



Archaeology for Communities
in the Highlands

March 2013
Issue 22

Introduction

Welcome to our second newsletter of 2013. It's been a busy February and March, with courses in Ardersier and Easter Ross. Behind the scenes we've been busy progressing funding applications for the Telford project and to return for another season at Foulis, and are in early stages of planning future work.

The next two ARCH lectures will combine an evening talk, with walks and survey on nearby days. And we're very pleased that Professor Roland Paxton, renowned expert on Thomas Telford, will be coming to give us the May ARCH lecture.



Nonikiln Church ruins, Alness

Picturing Archaeology

The last in Lachlan's series of Picturing Archaeology workshops will take place on **Sunday, 24th March, 10am to 3:30 in Alness.**

This workshop is a great way to explore and take pictures and sketches of local heritage – you are guaranteed to look with new eyes! After a break for lunch (bring your own), Lachlan will share his love of free photosynth software to create a 3-D model of a site, and explain how to place the resulting model on a map for others to enjoy. No experience necessary, and all equipment provided, although people are welcome to bring their own cameras.

Meet at 10am at the Alness Heritage Centre.

Ardersier Heritage



Norse mount

Over a dozen people have been meeting in Ardersier to learn about local heritage

through the ages, and how to find out more about subjects which interest them. The results will be collated into a binder which will be given to the Ardersier Library, along with 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps. As is often the case with these courses, they have only whet the appetite, and there is clearly an interest for taking forward other projects! The courses were funded by High Life Highland.



Doocot, Ardersier



Telford's Highland Heritage

Our application for a three year project allowing communities to explore Telford's Highland Heritage has passed its first round hurdle with the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Heritage Lottery Fund is now funding help in identifying match funding and progressing parts of the application.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our survey asking for thoughts about the project. If you would like to be kept informed of future developments, do drop us a line.

And be sure to look out for Professor Paxton's lecture on 27 th May. See page 4



Telford pier, Redcastle, Black Isle





Georeferenced map of wartime Evanton Airfield, produced by Malcolm Standing

Evanton Wartime Remains

The Evanton Wartime Remains project is in full action now. Every Wednesday evening at the Cornerstone Cafe in Evanton, 7-9:30pm there are sessions to share memories, explore resources, and work towards recording the wartime remains in the village. Schools will be involved, with sessions related to mapping skills and outdoor survey. Several walks and opportunities to record remains using photography and GPS are also planned – see the programme in the newsletter, or on the ARCH website. There will also be



Photographs courtesy of Adrian Clark

opportunities to help create a display and leaflet telling the story. Come for one or all of the sessions! *If you want to be kept informed of additional activities, contact the ARCH office.*



Evanton Wartime Remains Programme

Indoor Sessions (all at Cornerstone Café)

Archives and Other Resources

Wed 20th Mar 7-9:30

Archives: HER and CANMORE

Wed 27th Mar 7-9:30

Archives: National Archives

Wed 3rd Apr 7-9:30

Archives: Aerial Photographs & Google Earth

Wed 10th Apr 7-9:30

Pulling it together and preparing for survey

Wed 17th Apr 7-9:30

Sharing Memories 4

Wed 24th Apr 7-9:30

To be arranged.

Wed 1st-29th May 7-9:30

Pulling it together

Sat 1st June 10-2

Display day / collecting memories

Wed 5th June – 3rd July, 7-9:30 Creating a leaflet

Look out too for Allan Kilpatrick's talk on the Wartime Remains of Easter Ross on Tuesday 2nd April. See page 4 for details.

Outdoor sessions: (Subject to change due to weather)

Sunday 24th March: photography and GPS

Saturday 6th April: Family walk - matching archive materials to remains on the grounds

Saturday & Sunday 13th & 14th April: Outdoor Survey

Saturday & Sunday 20th & 21st April: Outdoor Survey

Contact the ARCH office for times and meeting places

Evanton Wartime Remains is funded by the European Community Highland LEADER 2007-2013 Programme, Kiltarn Community Council's Novar Windfarm funding (supported by RWEpower renewables), The Highland Council, the Cooperative Membership Fund and the Robert Kiln Trust.



ARCH lecture series

Lectures will take place in Dingwall, Evanton and Inverness, so check carefully!
Suggested donation is £3.

