

SCOTLAND'S ROCK ART PROJECT

NEWSLETTER 3: AUTUMN 2018



Time has flown since our last newsletter in the spring! We have much to share with you, so read on to find out what we and our Community Teams have been doing over the summer, and what we have planned for the coming months.

ROCK ART RECORDING

Since the weather starting improving earlier this year, we and our Community Teams have been out and about recording rock art across Scotland. We are really enjoying exploring the huge variety of prehistoric carvings in different parts of the country – from the cup-marks and dumbbells in Highland region, to the cups with multiple rings and radials in Argyll, and the more unusual motifs in Dumfries and Galloway. As we gather more data, we will start to analyse these regional differences in more detail.

There have been some surprises, such as the almost unknown elaborate cup and ring carved rocks at Castleton, near Stirling, which are similar to the more famous carvings of Kilmartin. You can see examples of carvings from around Scotland in our website Gallery: www.rockart.scot/images/gallery/



Fabulous complex cup and ring carvings at Castleton, Clackmannanshire

KILMARTIN FIELD SCHOOL

During the summer we spent 3 weeks in Edinburgh and Kilmartin, training and working with 14 enthusiastic Edinburgh University students. You can read about their work in the November issue of Current Archaeology.

The students did a brilliant job locating and record over 45 rock art panels, often deep in bracken or forestry. The field school was so successful we plan to run it again next year!



Above: Students and the Kilmartin Team recording at Glasvaar 7 (August 2018)

TRAINING AND AWARENESS RAISING

Since our Spring newsletter, we have:

- Given 4 talks to local groups
- Taken 2 rock art guided walks
- Given 1 conference presentation
- Contributed to 1 Rock Art Open Day
- Run 2 training sessions on rock art recording
- Run 1 workshop on enhancing and sharing 3D models



COMMUNITY TEAMS

We now have eleven wonderful trained Community Teams working in different parts of Scotland. They are creating some wonderful records, and finding many new rock art panels.

You can find out more about the Teams and what they are doing in the **About Us>Community Teams** section of our website.



WEBSITE

Since we launched our website last April, it has been widely used by people searching for rock art in their area, uploading data, and finding out more about rock art in Scotland and around the world. If you have not yet visited it, take a look on www.rockart.scot.

We will be introducing new features and information to the website throughout the project. We have just added Canmore and ScRAP ID numbers to our website rock art map to make it easier to locate rock art panels in the field.

We would love to hear what you think about the website, and please let us know if there are new features you would like to see added to it.

PROGRESS

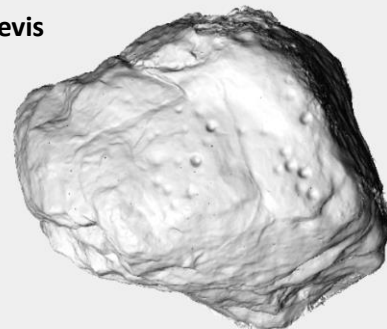
Our database is starting to grow quickly. We now have over 125 completed records, all publicly accessible via our website. Around 300 records are currently being worked on by different teams.

All completed rock art records include a 3D model of the panel. You can see these by searching on our website map – the light blue dots are completed records. You can also checkout some of our models in our Sketchfab account:

<https://sketchfab.com/ScottishRockArt>



**A new cup-marked panel at
Blarmachfoldach in the shadow
of Ben Nevis**



3



**NOSAS members counting cupmarks in Highland
region using the 'plastic milk bottle top' technique**

NEW DISCOVERIES

Over 35 new rock art panels have been discovered so far. Many of these were found in Tiree by members of the NOSAS Team, more than trebling the number of carved rocks known on the island.

There have also been exciting new discoveries at Blarmachfoldach near Fort William, where almost no rock art was known previously. It is possible that there are still many more panels to find in this area!



HISTORIC
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SCHOOL OF
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VISUALISATION
THE GLASGOW
SCHOOL OF ART



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

We have various talks, field visits, and training sessions planned over the next few months. If you are interested in finding out more about the project we would be very pleased to see you at one of these events. You can find out more by visiting the **Events** page of our website, or contacting us directly.

FORTHCOMING TALKS, CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN
CAA Conference	Edinburgh University	26-27 October 2018
Talk: Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society	Ayr Town Hall, Ayr	29 November 2018 7.30 pm
Training: Photogrammetry Processing and data upload	Engine Shed, Stirling	18 January 2019 All day
Talk: Lochaber Local History Society	Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William	7 February 2019 8.00pm
Talk: Peeblesshire Archaeological Society	Community Hall, Walkershaugh, Peebles	21 February 2019 7.30pm
Summer Field School	Edinburgh University and Kilmartin	Summer 2019

AND FINALLY...

Let us know if there is something you would like us to include in our newsletters.

If you know anyone who would like to receive our (free!) newsletter, please ask them to subscribe on our website **Resources>Newsletters** page, or by following the **Quick link to Newsletters** at the bottom of each page.

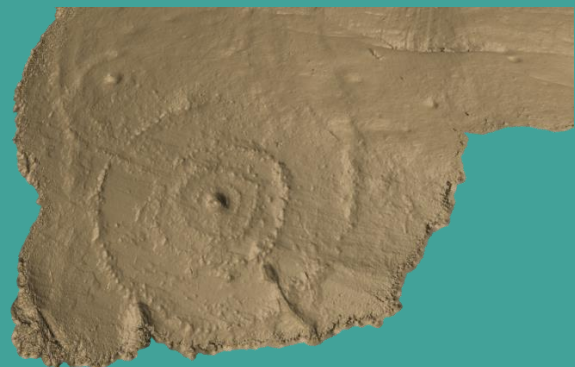
You will be able to unsubscribe each time you receive a newsletter.

CONTACT US

MAIL: Tertia Barnett, HES, John Sinclair House, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 9NX

E-MAIL: ScRAP@hes.scot

TELEPHONE: 0131 651 6781



Screen shot of a 3D model from Nether Glenny, Port of Menteith, Stirlingshire, created by the ScRAP and ACFA teams in July. The 3D model and surface render enables us to see faint motifs that are almost invisible in the field, such as the double groove coming from the cup and ring motif.