

# SCOTLAND'S ROCK ART PROJECT

## NEWSLETTER 7: AUTUMN 2020



**A**lthough the last six months have been very strange, we and our Community Teams have been extremely busy! Read on to find out what we have been doing, and what we have planned for the next six months.

### ROCK ART RECORDING

The easing of travel restrictions in June allowed us to get out and about again locally. We were very excited that our first post-lockdown trip was to record a fantastic new discovery in East Lothian (featured later in this newsletter). By September we were able to resume working further afield, and were delighted to meet up again with some of our Community Team members. In early September we joined our Rock Art Bute Team to help record several of their new finds. We also had a fascinating day in Bute with two geologists examining the possible stone axe polishing site at Lubas, which still remains something of a mystery.

In late September, we continued the fieldwork around Loch Tay which we had started a year ago. This area not only has the densest concentration of rock art in Scotland, but an amazing variety of motifs. Working together with Andrew (Killin Team), who has been systematically 'chipping away' at the rock art along Loch Tay over the last year, Nick (Callander Team), and Kirsty (Parallel Grooves), we recorded over 40 panels around the southern end of the Loch. These included the wonderful Braes of Balloch 1 and Balmacnaughton 2, as well as several new discoveries. There was even time to do some recording in Glen Lochay, Perthshire, for our ACFA Rock Art Teams before fieldwork was put on hold again in mid October.

**Below: Unusual motifs on Braes of Balloch 1**  
**Right: Balmacnaughton 2, located on a high knoll with spectacular views over Loch Tay, along with five other decorated panels (Balmacnaughton 1 and 3-6).**





## COMMUNITY TEAMS

Although our Community Teams were not able to do fieldwork during the lockdown, most Teams used the time to clear the decks and finish off partially completed records. With restrictions easing in late summer, the Teams were able to start fieldwork again in small socially distanced groups or individually.

Despite the constraints on fieldwork over the last six months, we now have around 1350 panels recorded (an increase of 250 since our Spring newsletter) and 850 publicly accessible 3D models. You can search for all the recorded panels and 3D models on our [website](#), and also view the models created by the ScRAP Team on our [Sketchfab account](#).

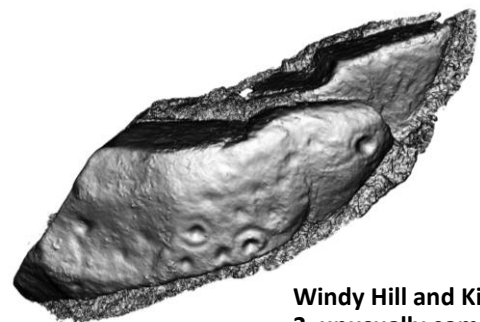
**Below: Rock Art Bute (RAB) Team at Glenvoidean, Bute, during our first post-lockdown field visit. The Team found seven new cup marked panels that day – surely a record!**



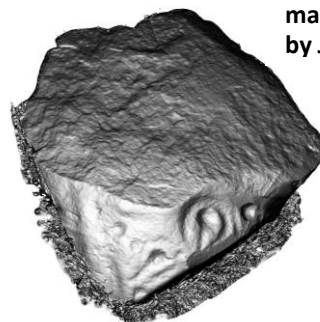
Nick (Callander Team) cleaning the unique multi-period rock features he has identified near Balfron (see page XX). Nick's article on his work with ScRAP made the front cover of Mensa Magazine in November! Fantastic work Nick!

## SCRAP TEAM NEWS

For the rest of the project, we are focusing on analysing and interpreting the huge amount of data co-produced with our Community Teams. To help us with this immense task, we are delighted to welcome Linda Maire Bjerketvedt to the ScRAP Team as our Data Analyst. Linda started on 2 November and will be working alongside our Research Assistant, Joana, for at least six months. You can find out more about Linda on our [Meet the Team](#) website page.



Windy Hill and Kilbride 3, unusually complex (for Bute) cup and ring marked stones found by Jessica from RAB



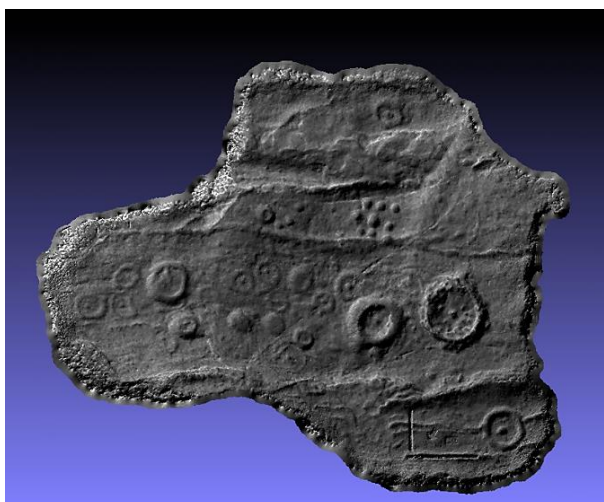
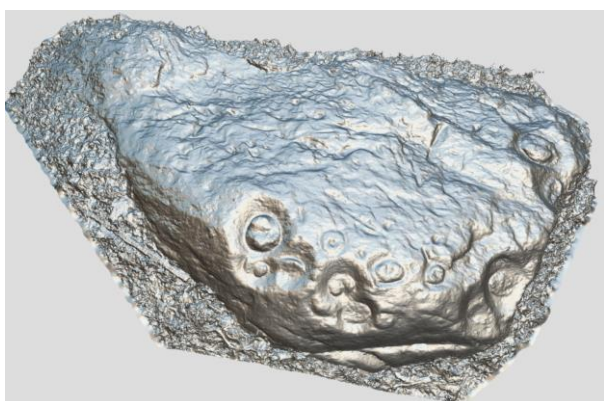


