marks were recorded on the 1st floor, although five of the others did some work on the ribbing as well as the walls. Only three of the masons worked on the ribbing of the roof vault, with six of the others also working on the ribbing. Of these 32 masons, four of them worked only on the ground floor, which includes the area at the bottom of the tower which is of a later date. Thirty-two masons worked on the 16th-century East Church.

From the survey of marks it would appear that the masons who worked on the earlier West Church were paid for ‘piece work’, i.e., by the number of stones they cut, as marks were found in most locations. In contrast, the masons working on the later East Church were paid under contract, as very few marks were recorded on any ashlar block on the walls, with the majority of marks being found on the voussiers of the arches and around windows. The results of the survey indicated that the tower was most likely built in three different stages, and could also suggest that St Mary’s Aisle was probably built at a slightly later date than St Andrew’s Chapel and the rest of the West Church.

The fieldwork uncovered boundaries, a well and large pits associated with activity within the medieval burghage plots stretching back from Spittal Street. The features produced large amounts of pot dating from the 12th to 16th century. No medieval buildings were recorded.

Remains of post-medieval buildings and boundaries in the form of mortared stone walls were recorded at several locations. Some of these can be identified as a building and walls featured on the 1st Edition OS map from the mid-19th century.

**Report:** Historic Environment Scotland and Stirling Council Archaeology Service

**Report:** www.masonsmarkproject.org.uk

**Church of the Holy Rude**

**Survey**

**Moira Greig – Mason’s Mark Project**

A survey of the stonemasons’ marks on the interior and exterior walls of the Church of the Holy Rude was undertaken three days a month over six months, October 2015 – April 2016, by the Mason’s Mark Project, with the help of volunteers from the Friends of the Church of the Holy Rude. The total number of marks recorded was 2,070, from which 92 different masons could be identified. Of this total number, 60 of the masons worked on the 15th-century West Church, five of whom also worked on the lowest stage of the tower. A group of seven others only worked on the St Mary’s Chapel or Aisle, while yet another group of six masons only worked on the 1st floor chamber of the tower which is of a later date. Thirty-two masons worked on the 16th-century East Church.

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**Report:** Stirling Council Archaeology Service

**Report:** www.masonsmarkproject.org.uk

**Sponsor:** Friends of the Church of the Holy Rude

**Colessio Hotel, 33 Spittal Street, Stirling**

**Watching brief and excavation**

**Magnar Dalland and Edward Bailey – Headland Archaeology Ltd**

A monitoring programme was intermittently carried out, 2 October 2009 – 14 January 2014, during ground-breaking works associated with the conversion of a 19th-century building into a hotel. The work included watching briefs during the excavation of test pits and service trenches and a small open-area excavation.

The fieldwork uncovered boundaries, a well and large pits associated with activity within the medieval burghage plots stretching back from Spittal Street. The features produced large amounts of pot dating from the 12th to 16th century. No medieval buildings were recorded.

Remains of post-medieval buildings and boundaries in the form of mortared stone walls were recorded at several locations. Some of these can be identified as a building and walls featured on the 1st Edition OS map from the mid-19th century.

**Archives:** NRHE

**Funder:** Colessio Hotel Ltd
Cowane’s Hospital Bowling Green and Garden

**Evaluation**

**Philip Karsgaard – Addyman Archaeology**

NS 79203 93666 An evaluation was undertaken in the grounds of Cowane’s Hospital with volunteer participants, 12–19 September 2016. Five trenches were excavated. Trenches 1–4 were hand dug and placed across the edges of the bowling green in order to determine the sequence of alterations to the green and identify any preserved original 18th-century bowling green edges. Trench 5 was located in the SE area of the parterre garden, and aimed to investigate the original garden path network as designed by John Harlaw in 1713. Trenches 1–4 recovered the stratigraphy of the bowling green, and identified 20th-century expansions of the green with associated drainage; earlier 19th-century levelling deposits, drainage systems, and rubble levelling layers; and, in Trench 1, indications of pre-bowling green strata. Trench 5 successfully identified a portion of the garden path network, and also exposed a previous garden structure, modern cuts, planting beds and two dog inhumations. Trenches 1 and 5 produced stamp-impressed clay pipe bowls decorated with a star motif, produced in Stirling in the mid-to late 17th century.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Heritage Lottery Fund

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Mar’s Wark, Stirling

**Inventory of carved stone**

**Mary Mármus – Archetype**

NS 79232 93744 (NS79SE 22) An inventory of this collection was undertaken in November 2015. The three large corbels have been stored at the Kerse Road depot in Stirling for a number of years. The corbels are worked in a very hard, medium-grained sandstone, and the most complete of the three is carved with a human demi-figure, the head of which is missing. The arms are bent, and the hands are holding a scroll carved in low-relief with the date 1572 carved in low-relief. This was the date of decease of John Erskine, 1st Earl of Mar, and may also have been the year in which Mar’s Lodging was completed (a building period of 1570–72 is given in JS Fleming, ‘Regent Mar’s Lodging, Stirling’). Details of the costume are still relatively clear, with the figure wearing a close-fitting doublet with buttons on the front, slightly puffed shoulders, and with a scalloped lower edge.

This and other inventories of carved stones from Historic Environment Scotland’s properties in care are held by the Collections Unit. For further information please contact collections@hes.scot.

**Funder:** Allan Water Properties

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Goosecroft Road, Stirling

**Excavation**

**Kevin Paton and Martin Cook – AOC Archaeology Group**

NS 7965 9389 An excavation was undertaken, 13–20 December 2016, in advance of a proposed hotel development on the grounds of the former Rainbow Slides Leisure Centre. The excavation follows on from an earlier evaluation that uncovered a large deposit of dark grey clay along the NE boundary of the site that may relate to the medieval and post-medieval town boundary.

The excavation concentrated on the proposed building footprint, and revealed up to 0.7m of made ground overlying the former post-medieval soils. Constructed within this later soil horizon were two sandstone walls relating to 19th-century buildings. Under this soil horizon, a very large cut feature was revealed, measuring 8.7m (N/S) by 10m (E/W), which extended further E and S outwith the excavation area. The alignment of the feature is consistent with the town boundary ditch that was revealed in the evaluation and fragments of white gritty ware and other ceramics were found within the fills.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Allan Water Properties

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Stirling Castle – Douglas Gardens

**Watching brief**

**Paul Fox – Kirkdale Archaeology**

NS 7898 9411 A watching brief was carried out, 9 – 26 May 2016.

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2016, during minor excavations to allow the installation of footings for a new handrail upright serving the wall-walk stairs in the NE portion of the Douglas Gardens. The initial excavation trench revealed in situ sandstone masonry steps, and as it was not possible to install new concrete footings without disturbing existing structures and deposits, work was halted. A second small trench was then excavated which avoided the in situ masonry.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Historic Environment Scotland

**Stirling Castle – French Spur Battery**

**Watching brief**

**Paul Fox – Kirkdale Archaeology**

NS 7909 9403 A watching brief was carried out, 16 December 2015, during the excavation of a shallow (c200mm) trench to allow the installation of a new handrail at the lower level of the French Spur. Stone slabs were revealed, bedded on material which yielded 19th-century artefacts, and it was clear that later remedial works have also been carried out.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Historic Environment Scotland

**Stirling’s Old Town Cemetery**

**Evaluation**

**Murray Cook and Therese McCormick – Stirling Council**

NS 79158 93689 On the 26–27 May 2016 a small-scale trial evaluation with volunteers was undertaken to confirm the location of the Watch House in Stirling’s Old Town Cemetery. This building was constructed in 1822 to prevent grave robbing and destroyed in the 1857 when the cemetery was expanded. The foundations consisted of reused gravestones and bricks. A range of finds were recorded, including 19th-century pottery, 17th-century pottery, human remains and coffin furniture.

**Archive and report:** Stirling Council

**Funder:** Stirling Council

**St Ninians**

**Braehead WW2 Trenches, Stirling**

**Excavation and survey**

**Claire Shaw – GUARD Archaeology Ltd**

NS 80491 92006 (NS89SW 169) The results from a programme of geophysical survey undertaken as part of the Bannockburn Big Dig, 2014 (DES 14, 184) had noted two anomalies. These were interpreted as the remains of WW1 or WW2 practice trenches.

Investigation of these potential practice trenches was carried out, 5 October 2015, in collaboration with Braehead Community Council and Stirling Council with the help of volunteers from the local community, including 60 school children from the nearby Braehead Primary School. Three test pits were excavated across the site of the practice trenches. None of the test pits revealed archaeological features or evidence for the trenches. The artefacts recovered were predominantly of 19th- to 20th-century date, although there was one sherd of medieval green glazed pottery.

