



Archaeology for Communities
in the Highlands

Annual Report

2016-2017



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 2016 to end of March 2017.

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 2016-2017 were:

Malcolm Bangor-Jones (appointed Chair 21-7-2016)
Sue Mitchell (Company Secretary)
Simon Berry
Alasdair Cameron
Dr Graham Clark (resigned as Chair 21-7-2016)
Carolyn Samsin
Roland Spencer-Jones
Lorna Cruickshank (adviser)

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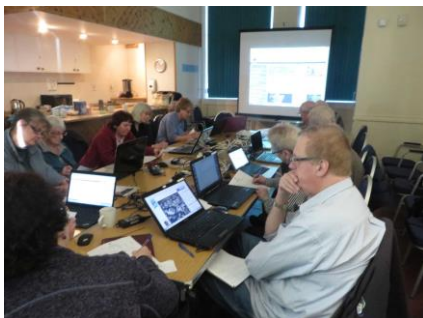
Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands (ARCH) is a registered Scottish Charity, No. SC040624, and a Company Limited by Guarantee, Company No. 353054

2. ARCH Activities 2016-2017

ARCH had another busy year, running a further Telford project and assisting with three projects for other organisations, as well as several workshops. 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.

2.1 Telford's activities in the Highlands

With funding from Historic Environment Scotland, ARCH ran several activities relating to the architect and civil engineer Thomas Telford in the Highlands. Between January and March, a course at Grantown Museum investigated his impact in Badenoch and Strathspey. After workshops exploring sources, participants used these to build a picture of Telford's activities in Badenoch and Strathspey, and then in the final sessions, to pull it together into a travelling display which is now available for loan from Grantown Museum. As usual, binders of resources were created, and lodged with three local libraries and Grantown Museum.



Funding from Historic Environment Scotland also enabled us to run another course exploring Telford materials in the Highland Archive Centre in Inverness, and Historic Maps workshops in Lybster, Dingwall and Fort William. The maps workshops all had waiting lists, and were particularly well received.

2.2 Invergordon in World War II

Following on from the successful Invergordon in World War I project ARCH ran in 2015 with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Invergordon Museum launched an investigation into activities in the town during World War II. ARCH again provided a number of sessions, including gathering memories, researching activities, school outreach and creating a display. The sessions were well attended, with over 100 people coming to the Open Day and walk in October during the Highland Archaeology Festival. The project will finish during 2017-18 with the production of a booklet and assembling over 500 contributions for input into the Historic Environment Records (HER).



2.3 Kiltearn Old Kirk

ARCH has also been assisting Evanton Community Trust on their project focussing on Kiltearn Old Kirk. In 2016 we began sessions looking at historical documents including: Kirk Session Records; papers from Foulis Castle held in Highland Archive Centre; extra documents at the Castle; and other accounts available online or in books. Over 40 people attended, and further activities have been planned for 2017-2018.

2.4 Highland Archaeology Festival

ARCH is now organising the Highland Archaeology Festival on behalf of Highland Council for the next three years. The two week festival in October is always a high point for anyone interested in Highland heritage. Using our extensive contacts with groups and museums, Susan Kruse and Monika Malezska-Ritchie organised an exciting programme and conference, with a number of new innovations including setting up a website, hands-on workshops, a museum trail and keynote talks. The Board continues to look for ways to develop this important event and will always be grateful for feedback from participants.

2.5 Other Training Workshops

In July 2016, ARCH helped organise a training day for Scotlands Urban Past project team to come up and provide training in recording buildings. We focussed on the doocot in Dingwall, exploring a number of techniques to record the structure. Following on from last year's project investigating Strathpeffer Station, ARCH provided a practical workshop for the Highland Museum of Childhood on promoting activities on website and blogs.



2.6 Community Engagement Activities

ARCH also organises 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 eight activities: a display on querns at the Strathnairn Agricultural Working Vintage Rally, a guided walk at Kiltearn kirk, a walk around Invergordon, a walk around Strathpeffer Station, a workshop on archaeological material at the Highland Archive Centre in Inverness, a workshop on using the HER, a workshop on using GPS for survey and mapping (by Roland Spencer-Jones) and – a first for ARCH and HAF – an archaeological pub quiz. At the HAF conference, Susan Kruse provided a talk on the Invergordon wartime projects.

Susan also gave talks at Ardross Community Council and Ardross Lunch Club, Badenoch and Strathspey History Society and the Scottish Local History Forum conference in Perth. We also ran a well-attended lecture programme, with nine talks on a variety of themes, attracting people from all over the Highlands. ARCH also had displays at the Black Isle Show (on querns) and at the Firths and Fjords UHI conference at Dornoch. We provided a guided walk in Dingwall for the Institute of Civil Engineers fieldtrip to the Highlands.

Altogether, 2584 people participated in ARCH events and courses, although there were many more unregistered as visitors to some of the less formal events. We issued three newsletters and a number of heritage newsflashes over the year. Our mailing list is currently over 1000, with just over 200 people receiving the copy by post.

2.7 Consultation Events

Susan Kruse continues to represent the interests of Community Archaeology at the Scottish Strategic Archaeology Group run by Historic Environment Scotland. She also participated in a consultation meeting concerning Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF).

2.8 Future Planning

While all these activities are happening, ARCH is also looking towards the future, either developing projects on our own, or responding to requests from other organisations. Reluctantly we have abandoned our Highland-wide investigation of Telford due to the insurmountable challenge of finding match funding. However, a number of other projects are in development, including an investigation of hand querns in the Highlands. The number of organisations approaching ARCH to facilitate community outreach continues to grow as well.

3. Friends of ARCH

Our Friends scheme continues to grow with over 70 people providing much needed unrestricted donations. The annual Friends outing in May visited Strathglass. Roland Spencer-Jones organised a packed day, with visits to Erchless Castle, Eskdale Church and Fionn Dun.

4. 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.

