Welcome!
We want a Scotland where archaeology is for everyone! A place where the study of the past offers opportunities for us now and in the future to discover, care for, promote and enjoy our rich and diverse heritage, contributing to our wellbeing and knowledge and helping to tell Scotland’s stories in their global context.

In this magazine, bringing together articles and comments from people and organisations across the archaeology sector, we celebrate how Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy is being delivered across the country.

Out and about
Historic Environment Scotland sent archaeologists and photographers to record the 1970s oil workers village of Pollphail on the shores of Loch Fyne.

Features
Delivering archaeology
Enhancing understanding
Caring and protecting
Encouraging greater engagement
Innovation and skills

Above and Beyond: How archaeological contractors add value.
Visualising Arran: New survey techniques reveal stunning hidden sites.
Future Thinking on Carved Stones: Understanding the place of stone monuments in our past and future.
Learning from Loss on Scotland’s Coast: Turning the challenge of coastal erosion into an opportunity.

Langside 450
Learn how people around Queen’s Park in Glasgow turned the anniversary of the 16th century battle into a celebration of community.

Building history
Bringing young people studying in the construction industry and archaeology together to find new ways of working, at The Pineapple, Airth.

We WANT TO TELL SCOTLAND’S STORIES TO PEOPLE WITH AN INTEREST HERE AND ALL AROUND THE WORLD. STORIES THAT RANGE FROM THE LOCAL – WHAT HAPPENED IN THIS AREA SEVERAL HUNDRED OF YEARS AGO – TO THE NATIONAL AND THE INTERNATIONAL. THIS IS A THREAD THAT RUNS THROUGH ALL THE AIMS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGY STRATEGY.

Archaeologists have been getting better and better at communicating the results of their work to the wider public, whether this is in the form of media coverage, accessible publications, talks, walks, social media, panels or exhibitions and landscape heritage features.

Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy focuses on broadening and deepening the impact and public benefit of archaeology. In delivering this aim, we wish to ensure that archaeological practice works for everyone, is open to everyone, and visible to everyone. The current delivery plan identifies some key activities and good progress is being made.

Communicating the Strategy
For example, a communications strategy was produced to help with the messaging that we want to put out. A variety of media channels are being used. All projects which deliver the Strategy are encouraged to use the hashtag #ScotArchStrat – you can see highlights from social media in our news section.

A YouTube video has recently been launched on the archaeology strategy website, which features some of the lead bodies speaking about the importance of what they are trying to achieve. It has so far reached over 5,000 people.

We also aligned our funding for archaeology to allow applicants to show how their project can help deliver the Strategy. This allows HES to use the vision, aims and objectives of the Strategy in decision making around grant funding.

We have also been looking at how to encourage the completion of legacy projects – a rich untapped resource of information; projects which could be enlivened with new techniques and ideas by anyone with an interest in Scotland’s past.

Getting your views
Allied to this work is a survey which we have opened to get people’s opinions on whether they think that an online portal or other online access point to get information about incomplete projects would be a good thing.

Finally, we have started discussions on how to consult collaboratively across the sector on the structure and funding of archaeology in Scotland. This intends to look at where there are gaps in the provision of protection and how things might be improved. We hope to work with partners in discussing potentially sensitive issues such as licensing and where valuable information about our past is being lost.

Rebecca Jones and Kirsty Owen, Historic Environment Scotland

ARCHAEOLOGY THROUGH ALL THE AIMS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGY STRATEGY. AND THE INTERNATIONAL. THIS IS A THREAD THAT RUNS THROUGH ALL THE AIMS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGY STRATEGY.

Delegates at New Light on Old Metal.

International collaboration is clearly highlighted in the Strategy, and we have been supporting the promotion of work in Scotland on an international scale. This has included presentations and publications, as well as supporting telling Scotland’s stories on a global stage.

Some European colleagues have been watching developments in Scotland with interest and expressed a desire to carry out similar work in their countries. Historic Environment Scotland staff have presented on the Strategy to the European Archaeological Council annual meetings, and received positive feedback both on the inclusive approach that is being taken as well as the significance of Scotland having its own strategy for archaeology. We have also presented to annual meetings of the European Association for Archaeologists, where the Cabinet Secretary, Fiona Hyslop MSP, first launched the Strategy in Glasgow in 2015. This year saw presentations focusing on collaborations and engagement, and science and archives. This all helps to raise the international profile of all the good work happening in Scotland, with very positive feedback from other delegates. One paper has been published in Internet Archaeology from a European Archaeological Council meeting, with another to follow next year.
Tackling the legacy list

HES and its predecessor bodies have been supporting archaeological projects for decades – as I found out when I saw the signature of the first ever Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Augustus Pitt-Rivers, in one of our files!

Most of these projects were drawn to a successful conclusion, but over time a backlog of unfinished or unpublished projects has built up.

Over the past year we have been working on assessing the true extent of this backlog through an extensive search of our internal files. Highland region was chosen as the pilot to coincide with the Highland Regional Research Framework.

The results were a pleasant surprise. Of a list of 173 possible backlog projects, only three were not appropriately published or archived – with most having actually never been funded or not taken place. The remaining three are in an advanced state and it is hoped that these will be published before the end of 2020.

To support Scotland’s Island Research Framework for Archaeology, we recently completed our assessment of backlog in the Western Isles, with only one project found to be incomplete. We hope to share the lessons we have learned and take these forward to progress the issue of backlog across the wider sector.

Kevin Grant,
Historic Environment Scotland

Have your say...

Research Portal Survey

We asked the archaeology community to have their say on whether a research portal for Scotland’s archaeology would be a good idea.

The portal would pair project and/or interested groups up with researchers to provide a practical way to encourage partnership and collaboration across the sector and share knowledge.

So far we have had a positive response, but we still want to hear your views on whether you think it is a good idea.

Please fill out our quick online survey.
Closes December 2018
www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/scotarchportal

Did you know?

The delivery of the Strategy is overseen by a committee that consists of people drawn from all sectors of the archaeology profession and beyond.

We have recently welcomed Eddie Stuart, a student and Head of the Archaeology Society at Glasgow University, to be our youth representative. In the coming months we will be looking for individuals who would like to represent museums and the community more widely.

If you are interested in being a representative then please e-mail: archaeologystrategy@hes.scot

Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy is all about working together!
Everyone has been coming together to discuss how we can deliver archaeology for the benefit of Scotland. Through different workshops and working groups we’ve touched on everything from research, museums, learning and career pathways to skill building.

We would love everyone to have a voice...
In the coming year we are hoping to run workshops for the archaeological sector as a whole to discuss how we can improve the public benefits of archaeology. These will be run as a partnership across the sector.

What people would like to see...

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Responses

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Have your say...

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In Depth

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”
Helen Keller
In August 2016, GUARD Archaeology Ltd were commissioned to evaluate the archaeological potential of a field in Carnoustie, where two football pitches were to be constructed. The aim was to establish whether any archaeology survived below the surface. So far, so normal.

From initial trial trenches equating to 5% of the development area, which encountered some pits containing prehistoric pottery, the fieldwork progressed over the following six months into the excavation of over 1,000 archaeological features spread over a 1.77 ha area revealing one of the most significant Neolithic and Bronze Age sites in Scotland. Amongst 14 prehistoric structures uncovered were two early Neolithic halls (including the largest ever found in Scotland) and seven roundhouses.

A late Bronze Age hoard was also encountered adjacent to three of these roundhouses, containing a gold decorated bronze spearhead wrapped in traces of sheepskin and a bronze sword with a wooden and bronze scabbard wrapped in traces of woollen cloth. It goes without saying that such prehistoric organic materials are extremely rare, so maximising the knowledge we could extract and the public benefit of the project was a crucial part of our approach and achieved through collaboration with the developer and the planning authority’s archaeological adviser.

Local and international interest
From the outset, there was a lot of local interest, which the developer, Angus Council, were happy to enable. We were keen too, because it meets one of the key principles of our company: communicating the results of our work to as wide an audience as possible; and accords with Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy to broaden and deepen the impact and public benefit of archaeology within and beyond Scotland.

With our client’s agreement, we organised site open days, school visits and took a proactive role in publicising the findings throughout 2017, with the story picked up by television, radio, newspaper, magazine and online media across Scotland, the UK and as far afield as the USA, Canada and Spain.

We also encouraged greater engagement through our collaboration with Angus Council in providing formal work placements for two secondary school pupils interested in studying archaeology at university. Nor did our interaction with local schools end with the excavation. As part of the ongoing post-excavation process, we have also provided hands-on sessions for Carnoustie High School students to illustrate and photograph various artefacts from the excavation, showcasing the unique benefits of what archaeology has to offer wider learning.

Getting the best out of post-excavation
The work has also supported the aim to increase knowledge, understanding and interpretation of the past. We didn’t excavate the Bronze Age hoard in the field but brought the entire pit containing it back into our Finds Lab so that it could be excavated in laboratory conditions, maximising the information that could be extracted.