A metal detecting demonstration within the corridor of grass to the immediate E of Broom Road recovered four iron objects, which were unidentifiable but probably modern.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Braehead Community Council/Stirling Council

**Cowie**

**Metal detector find**

**Martin Goldberg – National Museums Scotland**

NS 83 89 Copper alloy polyhedral weight of early medieval/Viking age type. This example is much larger than most examples and lacks the sequence of dots commonly stamped on the faces, having only a single dot on one face. Dimensions 15 x 16mm; Weight 24.58g.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT/177/15), allocated to Dunblane Museum
Cowie

Metal detector find
Trevor Cowie – National Museums Scotland
NS 84 89 A small fragment of a socketed axehead of copper alloy (portion of blade with socket end missing) was found through metal detecting in 2015. Trace of side loop and internal casting seam. Surface degraded. Length 48.2mm. Claimed as Treasure Trove (CO.TT.28/16), allocated to National Museums Scotland
Funder: National Museums Scotland

Craig Leith Road, Stirling
Survey and evaluation

Yvonne Robertson – AOC Archaeology Group
NS 80685 92235 A metal detector survey and evaluation were carried out, 25 September – 2 June 2016, in advance of the construction of an Audi workshop at Plot 12, Craig Leith Road. The evaluation involved the excavation of a single linear trench over the probable location of an undated ditch feature recorded on aerial photographs from the mid-20th century. As the site is within the Battle of Bannockburn site, it was hoped that artefacts from the battle may have been found within the ditch. The evaluation trench did not locate this feature or reveal any other significant archaeology. The metal detecting survey recovered only modern debris.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Taylor Design Architects Ltd

Murrayshall Farm, Stirling
Survey and evaluation

Gary Savory and Graeme Carruthers – CFA Archaeology Ltd
NS 75841 90568 – NS 76876 90860 A metal detector survey and subsequent watching brief during topsoil stripping associated with a mini hydro-electric scheme (N Third) were carried out, February 2014 – October 2015, on land adjacent to the Bannock Burn at Murrayshall Farm. The materials recovered from the metal detector survey were post-medieval or modern.
Archive: NRHE (intended). Report: NRHE and Stirling Council Archaeology Service
Funder: Scottish Water

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

Cardross

Geilston Farm
Survey

Sandra Kelly – North Clyde Archaeological Society
NS 337 772 The site of a WW2 heavy anti-aircraft gun installation was surveyed. Four gun positions are arranged in an arc around an underground command post; all are well preserved. A further two gun positions were identified and these may be the remains of 4.7” guns installed after the usual 3.75” guns described above. A further two gun positions survive as 4m diameter circular concrete pads, details of the gun mounts at each location are preserved. The site therefore appears to have a series of adaptations bringing the total gun positions to eight. The camp buildings and the radar mat area no longer survive, but are known from aerial photographs of the site. This project is part of a complete survey of military remains along the N Clyde Estuary coastline.
Report: NRHE and WoSAS (intended)
Website: www.spanglefish.com/
NorthClydeArchaeologicalSociety/index.asp

Dumbarton

Stirling Road, Bonhill
Evaluation

Claire Shaw and Kevin Mooney – GUARD Archaeology Ltd
NS 39993 78478 An 8% evaluation was carried out, 14–19 April 2016, in advance of a residential development. A total of 38 trenches were excavated but the only features recorded related to field drainage.
Archive: NRHE
Funder: Barratt Homes

Old Kilpatrick

Edinbarnet
Field visit

George Currie
NS 50664 74030 A 3m high exposed area of rock to the N of the Cochno Road bears 17 cup marks and one oval shaped marking. There is a possible small rough-out of a quern stone 15m to the E of the rock noted above. A further 8m to the W of the engravings is another group of five cup marks two of which have single rings. Quarrying at the edge of the outcrop has resulted in the partial removal of one of the cups. This second group may be NS57SW 40, although there was no mention of rings or the markings being at the edge of quarrying in the original notes.

Cup marks at Edinbarnet – E1

Golden Hill, Duntocher
Geophysical survey

Richard Jones – University of Glasgow
NS 4953 7264 A magnetic and electrical resistance survey within and to the N of the fort was carried out in August 2016
to reconsider aspects of Anne Robertson’s interpretation of the layout of the fort based on her excavations in the 1950s. The results have highlighted several discrepancies, including the presence of a triple ditch in front of the Antonine Wall, rather than the two proposed by Robertson, and a causeway across the triple ditch from the fortlet’s N gate rather than from Robertson’s N gate of the fort. The results also prompt a reconsideration of the spatial relationship of the fort with respect to the fortlet. Unexpected findings were a structure (c20 x 16m) S of the fortlet and more than two structures located in the supposed annexe area of the fort.

Report: WoSAS (intended)
Funder: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

**WEST LOTHIAN**

**Kirknewton**

**Calderwood, East Calder**

**Evaluation**

*Magnus Kirby – CFA Archaeology Ltd*

NT 089 686 A trial trenching evaluation was carried out, September 2016, in advance of Phase 2 of a mixed-use development. Vestigial remains of cultivation furrows indicated that the area was being utilised for agricultural purposes prior to 19th/20th-century agricultural improvements. Numerous field drains provided evidence of
recent agricultural improvements. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended). **Report:** NRHE and WoSAS

**Funder:** Stirling Property Partnership

**Raw Holdings, East Calder**

**Evaluation and walkover survey**

**Alan Hunter Blair – GUARD Archaeology Ltd**

NT 09164 67955 A trial trenching evaluation was undertaken, 12–25 April 2016, on three fields (86000m²) at Raw Holdings. The planned 8% evaluation was reduced from 73 to 57 trenches due to the presence of badger setts and nesting birds.

Features recorded in the N field consisted of the remnants of rig and furrow cultivation, numerous tile and rubble field drains, a curvilinear feature and two linear features associated with drainage, and a deep infill layer consisting of coal and shale, possibly derived from the construction of the nearby 19th-century Camps Branch railway line. Further drains were identified in the W field. A walkover survey also identified three mounds of topsoil, of probable recent date, toward the NW edge of the field. In the SW corner of the site spreads of brick and rubble may represent remnants of demolished structures associated with a former market garden known to have recently occupied this part of the site.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Persimmon Homes

**Linlithgow**

**Learmonth Garden, Linlithgow**

**Survey and watching brief**

**Ariane Buschmann, Mark Lawson and Richard Newman – Wardell Armstrong Archaeology**

NT 00345 77008 A survey was carried out, 30 July – 12 August 2015, of Learmonth Gardens in advance of the construction of a balustrade and gate between the first and second step of the walls. The gardens form part of the medieval settlement of Linlithgow; however, the current retaining walls date to 1842, when railway tracks were built through several High Street burgage plots. Modern changes have also been made to the walls, with the upper level, first and second steps of the wall being rebuilt.

A watching brief was undertaken, 5 April 2016, in advance of the placement of underground electricity cables. The excavation of a 43.4m long by 0.4m wide and 0.5–0.6m deep trench recorded no finds or features of archaeological significance.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Funder:** West Lothian Council

**Linlithgow Palace**

**Watching brief**

**Paul Fox – Kirkdale Archaeology**

NT 0021 7732 (centred on) A watching brief was maintained, 9 February – 17 March 2016, during the removal of existing setts, ground preparation and the resetting of new setts against the E range and portions of the S range within the courtyard of Linlithgow Palace. Although the excavations were relatively shallow, the differences in style and alignment of the various base courses encountered furthered understanding of the development of the palace.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Historic Environment Scotland

**Lowport Gardens, Linlithgow**

**Watching brief**

**Jessica Lumb and Genevieve Shaw – AOC Archaeology Group**

NT 00480 77214 A watching brief was carried out, 7 July 2016, during the removal of paving during renovation works at Lowport Gardens. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Linlithgow Community Development Trust

**Mid Calder**

**Calder Park Road**

**Evaluation and standing building recording**

**Alan Hunter Blair – GUARD Archaeology Ltd**

NT 06378 67280 A trial trench evaluation was carried out, 23 May – 28 June 2016, around the southern edge of a now defunct, but extant, paper mill complex and on ground to the E, S and W of mill buildings at Calder Park Road. The New Calder Paper Mill as shown on the 1st Edition OS map (1853) was extensively redeveloped during the 1950s to form the present layout of the paper mill. One of the later brick built mill buildings was found to have incorporated part of the southern end of an earlier sandstone-built mill building, with a later 19th-century sandstone extension appended to the S. Two trenches located to the immediate W and S of the early mill extension identified cobbled surfaces and an area of hard standing. Fireclay drainpipes were visible in three of the evaluation trenches located to the S and W of the mill.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Funder:** Mr and Mrs K Scobie

**Torphichen**

**Kirk House, 8 The Square, Torphichen**

**Watching brief**

**Derek Hall**

NS 967 723 A watching brief was carried out, 10 May 2016, during the excavation of test pits in the footprint of a proposed house extension and the digging of the foundation trenches for a new garage. All finds recovered were of 19th-century date or later.

**Archive:** NRHE

**Funder:** Mr and Mrs K Scobie

**West Calder**

**Harburnhead Wind Farm**

**Watching brief**

**Bob Will – GUARD Archaeology Ltd**

NT 03354 59230 (centred on) A watching brief was undertaken, 1 December 2015 – 16 June 2016, during the construction of 22 wind turbines and associated infrastructure. A small, derelict brick building, which may have related to 19th-century lime works in the area, was recorded prior to demolition. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** Natural Power

**Pearie Law Wind Farm, West Calder**

**Watching brief**

**Kenneth Green and Clare Shaw – GUARD Archaeology Ltd**

NT 016 598 A watching brief was undertaken, 7 September 2015, during the construction of six wind turbines and associated infrastructure. No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified.

**Archive:** NRHE (intended)

**Funder:** EDF Energy Renewables Wind Ltd

**DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND 177**
Tormywheel Wind Farm, Fauldhouse
Watching brief
Jessica Lumb – AOC Archaeology Group
NS 956 585 A watching brief was undertaken, April – 28 June 2016, during ground-breaking work associated with the construction of a wind farm. The remains of a small post-medieval building, trackway and culvert, associated with the historic mining activity within the development area, were recorded.
Archive: NRHE (intended)
Funder: Muirhall Energy

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR/WESTERN ISLES

Barra

2 Caolas, Vatersay
Survey
Lynne McKeggie – Highland Archaeology Services
NL 6251 9736 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken, 26 September 2016, by Kate MacDonald on the site of a proposed residential development. Sixteen archaeological features were identified and recorded, including dykes, shelters, a circular platform, and a mound. Several of these features will be directly impacted by the development and it is recommended that the mound and two shelters are subject to an evaluation, while other features are protected by a temporary barrier during the construction process.
Archive: HAS. Report: Comhairle nan Eilean Siar HER
Funder: Mr D MacNeil

Circular platform and dyke at Caolas, Vatersay

Hellisay Field Survey, Hellisay
Survey
David Newman
NF 75820 04400 (Canmore ID: 126104. SMR ID: 2817) A walkover survey was carried out on 1 August 2016. On the area between NF 7573 0447 and NF 7594 0435, the remains of eight rectangular buildings lie along a 200m long stretch of the N shore of Hellisay, facing across the narrow sea channel towards the neighbouring island of Gighay c300m away. Each building is 9–10m long and 3.5–4.0m wide, with a range of orientations which seem to be principally related to site conditions, though perhaps ESE/WNW or NE/SW are favoured. The dry stone walls have been reduced to low stone/turf banks typically spread to 1.0–1.5m wide and 0.5m high. Four entrance doorways are identifiable, all located in one of the long elevations. Four of the buildings appear to have been subsequently rebuilt to a smaller size, retaining their width and one gable, but reduced in length to 3.0–5.5m.

