

SCOTLAND'S ROCK ART PROJECT

NEWSLETTER 5: AUTUMN 2019

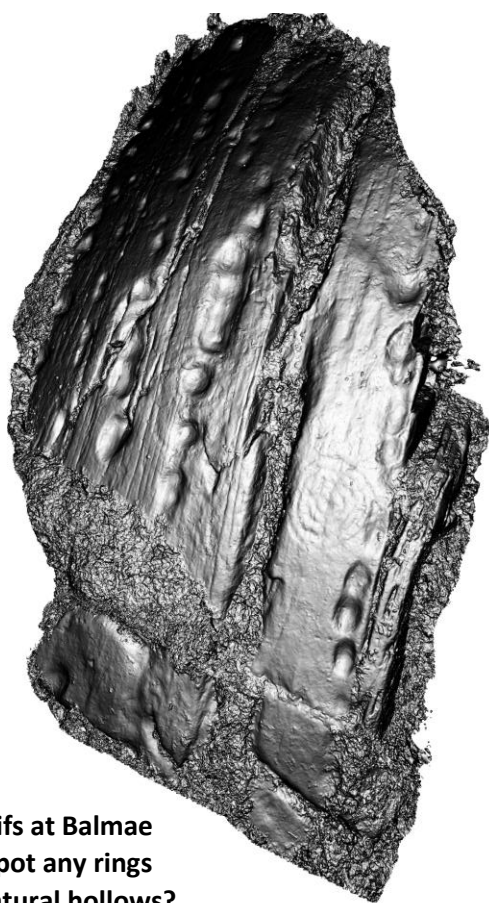


It has been an incredibly busy six months since our Spring newsletter, and we have so much to share with you! Read on to find out what we and our Community Teams have been up to over the summer.

ROCK ART RECORDING

Our focus throughout this year has been on recording rock art across Scotland in order to gather data for our research. Since May, Maya and I have spent more than 30 weeks in the field, working alongside our wonderful Community Teams in Kirkcudbright, the Machars, Inverness-shire, Perthshire and Tiree, and recording in areas not covered by our Community Teams, including Aberdeenshire, Angus and the Western Isles, where we have had considerable help from members of the local community and our indomitable long-term volunteer, Sarah. We are hugely grateful to everyone involved for your dedication and enthusiasm, often under very challenging weather conditions!

There have been many surprises, such as the faint cup and ring markings at Balmae, Kirkcudbright that were only revealed in the 3D models, and the unexpected number of cup-marked rocks discovered on Tiree by our partners, NOSAS.



Faint motifs at Balmae
Can you spot any rings
around natural hollows?

KILMARTIN FIELD SCHOOL 2019

July was devoted to running our second Kilmartin Field School. Following the same format as last summer, our first week was based in Edinburgh, training 13 enthusiastic students from Edinburgh, Cambridge and California. We then spent two weeks recording rock art in Kilmartin, with fantastic support from our partners at Kilmartin Museum and the local community. Overall, we have now recorded a total of 155 of the 272 rock art panels known in Kilmartin and the surrounding area – you can see all these on our website.



Students recording at Craignish near Ardfarn
during the Kilmartin Field School

COMMUNITY TEAMS

As well as working alongside the ScRAP Team, our Community Teams have been busy recording and making exciting new discoveries in other areas. You can find out more about what they are doing in **About Us>Community Teams** on our website.