We have continued this approach throughout the excavation and post-excitation process, engaging with experts from the National Museums Scotland and a variety of universities and commercial companies. To make this new knowledge readily accessible, we are maintaining a blog throughout the ongoing post-excavation programme. This enables anyone to follow the progress of our work and will demonstrate how we arrive at our final interpretations in the publication to follow.

Warren Bailie, GUARD Archaeology Ltd
http://guard-archaeology.co.uk/carnoustieHoard/
ScARF (Scottish Archaeological Research Framework) consists of nine panel reports – seven are chronological (from earliest prehistory to modern times) and two are thematic (science and maritime).

The purpose of the framework is to reflect the current state of knowledge regarding Scotland’s past and collaboratively identify a set of useful and relevant research questions for everyone to use and help focus research effort.

The national reports have now been online for six years, with an additional framework – Future Thinking on Carved Stones in Scotland – added in 2017.

Regional Research Frameworks
Following the creation of the national framework, it was agreed that the next stage would be the creation of regional archaeological frameworks. In addition, a collaborative project is also underway with museums, supporting local curators in developing research knowledge relevant to their own archaeological collections.

The first regional research framework underway was for Argyll and was led by Kilmartin Museum. It was successfully published online in December 2017. The second, for South East Scotland, covering Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and the Scottish Borders, is led by the Local Authority Archaeological Services who have appointed Wessex Archaeology to undertake the work. Progress is going well and the framework is due to be launched in 2019.

Launching in 2018
Three new framework projects have started in 2018. These are for Highland (led by Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands), Perth and Kinross (led by the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust) and the Scotland’s Island Research Framework for Archaeology (led by the University of the Highlands and Islands). This third collaboration covers the Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney and is due to take three years, covering one island grouping per year.

The ScARF Museums project aims to support local museum curators in developing research knowledge relevant to their own archaeological collections.

Using the main broad themes of Farming and Fishing, the collaboration aims to highlight research gaps and encourage new research on existing collections with the focus on Aberdeenshire.

International view
This flurry of activity was recently presented to the European Association of Archaeologists annual conference where the Scottish approach was praised by archaeologists from other countries. Hosting all the frameworks online enables anybody to look at the current state of knowledge of Scotland’s archaeology and the research priorities that have been identified. Undergraduate students frequently consult it whilst searching for dissertation topics, and ScARF has been actively supporting new and early career researchers through the provision of bursaries for conference attendance and through the creation of a student network.

ScARF has also been running a series of training workshops which are open to all with an interest in the subject of the workshop (which have included stone tools and animal bones).

Helen Spencer,
The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
@Socantscot @ScARFHUB

All the information about ScARF is online at: www.scottishheritagehub.com

Increasing knowledge, understanding, and interpretation of the past.
In Depth

 Surveying Scotland (in miniature)

Using Airborne Laser Scanning (ALS) data gathered by the Scottish Government, Historic Environment Scotland has undertaken an archaeological survey of Arran. To date, this is the largest landscape-scale use of ALS data in Scotland and aims to develop methods for rapid, landscape-scale archaeological surveys which can be economically applied on a national scale.

Airborne survey has the potential to survey on an extremely wide scale, at landscape or even regional level. Combined with different methods of archaeological research, it can be used to inform wider programmes of survey.

During the project, it was discovered that taking this type of survey data into the landscape is an extremely effective aid to traditional field survey.

As a result of the project on Arran, over 1,000 potential new sites have been identified. This includes apparently well preserved archaeological landscapes from prehistory to the pre-improvement period. The ALS-derived visualisations have comprehensively captured the earthwork remains of Arran’s archaeology in unprecedented detail. It is hoped that this pilot will inform future work and contribute to new innovative survey techniques. The new discoveries will soon be publicly available, allowing communities and professionals to learn from and enjoy the results.

Depth

The rugged landscape of Arran.

OF WORKING.

US NEW WAYS

AND SHOWING

ON ARRAN – LANDSCAPES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

REVEALING LOST

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historic environment.

For these reasons, the National Committee on

Carved Stones in Scotland (NCCSS) developed the

‘Future Thinking on Carved Stones in Scotland: A Research Framework’ as a component of the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF).

Cross fragment from Kilmartin Church.

Published in 2017, driven by the desire to use a strategic approach, the framework aims to link, mobilise, inspire and direct anyone interested in carved stone monuments. It sets out research principles, problems, practices and ideas for projects, using case studies to illustrate the key points. It is intended to encourage rounded investigation into the value and significance of Scotland’s carved stones in the 21st century. The framework will continue to grow and develop, and feedback and involvement from people across the sector will be crucial to making it useful.

You can find out more at: www.scottishheritagehub.com/

18th century gravestone, Minto House Church.

Future thinking on carved stones

Carved stones are some of the most iconic images of our past. They also contribute greatly to our understanding of life in Scotland across many time periods.

They are of interest to a wide range of subject areas and the many institutions and organisations that manage them. They often illustrate wider attitudes to the historic environment.

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18th century gravestone, Minto House Church.

Sharing our results

OASIS and DES Redevelopment

In order to provide a simpler, unified archive of shared records from archaeological investigations in Scotland, a project was launched jointly with Historic England as part of the HERALD project.

It aims to create a single website through which archaeological data can be uploaded to both ‘Discovery and Excavation in Scotland’ (DES), published by Archaeology Scotland, and the ‘Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations’ (OASIS).

DES acts as a record of archaeological fieldwork, and is aimed at anyone with an interest in current archaeological investigations. OASIS allows archaeologists across the UK to upload information and literature about their investigations, so it can be archived and fed into both local and national historic environment records. The project encourages the sustainable management and protection of Scotland’s archaeological resources, providing an improvement to the way information is captured. The new system will sustain support materials alongside a training programme.

By improving the collective management of historical data, the portal will help streamline Scotland’s archaeological information to make it more accessible to all. It will be continuously maintained to ensure an efficient, high standard for distributing archaeological data, deepening the public benefit of archaeology.

#DYK Since 2015, HES has grant-aided

OVER £81,000 to make 33 publications available FREE to everyone.
Earlier this year, we hosted a meeting of university archaeologists in Scotland to discuss the Strategy alongside how and where universities can contribute to the delivery of specific aims. We were joined by the Chair of University Archaeology UK, the body which represents the interests of the subject across the UK.

Discussion highlights
Key areas highlighted included the international dimension of Scottish archaeology, where universities are in a particularly powerful position to build and strengthen international engagement in Scottish archaeology. This was demonstrated by the successful European Association of Archaeologists annual meeting in 2015, which was supported by the Scottish Government and the whole university sector.

Events like this allow academics to have a strong position to reinforce Scotland’s international presence through collaborative projects and conferences.

Educational opportunities
Another topic of discussion was identifying educational opportunities arising from a commitment to resolve the unpublished legacy projects, also known as ‘cold cases’. These projects could serve as raw material to provide the next generation of archaeologists with skills in document handling, archiving, artefact management and, above all, writing. In a university environment, such projects could lead to Masters’ dissertations which are of publishable quality, providing early career archaeologists with a fantastic opportunity.

Developing the next generation
All of this requires the appropriate level of training and guidance. Here at Glasgow, we have been discussing an embryonic proposal to create an MRes course. This would provide the necessary training (best practice in archiving and artefact handling) with most of the study time dedicated to working up the excavation records, including a course on the theory and practice of working with legacy materials from excavations. It may be possible for this proposal to be expanded and delivered in a way that allowed it to be shared between the various universities as well as a CPD course.

Glasgow University hopes to produce a more detailed proposal during the coming academic year.

Finally, we considered where universities are delivering on improving innovation and skills. This includes benefits of accreditation, science and collectively pooling resources to work collaboratively. We will follow up these productive discussions next year.

Stephen Driscoll,
University of Glasgow

The NEXT GENERATION

Students at University of Glasgow Fieldschool, Strathearn, Perthshire.
2018 HAS SEEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITY ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, FROM INNOVATIVE AND ENGAGING PROJECTS TO UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES. HERE WE SAMPLE SOME OF WHAT’S BEING GOING ON ACROSS SCOTLAND AND LOOK AT WHAT’S BEEN CREATING A BUZZ ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

THE HASHTAG #SCOTARCHSTRAT WAS RECENTLY LAUNCHED. BY TAGGING YOUR CONTENT WITH IT YOU CAN JOIN A NATIONAL CONVERSATION ABOUT HOW SCOTLAND’S ARCHAEOLOGY STRATEGY IS MAKING ARCHAEOLOGY MATTER.

OUT AND ABOUT

THE HERITAGE OVER A REGION.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND (HES) SENT ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS TO RECORD THE 1970S OIL WORKERS VILLAGE OF POOLPHAIL ON THE SHORES OF LOCH FYNE.

WHAT THEY DISCOVERED WAS A VILLAGE COVERED WITH WORLD-CLASS STREET ART THAT HAD BEEN PAINTED BY THE AGENTS OF CHANGE COLLECTIVE.