On the shore at NF 75795 04425 and NF 75920 04355 are the remains of two boat landing places. Each has a line of beach, typically 3–4m wide, cleared of larger stones and leading from the coast edge to the LWM. At the head of the westernmost is a V-plan shaped boat naust c6m long, 3m wide at its widest point and up to 1.5m deep, the N side of which has been reinforced with a coursed dry stone wall. The remains of a dry stone dyke connect the naust end to the nearby building.
Centred at NF 75795 04555 are the remains of a second dry stone dyke, c15m long, extending E between a rock outcrop and the coast edge. Local Barra tradition is that this settlement was originally the location of a basking shark fishing community which operated in the first half of the 19th century, though the altered buildings suggest it may have been re-occupied for a different purpose at a later date. However, by 1876 the buildings recorded by the OS (and in all subsequent mapping) were all unroofed.

Pabbay
Survey
Daniel Rhodes – The National Trust for Scotland
NL 60146 87555 As part of the National Trust for Scotland’s Thistle Camp volunteer scheme a survey was undertaken, 19–28 May 2016, of Pabbay. This was deemed necessary to inspect the existence of, condition and significance of previously identified sites of archaeological interest. The survey utilised a newly designed tablet based recording system and visited 156 previously identified sites. Of these c40 were reclassified as non-archaeological or no longer visible and c15 new sites were discovered.
Archive: The National Trust for Scotland
Funder: The National Trust for Scotland

Harris

Holasmul
Evaluation
Margaret Curtis
NG 06430 91630 The entry in DES 2012 p185 led to further investigations as to the origins and function of the rows of stone settings. Most residents of S Harris are unaware of their existence. James Crawford, who reported the site, loaned me his provisional survey of the c95 settings, which immediately provided a possible answer. There was a striking similarity to the plans of single and multiple stone rows in Caithness and elsewhere. It was arranged for Chris Murray to take photographs of the settings.
It was initially a shock to see the pictures, as the Harris settings do not resemble those of Caithness. After much consideration it was realised that the differences could be due to the different types of location.

Holasmul – Five stone settings
Holasmul is a rocky hill with an undulating surface. There is wet boggy ground and little ground cover (rushes, moss and heather) with areas of bare rock, unsuitable for the erection of small megaliths. More substantial foundations were required.

Some of the stone settings are low piles of stones grouped haphazardly together, many topped with a long narrow stone held upright, or nearly so. These piles ran across open ground near lochan. They tended to be in the hollows between rocky ridges.

Larger settings up to 2m high are built on the bare rocky ridges. Large boulders at the base with smaller slabs forming a neatly tapered pepperpot shape. Some courses of thin slabs support smaller stones. Flattened oar shaped stones protrude from the top with their bases embedded deep in the setting. Many of these lie fallen on or alongside the settings.

There are clusters of the larger settings on rock ridges. The stone settings, singly and in multiple rows stretch c200m across Holasmul at about the 150m contour. The ends are not intervisible, but there are extensive views to the E and SE to the Isle of Skye which may have been used for solar or lunar observations. The view from the NW end has not yet
been recorded due to inclement weather.

It has been suggested that these stone settings are markers for an E/W walking route. Two more routes lie 2km further E – a track and the A859. They climb to c100m and have smooth gradients. There may be a burial cairn near a group of stone settings at the SE end of the stone rows.

Leslie Myatt was consulted about the Holasmul stone settings. He had an especial interest in the Caithness stone rows. If indeed the Holasmul stone settings are confirmed as prehistoric, and functioning as at Caithness (and elsewhere around Britain), they fill a gap in the location of such sites. It is the thin oar shaped stones which may be comparable to the Caithness stone rows. If the stones are route markers, it is not the easiest route with which to cross S Harris.

Village Bay, St Kilda
Watching brief
Jonathan Wordsworth – The National Trust for Scotland
NF 10121 99362 (Canmore ID: 139386. SMR ID: NTS 2334).
A watching brief was carried out, 13–22 September 2016, on the repair of the S gable of Blackhouse H on Village Street, following its partial collapse after heavy rain. The SE corner appeared to have been rebuilt in more recent times, whereas the SW corner is more likely to have remained unaltered since the early 20th century. One body sherd of ‘craggan’ ware was retained, but in line with agreed NTS/HES finds disposal policy for St Kilda the few sherds of glass, pottery and stone tools also found were recorded and then reburied within the repaired wall.

Report: Comhairle nan Eilean Siar HER, NRHE and NTS
Funder: The National Trust for Scotland and HES

North Uist

An Corran, Boreray, North Uist
Field visit
Bill Stephens
NF 8578 8050 and NF 85560 80489 (NF88SE 3) Intrigued by the statement in Martin Martin’s ‘Description of the Western Isles of Scotland’ that the Cladh Manach burial ground on Boreray, was where all the monks N of Eigg were buried, and wanting to inspect the cross-marked stone slab illustrated in Ian Fisher’s ‘Early Medieval Sculpture in the West Highlands and Islands’, I set off from Berneray in my sea kayak to visit the island in early September 2015.

I had assumed the island was unoccupied but approaching the island noticed someone walking on the beach with a dog and it turned out to be Jerry Cox who lives in the old school house. After explaining my purpose, he took me to a cross-marked rock on the foreshore at a’ Gheodha (NF 8578 8050), which does not feature in ‘Early Medieval Sculpture’ and is not included in CANMORE or the Western Isles Council SMR.

The linear cross, shown below, is 180mm high and 150mm across with the lower limb slightly longer than the upper and is incised on the N-facing slope of bedrock. The weathered foliations in the hard gneiss exposed by the cross incision and comparanda illustrated in ‘Early Medieval Sculpture’ suggests that it could be early in date and perhaps marked the landing place for the Cladh Manach burial ground.

There is also a nearby inscription, also unrecorded, giving the names of individuals from Boreray and Uist dated 1871. Inscribed on an exposed quartzite band, it contrasts with the darker rock and deeper incision of the cross. Other isolated graffiti on rocks in the vicinity also seem to be personal names and initials dating from the same time.

Further examination of the rock in September of this year, when the surface was wet with rain, revealed a shallow incised ‘J’ with a curled tail of similar overall dimensions to the cross and less than a metre to its left. It can just be seen and probably dates from when the personal names and initials were carved.

Despite having copies of an extract from the 1st Edition OS map and page 112 of ‘Early Medieval Sculpture’ that gives details of the Cladh Manach cross-incised slab with me, it proved impossible to find even using GPS. After providing Jerry with a 1999 vertical aerial photograph that appears to show the slightly raised extent of the burial ground and a copy of a RCAHMS survey sheet that includes a photograph and sketches of the cross-incised slab and the nearby cup-marked rock drawn by Ian Scott in 1988, he was able to locate it at NF 85601 80489, c24m ESE of that given by ‘Early Medieval Sculpture’ and Canmore.

Boreray Shore Cross

Ceadach Ruadh, Baile Sear
Stray find
Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland
NF 7763 6157 A bone femur head, cut to a hemisphere and perforated, was found casually. Such objects may be weights or gaming pieces.

Claimed as Treasure Trove (TT 30/16), allocated to Museum nan Eilean

Eaval Peninsula – Poll nan Gall
Field visit and survey
David Newman, Roger Auger and Simon Davies
NF 90820 58320 The remains of a complex of rectangular buildings are situated on a rocky outcrop around 125m W of the shore of Poll nan Gall (Strangers’ Bay) on the S side of the Eaval peninsula. The main (and possibly original)
structure (A) measures around 8m NE to SW by 3.5m transversely, within stone rubble walls between 1 and 1.7m thick and up to 1m high. There is an entrance on the NW wall, outside of which lies a possible stone-stepped and paved entrance platform (D). The platform is 1.2–2.3m wide and runs the length of the elevation at a level c0.5m above the surrounding ground.

Attached to the NE gable of A is a rectangular plan shaped extension (or possibly original wing) B, which measures c8m NW to SE by 3m transversely, within similar stone walls to A. There is an internal stone partition forming a separate room at its SE end. This extension is set at an angle of c100° to A, seemingly to follow the line of a rock outcrop edge on its NE side, at which point the wall is supported by two stone-built revetments (F).

Attached to the SW end of the SE elevation of A is a second, L-shaped extension (or wing) C built between two rock outcrops, E, which are incorporated in part into the stone walls. This measures around 8.7m NW to SE by 5 and 2.6m transversely within stone rubble walls between 0.7 and 1.1m thick and up to 2m high. There is an entrance on the NE elevation and a partition formed by three embedded upright stone slabs towards the SE end.

An overview of the remains of a complex of rectangular buildings around 125m W of the shore of Poll nan Gall

From the SW end of the entrance platform, a possible ramped pathway (G), now partly infilled with stone rubble, leads up to an area of higher level ground where a separate sub-rectangular stone walled building lies on a rock outcrop at NF 9080 5831. This measures between 3 and 2.5m W/E and 2.5m transversely within dry stone walls averaging 1m thick, but are reduced to around 0.7m high. There is an entrance towards the N end of the E elevation. Possible traces of other structures lie to its W side.

Local tradition is that despite its very isolated position, this building was an inn that was used when people and the mail came from Skye on the way to Carinish, the main post office for the southern Hebridean islands at the time. The Carinish–Dunvegan Packet sailed from 1765–1829. The crofter who holds the grazing rights in this area of SE North Uist believes that the inn predates the postal service by up to 100 years and was built to service Dutch herring fishing boats working in the Minch in the 17th century. The site was surveyed on 1–30 April 2016.
NEWS FROM HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND’S DESIGNATIONS TEAM

About us
Our first Historic Environment Scotland corporate plan was launched in May. It sets out our strategic direction up to 2019, charting how we will work as the lead public body for the country’s historic environment and be a key player in delivering Scotland’s first strategy for the historic environment, Our Place in Time.

Alex Paterson took up the post of Chief Executive in September and will be leading our delivery of the corporate plan.

A new directorate has also been created which includes the designations team. The Heritage Directorate manages the cycle of identifying, understanding, documenting, designating, and managing change in the historic environment.