MARCH

On 25th March, at 7.30pm in Dingwall Community Centre Eve Boyle of the RCAHMS will be giving us a lecture on **'Just some old huts in the hills!': Shielings in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.**

Until the early nineteenth century, shielings - upland summer pastures - were an indispensable part of the farming cycle right across the Highlands and Islands. Livestock were taken inland and uphill to make the most of remote pastures, and to protect growing crops lower down. We sometimes have an image of the shieling as symbolic of the freedom of the hills, a place for romance and poetry, but in reality this was a tightly-managed system of land use, where rights were defended robustly. This talk will look at the history of shielings, at the archaeology of shieling settlements across Scotland, and examine how and why the system finally came to an end.

Eve and colleague Piers Dixon have kindly agreed to accompany North of Scotland Archaeological Society members and ARCH supporters on two walks on Tuesday and Wednesday 26th & 27th March.

Tues 26th March we will look at sites on the Black Isle, visiting the distillery site, settlement and chambered cairn at Mulchaich Farm, near Alcaig in the morning and Ormond Castle, Avoch in the afternoon.

The Mulchaich site is the subject of an Adopt-A-Monument project by NOSAS; Ormond Castle is the site of a medieval castle, but deserves further attention.

Meet 10am at the Ferintosh Free Church Car Park (NH

575 568) from where it is just a short walk round the corner. Once on the site the going is quite rough and can be wet in places so wear boots.

For lunch we can get soup and sandwiches at the Station Hotel in Avoch. Then for Ormond Castle meet at 2.30pm, parking at the bend in the road at the south end of Avoch village along the coast (GR NH 698 543) from where it is a short walk along the coast, then steeply up a small path to the castle (less than 1km in total). Again wear boots. Please car pool if possible to the parking place.

Come for either of the half days or both.

Weds 27th March is a walk to look at shielings in Strathconon, an area where NOSAS has done comprehensive fieldwork in the past. Meet at the car park, GR NH 226 519 at 10.30am from where we will combine cars, (or for those wishing to share cars for the long drive up the glen (45mins) meet at the Community Hall car park at Marybank at 9.30am (not Maryburgh!! – several have been confused in the past!)). The walk is about 8 to 9kms in length, partly on a track but much of it over rough ground, so a decent level of fitness is required, and the weather can be pretty rugged.

Two possible still sites are also included.

Wear suitable gear and bring a picnic

Many thanks to Meryl Marshall of NOSAS for organising these two days. If you intend to come along on the walks, it would be appreciated if you would notify the ARCH office, so we have some idea of numbers.



Ormond Hill, Avoch
Image from walkhighlands.co.uk



ARCH lectures continued . . .

APRIL



The ruins of Kiltearn Church, on the shore below Evanton

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Jo Hambly of SCAPE will be coming up to talk about the **Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk Project on Monday 29th April at Dingwall Community Centre, 7:30pm.**

The SCAPE Trust, University of St Andrews has been working with the public and carrying out research into Scotland's coastal archaeology, in particular the impact of coastal change to it, for over a decade. Joanna Hambly will talk about some of the discoveries that have been made, what's going on now - and what's on the horizon for Scotland's coastal heritage.

On the Sunday before the lecture (28th April), there's an opportunity to learn how to record coastal sites with Jo and her team. Meet at Cornerstone Cafe, Evanton at 1pm (bring a laptop and/or smart phone if you have one, although some will be provided as well). We'll end the day with a quick visit to a nearby coastal site. On the Monday, we'll meet at 10 am at the Church Hall in Evanton, and have a longer day recording sites, finishing around 3:30-4pm. Come for one or both days. If you have access to computers, do try to register before hand on their website [<http://ssharp.co.uk/>]. This will save time on the day!

Wartime remains in Easter Ross

Tuesday 2 April: Cornerstone Cafe, Evanton at 7.30pm. Allan Kilpatrick will talk about Wartime Remains in Easter Ross, including some of the remains in Evanton which we're looking at in ARCH's Wartime Remains project.



Telford's other canal . . . Dingwall

MAY

Telford's Work in the Highlands

Professor Roland Paxton will give a talk on Telford's work in the Highlands on **27th May at 7.30pm in Millburn Academy in Inverness.** He will highlight a number of sites and in particular those which are under threat through neglect. We are grateful to him for providing the lecture, and the Institution of Civil Engineers for covering his travel and accommodation costs. Any donations received on the day will be used towards fundraising for ARCH's Telford's Highland Heritage Project.

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