## NEW DISCOVERIES AND MINIATURE QUERNS

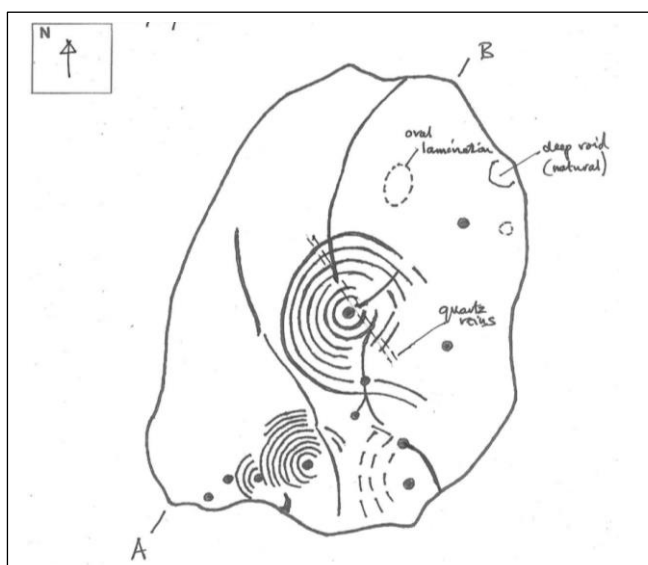
Despite everything, there have been some exciting discoveries since our last Newsletter! In May, we were notified of a possible new panel in East Lothian. As soon as we were allowed, we visited the site and met the finder, Doug. It turned out to be a fantastic cup and ring marked stone – a rare survival in East Lothian where almost no rock art remains in the landscape. We are waiting to hear if it will be approved as Treasure Trove and moved to a local museum for public display. Doug joined our ELF Team and soon found another lovely East Lothian cup and ring marked stone. You can read more about his exploits on our [website Blog](#).



**Above: Whitelaw Hill, found by Doug in East Lothian**  
**Below: Loch Naver quern-like features, found by NOSAS (3D model by Alan) and the quern extraction site near Balfron found and modelled by Nick (Callander Team)**



Meanwhile, NOSAS and Nick from our Callander Team discovered similar features in two very different parts of Scotland: near Balfron in Stirlingshire and near Loch Naver in Sutherland. Both places feature deep rings around raised areas, some with small central ‘cups’. Further specialist investigation revealed that these are probably extraction sites for miniature Iron Age querns – the only ones known in Scotland! Stirling Council is now planning a community excavation at the Balfron site. There have been several other exciting discoveries, including Allt a’Choire Chireinch 1 on Loch Tay by Andrew (Killin Team), shown below, and Kilbride 3 and Windy Hill in Bute by Jessica (Rock Art Bute) on Page 2.





## SCRAP EVENTS

As we move into the final year of the Scotland's Rock Art Project in 2021, we are organising not just one, nor two, but **three** events to celebrate and raise awareness of our amazing rock art! We hope you will enjoy participating in all of them! You can find more details about all of them on our [website Events pages](#).



**SCOTLAND'S ROCK ART PROJECT**  
**CONFERENCE**  
Celebrating Scotland's Rock Art  
Saturday 24 April 2021

for details and registration visit:  
[www.rockart.scot/events/conference](http://www.rockart.scot/events/conference)  
or contact: [scrap@hes.scot](mailto:scrap@hes.scot)

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**SCOTLAND'S ROCK ART PROJECT**  
**WEBINARS**  
Monthly talks on Atlantic Rock Art throughout 2021

for details visit:  
[www.rockart.scot/events/webinars](http://www.rockart.scot/events/webinars)  
or contact: [scrap@hes.scot](mailto:scrap@hes.scot)

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### SCOTLAND'S ROCK ART PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

To celebrate the final year of the Scotland's Rock Art Project (2017-2021), we are looking for striking and memorable images that capture the essence of rock art in Scotland – its remote and beautiful setting, the stunning effect of light and weather, the enigmatic motifs and texture of the rock – and how rock art can inspire people through engagement and creativity. Are you up for the Challenge?

Entries are welcomed from amateur photographers of all ages.

You can enter up to two images into each of the four categories listed below. Images will be judged by our expert panel. Prizes will be awarded to the best three images in each category – for details please see our website.

- Categories
- A. In the Landscape
  - B. On the Rocks
  - C. Altered Images
  - D. Engaging with Rock Art

#### Challenge dates

Challenge opens: 1 November 2020

Challenge closes: 31 March 2021

Winners announced: 24 April 2021

For further details and Terms and Conditions for entering see: [www.rockart.scot/events/](http://www.rockart.scot/events/)  
Or contact [scrap@hes.scot](mailto:scrap@hes.scot)



## AND FINALLY...

You can find also out more about what we and our Community Teams are doing on our [ScRAP Facebook page](#).

If you have a favourite rock art site, or a question or interesting fact about rock art, please send us details as we would love to feature it on our weekly Facebook hashtags #FridayRocks and #DidYouKnow.

CONTACT US AT: [ScRAP@hes.scot](mailto:ScRAP@hes.scot)



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