What else is new?

Our three-year plan
We have published our three-year plan which details the priorities and aims for the designations team up until 2019.

A single designations application form
We have created a new single application form for designation requests. The form covers all the designations (listing, scheduling, gardens and designed landscapes, battlefields and marine) and all type of requests from asking us to look at a new site for designation, to reviews or removals of existing designations. We have produced guidance alongside the form to help you to fill it in. We welcome requests for all the designations and we are particularly keen to encourage applications from across Scotland for potential new scheduled sites in the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017.

Service standards
Our designation service standards were launched in October and are part of our commitment to provide a high quality, transparent and professional service within defined timescales. For instance, for all routine requests for us to assess a site for scheduling we aim to have completed these types of cases within six months.

Photographs
We continue to add photographs to our designation records and this has now extended to all new and significantly revised scheduled monument records. The first scheduled monument

Knockbrex Fort, Dumfries and Galloway (Crown Copyright Historic Environment Scotland)
Our designation booklets

Our five designations guides have been revamped and reissued with up-to-date information including legislation changes, such as the new right of appeal for new and revised schedulings and listings.

A year in designations

Here are just a few of the highlights from our designations work in 2016.

Whisky galore

In December, we scheduled the remains of an illicit whisky still in Glen Affric. The remote site, dating to the late 18th or early 19th century, represents a fascinating period in Scotland’s whisky history. Following the Excise Act of 1788, whisky stills under 100 gallons in size were banned, but enterprising individuals continued to distil illegally at smaller scales, creating illicit stills like this site in remote locations in the Highlands, keeping them hidden from the authorities.

Hunting the silver darlings

Over the last year, we have also designated several sites connected to Scotland’s fishing heritage. At Achastle-shore and Sarclet, both in Caithness, we have scheduled two surviving fishing stations, examples of the 19th-century herring boom which began in this area, and which grew into the largest fishing industry in Europe by the end of the 19th century.

Further south, by Loch Brora, we have also scheduled the remains of a late 19th-century salmon hatchery, part of an important effort to manage fish stocks at that time, and a precursor to Scotland’s modern aquaculture and sustainable fisheries industries.

St Mary’s Nunnery

The site of St Mary’s Nunnery, near Haddington in East Lothian, was also added to the schedule this year. St Mary’s was founded in the 1150s by Ada de Warenne, the mother of Malcolm IV and William the Lion. Operating under the Cistercian order, it was one of the richest nunneries in Scotland, and remained in operation for over 400 years. Burned during the Rough Wooing in 1544, just four years later it was also where the Scottish Parliament ratified the marriage of Mary, Queen of Scots, to the French Dauphin, thwarting English ambitions to marry Mary to their own young heir, Prince Edward.

Drill halls

We have completed our review of drill halls, leading to 27 currently listed sites having their records improved, and an additional 9 sites being newly listed. They range from large, elaborate examples, like Dalmeny Street in Edinburgh, or the rare timber hall at Golspie, to the tiny example at Birnam, which turned out to be too small for the local volunteers to train in!

Churchill Barriers

Also listed this year were numbers 3 and 4 of the Churchill Barriers on Orkney. These massive structures were built to seal the eastern approaches to Scapa Flow following the sinking of the Royal Oak in the harbour by a German U-boat. The barriers were ordered by Winston Churchill himself, from where they gained the name, and despite construction beginning in 1940, they were not officially opened until after the war in Europe had come to an end. Today, the barriers still serve a vital role, linking the islands of South Ronaldsay and Burray to the mainland, via the road along the barrier top.

Battle on the border

The Battle of Sark in Dumfries and Galloway became the 40th site added to the Inventory of Historic Battlefields. The battle, fought between England and Scotland in 1448, came during a period of intense power struggles between the nobles and the monarchies on both sides of the border, and ended in a catastrophic defeat for the invading English force.

A Clydebuilt confederate

October saw the creation of Scotland’s 8th Historic Marine Protected Area, the wreck of the Iona I. A paddle steamer built in 1855, she operated in the Firth of Clyde as a passenger steamer for several years, before being bought in 1862 for a new, riskier purpose. With the US Civil War in its second year, the Union blockade of southern harbours was restricting the Confederate States of America’s ability to either sell resources like cotton or buy in war supplies. Fast ships were soon in high demand for running the blockade, crews attempting to avoid and outrun Union ships and earning fortunes for success, but the Iona I never got her chance to try, as she sank off Greenock while leaving Scotland for her new career.
St Andrew’s Botanic Garden
In November St Andrew’s Botanic Garden, the third oldest botanic garden in Scotland, was added to the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. In operation since 1889, and located at its current site close to the town centre since the 1960s, the 18.5-acre garden is home to more than 8000 plant species and 50 champion trees, along with extensive documentation and plant records from throughout its history.

For more information about any of these sites, or our other 2016 designations, please visit our designations portal at: http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designations.

Coming up
We hope that you saw and took part in our What’s your heritage? project. The first part of this ambitious national campaign took place in 2016 and early 2017. We asked members of the public to reveal which of Scotland’s places, buildings and monuments they want to see acknowledged and celebrated and at the time of writing our online survey had well over 1000 responses. We’re using the responses from the survey and workshops we held to help shape new policies that will assist us in protecting and celebrating historic sites now and in the future. We’re also encouraging people to think about how change to designated sites and places should be managed.

Keep an eye on our website for the second phase of this project which will see us engage with the historic environment sector using the results gained from the public campaign.

Get involved
Propose sites for designation: https://www.historicenvironment.scot/media/3453/designations-application-form.pdf
What’s your heritage: https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/whats-your-heritage/
Tell us what you think of our work at designations@hes.scot.

SURVEY AND RECORDING

Introduction
The format of this report continues that of previous years, with summary accounts of HES (Survey and Recording) field and aerial survey programmes, plus details of educational and outreach activities and a brief overview of accessions to the collection. Fuller details of HES, Survey and Recording activities and the annual list of accessions can be found on the HES website (www.hes.gov.uk) and Canmore, the database for the National Record of the Historic Environment (www.canmore.org.uk).

Summary
HES (Survey and Recording) fieldwork in 2016 focused on: the aerial survey programme; special surveys – some designed to provide specific training opportunities to staff and others; community engagement; enhancement of Canmore; and partnership working.

Aerial and Remote Sensing Mapping
One arm of HES’ Survey and Recording Group works on a programme that maps archaeological features using remote sensing data, whether photography from its aerial survey programme, other aerial photography, or from lidar. Some of this data has recently been made available on Canmore for East Lothian and further tranches of data will be posted online as they become available.
One of these is a partnership project with the University of Glasgow, supporting their Strathearn Environs and Royal Forteviot (SERF) project, with additional interpretative mapping using remote sensing from Airborne Laser Scanning (ALS), vertical and oblique aerial photographs. Together these sources have been used to investigate the surface archaeology in an area of the Ochil Hills around Dunning Common, but extending into Glen Devon to the SW and the Crook of Devon to the S). Previous surveys in the area have examined vertical aerial photographs with rapid field survey for mapping, and the corpus of known sites in Canmore reflects this emphasis in the study area, eg Glen Devon.

When combined with the mapping from Glen Devon, the results show a complex arrangement of medieval and post-medieval field banks, dispersed farms and trackways, as well as the occasional survival of rig and furrow, all of which are amongst and against a background of prehistoric monuments, such as forts. In the past the area was used for the pasturing of cattle by local estates, and the area was also a transitory space for the droving of cattle. The area is now used for the grazing of sheep, with the occasional grazing of cattle and horses.

The project’s use of ALS or lidar is being undertaken by members of the HES Aerial and Remote Sensing team, deriving a variety of visualisations from the Scottish Government procured 1m lidar survey data. The main aim of the project is to discover new sites and to add to our existing record of archaeological sites, but also to understand how different parts of the landscape were connected to one another, whether in terms of the character of the archaeology or actually linked by trackways. Lidar, like any field investigation technique, reveals many of these activities, but it needs a critical review process if it is to be effective. The results of the mapping have undergone rigorous examination by colleagues in HES and by our partners at Glasgow University. While lidar allows a fairly ‘complete’ picture of archaeological landscapes to be examined, its full potential is revealed through the creation of visualisations, some of which mimic the effect of light and shadow from multiple directions (Multi-directional Hillshade), or visualisations that reproduce the curvature of features based on degrees of slope and how open a particular point on the lidar is to the sky (Sky View Factor combined with Slope). This first stage of mapping also benefits from archaeological interpretation in the field. The results will be published in Canmore and in a short report in due course.

Aerial Survey
Aerial reconnaissance during 2016 saw a mixed economy of work, including reconnaissance, recording of sites and areas threatened by coastal erosion, and the collection of imagery to support condition monitoring on scheduled sites. Primary reconnaissance included coverage of The Ochils, parts of the Cairngorms, Orkney and the Western Isles. There was virtually no cropmark formation. All images taken during the year have been accessioned to the database and can be accessed through Canmore.

Canmore Mapping
HES archaeological survey teams continue to systematically map the extent of all new records added to Canmore. Notable additions in 2016 include the National Trust for Scotland’s mapping of their entire estate, the mapping of...
Carved Stone Programme

The programme of recording Pictish and early medieval stones continued a nationwide survey, by a mixture of techniques of photography, rubbing and drawing. Recording in Highland and north-west Perthshire was completed in 2016, as was about half of the corpus from south-west Perthshire. A number of Pictish symbol stones in Easter Ross were also recorded.

In advance of a scheduled monument consent application to move a number of 13th- and 14th-century grave-slabs from Kirkmichael and Cullicudden burial grounds, all of the medieval sculpture at both sites was recorded photographically. The number of medieval stones at Cullicudden runs to double figures and is one of the largest assemblages in Scotland.

Castle Surveys

As part of the PhD related campaign of recording early stone castles, Old Wick Castle, Caithness, was planned, photographed and recorded using a 3-D scanner. Old Wick was selected as an example of a castle in the Norse-settled part of the north of Scotland which, it has been argued, could date as early as the 12th century, although there was nothing inherent in the structure to date it that early on architectural grounds. Plans of the site and the various floors of the castle were produced, as well as profiles of the site showing its situation on a promontory.