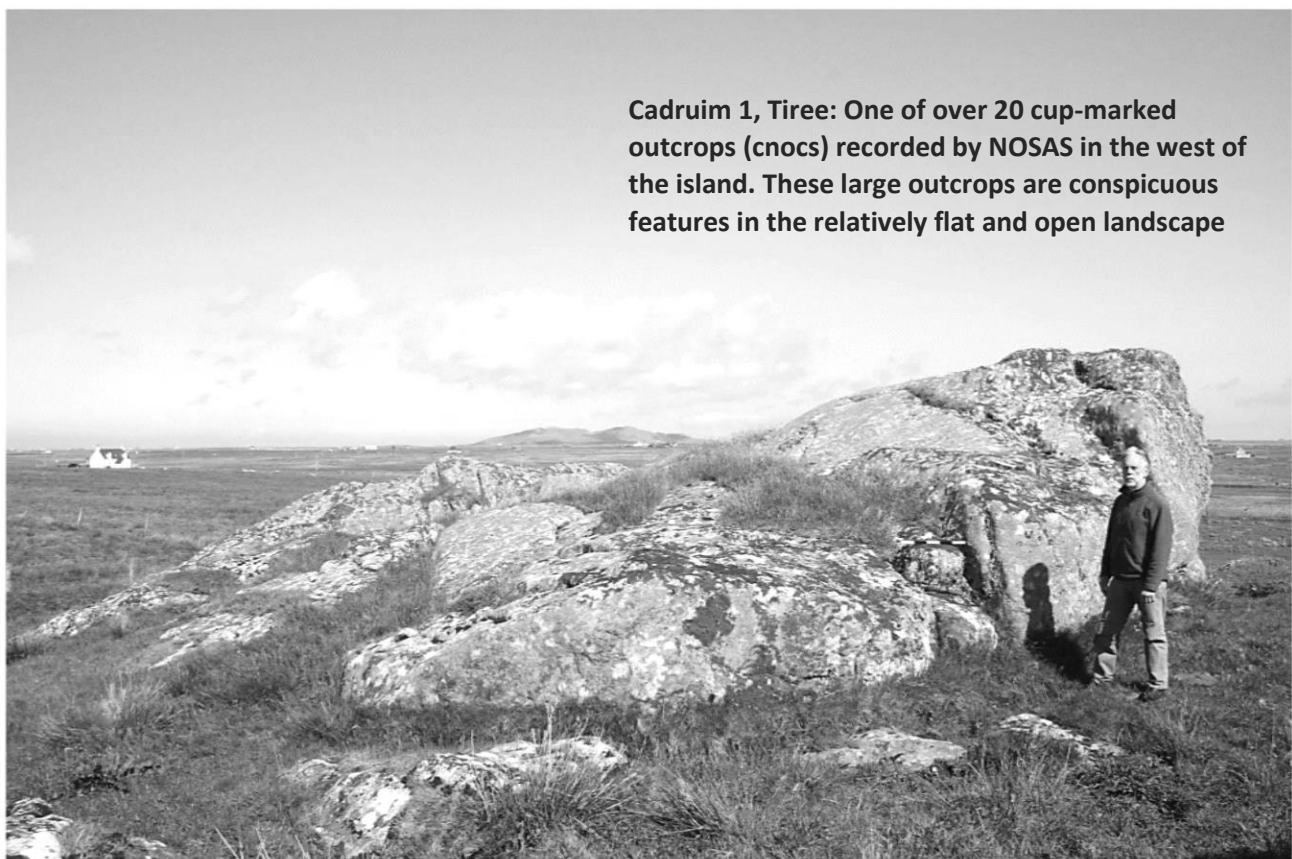


Above: Members of the ACFA rock art teams in Glen Lochay
Both images courtesy of ACFA



Above: Christine's fabulous new discovery in Glen Lochay

2



Cadruim 1, Tiree: One of over 20 cup-marked outcrops (cnocs) recorded by NOSAS in the west of the island. These large outcrops are conspicuous features in the relatively flat and open landscape

WORK IN PROGRESS

As a result of all the fieldwork this year, we now have 800 completed records in our database and publicly accessible on our website – a fantastic achievement!

800

About half of these panels have been recorded by our Community Teams and about half by the ScRAP Team. Not all of these are rock art though – around 18% are natural depressions, and 2% are more recent rock-cut features such as bait holes.

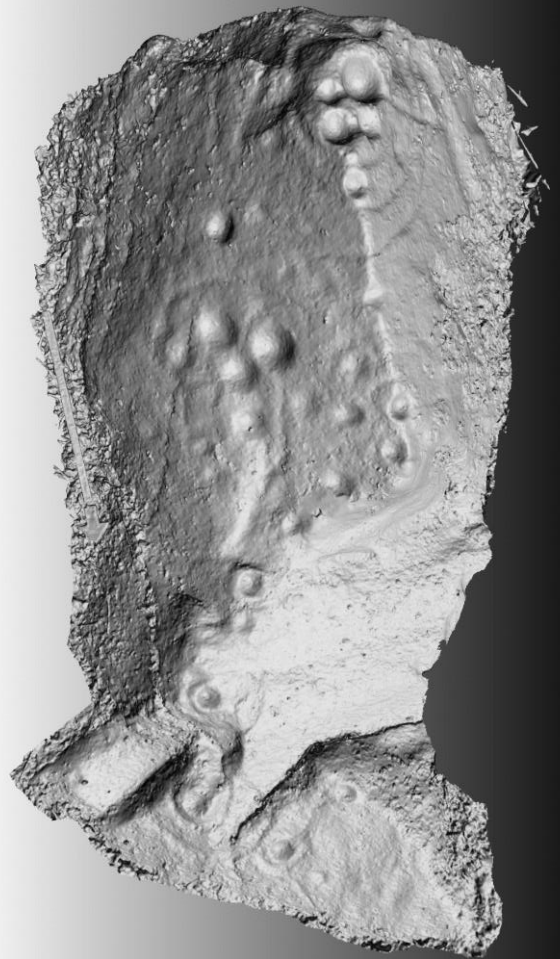
You can search for completed records using our website map where they are shown by the light blue dots. You can also checkout some of our models in our Sketchfab account:

<https://sketchfab.com/ScottishRockArt>

We anticipate that about another 200 panel records will be completed by the end of this year, bringing the total to 1000!