THIS FORM OF CONTEMPORARY ARCHAEOLOGY PUSHERS OUR BOUNDARIES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND ENABLES HES TO CONSIDER INTER AND CROSS-DISCIPLINARY PROJECTS. THE RESULTS OF THIS PROJECT HAVE BEEN SHARED WITH AN INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE AND WILL BE FEATURED IN A BOOK ON ARCHAEOLOGY AND PHOTOGRAPHY. POOLPHAIL HAS SINCE BEEN DEMOLISHED, MAKING THE PHOTOGRAPHS A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR NATIONAL RECORD.

RECORDING GRAFFITI ON THE SHORES OF LOCH FYNE

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) sent archaeologists and photographers to record the 1970s oil workers village of Pollphail on the shores of Loch Fyne.

What they discovered was a village covered with world-class street art that had been painted by the Agents of Change collective.

This form of contemporary archaeology pushes our boundaries of archaeological research and enables HES to consider inter and cross-disciplinary projects. The results of this project have been shared with an international audience and will be featured in a book on archaeology and photography. Pollphail has since been demolished, making the photographs a particularly important part of our national record.

ARCHAEOLOGY MATTER.

STRATEGY IS MAKING SCOTLAND’S ARCHAEOLOGY CONVERSATION ABOUT HOW YOU CAN JOIN A NATIONAL TAGGING YOUR CONTENT WITH RECENTLY LAUNCHED. BY #SCOTARCHSTRAT WAS THE HASHTAG ABOUT WHAT’S BEEN CREATING SCOTLAND AND LOOK AT BEING GOING ON ACROSS THE COUNTRY, FROM INNOVATIVE AND ENGAGING PROJECTS TO UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES. HERE WE SAMPLE SOME OF WHAT’S BEING GOING ON ACROSS SCOTLAND AND LOOK AT WHAT’S BEEN CREATING A BUZZ ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

Community timelines

Over the past few years Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands (ARCH) has been working with eight communities as part of the Stop, Look and Listen project, funded by HLF and LEADER.

As part of the project, Community Timelines courses allowed eight communities across the Highlands opportunities to learn about local heritage, research sites, buildings or finds from their area, and then plan and create a display.

The projects all had their own focus and had a wide range of results – these included projects as varied as considering roundhouses on Skye and remembering public conveniences!

“Fascinating insight into my local history.”

Feedback on Community Timelines Project

The results from all eight communities were then gathered together into a book which highlighted similarities and differences in the heritage over a region.

#SCOTARCHSTRAT

COMMUNITY TIMELINES

Feats of clay

Taking inspiration from found clay moulds during local house building, a community project delivered by Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands (ARCH) investigated their context, looked for clay sources, sponsored specialist research, organised a crafting day, researched and created a catalogue of Bronze Age metalwork, and produced a display and book.

It was a good example of involving academics, museums, members of the community and schools, producing important new work as well as alerting local people to the importance of a local site.

“THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING PROJECTS I’VE WORKED ON, SHOWING HOW YOU CAN INVOLVE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY, ACADEMICS AND MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS TO PROVIDE QUALITY WORK AND A LASTING LEGACY. LOCAL PEOPLE STILL TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN BEING INVOLVED.”

Susan Kruse, ARCH

Volunteer Kay with sword.

SHARING YOUR IMAGES

Wiki Loves Monuments is an international photography competition run annually each September by Wikimedia, supported in Scotland by Wikimania UK and sponsored by Archaeology Scotland.

It aims to record our historic environment by asking people to upload images of listed buildings and scheduled monuments in Scotland to the free online image repository Wikimedia Commons.

Between 2011 and 2017, over one million images were entered, all of which are now freely available for global use and re-use.

Stay tuned to @wikimonuments on twitter for the announcement of the winners in December.
The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) currently supports around seven Young Archaeologists’ Club branches in Scotland. They deliver 845 opportunities annually for young people, aged between 8 and 16, to be involved with archaeology. Last year, as part of Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, HES funded the CBA to support and encourage their volunteer leaders in Scotland. The funding allowed the CBA to inform leaders what resources are available, as well as letting them share their stories with each other.

Volunteer leaders are so important. This year as part of the Year of Young People, HES are funding CBA to develop youth leadership in 16–24 year-olds and encourage the next generation of leaders. They are also working collaboratively to launch three new branches in Scotland.

If you want to be a part of this or become a volunteer leader then please contact:

yac@archaeologyuk.org

Stepping stones to the past

The hot weather of summer 2018 revealed lots of archaeology, and saw the River Don at its lowest level for decades.

Fisherman Frank McWilliam caught more than he bargained for when he noticed well-preserved Pictish symbols carved on the stone he was standing on! The beautifully decorated stone has been recovered and is currently with Treasure Trove for future allocation to a museum.

“...The exceptional summer has led to river levels being at their lowest for decades, so there was always a chance that something new would be found. However, I certainly didn’t expect a find as stunning as this.”

Bruce Mann, Local Authority Archaeologist

Northern Picts video brings Pictish Scotland to the world

In February 2018 a video shared by the Northern Picts Project, based at the University of Aberdeen, was taken up by National Geographic and shared round the world on social media. At the time of writing it had racked up over 700,000 views!

You can view the video here:

https://bit.ly/2InsLm7

Like and share it, to get it to 1,000,000 by the end of the year!

Creative book brings Dun Deardail to life

‘The Archaeology of Dun Deardail’ was published by Forestry Commission Scotland.

The book is about an Iron Age Hillfort in Glen Nevis and recent archaeological investigations. The text is written in an engaging and readable way, combined with images inspired by artistic and creative engagements with the site. It also focused on the experience of people who had worked and volunteered there, and is an inventive illustration of the value of the experience of archaeology on individuals. It was recently Highly Commended for Best Archaeological Book at the British Archaeological Awards.

A digital version can be found free online on the Forestry Commission Scotland’s website.

https://scotland.forestry.gov.uk

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Bruce Mann, Local Authority Archaeologist

The Craw Stane, Rhynie.

The Archaeology of Dun Deardail book cover.

The Archaeology of Dun Deardail

An Iron Age Hillfort in Glen Nevis

Example art from The Archaeology of Dun Deardail by Alan Brailey.

© Forestry Commission Scotland

Glorious morning in #Stirling for our YAC development & First World War workshop with @archaeologyuk @YAC_CBA @homefrontlegacy @HistEnvScot @LivingLegacies3 & @ArchScot Hands-on fun and plenty of inspiration later! #HESsupported #ArchaeologyforAll #YACadventures #scotarchstrat

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Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership and Phoenix Futures

Ever wanted to follow in the footsteps of Roman soldiers or stroll around the grounds wandered by 18th century nobles? With the ‘Local Landscape Heroes: Phoenix Futures Trail, Motherwell’, you can do just that! Developed in 2017 through partnership between the Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership (CAVLP) – a project celebrating local people and places – and Phoenix Futures – a charity dedicated to helping individuals overcome drug and alcohol problems. The trail won the prestigious Partnership Award in the Phoenix Futures New Year’s Honours ceremony!

The concept behind the 6.5 mile trail is to allow users to explore the historical legacies left behind in the landscape by visiting up to 12 different sites. These important sites have been preserved and enhanced through the hard work and assistance of various groups. Individuals involved in Phoenix Futures helped to preserve and enhance sites, including the Roman bathhouse, Phoenix View woodland and ha-ha, while the RSPB has had volunteers involved in the area since the 1980s. Through this work and the trail, available in local culture centres and online, the project will have a legacy in the community for years to come, allowing people to explore and celebrate their heritage.

An engaging video about the project can be found here: https://youtu.be/o-kYuEjapS8

Interactivity on the Antonine Wall

A range of interactive, self-led resources suitable for all levels are available for the Antonine Wall, one of Scotland’s six World Heritage Sites.

From object handling boxes, an interactive game, and digital app, to objects on display in the Hunterian Museum, integrated resources help to provide a unique insight into Roman life, in both the physical and virtual worlds. If you’re interested in learning more, contact HES at: heshandlingboxes@hes.scot

CLUTHA Archaeology Project

Gives us the setting with @Phoenix_Scot on site at Draffen today. We’re trialling Art pixel art and offering Phoenix pixels... #CLUTHA #CLUTHA2020 #PhoenixScl aren’t the only ones, others in the community are helping with the trail... #HistoricScotland #PhoenixFutures #CLUTHA2020

Laser scan of Dun Suladale, Skye. © FCS by AOC Archaeology 2015

© CAVLP

Phoenix Futures volunteers restoring the bath house.
Ensuring evidence of our past is valued and cared for sustainably.

Museums ensure the material evidence of Scotland’s past is made accessible for learning, research, creativity and participation. Museums play a key role in connecting people, place and objects across Scotland.

The creation of the Archaeology Strategy and its delivery plan highlighted a number of areas where current practice in managing, accessing and sharing knowledge about archaeology collections could potentially be improved or changed over the next 10 years.