At the request of the Lomond Hills Landscape Project, a survey of Lochore Castle, Fife, was conducted while the site was being conserved as part of that project. This shows that the tower, which sits on a slight knoll surrounded by an enclosure with round towers, has subsided due to the robbing and collapse of the middle parts of the walls where the window openings were placed. The ingo of an entrance at basement level was recorded on the west, indicating that it had separate access to the first floor entrance on that side. One side of a gothic arched entrance to the stair up to the second floor beside the entrance was noted, as were the cells, corbelling and raggles of a garderobe on the east side. This latter feature was replicated at second floor level on the...
same side. The window openings on the east and south in particular has been modified and expanded in a secondary phase on both first and second floors.

Following the photogrammetric recording of the castle and landscape around Hume Castle, Berwickshire, in 2014, a 3-D model was prepared and in 2016, following field checking, interpretative plans of the castle and surrounding village were produced, as well as phase plans of the castle. This shows that Hume is a rare example of a lowland deserted village and associated castle, which included outworks, gardens and outbuildings. It also shows that the castle has potentially four phases, including the late 18th-century folly. The first is an earthwork at the E end of the castle knoll, possibly from a timber phase, the second an enclosure castle with round towers, and the third an artillery fort, of which the south wall with its raking angle is clearly designed as an artillery defence.

**Defending the Clyde**

This project, part of the Discovering the Clyde Research Programme, undertook to record all the surviving remains of early 20th-century coastal defences around the Firth of Clyde. The main sites dealt with were gun batteries at Ardhallow, Portkil and Toward, all in Argyll and Bute, and at Cloch Point in Inverclyde. In addition to recording the massive concrete gun-houses themselves, features relating to the supporting infrastructure, including command centres, magazines, stores, accommodation, offices and searchlight batteries, were also included in the survey. The gun batteries themselves were defended by machine-gun emplacements, anti-aircraft guns, slit-trenches and pillboxes, many of the latter being originally of timber construction and now represented by subtle earthworks. All the batteries were originally enclosed within boundary fences installed by the military; in most instances, all that remains of these boundaries are the War Department marker stones erected to define the limits of their property.

**HES (Survey and Recording) Community Engagement**

Field survey of Croughly township and Chapelton chapel site, both near Tomintoul, was the main focus of recent partnership working in the Cairngorms National Park in Speyside during the development phase of the Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape Partnership. The delivery phase of this partnership, with HES and others, was approved by the Heritage Lottery Fund and will run for five years until 2021. This will include training and support for survey and research work on the archaeology of the project area that will feed into the archive at the local museum in Tomintoul, which is being modernised and improved. It will also tackle conservation issues at Blairfindy castle and Scalans farm buildings, and see the recording of deserted settlements and oral history.

Meanwhile, Scotland’s Urban Past, a five-year nationwide project enabling communities to research, record and celebrate Scotland’s towns and cities, completed its second full year. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and HES, groups participating in 2016 included the Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden who researched and recorded remains of a medieval landscape, and a community-led group in Inverness who documented the restoration of Merkinch Welfare Hall. Other participants included Dunfermline Young Archaeologists’ Club who ‘recreated’ the medieval Abbot House in the video game Minecraft, and Newark Primary School in Port Glasgow who worked with Magic Torch Comics, an Inverclyde-based arts and heritage group, to produce a graphic novel about the town’s old railway lines. Full details can be found on the project website: scotlandsurbanpast.org.uk.

**Historic Land-use Assessment**

The annual update of HLA data was completed in December, including the addition of information on wind farms. The HLA data available on the HLAmap website: http://hlamap.org.uk/ will be updated with the 2016 data early in 2017. During 2016 the HLA team has worked in partnership with the National Library of Scotland to produce the ‘Scotland’s Land-use Viewer’ http://maps.nls.uk/projects/landuse/index .html. This online resource provides a split screen view of Scotland which highlights land-use change between the Ordnance Survey Land-use survey produced in the 1930s and the HLA map of 2015. During the year, data was supplied to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to be recast into their biodiversity map, and HES is working with them to monitor land-use change across Scotland photographically. HES is
supporting this partnership by monitoring an agreed set of landscapes from the air and by providing SNH access to Canmore as the location to store the photography as a SURE partner. Text for the upcoming HLA publication, *A History of Scotland’s Landscapes*, which was drafted in 2016, is due for publication in 2017, with additional text drafted by an external author, historian Fiona Watson.

**Investigating and Recording Scotland’s Graffiti Art**

This pilot project, undertaken throughout 2016, explored the options for HES undertaking the future recording, interpretation and dissemination of information about Scotland’s historic and recent graffiti art. The project undertook background research into the recording methodologies used by other organisations, reviewed research trends and carried out fieldwork investigation. Graffiti at eight different locations were examined. These included the 19th-century church at Croick, Highland, where engravings etched on to the windows bear witness to the clearance of the surrounding townships. At Scalan, in Moray, the team, along with volunteers, recorded internal timber fittings that are covered in pencil graffiti. This ranges from accounts of farm produce, including how much barbed wire was needed to enclose the hill in 1912, to detailed weather reports. Graffiti art at military sites was recorded at Dalbeattie armament works in Dumfries and Galloway, with the extensive range of evidence including poems dedicated to loved ones and images of ships and people, including Hitler. The project also recorded the graffiti art intervention at Polphail, an abandoned workers’ village built on the Cowal Peninsula in the 1970s. In 2009 graffiti artists from Agents of Change – an international collective of 13 artists, were invited to the village, in the knowledge that the site would eventually be redeveloped and their work destroyed. Over 80 pieces of graffiti art were produced and the village was demolished in late-2016. However, the art work was recorded and a lasting legacy of the artists’ endeavours has been preserved as part of the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE). The project used social media (@ScotGraffiti) to engage people with graffiti, to share knowledge and to raise the profile of the project.

**Kraiknish**

Working in partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), HES surveyed an area of about 18km² on the W coast of the Isle of Skye beneath the glens of Brittle and Eynort. By using hi-resolution lidar data provided by FCS, more than 160 new structures, ranging from prehistoric hut circles through medieval shieling sites to 19th-century crofting townships, were identified and provisionally mapped. While much of the upland has been managed for grazing and for peat-cutting, the surviving archaeology demonstrates that both the main township areas experienced rapid and dynamic change through the late 18th and 19th centuries.

**Scotland’s Community Heritage Conference**

In partnership with Archaeology Scotland, three one-day regional Community Heritage Conferences were held in Ayr, Oban and Aberdeen, highlighting the work of heritage groups in those localities. A larger national conference at Strathclyde University, Glasgow, is planned for November 2017.
Special Surveys

A number of special surveys were undertaken during 2016 in order to enhance existing records. In the NE of Scotland seven sites were surveyed, six of them prehistoric stone settings and one of them (at Ellon) the putative remains of a stone circle that was moved there from another, unknown, location in the 19th century. Of particular interest regarding the six other sites is the possibility that the little settings at Image Wood and Glassel are of Late Bronze Age date. At Knocksaul, a large cairn once interpreted as a recumbent stone circle, was planned in detail for the first time, demonstrating the relationship between the primary cairn, which contains the remains of an Early Bronze Age cist, and the secondary outer platform.

In South Lanarkshire, GPS was used to map and plan the Wildshaw Burn stone circle, an important scheduled monument first discovered in 1990 (DES 1990, 37–8). In Highland, HES has been working in collaboration with members of the local community on a project to map and plan an important, and little understood, series of features on Eilean Fhianain in Loch Shiel. In addition to the remains of a chapel, which has medieval origins, there are numerous platforms around the shore of the island, some of which appear to have supported buildings but the majority are apparently associated with iron smelting.

At Craik Cross in Dumfries and Galloway, the putative Roman watch tower was resurveyed in order to record previously unrecognised features, including an outer bank.

Strathearn Forts, Perth and Kinross

Four forts were surveyed in Strathearn in 2016; undertaken both to enhance the National Record of the Historic Environment and to complement the work of Glasgow University’s SERF Project. The first fort surveyed was that at Castle Craig, Pairney Farm, where excavation by the SERF team in 2011 revealed the presence of a hitherto unsuspected broch (DES 2011, 144–5). In addition to confirming that the large, outermost enclosure comprised at least two phases of construction, the HES survey identified the probability that the rock-cut ditches, previously assumed to date to the broch period, actually relate to a small fort predating and largely hidden beneath the rubble of that structure. The second fort surveyed was that on the summit of Ben Effrey, also partly excavated by SERF (DES 2011, 144). Here, survey revealed new detail relating both to the construction and relative dating of the defences, including the insertion of a late-phase palisade into the top of the ruined inner wall. Survey of the
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dut Knock, Perth and Kinross. Although this fort was first recognised in 1978, when aerial survey recorded the cropmarks of multiple ditches on its north side, survey by HES has shown that rather more exists in the form of surviving earthworks that was previously appreciated. The fort has clearly suffered greatly from the effects of cultivation since the medieval period and from the more recently digging of sand-pits, but sufficient early remains are visible to demonstrate both the size of the fort and the character of its defences. (SC1532154: Crown Copyright Historic Environment Scotland)

Excavation of an iron-age roundhouse at Skaill, Orkney, 1977. (Crown Copyright Historic Environment Scotland)

The fort on Rossie Law, also investigated by SERF (DES 2012, 150), confirmed the almost complete lack of identifiable features within what is one of the largest prehistoric forts in Perthshire. Survey at Dun Knock, Dunning, followed several investigations there by SERF (DES 2008, 144–5; 2009, 148–9; 2015, 141) and revealed that far more of the earthworks survived than was hitherto suspected. Despite the fort having suffered greatly from the effects of cultivation from the medieval period onwards and from sand-pits having been dug into it, survey by HES has resulted in more or less a complete plan of the site having been recovered.

