



Archaeology for Communities
in the Highlands

Annual Report

2018-2019



Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands (ARCH) is a registered Scottish Charity, No. SC040624, and a Company Limited by Guarantee, Company No. 353054

1. About ARCH

Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands (ARCH) was set up in January 2009 to provide a range of exciting and innovative community archaeology projects. It provides opportunities to encourage people with diverse interests and abilities in the Highlands to learn about, record and participate in celebrating and increasing knowledge of their local heritage. ARCH does this in a number of ways including classroom learning, practical outdoor sessions, community group project work and via a virtual community.

The charitable purposes of ARCH are to advance education, community developments, heritage and culture by working with individuals, local groups and agencies in the Highlands of Scotland, and encouraging people to learn about, record and become involved with their heritage. This report highlights the projects and activities which took place from April 2018 to end of March 2019.

Trustees

The Board of Trustees were appointed on the establishment of the organisation. Appointments and replacements are made in accordance with the Articles and Memorandum which require a minimum of three trustees and a maximum of 7 trustees. The trustees for 2018-2019 were:

Malcolm Bangor-Jones (chair)
Alasdair Cameron (Company Secretary)
Simon Berry
Graham Clark (resigned 20/7/2018)
Erik Lundberg (appointed 9/4/2018)
Carolyn Samsin
Roland Spencer-Jones
Lorna Cruickshank (adviser)

Principal Office:
The Goods Shed
The Old Station
Strathpeffer
IV14 9AF

www.archhighland.org.uk
info@archhighland.org.uk
077888 35466



Susan Kruse receiving her MBE in June 2018 for services to community archaeology in the Highlands

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2. ARCH Activities 2018-2019

ARCH had another busy year. Our big project was the Highland Regional ScARF (Scottish Archaeological Research Framework), but we also organised the Highland Archaeology Festival on behalf of Highland Council, continued with our Experimental Archaeology project, and started a new project focussing on the wartime remains at Dalmore in Easter Ross. We also collaborated with the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) researching women's suffrage in Caithness and Ross & Cromarty. Sessions were delivered by Susan Kruse unless otherwise noted. Further information on these projects can be found on the ARCH website www.archhighland.org.uk.

Highland Regional ScARF

ARCH began an ambitious three-year project to create an overview of Highland archaeology, one of several regional research frameworks which it is intended should tie in to the National ScARF published in 2012. Kicking off with a symposium in June, the rest of the year was spent working on data and, in particular, gathering information about archaeological finds. Volunteers have been recruited to help catalogue at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, and we also carried out a thorough audit of Dunrobin Castle Museum archaeology finds. A number of museums were visited in a roadshow in the first months of 2019, and workshops on using and contributing to the HER were rolled out in Dingwall, Culloden, Strathpeffer, Fortrose, Dornoch, Brora, Castletown, Wick, Fort William, Fort Augustus, Armadale on Skye, and Portree. Susan Kruse is the project co-ordinator, with Grace Woolmer working as a project officer based in Highland Council. Although this is a research project, ARCH is using its contacts to ensure involvement with a wide range of people, offering talks and workshops throughout the Highlands. Funding is from Historic Environment Scotland with support from the Highland Council. Further information is to be found on the ARCH website.



Volunteers helping record artefacts at Skye & Lochalsh Archive Centre

Highland Archaeology Festival (HAF)

ARCH again organised the festival in October for the Highland Council. Susan Kruse and Monika Maleszka-Ritchie organised an exciting programme and well attended two-day conference, with a several new innovations as well as building on the workshops, geocache trail, self-guided trails and other features from previous festivals. Over 10,000 people again attended HAF events this past year.

Experimental Archaeology: Learning about Technologies in the Past

In October 2018 we had the last of our 13 workshops, all of which proved very popular and most also included school visits. In all 547 adults and 707 children attended events. Films and blogs are up on the website, and four loans boxes have been created. Archaeologists Lachlan and Lynne McKeggie and teacher Dave Peers have now started work on the learning materials to go with the loan boxes. The project has featured on the EXARC online journal and their printed Digest. Funding was provided by Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund.





Wartime Dalmore

Dalmore Distillery on the Cromarty Firth was the scene for unusual activity in WWI as the U.S. Navy took it over to assemble and deploy mines for the Northern Barrage between Orkney and Norway. In WWII the area was again requisitioned. Over 30 people have been meeting weekly to research this story, with a display due to be launched in June 2019. As part of the project, a joint event was held in March drawing people from the Inverness Local History Forum, Groam House WWI project and Petty and Ardersier Community Heritage group.

Community Engagement Activities

ARCH also organised a number of activities open to all, bringing informal learning opportunities to a number of places in the Highlands. As part of the Highland Archaeology Festival in October, ARCH offered a number of activities: a site tour of Dalmore which attracted over 70 people; guided tours at Tomatin ROC bunker and the prehistoric landscape around the Heights of Brae; a talk about Highland heritage; the final Experimental Archaeology Crafting Day; and workshops on online historic maps and at Highland Archive Centre. Poster sessions on ScARF and the Experimental Archaeology project featured at the HAF conference.



Susan gave talks to a number of societies including: Highland Museums Forum; Inverness Townscape Project; the Institution of Civil Engineers; Badenoch & Strathspey Local History Society; North

Kessock and District Local History Society; U3A Nairn; National Federation of Occupational Pensioners; Black Isle Antique Society; UHI Centre for History; Cill Chumein Heritage Society and Dingwall History Society. She also talked to students at the University of Edinburgh and the University of the Highlands and Islands about possible dissertation topics which might contribute to the ScARF project. We also ran a well-attended lecture programme, with eight talks on a variety of themes, attracting people from all over the Highlands. ARCH also had displays at HAF and the UHI Freshers Fair. Susan also brought some of the Experimental Archaeology project objects to the Kingsmill Care Home for a pop-up history event. During the Institution of Civil Engineers visit, she provided a site tour at Strathpeffer Station. We also helped HES record wartime remains at Nigg on their recording visit in March 2019. In June 2018 ARCH held a celebration event, as Susan Kruse received her MBE from the Lord Lieutenant Janet Bowen at Strathpeffer Station, featuring a number of displays from previous projects.

Altogether, over 2500 people participated in ARCH events and courses, although there were many more unregistered as visitors to some of the more informal events. We issued three newsletters and a number of heritage newsflashes over the year. Our mailing list remains over 1000, with just under 200 receiving the copy by post.

3. Friends of ARCH

Our Friends scheme continues to provide much needed unrestricted donations. This year we had 26 people providing financial or other contributions, with £827 raised. The annual Friends outing in June was to Rosemarkie, Fortrose and Avoch, on probably the only rainy day of the summer.

4. Consultation Events

Susan Kruse's term finished with the main Scottish Strategic Archaeology Group run by Historic Environment Scotland, but she continues to be active in the Learning subgroup. She is also on the steering group of Scotland Community Heritage Alliance, helping to scope out community heritage activity in Scotland and plan consultation events.

5. Financial Report

ARCH's activities continue to be project-funded, and therefore most income is restricted for specific activities and projects. However, ARCH continues to generate unrestricted funds via donations from our lectures, book donations, our Friends and other events. These are used to provide cash flow where funders pay in arrears, and will increasingly be needed for overheads. A copy of the annual accounts is available separately to anyone who wishes to see them.