In July 2018, the National Museums Scotland, Museums Galleries Scotland, and Historic Environment Scotland jointly hosted a workshop event to kick-start this review.

**Identifying challenges**

One main topic of conversation was the lack of curatorial knowledge, confidence and dedicated staff resource to interpret and present archaeology collections. The need for support was flagged as an issue, particularly for museum curators who did not have a specific archaeology specialism. In addition, the lack of resources to properly support storage, funding acquisitions, tackling documentation backlogs and ensuring that collections were received in a ‘museum ready’ state, were all identified as important and immediate problems.

**Getting museum-ready**

One group focussed on the ‘Internal Museum Process’ – proposing the production of sector-wide guidelines on getting objects ‘museum ready’. They suggested archaeological units acquire a closer understanding of museums and vice versa, with the Treasure Trove Unit acting as a bridge between those involved in the excavation process and the museum staff. The group also recognised the clear role the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers in Scotland (ALGAO) has in this area, especially in terms of defining and policing standards for artefact recovery and post-excavation treatment. The development of ‘Museum Ready’ guidelines covering the spread of issues from artefact recovery in the field to post-excavation treatment, conservation levels and archiving standards was proposed alongside the wider promotion of existing online resources, initiatives and databases.

A second group looked at the ‘Internal Museum Processes’ – essentially how archaeology collections are managed in museums day-to-day. They highlighted current storage challenges and the fact that some museums are or will be unable to collect assemblages in the future; that cuts to budgets impact on collecting policies; and the lack of local expertise to appraise and interpret archaeological material impacts on making the collections accessible to all.

**Developing collections knowledge and confidence**

A third group focused on developing and retaining collections knowledge, expertise, and confidence, suggesting an expertise audit and designing an ‘expertise map’ to identify who has particular skills and where they are based within Scotland. This would allow organisations to ask for help outside their own staff. It was suggested that the National Museums Scotland build upon the archaeology workshop series delivered as part of their National Training Programme. Finally, the group advocated for the development of required skills and expertise being part of a culture change and not part of a stand-alone project or funding. It should be embedded in the strategic planning of all related stakeholder and funder organisations.

Having identified these key issues, the group then considered options for future planning, how these issues could be addressed and how this activity could be supported by the wider archaeology sector.

**Using the proposed actions**

The extremely successful workshop highlighted consensus in the current issues which are being faced by all museums, and a route map on how to start to deal with these. The next step is the formation of a Museums Working Group, with representation from museums throughout Scotland, which will be tasked with taking forward the proposed actions, in discussion with the wider archaeological community.

Jilly Burns, National Museums Scotland

© Historic Environment Scotland
ON THE FRONT LINE

Bruce Mann provides an update for Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers in Scotland (ALGAO: Scotland). They represent archaeologists working for local authorities and national parks throughout Scotland.

Sustaining places for the future
The sustainable management of the historic environment, underpinned by expert knowledge and informed evidence, lies at the heart of Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy. ALGAO members play a huge role in successfully delivering this management within their everyday work across Scotland’s local authorities, with over 288,000 sites protected, managed and promoted in 2016/17 over 28 of the 32 local authorities. However, there is always scope for improvement, and work on the Strategy over the last year has allowed those members and key partners to think strategically about how things can be done better, above and beyond their day-jobs.

A key recognition has been that roles and responsibilities for sites and monuments are not well understood outside of the heritage sector. Expectations are changing when it comes to considering the academic and public benefits from commercially-driven archaeology.

Technological solutions are evolving fast, with new ways of accessing information about, and celebrating, our archaeological heritage. These changes are setting new challenges for everyone.

Looking for immediate benefits
The limited resources available to ALGAO and its partners in contributing to the work of not only this aim but also other ongoing government strategies and initiatives has meant that the last year has been spent targeting outcomes that have immediate benefits.

Focusing initially on roles and responsibilities, significant progress has been made in clarifying management processes around designated sites in the planning process. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and ALGAO have worked closely on developing clear messages to developers during the planning process, aiding in better outcomes for sites and monuments. For instance, at recent Public Local Enquiries examining impacts on Scheduled Monuments by windfarms. A mapping programme of the sector has also been started in order to provide a guide to functional roles and organisational remits across the sector.

Changes on the horizon
The background to all this work is set to change as the Planning and Land Use Bill, currently going through Parliament. ALGAO has been actively engaged in discussions with partners and Scottish Government about how best to set out the future policy on the historic dimension of landscape. We have also been working with HES on specific documents such as the new Historic Environment Policy and addressing public wishes over recognition of locally important sites.

Work with key agencies such as Transport Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland has been examining current management practices with recommendations for improving access to expert advice.

Further progress has been made following the establishment of a CIFA Joint Working Group on delivering greater public benefits from archaeology through improved guidance for commercial mitigation work.

New working standards and commitments from ALGAO, supported by an ongoing national review of the current impact of development-led archaeology, are forming the basis for different ways of delivering benefits to those both within and outside of the sector. A pilot project (Mesolithic Deeside) has been established which examines how new sites can be identified by community and university partnerships, and how that information can be fed back to Local Authorities for future protection and management. It is hoped that these strands of work will underpin the next year’s work.

Working closely with museums
ALGAO has begun to work with the museums sector to build on successful local contact networks and work towards rolling out a streamlined and coordinated country-wide system of early contact between fieldworkers and museums.

One aim is to facilitate early discussions between commercial archaeologists (carrying out development management fieldwork) and the museums likely to be interested in receiving the finds assemblages. A mapping of ALGAO service areas to the collecting ‘catchment’ areas of all the receiving museums across Scotland has been initiated so that potential accession issues raised by commercial archaeological projects can be addressed and, where necessary, funded as part of the requirements expected of developers by planning authorities.

Bruce Mann, Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO)

www.algao.org.uk/scotland
@ALGAOScotland

Impact of Local Authority Archaeologists in Scotland 2016/17

“Local Authorities manage changes affecting 97% of the known historic environment, mainly through the planning system. This has added to our knowledge and understanding of our past, sometimes in surprising ways, and the challenge now is to improve communications to bring this new information to the widest audience.”

Hugh McBrien Manager of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service

288,000 sites protected, managed and promoted across Scotland

22,426 planning applications monitored

26 community and research events

3,374 ancient sites assessed in detail

56 exhibitions, workshops and conferences

8% of all new planning applications monitored by ALGAO members will require archaeological mitigation.

ALGAO members also advised on:

445 other consultations

102 Rural Grant applications

125 EIA scoping options

1,846 windfarm mitigation

757 Historic building surveys

348 Evaluations and excavations

262 Surveys and watching briefs

www.algao.org.uk/scotland
In Depth

The effects of erosion, exacerbated by climate change, is one of the biggest threats to the historic environment in Scotland. Faced with limited resources and repeated episodes of loss, it may seem as though there is little to be done. However, the very visible effects of erosion on our cultural heritage embody the broader issue of climate change impacts and this brings with it opportunities as well as challenges. On one hand, cultural heritage comes to the fore as part of a bigger issue, and the impetus to do something and to keep what we can becomes greater as more people realise what is being lost, but how do we decide what to keep? How do we mobilise and support those wishing to help?

We cannot save everything, so how do we accept loss and learn from it?

An international view

The Learning from Loss knowledge exchange project was led by the SCAPE (the Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion) Trust, the University of St Andrews, and The University of Stirling, with support from Historic Environment Scotland, local authority archaeologists and numerous other partners. Funding from The Scottish Universities Insight Institute brought the US National Park Service Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator for Cultural Resources and the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) to Scotland to share their insights and approaches to assessing value, significance and prioritisation with the project team. FPAN is an organisation that researches and promotes the value, stewardship and public appreciation of Florida’s archaeological heritage.

Threatened coastal heritage

During an intensive fieldtrip and a series of workshops, researchers, practitioners, managers and community stakeholders addressed the issues of significance and prioritisation through the lens of threatened coastal heritage and vulnerable carved stone monuments, building upon the existing scholarship and expertise of team members. The intention was to learn from each other’s experiences and consider alternative futures using international and community experience.

The aim is that this newly formed network of heritage managers will form the basis of future collaborations for sharing ideas and practice internationally amongst diverse stakeholders. Learning from Loss involved an exchange of knowledge with international partners to consider new ways to manage threatened heritage assets.

Learning from Loss Project Team

The effects of erosion, exacerbated by climate change, is one of the biggest threats to the historic environment in Scotland.
The National Trust for Scotland has over 11,000 archaeological sites across its 76,000 hectare estate. The Trust’s objectives have been set out in our new corporate Strategy which states that we protect and care for Scotland’s heritage, provide opportunities to experience and value it, and promote the benefits.