ARCHIVES

This year Historic Environment Scotland has received documentary archive, in all formats, from a diversity of archaeological projects, including excavation and watching briefs, desk-based assessments, surveys and historic building recording. We have taken in archives, both physical and digital, from university departments, professional units, societies and individuals, including Abercorn Archaeology, Addyman Archaeology, Alder Archaeology, the Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists, CFA Archaeology, Cameron Archaeology, Stuart Farrell, Headland Archaeology, Murray Archaeological Services Ltd, the National Trust for Scotland, Northlight Archaeology, Orkney College, Rathmell Archaeology, Rough Bounds Archaeology, Rubicon Archaeology, Wardell Armstrong, and Jonathan Wordsworth.
A few of the highlights include archives from programmes of research, such as the Great Stone Circle Project, 2004, and the Cuween-Wideford landscape project, by Colin Richards, 2000–03; research notes from thematic surveys of medieval moated sites, hospitals and granges, by SUAT Ltd, 1996–2004. Archives from major infrastructure projects include Headland Archaeology’s work on the Forth Replacement Crossing, ahead of construction work on the new road bridge, 2011. Community archaeology projects include excavations by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust at the Black Spout, Perth and Kinross, 2005–7; local society research includes reports from geophysical surveys by Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society of a number of sites, including Penicuik House, Midlothian, Whitekirk, East Lothian, and Cramond, Edinburgh.

We have also taken in archives from a number of older projects, such as the excavations at Bearsden Roman fort, Glasgow, 1973–82, and Barburgh Mill, Dumfries and Galloway, 1973–4, by David Breeze, from James Kenworthy’s excavations of prehistoric settlement at Nether Mills of Crathes, Aberdeenshire, 1978–81, and from excavation of a multi-period settlement, Skail, Orkney, by Peter Gelling, 1977.

Maritime archaeology is represented by video and slides relating to dives in Scotland by the St Andrews University Archaeological Diving Unit, and the Roan Head Boom Buoy vessel, by ORCA, 2015.

A more unusual accession includes papers, drawings and photographs relating to the casting and erection of a concrete replica of the fragmentary early medieval St John’s Cross, Iona, by Exposag, in 1970.

If you are preparing documentation for deposit with HES, copies of guidelines for the creation of paper and digital archives are available from archives@hes.scot. For further information and advice, please contact Veronica Fraser or Emily Nimmo.

The Historic Environment Scotland public search room in John Sinclair House is open for consultation from Tuesday to Friday, 9.30 to 17.00. All of the material listed above, and much more besides, is available for consultation, but, as many of our archives are now stored away from John Sinclair House, it is advisable to arrange an appointment prior to visiting the Search Room. John Sinclair House, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 9NX Tel 0131 662 1456 Fax 0131 662 1477/1499 Email info@rcahms.gov.uk Website www.historicenvironment.scot
Plan of 15 red deer skeletons. Drawn by Mary Kemp, copyright National Museums Scotland.

The other three projects to produce dates on NMS material are: i) the GenScot ancient DNA project, directed by Ian Armit and David Reich; this is establishing baseline aDNA data for Neolithic to Norse period human remains across Scotland; ii) Jessica Bownes’ SUERC-based doctoral research on the Scottish Mesolithic-Neolithic transition (which has included dating samples of Mesolithic and Neolithic human bone whose ancient DNA has been analysed for the Wellcome Trust-funded project, ‘Human Adaptation to Changing Diet and Infectious Disease Loads, from the Origins of Agriculture to Present’ http://www.nhm.ac.uk/our-science/our-work/origins-evolution-and-futures/human-adaptation-diet-disease.html, directed by Ian Barnes and Mark Thomas); and iii) Sophy Charlton et al’s research into human and pig bones from the late Mesolithic shell midden of Cnoc Coig on Oronsay (Charlton et al 2016). The GENSCOT dates for the NMS and non-NMS samples are presented here separately (Armit et al), and the dates obtained by Jessica Bownes will be held over until her thesis is completed in 2017.

The dates reported here have been calibrated with OxCal v4.2.4 (Bronk Ramsey 2009), using the IntCal13 atmospheric curve (Reimer et al 2013; and see below for the calibration of the two human bone fragments with marine dietary signatures from Cnoc Coig). For the Links of Noltland Bayesian-modelled posterior density estimates are given (Marshall et al 2016), presented in italics. With the other dates, the simple calibrated versions are presented; they have not been rounded out.

This year, all the dates obtained on items in the NMS Scottish History and Archaeology collections were commissioned by external research projects in which NMS staff have played an active collaborative role. For Alasdair Whittle and Alex Bayliss’ European Research Council-funded project, The Times of their Lives (www.totl.eu), a set of nine dates was obtained for mammal and fish bone from one of the trenches (Trench D) excavated 1978–81 as part of David Clarke’s work at the Late Neolithic and later site on the Links of Noltland, Westray, Orkney. This was the trench that had produced a remarkable heap of 15 red deer skeletons, with a large cod (inter alia) placed on the top (Sharples 2000). A full account of these and other, previously-obtained dates from Trench D has already been published (Marshall et al 2016), and a discussion of their broader significance has been submitted to the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (Clarke et al, submitted), and so only the briefest of comments will be provided here.
### Links of Noltland (Canmore ID:2790): The Times of their Lives dates for Trench D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object, context, label</th>
<th>Lab no</th>
<th>δ¹³C‰</th>
<th>δ¹⁵N</th>
<th>C:N</th>
<th>Radiocarbon Age (BP)</th>
<th>Posterior Density Estimate – cal BC (95% probability)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase I: cultivation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal bone: cattle second phalanx with refitting unfused proximal epiphysis from [33], a ploughsoil in square FR 87; NMS X.unreg</td>
<td>SUERC-62079</td>
<td>-21.8±0.2</td>
<td>6.0±0.3</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>4250±38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duplicate sample dated at Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit</td>
<td>OxA-32613</td>
<td>-21.6±0.2</td>
<td>5.8±0.3</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>4228±31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighted mean of SUERC-62079 and OxA-32613 (T*=0.2; v=1; T'(5%)=3.8; Ward and Wilson 1978)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4237±25</td>
<td>2910–2860 (90%) or 2805–2775 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase II: cultivation during wind-blown sand accumulation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal bone: cattle second phalanx with refitting unfused proximal epiphysis from [25], a ploughsoil in square FQ 88; NMS X.unreg</td>
<td>SUERC-62073</td>
<td>-21.2±0.2</td>
<td>6.4±0.3</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>4127±37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duplicate sample dated at the 14 CHRONO centre, Queen's University Belfast</td>
<td>UBA-29887</td>
<td>-21.1±0.22</td>
<td>6.1±0.15</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>4126±35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighted mean of SUERC-62073 and UBA-29887 (T*=0.0; v=1; T'(5%)=3.8; Ward and Wilson 1978)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4126±26</td>
<td>2875–2655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase III: deposition of domestic refuse</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal bone: articulating sheep first and second phalanges from [20], a deposit of domestic waste rich in animal bones and artefacts in square FQ 83; NMS X. unreg</td>
<td>SUERC-61770</td>
<td>-20.6±0.2</td>
<td>6.7±0.3</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>4182±34</td>
<td>2760–2575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase V: red deer heap</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal bone: red deer, R femur, from [13], heap of red deer, in square FQ 88. This deer labelled 'purple' in the colour-coded description of the individuals. NMS X. unreg (bone no 159)</td>
<td>SUERC-62077</td>
<td>-21.4±0.2</td>
<td>6.9±0.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3796±37</td>
<td>2280–2245 (12%) or 2230–2130 (83%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal bone: red deer, rear L metatarsal, from [13], heap of red deer, in square FR 87. This deer labelled 'black' in the colour-coded description of the individuals. NMS X. unreg (bone no 160)</td>
<td>UBA-29886</td>
<td>-20.8±0.22</td>
<td>7.6±0.15</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3768±41</td>
<td>2280–2245 (12%) or 2230–2130 (83%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal bone: red deer, R radius, from [13], heap of red deer, in square FR 87. This deer labelled 'blue' in the colour-coded description of the individuals. NMS X. unreg</td>
<td>SUERC-62078</td>
<td>-21.3±0.2</td>
<td>6.8±0.3</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3727±37</td>
<td>2280–2245 (12%) or 2230–2130 (83%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish bone: thoracic vertebra, cod, from [13], heap of red deer, in square FQ 88.</td>
<td>OxA-32612</td>
<td>-12.0±0.2</td>
<td>15.4±0.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>4118±32</td>
<td>Not modelled; see below regarding Marine Reservoir Effect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comment** (JAS, DVC, PM, AW, GC and PN): *The Times of their Lives (ToTL) project to which these dates contribute focused on third millennium Orkney, and the dates obtained from Trench D offer a useful time-slice of activities at Links of Noltland at various points during that millennium. The earliest dates for activity in Trench D – which actually provide a *terminus ante quem* for cereal cultivation there – are also the earliest dates for the site as a whole, and have been Bayesian-modelled to an estimated date range of 3160–2870 cal BC (95% probability: see Marshall *et al*, fig 1). The confirmation that the deer heap belongs to the last quarter of that millennium (when Beaker pottery had appeared in Orkney), and post-dates the massive deposit of cattle bone at Ness of Brodgar (Card *et al* in press), provides an invaluable insight into what was happening in Orkney after the *floruit* of Grooved Ware-associated construction that occurred earlier that millennium and towards the end of the fourth millennium. This topic is explored in greater detail in the Bayliss *et al* (in press) publication; and see Marshall *et al* 2016 on the Bayesian modelling of these and other dates from Links of Noltland (which situates the deposition of the deer heap – quite possibly as a ceremonial act marking the temporary abandonment of the area – at 2280–2245 (9% probability), or 2230–2130 (86% probability: Marshall *et al* 2016, fig 2). This suite of dates, obtained for the ToTL project, is also useful for providing a ‘perfect pair’ of dates from contemporary terrestrial and marine creatures, informing on the Marine Reservoir Effect (MRE) for this part of Scotland at the time: the cod produced a date some c330–380 years older than the deer. This is in line with other estimates of the MRE for prehistoric Orcadian sites (Marshall *et al* 2016, fig 4 and table 6).*
**RADIOCARBON DATES**