Bait holes from Arinthuic, Coll, previously recorded in Canmore as cup marks



A lovely cup and ring marked rock from Glassie, Perthshire, showing how attentively the carvers have merged the motifs with the natural, fluid shape of the rock surface

BAIT HOLES

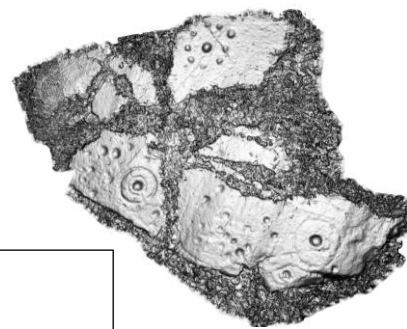
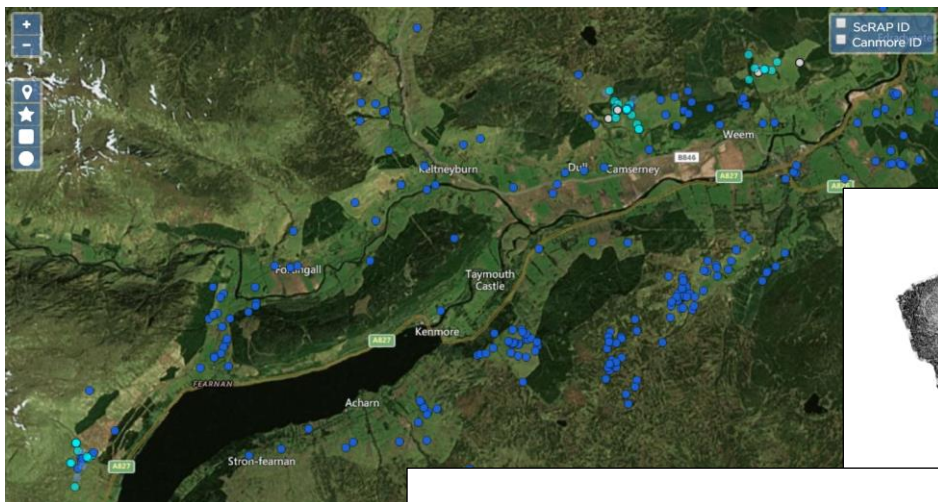
Also known as *toll sollaidh* or *crotagan*, these cup-shaped depressions are frequently found at the high tide line on rocky shores around the Inner and Outer Hebrides. They have been used by fishermen since at least the 14th century (and probably considerably earlier) for grinding shellfish, which are then thrown into the sea to attract fish.

A small proportion of features recorded as cup-marked rocks in Canmore are actually bait holes. We are re-classifying these features, and then updating the Canmore records.

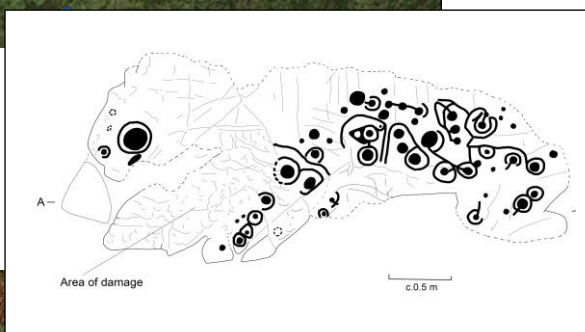


LOCH TAY ROCK ART

With over 500 carved rocks, the area around Loch Tay contains the highest density of rock art in Scotland (20% of the total). We are recording a sample of this, with considerable help from some of our most experienced participants. The light blue dots on our website map show where we have worked so far.



Rock art from top to bottom:
Lurgan Farm 8, Lurgan Farm 1
and Cloanlawers 6



The rock art here is very varied, and some is exceptional. The concentration and range of complex motifs, including a lovely rosette, on an immense schist outcrop at Lurgan is particularly impressive. This cluster was identified only a few years ago by George Currie, and is now being rapidly overgrown by new woodland.

AND FINALLY...

If you know anyone who would like to receive our (free!) newsletter, they can subscribe on our website **Resources>Newsletters** page, or by following the **Quick link to Newsletters**. You can unsubscribe each time you receive the newsletter.

FACEBOOK

Remember that you can find out more about what we are doing by following our regular updates on the ScRAP Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/ScotlandsRockArt/>

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