Protection of our cultural heritage assets stems from a detailed understanding of their significance in order that the most important elements can be maintained and passed on to future generations. A major part of the remit of the Trust’s archaeological team is, therefore, to provide advice to our property staff and volunteers about the understanding, significance and management of our archaeological resource. Recent years have seen a marked improvement in our data management through updating records in Canmore (the online National Record of the Historic Environment) and drawing site extents around the archaeological sites on our internal digital mapping system. Where gaps have been identified, we have started to undertake more detailed archaeological survey both to record the extents of features and sites and their condition.

Archaeological adventures in the Hebrides

In the last couple of years, Trust Archaeologist Dr Daniel Rhodes led a group of volunteers to the uninhabited islands of Mingulay, Pabbay and Berneray in the Outer Hebrides to monitor the condition of sites. On Mingulay, which was abandoned around 1912, the team set up camp this summer and spent a week walking the island recording the condition of all the known archaeology sites using handheld tablets. From prehistoric settlements to the incredibly well preserved village, the information gathered will allow the National Trust for Scotland to continue its care of the island’s human past.

Conserving world heritage

On St Kilda, we employ a rigorous approach to conserving the built heritage on the island. Using a detailed photographic record and database, our on-site archaeologist, Craig Stanford, monitors all of the nearly 2,000 structures as part of a ten-year cycle, and a large sample of the structures across the island are monitored annually. Any change in the stonework, even as small as one shifted stone, is recorded and either repaired on the spot or placed on a works list for revisit by volunteer work parties or skilled contractors.

This record allows us to test the long term success of repairs as well as to better understand the impact and effectiveness of our conservation decisions, and it results in a more concerted effort to preserve the efforts of the St Kildans in their landscape.

This summer we trialed the use of 3D data to inform a drystone repair of a small planticrue. The 3D model, kindly supplied by the Scottish Ten team at HES, complemented our photographic archive perfectly, allowing us to better assess the relative positions of stones on the top course of a wall and help tie the stones together in a manner more closely fitting the original.

Successful protection of the Trust’s archaeological resource is increasingly reliant on partnerships between our staff, numerous volunteers and the wider cultural heritage sector.

Derek Alexander, National Trust for Scotland

www.nts.org.uk/our-work/our-strategy

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ACROSS SCOTLAND - ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THESE ARE IN THE CARE OF NATIONAL BODIES AND CHARITIES. IN THIS FEATURE WE HEAR HOW HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND AND THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND USE ARCHAEOLOGY TO INFORM HOW THEY LOOK AFTER THESE IMPORTANT PLACES.
The role of Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is to investigate, care for and promote Scotland’s historic environment. Helping to look after sites and monuments across the 336 Properties in Care is the Cultural Resources Team (CRT); a team of archaeologists, historians and architectural specialists.

The team ensures that those protecting and managing change at the properties have access to expert advice on the significance and sensitivities inherent in them. Research and the development of knowledge is embedded in all of the team’s work, and all the information recovered during work big and small is used to inform our understanding of the past and the advice we give to our colleagues across the organisation.

Across the estate
In the last twelve months, the team has managed over 60 investigations across the HES estate. Where possible we use non-invasive techniques such as geophysical survey to help us assess archaeological potential. This helps develop our understanding of a monument and aids in assessing proposals for conservation and maintenance work at a site.

Recently we responded to the need for the fencing in of the footpath to Cairnpapple Hill, West Lothian in order to protect staff and visitors from cattle. In order to determine the best positioning of fence posts, we undertook a resistivity survey to identify any archaeological deposits or features.

Breaking ground
The other routine archaeological investigation undertaken is the monitoring of ground-breaking work. This technique allows us to establish the presence or absence of archaeology at specific locations and to record the depths of stratigraphy (layers of remains). All the information recovered through this is incredibly useful for assessing future proposals and providing expert advice at a site.

Research excavations
Occasionally we carry out larger scale research excavations. These projects usually span a number of seasons and seek to address a broad range of research aims as well as demonstrating the value of archaeology to the understanding and management of a monument in state care. Between 2010 and 2014, a project to examine in detail the development of one of Britain’s last great curtain-walled castles, Tantallon, saw a combination of standing building recording, geophysics and excavation led by the Cultural Resources Team. This work has greatly increased our knowledge of this important castle, ensuring the sustainable management and protection of the monument and its archaeological resource.

Archaeology is therefore key to informing how Scotland’s fantastic heritage resources are managed and protected for future generations.
Holyrood Park
Holyrood Park is a large (260 ha) royal park in central Edinburgh. It was first established in 1541 by James V who had the area enclosed by a stone wall and it retains its original boundaries relatively undisturbed by later development. It is a dramatic and rugged open space with the summit of Arthur’s Seat at 251m above sea level. It is regarded as an important recreational resource within the city and is also a nationally significant cultural and natural heritage resource.

Growing visitor numbers
Facing growing visitor numbers (estimated as anywhere between 0.5 – 5 million a year) and a need to update the management plan, a series of investigations are ongoing in order to enhance our understanding and our ability to sustainably manage the park and its archaeological resource.

An airborne laser scan (ALS) was commissioned in 2017 to provide a high quality baseline survey for the site. It was hoped that the data would allow a better understanding of the archaeological remains and their current condition, as many of the earthworks are very subtle and hard to appreciate on the ground. Analysis and interpretation of the data has revealed a raft of new archaeological features and enhanced our understanding of existing features. The new discoveries have included WWI practice trenches, cultivation remains and banks, and have revealed more information about previously-known Bronze Age hut circles.

Managing erosion
Following these results, CRT has commissioned research into specific aspects of the park. The impact of visitors is being understood through an erosion survey which will record the extent of erosion across the park and gauge its impact and severity on the archaeological remains. Research into its cultural heritage is also ongoing, unpicking the history of St. Anthony’s Chapel which stands on a knoll and also into the use of the park during the First and Second World Wars which aims to set the re-discovered trenches in their context.

We are also working in partnership with the University of Stirling to undertake palaeoenvironmental sampling, looking at long-term land use as well as archaeological and environmental changes within the landscape.

In the future we hope to undertake small-scale archaeological evaluation of a number of archaeological features, to try and characterise the nature of the deposits and develop a chronology for them.

Encouraging creative presentation and interpretation
The information from all these investigations will ensure that we have the data and are able to provide expert advice to those managing change within the park.

“"We also hope that through this work we are able to encourage creative and collaborative presentation and interpretation of the cultural heritage within the park.”"
Encouraging creative learning and engagement for everyone.

Over the past year or so Archaeology Scotland’s focus has been on the educational aspirations for archaeology across Scotland.

Encouraging greater engagement

One of the key activities identified was to set up an Archaeology and Learning Working Group (ALWG). The first meeting was attended by representatives from a wide range of organisations from all parts of the sector. This brainstorming and networking day discussed a range of projects including an education resources portal; archaeological educators and education courses; training teachers to use archaeology to deliver the Curriculum for Excellence; and lifelong learning.

Delivering learning resources

It was agreed that the resources portal should be a web page to promote Scottish heritage learning resources by being a ‘one-stop shop’ for information about, and links to, educational archaeological resources. The resources will all tie into the Curriculum for Excellence and should appeal to everyone involved in archaeological education – teachers, youth-workers, YAC leaders, ‘archaeological educators’, archaeologists, learning officers and adult learners. A beta version of the portal has been produced and has been tested on fifty teachers and demonstrated learning officers and adult learners. A beta version of the portal has been produced and has been tested on fifty teachers and demonstrated for exchange of ideas, discussion, news, case studies and blogs.

As a multi-disciplinary and over-arching subject, archaeology is a good tool for teaching across a wide range of topics and curriculum areas at all levels.

Heritage education, which is a well-defined, well-recognised topic in other parts of the world, can interact with and benefit important political issues such as climate change, diversity, sustainability and citizenship. As a result of the ALWG meeting, an impact/benefits paper is being produced by Northlight Heritage, which will examine just how archaeological education can tie in with these issues and how best to take things forward.

Bringing archaeology to teachers and students

Networking at the first Scottish Student Archaeology Societies Conference in Glasgow, the Edinburgh University Fieldwork Fair and elsewhere resulted in 28 people registering an interest in becoming Engagement Officers (the term was preferred to ‘Archaeological Educators’).

Work is beginning on designing their training.

Training teachers to use archaeology to deliver the Curriculum for Excellence was identified as a priority. Whilst archaeology is recognised by many archaeologists as a great tool for learning, it is not currently popularly used by teachers, who are put off by its apparently specialist nature.

Outdoor learning, field trips and site visits have an important role in archaeological education and will be encouraged through the portal (and are already promoted by the Outdoor Woodland Learning website). As teachers are most likely to be receptive to innovative ideas for lesson planning in the first three years of their training, we should be reaching these early career professionals.

Archaeology Scotland is working with two teacher training departments to develop courses and classes in archaeological education. It is particularly important to use case studies tied to wider strategic or training schemes that use archaeology as examples that can be used in teacher training. Archaeology Scotland’s innovative youth award scheme, the Heritage Hero Awards, has been a highly useful method of making contacts and building working relationships with teachers and youth leaders. Archaeology Scotland staff delivered a very successful session to Outdoor Woodland Learning Scotland colleagues on how to use archaeology. They used the Forestry Commission Scotland’s resource book Outdoor Archaeological Learning to illustrate how a timeline could be used to bring the past to life; to link topics such as Romans, Vikings and World War Two; or to investigate local history.