**New dates for human and wild pig bone from Cnoc Coig, Oronsay (Canmore ID: 37818)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object, context, label</th>
<th>Lab no</th>
<th>δ¹³C‰</th>
<th>δ¹⁵N</th>
<th>CN</th>
<th>Date BP</th>
<th>Date cal BC (95% probability)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human bone, fragment possibly from cranium, NMS X.unreg, no 8257, from trench U III</td>
<td>OxA-29939</td>
<td>-14.1</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>5391±30</td>
<td>3991–3702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human bone fragment from indeterminate part of body, NMS X.unreg, no 8267, from trench U III</td>
<td>OxA-29938</td>
<td>-12.9</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>5379±29</td>
<td>3944–3649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig (wild boar) bone, fragment possibly from long bone, NMS X.unreg, no 10494, from trench P(E)</td>
<td>OxA-29937</td>
<td>-21.2</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>5122±30</td>
<td>3982–3803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig (wild boar) bone, fragment possibly from long bone, NMS X.unreg, no 17050, from trench H/13</td>
<td>OxA-29936</td>
<td>-21.0</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>5117±29</td>
<td>3977–3803</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comment (JAS and SC): the project for which these dates were obtained featured the use of ZooMS (ZooArchaeology by Mass Spectrometry) – a biomolecular analytical method that uses protein in bone collagen to identify species – to clarify whether human remains were present among a bag of previously unidentifiable bone fragments from Prof Paul Mellars’ excavation of the Late Mesolithic shell midden of Cnoc Coig on Oronsay (Charlton et al. 2016). The study identified 14 of the 20 fragments as being human, with the rest being of seal and wild boar (sus scrofa). This brings the total of Mesolithic human bone specimens from Scotland – all from the Oronsay shell midden – to 76 (including two recently-identified bones from Cnoc Sligeach). Isotopic analysis of nine of the newly-identified Cnoc Coig human bone fragments confirmed that the individuals, like those from Oronsay that had previously been analysed (Richards and Sheridan 2000), had a diet rich in marine protein. Two of these bone fragments were then radiocarbon-dated, and the cal BC dates cited above were calibrated using a mixed marine-terrestrial curve (as explained in Charlton et al. 2016). Importantly, the results are not significantly different from those obtained from two of the wild pig fragments (whose isotope results indicated that the animals had eaten a terrestrial diet). The calibrated ranges for the human remains are comparable with those obtained by a recalibration of the dates previously obtained for Oronsay midden human bone by Richards and Sheridan (2000; Milner 2010). The most important conclusion to be drawn from this new dating work is that it suggests a chronological overlap in the west of Scotland between communities following a purely ‘Mesolithic’ lifestyle based on the consumption of wild resources, and those less than a day’s sail away on the coast of the mainland who had a terrestrial-based diet – as is clear for the results from Raschoille Cave (Bonsall et al 2012), Macarthur Cave and Distillery Cave (see Armit et al this volume) near Oban. Quite how long this parallel co-existence of Mesolithic and Neolithic communities lasted before the former became acculturated into the latter is unclear, since the potential date bracket for the appearance of Breton-style monuments and pottery in the west of Scotland – the earliest strand of Neolithisation (Sheridan 2010) – extends between 4300 BC and 3900 BC (although it may well be that this Atlantic strand appeared towards the end of this bracket, around 4000–3900 BC). Nevertheless, it seems quite possible that different lifestyles were co-existing – possibly ignorant of each other’s existence, given the probably low population density – for at least several generations. Bayesian modelling of the currently-available dates may help to clarify what these are telling us regarding the overlap. Finally, it should be noted that while an attempt (by the Barnes and Thomas project) to obtain aDNA from three of the newly-identified bones failed, a subsequent attempt to obtain aDNA from the one petrous temporal that exists from among the Oronsay Mesolithic bones has succeeded, and the results – vitally important to our discussion of the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition – will be published in 2017.

The project reported on here and in Charlton et al 2016 was funded by the NERC (Ref NE/K500987/1), with the radiocarbon dates being funded by the NERC-AHRC National Radiocarbon Facility (NRCF) (Ref NF/2013/2/12).

**References**


RADIOCARBON DATES OBTAINED FOR THE GENSCOT ANCIENT DNA PROJECT, 2016

Ian Armit (IA), Alison Sheridan (JAS), David Reich (DR), Gordon Cook (GC), Brian Tripney (BT) and Philip Naysmith (PN)

The GENSCOT project, undertaken by IA and DR with collaboration from JAS, GC and PN and curators at Orkney Museum (Gail Drinkall) and the Hunterian Museum (Sally-Anne Coupar), aims to establish a baseline ancient DNA (aDNA) dataset for the ancient inhabitants of Scotland. This is the first systematic attempt to obtain such data from archaeological human remains in Scotland, and it complements another project, Human Adaptation to Changing Diet and Infectious Disease Loads, from the Origins of Agriculture to Present http://www.nhm.ac.uk/our-science/our-work/origins-evolution-and-futures/human-adaptation-diet-disease.html, directed by Professors Ian Barnes (Natural History Museum, London) and Mark Thomas (University College London). The latter, Wellcome Trust-funded project, is analysing ancient human remains across Britain – including over 20 specimens from Scotland – and the two projects are working together to establish, for the first time, the genetic story of our distant ancestors in Britain.

The GENSCOT project has analysed around 100 specimens from the Neolithic to the Norse period from around Scotland. The samples have been taken wherever possible from the petrous temporal area of the skull, which appears to be the best location in the body for aDNA preservation. Some of those specimens come from individuals who have already been radiocarbon-dated, but there were a number that had not been dated. Since knowing the age of a specimen is vital to help make sense of the aDNA results, DR’s laboratory at the Harvard Medical School agreed to fund the radiocarbon dating of the previously-undated individuals; the results are presented here. (The dated samples are the same as those used for the aDNA analysis.) Furthermore, GC and PN agreed to assist with the interpretation of the carbon and nitrogen stable isotope results, and to undertake additional isotope analyses – with much of this work being undertaken by Jessica Bownes as part of her doctoral research at SUERC. The results of the GenScot project will be published in 2017; meanwhile, the radiocarbon dates obtained for that project are presented here, in chronological order. The dates have been calibrated with OxCal 4.2.4, using the IntCal13 atmospheric curve (Reimer et al 2013); the results have not been rounded out to the nearest decade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Findspot, Canmore ID, sample details, GENSCOT no, museum, other identifier</th>
<th>Lab no</th>
<th>δ13C‰</th>
<th>δ15N‰</th>
<th>C/N ratio</th>
<th>Date BP</th>
<th>Calibrated date cal BC/AD* at 68.2% and 95.4% probability (latter in bold)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macarthur Cave, Oban, Argyll and Bute (Canmore 23066), left 1st metacarpal, adult male, GENSCOT26, NMS X.unreg (box 2)</td>
<td>SUERC-68701</td>
<td>-21.4</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>5052±30</td>
<td>3952–3781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macarthur Cave, Oban, Argyll and Bute (Canmore 23066), left 1st metacarpal, adult male, GENSCOT26, NMS X.unreg (box 2)</td>
<td>SUERC-68701</td>
<td>-21.4</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>5052±30</td>
<td>3952–3781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distillery Cave, Oban, Argyll and Bute (Canmore 23064), adult female, GENSCOT28, NMS X.unreg (1)</td>
<td>SUERC-68702</td>
<td>-21.4</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>4914±27</td>
<td>3762–3644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distillery Cave, Oban, Argyll and Bute (Canmore 23064), adult female, GENSCOT28, NMS X.unreg (1)</td>
<td>SUERC-68702</td>
<td>-21.4</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>4914±27</td>
<td>3762–3644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulloch of Assery B, Highland (Caithness) (Canmore 7907), adult female, GENSCOT05, NMS X.unreg (LC/TAB/58)</td>
<td>SUERC-68634</td>
<td>-21.6</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>4911±32</td>
<td>3703–3655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulloch of Assery B, Highland (Caithness) (Canmore 7907), adult female, GENSCOT05, NMS X.unreg (LC/TAB/58)</td>
<td>SUERC-68634</td>
<td>-21.6</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>4911±32</td>
<td>3703–3655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distillery Cave, Oban, Argyll and Bute (Canmore 23064), sub-adult male, GENSCOT30, NMS X.unreg (3)</td>
<td>SUERC-68704</td>
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<td>8.6</td>
<td>3.2</td>
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### RADIOCARBON DATES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Point of Cott, Orkney (Canmore 2756), lower molar dentine, male of indeterminate age, GENSCOT79, Orkney Museum, Box66/BO/14; Compartment 3, 3/352</td>
<td>SUERC-69074</td>
<td>19.7</td>
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<td><strong>Tulach an t’Sionnaich, Highland (Caithness), (Canmore 7901), adult male, GENSCOT07, NMS X.unreg</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tulloch of Assyery A, Highland (Caithness) (Canmore 7934), adult male, GENSCOT10, NMS X.unreg (Comp 3E3 sample 1 (box 4 of 8))</strong></td>
<td>SUERC-68642</td>
<td>18.4</td>
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<td><strong>Holm of Papa Westray North, Orkney (Canmore 3243), adult male, GENSCOT09, NMS X.unreg (bag 4, sample 2: N1982, Tr1 Comp 2(W)2)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Clachaig, Arran, North Ayrshire (Canmore 39676), adult female, GENSCOT60, Hunterian Museum GLAHM:A.1912.21/2 (skull B)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Distillery Cave, Oban, Argyll and Bute (Canmore 23064), male of indeterminate age, GENSCOT29, NMS X.unreg (2)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Point of Cott, Orkney (Canmore 2756), juvenile female, GENSCOT78, Orkney Museum ('Parent' sample 13013; Compartment 1 F54, cleaning for drawing 62)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Isbister, Orkney (Canmore 9554), adult male, GENSCOT731, Orkney Museum (skull 3) (DL249, S.42, IS (7287), found 1976; BC[=bone context]=bone context[1]1c/10c, north horn fill)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Isbister, Orkney (Canmore 9554), adult female, aged 45–50, GENSCOT731, Orkney Museum, skull 1 (one of two); BC1=bone context[1]1c/10c, north horn fill)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Isbister, Orkney (Canmore 9554), male aged 17–22, GENSCOT77, Orkney Museum (skull 2) (DL2122.6, S.53, IS (7228), found 1976; BC6, ST5)</strong></td>
<td>SUERC-68726</td>
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<td><strong>Isbister, Orkney (Canmore 9554), adult male, aged 20–25, GENSCOT71, Orkney Museum (skull 5) (DL28.3; is probably IS (1960) from SC1 ST2 even though bag says 'BC4 3 ST4, 1976'; there is more than one 'skull 5'; but the best fit for GENSCOT71 is IS(1960))</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Isbister, Orkney (Canmore 9554), adult male, GENSCOT02, NMS X.unreg (BC2a and b)</strong></td>
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### Radiocarbon Dates

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<th>δ15N</th>
<th>σ</th>
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<td>Cal AD 595–644</td>
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1) The Neolithic dates for individuals from Macarthur Cave and Distillery Cave include some of the earliest radiocarbon dates for Neolithic human remains in Scotland, and are comparable with those obtained for individuals from the nearby sites of Raschoille Cave and Carding Mill Bay (Bonsall et al. 2010, table 2.1; Connock 1990; Richards and Schulting 2002). In these cases, the δ13C values indicate a terrestrial diet, in stark contrast with those obtained from broadly contemporary individuals from the Oronsay shell middens (as discussed in Sheridan et al. this volume, Charlton et al. 2016 and Richards and Sheridan 2000).