Lifelong learning

Lifelong learning is an important part of archaeological education because it is very inclusive, reaches people of all abilities and ages, is good for health and well-being, and is a good way to build teams and communities. It is also a good way to learn and teach new transferable skills. It can be accredited, or not, and can feature learner-led learning, rather than an academic, top-down model. It can produce good heritage outcomes, such as updating Canmore, or engaging with the planning process. The ALWG meeting identified a need to find out more about who is engaged in heritage related lifelong learning.

Ergadia Heritage have recently completed a survey of the community heritage sector to find out what is going on, who is participating in community heritage, and what is needed for future progress.

Looking to the future, the results of the Northlight Heritage research into the impacts and benefits of archaeological education will be shared with ALWG, with topics for further case studies agreed and learning shared widely with the sector. The Ergadia Heritage survey has identified a strong demand for more networking and sharing between community heritage groups and further work will take place to develop ideas around the need for community heritage hubs.

Eila Macqueen, Archaeology Scotland
@ArchScot

Over 3000 years ago, people built the stone circles at Swordle Bay. This image is part of the Ergadia Heritage survey, which has identified a strong need for more networking and sharing between community heritage groups. The survey has identified a strong demand for more networking and sharing between community heritage groups and further work will take place to develop ideas around the need for community heritage hubs.

Eila Macqueen, Archaeology Scotland
@ArchScot

The Picts: a learning resource.
Outdoor archaeological learning

Archaeology is not just about digging trenches and filling museums. It is a methodology and a way of thinking that can help piece together clues from our shared past. Through observation and discussion, ideas and theories take shape. Using archaeological recording techniques at a historic site can be a great way to explore the past and learn in a truly cross-curricular context.

A unique way to learn
Visiting a historic site – from ancient tomb to abandoned farmstead – can inspire creative writing and artwork. Children can then create their own interpretative posters, just like the professional interpretative panels that tourists and visitors find at historic sites today.

Archaeology also has great potential in the classroom, blending indoor and outdoor learning, enabling a meaningful sense of place and informing social responsibility.

New learning resources
Forestry Commission Scotland’s new resource aims to help teachers, youth group leaders and archaeological educators explore their local historic environment. The learning resource combines a number of articles and activities to encourage place-based learning on the National Forest Estate and beyond. Through discovery, exploration and sharing, young people can engage with their past through an archaeological methodology rich in imagination, creativity and enquiry.

The learning resource supports Scotland’s Curriculum for Excellence and the Outdoor & Woodland Learning Scotland network. It is full of great content, with advice and guidance supporting a range of activity suggestions, from time lines to graphic stories (the Celtic myth of The Sorrows of Derdrui and the Anglo-Saxon legend of Beowulf) and cut-out models.

“By exploring the evidence that our shared past has left in our culture and environment, outdoor archaeological learning can help develop critical thinking skills, fuel curiosity, inspire creativity, encourage discussion and promote teamwork.”

Forestry Commission Scotland

It’s all based around the idea of going to visit an archaeological or historic site, recording and discussing it, then creating an interpretative poster with both factual text and creative drawing and writing.

Crafted together!
The development of the resource reflects the collaborative nature of Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy. Contributors include education specialists, archaeological educators, professional artists and illustrators, interpretation specialists and archaeologists. It also links to Archaeology Scotland’s Heritage Heroes Awards.

https://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/managing/work-on-scotlands-national-forest-estate/conservation/archaeology/learning

Matt Ritchie,
Forestry Commission Scotland

Children getting ready to practice stone carving.

Outdoor Archaeological Learning Resource.

Excavation at Stobs Camp, Scottish Borders.

Heritage Resources Portal

Make the past come alive with Archaeology Scotland’s Heritage Learning Resources Portal! This is a one-stop-shop for resources about Scotland’s past and is for teachers and other educators to use with their learners.

• Activity and project ideas
• Hands-on kits
• Interactive games
• Background info
• Places to visit

http://archaeologyscotland.org.uk/learn-resources/

#SCOTARCHSTRAT

MAXIMISING THE ROLE ARCHAEOLOGY CAN PLAY IN LEARNING

REWARDING HERITAGE HEROES

THE HERITAGE HERO AWARDS, run by Archaeology Scotland, offer a framework, a focus and a reward for groups undertaking heritage focused projects. The Awards are free and are based on a relationship of trust and support between Archaeology Scotland and those taking part.

You can find all the paperwork you need for the Awards on Archaeology Scotland’s website at:

https://archaeologyscotland.org.uk/learning/heritage-hero-awards/
“YEEHA!” FOR YHHA

2017 was Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology (YHHA). As part of this Historic Environment Scotland (HES) funded 26 new projects through the Archaeology Programme. Here are some highlights of our community projects we funded to celebrate YHHA.

1 Rising Tides
Working with the community to investigate the formation and breaching of coastal barriers at iconic prehistoric archaeological sites in Orkney.

2 Tarradale through Time
Field walking finds from the Tarradale indicate a rich multi-period archaeological landscape underneath the plough soil. This community-led project is managed and run by North of Scotland Archaeological Society (NOSAS) to help the local community to research the archaeological heritage, put it in its chronological and spatial context, and make the knowledge more widely available.

3 Northern Picts
University of Aberdeen are working with Rhynie Woman, a local art collective, to look at the formation of Rhynie, an early royal centre in Scotland, and how these sites interact with the wider landscape. This includes a public engagement programme led by the community.

4 Bridge of Tilt Big Dig
In 1986 a long cist burial was uncovered in Bridge of Tilt which was dated to 340–615AD. The community-led project aimed to put this site in context, while undertaking DNA and isotope analysis along with a digital facial reconstruction.

5 Lair Longhouse
Engaging with local residents and volunteers from further afield, this project looked to explore and promote the early medieval Pitcarmick-type buildings at Lair, and in Glenshee and Strathardle more widely.

6 Cultybraggan Prisoner of War Camp
The project worked on a community-owned site to locate escape tunnels dug by German prisoners in 1945. It involved community volunteers through the Comrie Development Trust, and allowed unseen aspects of the camp to be protected and brought to public attention.

7 Black Loch of Myrton
Excavations at the wetland site Black Loch of Myrton continue to produce extraordinarily well-preserved structures and deposits, which will increase our understanding of life in Iron Age Scotland. The local community is part of the collaborative 4-year programme to fully explore its potential.

8 All Hallows, Inchinnan
Inchinnan Historic Interest Group (IHIG) ran this project using photogrammetry and other digital techniques to place this site in the national story and encourage more social engagement in archaeology though educational and creative activities with local schools and community groups.

9 Dunollie Castle
Dunollie Projects Ltd worked with the community to excavate and consolidate previous excavations in Dunollie Castle courtyard. They wanted to learn more about the remains, leave them visible and provide interpretation to enhance public access.

As part of the Strategy we want to be part of wider initiatives like this, galvanising partners to work together to promote Scotland’s archaeology and its people so that we can be part of the buzz and widen our audience.

For more information on Archaeology Programme funding go to HES website.

www.historicenvironment.scot/grants-and-funding/our-grants/archaeology-programme-funding/

We’d love to hear your YHHA story! http://archaeologystrategy.scot/promoting-the-strategy/
Over the weekend of the 12–13th May 2018, Langside Community Heritage led a coalition of partners under the banner of Langside 450 to bring to fruition a vibrant and varied compendium of performances, events and activities in Queen’s Park on the south side of Glasgow.

13th May 2018 marked the 450th anniversary of the Battle of Langside, a brief, bloody and historically crucial encounter in Scotland’s history, which took place partially within what is now Queen’s Park. Langside 450 took the battle as its reference point but the event was conceived neither as a celebration nor a traditional commemoration of the battle.

Creating value by working together
Working with Inherit (the Institute for Heritage and Sustainable Human Development), Langside Community Heritage instead developed Langside 450 as an opportunity for local people to come together to design and deliver, by and for themselves, a programme of inter-related and cross-cutting community designed and led events and activities, inspired by the 450th anniversary of the battle. The very act of doing so was designed to be of value – to demonstrate, to the participants and others, just what can be done when people come together with common purpose determined to make something good happen. Capacity building, in the modern parlance. The project was designed to demonstrate the power of heritage to galvanise such activity: why heritage matters and how it can be harnessed to positive ends, now and in the future.

The Langside 450 event organisers identified five objectives: to be educational, socially beneficial, inspirational, enjoyable, and to create positive legacies. As such, Langside 450 strongly reflects Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy’s 2025 Vision, recalling Euan Leitch, Director of BEFS (Built Environment Forum Scotland)’s observation concerning ‘the capacity for archaeology to inspire and make a strong connection between the practice of archaeology and people’s wellbeing’.

“Langside 450 (or how people made purposeful use of their heritage) told the story of all of the really important battles that have taken place here in the south side of Glasgow and across Scotland: the battle for worker’s rights, the battle for social justice, the battle for gender equality... and it’s absolutely brilliant that we’re able to celebrate that here today.”

Nicola Sturgeon, MSP for Glasgow Southside and First Minister of Scotland

Further, Langside 450 deliberately set out to show how archaeology might be used to help demonstrate how people could utilise their heritage to help deliver several of the Scottish Government’s National Outcomes and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
“As such, Langside 450 strongly reflects Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy’s 2025 Vision, recalling Euan Letch, Director of BEFS (Built Environment Forum Scotland)’s observation concerning ‘the capacity for archaeology to inspire and make a strong connection between the practice of archaeology and people’s wellbeing.’

Queens Park’s communities

The event was very deliberately focused around Queens Park, not only because of its geographical connection to the battle, but also to draw on the collective strength to be found in the communities surrounding the park, celebrates the area’s diversity and interconnected heritage traditions, and reaffirm the importance of the park to local communities as a valued place for positive beneficial activity of many types.

The proposition was thus for the community to use all local cultural heritages to create educational, inspirational and enjoyable activities, promote learning from history, and use that learning to create a message designed to foster peace, shared social responsibility, and living life with tolerance, understanding and respect. The resulting event embraced a wide range of cultural activities, within and around the park, including a tree planting ceremony to mark the start of proceedings, a celebratory procession, an exhibition on the battle in the local public library, publication of a new guide to the battle, a specially commissioned play performed with children from several local schools, a rich and diverse programme of music, including a specially written fanfare to welcome the procession to the park, and a plethora of lectures, tours and stalls provided by a wide range of contributors on a host of subjects.

There was even room for a clairvoyant goat!

Community Heritage

At the heart of the activity was Langside Community Heritage (LCH), established in 2016 as a vehicle for local people to pursue their interests in all aspects of their shared local heritage. Working with Inherit in this nascent period, LCH adopted a very specific remit with Inherit in this nascent period, to use that collective heritage, knowledge and energy for the common good, establishing as a key driving principle an intention to promote and utilise cultural heritage, in all its forms and expressions, as a means to achieve social benefit through enhancing the lives of local residents as well as the built and natural environment of the area. In particular, it was conceived as a vehicle through which people could gain the confidence and skills to bring about those positive changes by and for themselves. Langside 450 is just the latest and most ambitious output of this already impressive and inspiring organisation.

Runaway success

As the accompanying photographs confirm, Langside 450 proved a runaway success – exceeding expectations. That success owes a debt to a very wide range of people who contributed their time, energy and skills to make it happen, and to the over 10,500 people who turned out over the weekend to make it such a vibrant success, including welcome support from local MP Stewart McDonald, who opened the proceedings on the Saturday, and local MSPs James Dornan and Nicola Sturgeon, who received the celebratory procession on the Sunday. The main event was preceded on 7th March by a specially commissioned play at the local public library, resulting in the spot in the local public library, resulting in the start of proceedings, a celebratory tree planting ceremony to mark the start of the event, and a specially commissioned play performed with children from several local schools, resulting in the start of the event, and a specially commissioned play performed with children from several local schools, resulting in the start of the event, and a specially commissioned play performed with children from several local schools, resulting in the start of the event, and a specially commissioned play performed with children from several local schools, including welcome support from local MP Stewart McDonald, who opened the proceedings on the Saturday, and local MSPs James Dornan and Nicola Sturgeon, who received the celebratory procession on the Sunday.

A community made video of the event can be found here, with thanks to the Queens Park Camera Club:

https://youtu.be/FvSh048ZxKY

Alan Leslie, Inherit
Iain Ross Wallace, Langside Community Heritage

A big thank you!

We thank our funders, Inhouse Events CIC, Battlefield Rest, Glasgow City Council Local Area Partnership, Heritage Lottery Fund, UKSE, and the Glasgow Tree Lovers’ Society.

Mention should also be made of a series of other key contributors, without whom the event would have been much the poorer: Ruth Forsythe from Finn’s Place, Bob Marshall, representing Queens Park Arena; Stephen Docherty from the Friends of Queens Park, and the Glasgow Tree Lovers Society; the Queens Park Camera Club, composer & musician Gaynir barradell (who wrote the fanfare), Alison Coustoun of Baldy Bame Theatre Company, playwright and actor Robert Burke and director Piers Ross of Fizzgig, Eddie and all at Langside Library, Ian Marshall of ACFA, Marco Giamass and all at The Battlefield Rest restaurant, and the roster of performers, contributors, stall holders and volunteer co-ordinators, including piper Craig McFarlane, Ilamya, Horse Whisperer, Cucina Povera, Kolora, Luigi, Brass, Aye?, Quinie, the teams from Historic Environment Scotland, the National Trust for Scotland, Northlight Heritage, Archaeology Scotland and the Friends of Dundonald Castle, as well as Thea Stevens, Mingaile Anderson, Tobias Wieland, Lost Glasgow’s Norrie Wilson, Billy the clairvoyant goat and, of course, the several Marys, Queen of Scots.
Creating opportunities to acquire archaeological skills and driving innovation.

INNOVATION AND SKILLS

AS THE LEAD PROFESSIONAL BODY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY, THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS (CIFA) HAS BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED WITH SCOTLAND’S ARCHAEOLOGY STRATEGY SINCE ITS INCEPTION.

CIFA is leading the way to ensure that our profession is fit for the future. We know what we need, but how do we get there? A key aim of the Strategy is to ‘ensure that people have the opportunity to acquire and use the archaeological skills that they need or desire, and that those skills provide the underpinning for innovation in the understanding, interrogation, learning and funding of archaeology’.

This aspiration is at the heart of what CIFA does – championing professionalism in archaeology and ensuring that archaeologists have the right skills and knowledge to work within the historic environment. We promote high professional standards and strong ethics in archaeological practice, to maximise the benefit that archaeologists can bring to society.

In Scotland, we have been active in co-ordinating training workshops (in partnership with our CIFA Scottish Group committee) which provide cost-efficient skills development opportunities for the sector. These workshops vary from public speaking to asbestos awareness training.

Filling skills gaps

Identified within the Strategy delivery plan and enabled by dedicated funding from HES, in 2017, CIFA completed a rapid review of skills gaps and losses within the Scottish archaeology sector to identify priorities going forward. Utilising existing data sets on skills gaps, and through a series of interviews with industry leaders, CIFA identified that the majority of early career archaeologists were not industry ready and, at times of peak development, it was challenging for employers to find staff with the right skills and experience.

CIFA identified that the sector needed to rethink training strategies for early career archaeologists and explore new entry routes into the profession, actions which could also help alleviate workforce pressures and increase diversity within the heritage sector. This issue is particularly pressing with the commencement of large infrastructure projects in England (such as HS2) which are already having an impact with archaeologists leaving Scotland to work in the south of Britain.

New routes into archaeology

The timing is never better to consider how we upskill our existing workforce or rethink entry routes into a career in archaeology. Our work is being delivered against a wider backdrop of initiatives supported by Scottish Government, which include the ‘Attainment Gap Challenge’ and the development of Foundation, Modern and Graduate Apprenticeships, ensuring that every young person has the chance to succeed and that the Scottish workforce is continually developing.

Looking to our sector, heritage developments are being driven forward strategically through Our Place in Time and Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy. The forthcoming Skills Investment Plan for the Heritage sector (being led by Skills Development Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland) will also help us consider what and where resources need to be focused for skills development.

Since completing the rapid review, CIFA received continued funding from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) to support and co-ordinate potential initiatives identified. Following a meeting with industry leaders in July 2018, an Archaeology Skills Development Panel has been created which will guide the development of a college-based course (led by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland); the development of a new qualification (accredited by Scottish Qualifications Authority which will focus on entry level field archaeology skills); and explore the potential to develop a modern apprenticeship for an archaeological technician/site assistant role.

We have a head start with an apprenticeship scheme due to the work completed in England by the English Heritage Trailblazer scheme. While any initiative will need to be fit for purpose within a Scottish context, the panel agree that the key skills and knowledge identified by the Trailblazer initiative are essential characteristics for an entry level role in Scotland. Going forward, the panel needs to submit business cases to SQA and Skills Development Scotland (who co-ordinate apprenticeship development in Scotland) to access resources to enable these initiatives to be developed and delivered.

The value and benefit that the Strategy brings to the Scottish Heritage sector is already having significant results and funding is enabling progress to be made. Through this funding, CIFA is able to support and co-ordinate the development of the appropriate initiatives which will ensure our profession is fit for the future. Discussions around these initiatives have been ongoing for the last 10 to 15 years (at least) but it is Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy that is providing the focus, support and platform for partnerships to ensure that the required action is now finally being taken.