2) The dates for individuals from eight Neolithic chamber tombs (three in Caithness, four in Orkney and one on Arran) include five from Point of Cott (GENSCOT79), Holm of Papa Westray North (GENSCOT9–11) and Isbister (GENSCOT72) with slightly elevated δ13C values, suggesting a possible low-level marine element in the diet of these people – although the δ15N values are compatible with a terrestrial diet. (The calibrated dates have been adjusted for this possible marine reservoir effect.) Similar, slightly elevated values had been noted for two of the previously-dated individuals from Isbister (Lawrence and Lee-Thorp 2012) and for two previously-obtained radiocarbon dates from a phalanx and a femur from Holm of Papa Westray North (Schulting and Richards 2009). The latter authors commented that the values will not have created...
a significant offset for the calibrated dates, and this was indeed found to be the case with the dates reported on here. Nevertheless, this hint of a marine element is relevant to the debate about Neolithic diet in different parts of Scotland; and it should also be noted that the date obtained for the Point of Cott individual GENSCOT79 is earlier than all the other dates for human bone from that monument.

3) In a couple of cases (namely Isbister GENSCOT74 and Clachaig skull B GENSCOT60), it was realised that the individuals dated here had previously been dated. The previous determinations for GENSCOT74, OxA-25624: 4507 ± 37 BP, δ13C -19.9‰ (Lawrence and Lee-Thorp 2012), and for Clachaig skull B GENSCOT60, 4670 ± 40 BP, GrA-25617, δ13C -21.3‰ (Schulting 2004), do not significantly differ from the new dates. (The weighted mean for the Isbister results is 4485 ± 23 BP, δ13C -20.1‰, 3340–3092 cal BC: Derek Hamilton pers. comm.) We cannot rule out the possibility that other dates among the GENSCOT set for chamber tomb individuals are from the same people as had previously been dated (although Dave Lawrence has confirmed that this is not the case with the other dates that he and Julia Lee-Thorp had obtained for Isbister). The process of checking for the accidental duplicate dating of the same individuals continues but, short of aDNA-analysing all the previously-dated bones from these sites – something that may not work since the bones come from various parts of the body, with variable aDNA preservation – it may never be possible, in some cases, to prove whether this had occurred.

4) The Kintyre Nurseries date (GENSCOT20) provides a useful additional date relating to the use of Vase Food Vessels in southwest Scotland; and the Early Bronze Age date for GENSCOT68 from Covesea Cave 2 reveals a phase of activity at the Covesea caves not hitherto encountered, but supported by the recovery of Beaker pottery from the recent excavations (Büster and Armit 2016). The other dates for individuals from the Covesea caves are in line with those obtained previously: Armit et al 2011.

Acknowledgements

The kind assistance of Gail Drinkall and Dr Sally-Anne Coupar in facilitating access to the human remains, and to Dr David Lawrence for providing invaluable information regarding the Isbister individuals, is warmly acknowledged. Sample collection was assisted by Dr Lindsey Büster and Laura Castells-Navarro. Rick Schulting is thanked for his advice.

References


Schulting, R and Richards, M 2002 The wet, the wild and the domesticated: the Mesolithic–Neolithic transition on the west coast of Scotland. European Journal of Archaeology 5(2), 147–89.

CURRENT POST-GRADUATE SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE UK

This is not necessarily an exhaustive list. The university departments providing courses in archaeology listed in the 2000 CBA Guide to Archaeology in Higher Education were asked to give details of their current post-graduate research involving Scottish sites or materials. The information below is that provided by the institutions who responded. Archaeology Scotland encourages any readers engaged in continuing research to submit details (as set out below) for publication in the next volume.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Univ Aberdeen</td>
<td>Jennifer Allison</td>
<td>Households in first millennium AD Scotland</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>PhD</td>
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<td>Univ Aberdeen</td>
<td>Claire Christie</td>
<td>Prehistoric settlement in Shetland</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>PhD</td>
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<td>Univ Aberdeen</td>
<td>Orsolya Czere</td>
<td>Diachronic isotopic study of dietary changes in Scotland, from the Late Iron Age to the High Medieval Period</td>
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<td>Gavin Lindsay</td>
<td>Military landscapes of Orkney</td>
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<td>Univ Aberdeen</td>
<td>Chris Martin</td>
<td>Perth Museum and Art Gallery’s NW coast collections</td>
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<td>Juliette Mitchell</td>
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<td>Michael Stratigos</td>
<td>Crannogs and lost lochs of Scotland</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>Univ Bradford</td>
<td>Megan Allington</td>
<td>Developing archaeomagnetic dating by intensity in the UK: A case study from Neolithic Orkney</td>
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<td>Univ Bradford</td>
<td>Samuel Harris</td>
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<td>Univ Canterbury Christ Church</td>
<td>Nick Hannon</td>
<td>Hidden landscape of a Roman Frontier – landscape archaeology, history and heritage management of the Antonine Wall</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>Univ Edinburgh</td>
<td>Gemma Cruikshanks</td>
<td>Iron in the Iron Age: a long-term case study from Scotland</td>
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<td>Univ Edinburgh</td>
<td>Caroline Mamwell</td>
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<td>Univ Edinburgh</td>
<td>Deborah Reginiano</td>
<td>Activity markers in Neolithic populations of Scotland</td>
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<td>Univ Glasgow</td>
<td>Kevin Grant</td>
<td>Evocations of modern Scottish Highland and Island landscapes</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>Univ Glasgow</td>
<td>Helen Green</td>
<td>Perceptions and pasts in the planning process of Scotland</td>
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<td>Morgana McCabe</td>
<td>Liminal faces and places: the feared other in the archaeological landscape</td>
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<td>Shirley Ann Watson</td>
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<td>Univ Highlands and Islands Orkney College</td>
<td>Siobhan Cooke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Univ St Andrews</td>
<td>Emily Gal</td>
<td>Landscapes: windblown sands and prehistoric settlement</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>PhD</td>
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</table>
Many of the projects described in *Discovery and excavation in Scotland* include an input by the archaeological advisors to local authorities. Amongst their core activities, these advisors have a responsibility to monitor planning applications and other proposed developments in their area, and to ensure that adequate provision is made for archaeological recording if such developments are to go ahead. This responsibility may include writing the specification for work to be undertaken by archaeological contractors, and monitoring that work to ensure that appropriate standards are being achieved.

The following list gives details of local authority archaeological advisors, and indicates their areas of responsibility.

### Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray

**Bruce Mann**  
Archaeology Service  
Planning and Environmental Services  
Aberdeenshire Council  
Woodhill House  
Westburn Road  
Aberdeen AB16 5GB  
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<td>ACA</td>
<td>Ardnamurchan Community Archaeology</td>
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<td>AHRC</td>
<td>Arts and Humanities Research Council</td>
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<td>AMS</td>
<td>Accelerator Mass Spectrometry</td>
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<td>AOC</td>
<td>All-Over-Corded</td>
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<td>BEVARS</td>
<td>British Excavation Volunteers and Archaeological Research Society</td>
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<td>BGL</td>
<td>Below ground level</td>
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<td>C14</td>
<td>Radiocarbon</td>
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<td>CBA</td>
<td>Council for British Archaeology</td>
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<td>CECAS</td>
<td>City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service</td>
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<td>CNES</td>
<td>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Combined sewer overflow</td>
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<td>DBA</td>
<td>Desk-based assessment</td>
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<td>DES</td>
<td><em>Discovery and excavation in Scotland</em></td>
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<td>DGC</td>
<td>Dumfries and Galloway Council</td>
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<td>DGPS</td>
<td>Differential Global Positioning System</td>
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<td>EAFS</td>
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<td>EBA</td>
<td>Early Bronze Age</td>
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<td>FCCT</td>
<td>Fife Coast and Countryside Trust</td>
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<td>FCS</td>
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<td>FLHS</td>
<td>Falkirk Local History Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>GPR</td>
<td>Ground Penetrating Radar</td>
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<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>Global Positioning System</td>
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<td>HAA</td>
<td>Heavy anti-aircraft</td>
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<td>HARP</td>
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<td>HAS</td>
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<td>HER</td>
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<td>HHER</td>
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<td>HLF</td>
<td>Heritage Lottery Fund</td>
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<td>LMSR</td>
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<td>LWM</td>
<td>Low water mark</td>
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<td>NAAFI</td>
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<td>Properties in Care</td>
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<td>PLC</td>
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<td>POW</td>
<td>Prisoner of War</td>
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<td>Scheduled Ancient Monument</td>
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**Notes:**

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**Creation of Historic Environment Scotland**

On 1 October 2015, Historic Scotland (HS) and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) merged into a new non-departmental public body, Historic Environment Scotland (HES). The new body has taken on the responsibilities of HS and RCAHMS and is the new lead public body for the country’s historic environment.
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Compiled by Susan Vaughan

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