Cara Jones,
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
@InstituteArch
Where we’re at!
In 2016/17 Landward Research carried out a survey of archaeological specialists across the UK to measure against a previous survey in 2010/11.
In general there was a positive message with a reduction in risk of losing specialist skills across the sector from most areas. The only area that is at acute risk is ‘physical dating’.

HES have been funding PhDs in radiocarbon and Bayesian analysis to encourage the next generation of radiocarbon archaeological scientists. However, for building and garden history 25-29% plan to retire in 6-10 years, so in five years’ time it is likely that there could be shortages in both of these fields as well.
The report identified a number of areas that specialists could work on:
- Review current charging for sustainability
- Include indirect costs in charges
- Commit to formally undertaking CPD to expand skills and knowledge
You can find reports on the Archaeology Data Service website.

They also asked organisations to:

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Support the hosting and delivery of specialist conferences
Review support for CPD through bursaries/online training
Survey every 4 years in line with Profiling the Profession more widely
Create technical, subject-specific publications
Support and encourage mentoring
Run training to educate members how to calculate appropriate rates
Carry out research to work out: why graduates/entrants and people of different backgrounds are not becoming buildings and garden specialists and what would encourage them to do this
Create a registry of retiring specialists to transfer knowledge and skills to the next generation

**WHAT WE ARE DOING**

Supporting CIfA to develop apprenticeships and other non-traditional career pathways
Providing funding to specialist conferences and workshops through the Archaeology Programme
Supporting CIfA to deliver CPD opportunities across Scotland
Working with Historic England to look at surveys going forward
Looking at technical guidance notes across Scotland, including providing a new series through Historic Environment Scotland to fill gaps
Support mentoring and training through funding science focussed PhDs

**Results of the survey**

Number of responses: 1,290
More specialists now working in a large organisation (more than 9 employees): 63%

55% are female
25–65 years even distribution
Scotland has a high concentration of specialists

In Depth

**Scientific innovation through collaborative PhDs**

2017 saw two collaborate PhD’s begin, specialising in advanced scientific dating techniques. In 2012-2013, the Profiling the Profession report into the condition of the labour market in archaeology post-financial crash revealed significant skills shortages and gaps in the profession.

One particular area was in post-excavation and archaeological science. As a result, Historic Environment Scotland began a programme of collaborative doctoral awards focusing in these areas. A call for collaborators in the wider sector went out for proposed PhD subjects which would fill gaps in knowledge and develop future skills to fill skills gaps in the industry.

So far, Historic Environment Scotland have sponsored five collaborative PhDs to encourage innovation in archaeological science and provide opportunities to build skills and capacity. These include three PhDs specialising in scientific dating with the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) and one each with the Universities of Bradford and Aberdeen.

The topics range widely from a study of diet in the early medieval period to detailed Bayesian analysis of dates from excavation assemblages. After graduating, it is hoped that the PhD candidates will fill skills gaps in the sector and increase capacity.

**Building History**

Building History was a skills initiative for the construction and archaeology sectors. It brought together young people studying construction skills in a college environment and archaeology students studying in universities to exchange knowledge, contacts and experience. The project also included a strategic review of pathways to employment and innovation within both constructing and archaeology.

A pilot project involved the survey and excavation of part of the site of the Pineapple House at Airth, near Falkirk. The focus of the work was to understand how the glasshouse system worked, with a view to both telling this story to others, and helping inform current management and possible future reconstruction.

The project was delivered by DigIt in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland, Construction Scotland Innovation Centre, Forth Valley College, University of Stirling, British Archaeological Jobs Resource, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, and the National Trust for Scotland.

It was intended to address training needs across multiple sectors and will act as a pilot for cross-sector working.
LOOK AHEAD AND GET INVOLVED

Our hashtag #ScotArchStrat is a great way for you to get involved. Follow it to see up-to-date news about how the Strategy is being delivered, or tag your own content with it to share what you are doing to help make Scotland’s archaeology matter.

#SCOTARCHSTRAT

We’d love to share your stories! We are always keen to hear of great work happening that is delivering the Strategy – if you have an example of best practice, lessons you’ve learned, or something you are particularly proud of, please get in touch! We would love to share your project so that others can learn and be inspired.

You can quickly fill in a case study form at: http://archaeologystrategy.scot/promoting-the-strategy/Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy website

The Strategy website launched in 2016 and is gradually being populated with more information.

In 2018, a launch video for the Strategy was released online and racked up over 4,000 views in a couple of weeks. You can find it, and much more, at: http://archaeologystrategy.scot/

Research that matters to you – Regional Research Frameworks

Building on the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework, the development of regional research frameworks is gathering pace. Adding to the national framework and that for Angyl, more are now being progressed for South East Scotland, Perth and Kinross, the Highlands, and the Western Isles.

There will be lots of opportunities for everyone to get involved in setting research questions which will shape research in the future.

You can find out more at: https://www.scottishheritagehub.com/regionalresearch

Upcoming – review of guidance on archaeology

As part of a process of improving how archaeology is delivered in Scotland, we’ll soon be releasing a Regional Research Framework, the development of which is gathering pace. Adding to the national framework and that for Angyl, more are now being progressed for South East Scotland, Perth and Kinross, the Highlands, and the Western Isles.

There will be lots of opportunities for everyone to get involved in setting research questions which will shape research in the future.

You can find out more at: https://www.scottishheritagehub.com/regionalresearch

Improving Scottish Archaeology – Workshops incoming!

A long-term aim is to improve the way that archaeology is structured, funded, and delivered. Planning for a series of workshops has started, in order to gather views and ideas on how things can be improved.

For more information and to get involved, follow #ScotArchStrat and look out for opportunities to have your say.

Scotland’s Strategic Archaeology Committee needs you!

Scotland’s Strategic Archaeology Committee is a group which represents a wide spectrum of interests in Scottish archaeology. They oversee and drive the delivery of Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy. Members sit on the Committee for four years.

We will soon be looking for new members to represent the museums and community archaeology sector.

Get in touch at: ArchaeologyStrategy@hes.scot

Benefits and impacts of archaeological learning

Archaeology is a unique way to help children learn. As part of encouraging greater engagement, Historic Environment Scotland, on behalf of the Archaeology and Learning Working Group (ALWG), are working to encourage initiatives that show how archaeology can be used to teach key skills and learning. We want to encourage those who teach others to see that archaeology matters and is for everyone.

An initial survey is closing soon, but there is still time to give us your views or ask any teachers you know to tell us what they think at: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RegionalResearchFrameworkSurvey

We will also be asking for people’s views on the examples to make sure they are useful, easy to use and that we have got it right. Watch #ScotArchStrat for more information.

Community Heritage Scotland – get involved!

Community Heritage Scotland is a new project which aims to explore the ways in which people work and engage with heritage in their communities, while also helping to bring about positive change in a sector which is not without its challenges.

The project is by and for communities and has been developed in partnership between the consultancies of Ergadia Museums and Heritage Northlight Heritage in collaboration with the Museums Galleries and Collections Institute at the University of St Andrews.

The project is now moving into the next stage and is keen to hear from anyone who wishes to be involved.

Find out more at: http://archaeologystrategy.scot/careers/training/education/trainingcommunityheritage

Opportunities for continuing professional development

Each year the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) supports by Historic Environment Scotland, deliver a series of workshops for professionals in Scotland, delivering training on a range of subjects.

If you want to find out more visit: https://www.archaeologists.net/development/training

Our team are working to create examples of best practice, lessons you’ve learned, or something you are particularly proud of, please get in touch! We would love to share your project so that others can learn and be inspired.

You can quickly fill in a case study form at: http://archaeologystrategy.scot/promoting-the-strategy/Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy website

The Strategy website launched in 2016 and is gradually being populated with more information.

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Have your say – a research portal for Scottish archaeology

We are considering whether it would be a good idea to launch an online research portal to link researchers with unfinished projects, and perhaps even research questions submitted by local communities, in line with local research frameworks.

Our survey will be open until Christmas 2018, and we would love to hear your feedback.

You can find it here: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ScotArchPortal

Stay tuned to #ScotArchStrat and the Archaeology Strategy website to find out more.

If you have any questions, queries, ideas, or insights, please let us know at: ArchaeologyStrategy@hes.scot

Be a leader – Young Archaeologists’ Club

There are 6 (and a half…) Young Archaeologists Clubs (YAC) in Scotland.

Over the last year they have been enhancing their offer in Scotland. If you are interested, to find out more please visit: https://www.yac-uk.org/

Learning though apprenticeships and PhDs

New opportunities for learning in archaeology will soon be arriving, with apprenticeship and college routes into the profession being developed by CIfA through the Strategy. Historic Environment Scotland’s Archaeology grants are continuing to support training by funding collaborative PhDs, with a recent focus on Archaeological Science.

If you or anyone you know may be interested, look out for opportunities by following #ScotArchStrat or visiting: http://archaeologystrategy.scot/careers/training/education/trainingcommunityheritage
Pictish symbols from the Craw Stane, after drawing.